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Candidate Responses:

Democratic Primary for U.S. House of Representatives Maryland's Fourth District February 12th, 2008

(in alphabetical order)

**Michael Babula
Donna Edwards
Jason Jennings
George E. McDermott
George E. Mitchell
Albert Wynn (Incumbent)**



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Michael Babula (Democrat)

Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives
Maryland's 4th Congressional District

Web: <http://www.babula2008.com>

1. Name the two biggest challenges facing Maryland, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them.

Increasing crime rates and declining educational standards are the biggest challenges. In 2007, Prince George's County had 140 murders and a 33% high school dropout rate. To reduce crime, I propose ending the prohibition on drugs. The prohibition on drugs is similar to prohibition on alcohol during the 1920s. Alcohol prohibition caused increased crime rates. The problem is that the war on drugs has created economic incentive for gangs to exist. I also propose creating a school voucher system to improve education. Under my plan, poor and middle-class students would be fully subsidized to attend private schools for free.

2. Name the two biggest challenges facing the United States, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them. (Maximum 100 words)

The economy and Iraq war are huge problems. Increasing oil prices and demand from the war are producing inflationary pressures. The U.S. dollar has also become dangerously devalued. Without major economic changes, a terrorist attack might cause foreign investors to flee U.S. assets and trigger America's economic collapse by causing further erosion of the dollar. I propose switching to alternative energy sources and withdrawing troops from Iraq to curtail inflation. I would also push legislation requiring China to float its currency on the open market. This would increase demand for U.S. goods, appreciate the dollar's value, and offset inflationary pressures.

3. Name a political figure (either local or national) you greatly admire and explain why. (Maximum 100 words)

I admire President Lincoln and President Kennedy. Lincoln asked whether the U.S. could exist half enslaved. Kennedy asked whether the world could exist half enslaved. Today, we are asking whether the world which is mostly enslaved will continue to exist. Africa is \$200 billion in debt to America. In the Middle East, people live under the rule of authoritarian regimes. I admire Lincoln and Kennedy because they believed there was a God and that he hated injustice. I also believe there is a God and pray that he will give me the ability to succeed in positively changing our country.



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4. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent Maryland. (Maximum 100 words)

My higher education and employment pursuits have prepared me to help people. I possess a dual PhD in psychology and politics, MBA in finance, and BA in political science. I have taught statistics, social psychology, and economics at universities internationally for the past five years. I also own a statistics company. My extensive background in psychology, economics, and business offers the electorate a more effective public servant.

5. How long have you lived in Maryland, and how has it changed since that date? Explain why those changes have been to the benefit or detriment of Maryland residents. (Maximum 100 words)

I returned to the United States in early 2006 after obtaining a dual PhD and teaching in the United Kingdom. Of course, my international employment and pursuit of higher education will benefit Maryland residents. This is because I have observed a series of successful education, healthcare, and environmental policies which Americans could benefit from. For example, I observed that school vouchers tend to produce higher test scores and school desegregation. I observed that it is possible to offer free healthcare for citizens. And I observed that it is possible to successfully employ alternative energy sources.

6. Fill in the following blanks (Maximum two sentences):

a) **The most recent book I read and enjoyed was** The Age of Turbulence.

b) **My favorite television show/movie is** The Green Mile.

c) **In my spare time I love to** exercise, read, and go fishing.



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Donna Edwards (Democrat)

Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives
Maryland's 4th Congressional District

Web: <http://www.donnaedwardsforcongress.com>

1. Name the two biggest challenges facing Maryland, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them.

The most urgent problem facing Maryland and our district is the foreclosure crisis, costing thousands of local residents their homes and reducing property values. In Congress, I'll work to protect homeowners' ability to keep their homes by expanding availability of long-term fixed rate mortgages, regulate the banking and mortgage lending industry, and scrap anti-consumer provisions of the Bankruptcy Reform Law of 2005 that has aggravated the foreclosure crisis. In Maryland, 800,000 people are without health insurance. I'll provide bold leadership to bring the U.S. in line with every other developed nation to provide accessible, affordable, quality health care to all.

2. Name the two biggest challenges facing the United States, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them. (Maximum 100 words)

Ending the war in Iraq is a top priority of the next Congress. If elected, I will be an outspoken voice to end this war, refocus on real national security, and provide our veterans with the comprehensive medical services they deserve. Additionally, the foreclosure crisis is not just a state problem, but also a national problem. In Congress, I'll work to protect homeowners' ability to keep their homes by expanding availability of long-term fixed rate mortgages, regulate the banking and mortgage lending industry, and scrap anti-consumer provisions of the Bankruptcy Reform Law of 2005 that has aggravated the foreclosure crisis.

3. Name a political figure (either local or national) you greatly admire and explain why. (Maximum 100 words)

I admire Barbara Jordan greatly. Growing up as a young African-American woman, it was Jordan's determination, leadership, and strength that encouraged me to become a lawyer, public interest advocate and to be active in politics. When Barbara Jordan became the first African-American woman from a Southern state to be elected to the House of Representatives, it proved to me that anything is possible with hard work and persistence. Her speech at the Democratic Convention in 1976, imploring us to work for the common good was a pivotal moment in my life, which continues to guide my personal and professional life.



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4. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent Maryland. (Maximum 100 words)

Throughout my career I have fought for the public interest, whether working for campaign finance reform, to secure living wages, or protect Social Security. However, I would say the two most valuable experiences I have had are my time as the co-founder and first executive director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, where I helped lead the successful fight to pass the landmark Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and my work leading a national effort to force pharmaceutical companies to open markets for generic anti-arthritic medications.

5. How long have you lived in Maryland, and how has it changed since that date? Explain why those changes have been to the benefit or detriment of Maryland residents. (Maximum 100 words)

I graduated from high school in Charles County in 1976. After graduating from Wake Forest University and Franklin Pierce Law Center, I briefly lived in Silver Spring and then Fort Washington for the last 25 years, where I raised my son. I've witnessed change in the political and economic landscape including development and demographic changes. We must work together so all residents enjoy the benefits of higher educational and job opportunities, entrepreneurship and economic development. This growth unfortunately exacerbates traffic congestion and highlights a lack of public transportation such as a Purple Line and rail over the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

6. Fill in the following blanks (Maximum two sentences):

a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was _____.

b) My favorite television show/movie is _____.

c) In my spare time I love to _____.



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Jason Jennings (Democrat)

Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives
Maryland's 4th Congressional District

Web: <http://www.jasonjenningsforcongress.com>

1. Name the two biggest challenges facing Maryland, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them. (Maximum 100 words)

The local economy and educational outcomes are the biggest challenges facing Maryland. For the local economy, I would work to reverse the outsourcing of government jobs to private entities, expand workforce training opportunities to replace the retiring baby boomers, and fix the alternative minimum tax.

Maryland's long-term economic prospects are threatened by the increasing number of undereducated students. For low performing districts and neighborhoods, this complex problem would require at least 10 years of concerted federal, state, local and community efforts for tutoring, mentoring, social services, financial aid, vocational training, as well as remedial education for adults and the incarcerated.

2. Name the two biggest challenges facing the United States, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them. (Maximum 100 words)

Our **national debt** affects our ability to address other problems. I would work to balance the federal budget by reducing spending; eliminating most corporate subsidies, tax breaks, credits, including the farm bill; banning earmarks if the budget is not balanced; eliminating wasteful social and weapons programs, and fighting lopsided trade agreements.

For **congressional ethics**, I would work increase the time to lobby for ex-members of congress from 2 years to 5 years, ban family members from lobbying their relatives, ban the naming of federally funded projects after sitting members, and create an independent ethics committee with subpoena powers.

3. Name a political figure (either local or national) you greatly admire and explain why. (Maximum 100 words)

My mother. She ran for local public office over three decades ago in Ohio when you still had to deal with the local party machine. She ran a campaign outside of the standard conventions and succeeded. She helps people and doesn't worry about getting recognition.



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My congressional campaign is based on similar to the political conventions of today. I am not an elected official, wealthy businessperson or attorney. I have not sold my soul to the highest ideological bidders for campaign donations and endorsements. Like many of you, I'm tired of having for vote for the lesser of two evils.

4. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent Maryland. (Maximum 100 words)

First, I work for an environmental engineering company as a consultant to municipal utilities for over 10 year. I am familiar with the energy and environmental issues that we face and I am committed to providing feasible solutions to these issues.

My life and education: BS Aerospace Engineering, MBA Finance, MPM Public Sector Financial Management. I've thought for over 10 years about the kind of leaders we need to elect to solve our problems. My work, educational, church and community service activities over the past 20 years provide me with an understanding of how our national and local interests intersect.

5. How long have you lived in Maryland, and how has it changed since that date? Explain why those changes have been to the benefit or detriment of Maryland residents. (Maximum 100 words)

I have lived in the following areas: Upper Marlboro (1975), Kettering (1980), Lanham-Seabrook (1982), Silver Spring (2004), Beltsville (2005), Silver Spring (2007). In that time, there has been a tremendous amount of growth and development. However, the mix of commercial, retail and residential development has shifted heavily towards residential.

In Prince George's County, we have a lot of high-end housing. However, we do not have the corresponding levels of commercial (well-paying jobs) and retail development. I am concerned that this imbalance will hurt the long-term economy there. In Montgomery County, there is simply not enough affordable housing.

6. Fill in the following blanks (Maximum two sentences):

a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was Rebel Ice by S.L. Viehl.

b) My favorite television show/movie is tied between House and Samurai Champloo.

c) In my spare time I love to do community service, read, watch football, play tennis, go to the movies, and dance salsa.



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George Edward McDermott, (Democrat)

Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives
Maryland's 4th Congressional District

Web: <http://secretjusticeneeds.com/>

1. Name the two biggest challenges facing Maryland, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them. (Maximum 100 words)

The largest problem facing Maryland today is our out-of-control severely broken legal system of in justice for most. And insider controlled judiciary were officers and agents of our **state courts routinely and** knowingly – with criminal malice and forethought -- violate the vested legal & civil rights and liberties of the majority of our citizens who appear in court expecting to receive what our Constitution provides for: equal justice under the law, and equal protection under the law. This especially applies the victims of whitecollar crime involving corporate attorneys. Examples of lawlessness available www.secretjusticeneeds.com chronicling instances of fraud on citizenry.

2. Name the two biggest challenges facing the United States, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them. (Maximum 100 words)

Corruption and fraud within our government emanating from our first appointed president in history, a corrupt do-nothing Congress, a broken judicial system with no oversight or checks and balances to prevent abuse of process. Diminishing the integrity and staining of the United States both at home and abroad as evidenced at [secretjusticeneeds@YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...).

If elected, my first order of business will be proposing articles of impeachment against impostor President Bush for the crime of treason against the Constitution and for lying to the people of the United States because he wanted to start a no-exit-war benefiting no one but those affiliated **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**

3. Name a political figure (either local or national) you greatly admire and explain why. (Maximum 100 words)

Senator Robert Byrd, as he possesses a loyalty to country & God and admiration for the working man, a defender of justice and the American way, a politician who put aside by and prejudiced both racially and politically to do that which was right for the nation as a whole: something that many of our current members of Congress do not (instead, they put political affiliation, corporate interest, and lobbyist money funding their campaigns before their loyalty to our Constitution, our Bill of Rights, and the best interest of our citizens both here and abroad. Yes, Senator Byrd will be **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**.



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4. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent Maryland. (Maximum 100 words)

Skill No. 1: Honesty and conviction of spirit that will not let me surrender to judicial tyranny, fraud, or Deceit and trickery even though it is masquerade in the power of office and color of LAW and authority. To surrender one's belief in God and country is something this candidate cannot do evidence attesting to this is available at www.fraudvictims.org.

Skill No. 2: Forty (40) years of experience as a successful businessman, developer, entrepreneur, judicial activist, community activist, and responsible church leader.

Educated in the school of hard knocks, believing in our Pledge of Allegiance of this great Nation as **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**

5. How long have you lived in Maryland, and how has it changed since that date? Explain why those changes have been to the benefit or detriment of Maryland residents. (Maximum 100 words)

Since 6/ 12/ 1945 to present. Many changes have come in my lifetime from boarding in Bowie, Maryland on the farm where my best friends were blacks. I knew not of racism, coming from a family of 12 children family meant everything in spite of its shortcomings. Lived below the poverty level and no one respected the values of responsible social programs, raised in Baltimore in the fifties and respected government and authoritative figures. Since moving to Prince George's County Maryland and developing numerous businesses within the county I have seen firsthand the ugliness of what political corruption cost as **(Additional text cut due to word limit)**

6. Fill in the following blanks (Maximum two sentences):

a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was Paine collected writings published by the library of America, Common Sense, The crisis, The Rights of Man, The Age of Reason and Pamphlets, Article's, & Letters they gave me insight as to my responsibilities to our founding fathers and their beliefs.

b) My favorite television show/movie is Star Trek the Next Generation. It offers hope for civilization which I fear will never materialize.

c) In my spare time I love to Help victims of injustice and produce videos for secret Justice the victim's Roundtable or knowledge is power for the people.



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George E. Mitchell (Democrat)

Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives
Maryland's 4th Congressional District

Web: <http://www.georgemitchellforcongress.com>

1. Name the two biggest challenges facing Maryland, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them. (Maximum 100 words)

Education – I will try to involve churches and community centers to help mentor the children of our district. Propose legislation to get rid of the No Child Left Behind Act. Kids learn at different rates and should not be strictly governed on test results, develop more after school activities and a summer youth job program to encourage kids to stay in school.

Health Care - There must be a universal health plan, cost has gone through the roof. Take a hard look at our neighbors and other countries, take the best out of all of them and create our own.

2. Name the two biggest challenges facing the United States, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them. (Maximum 100 words)

Iraq War – We must bring the troops home. I understand that there will not be a quick solution to this process but the longer we occupy foreign land the greater the risks for our servicemen and women, our county and our allies.

Economy - We must sustain our ever declining economy. I will make available mentoring and training programs for more small and minority business owners. Also propose legislation for more government office space and employment for the residents of the 4th District to help stimulate the state and federal economy.

3. Name a political figure (either local or national) you greatly admire and explain why. (Maximum 100 words)

Parren James Mitchell - a Democrat, was a U.S. Congressman who represented the 7th congressional district of Maryland. As Chairman of the Small Business Committee, Mitchell attached an amendment to a \$4 billion public works bill that compelled state and local governments, seeking federal grants, to set aside 10% of the funds to retain minority firms as contractors and subcontractors.



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4. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent Maryland. (Maximum 100 words)

I am a leader and a doer. Even as a kid I got things done and I have a unique skill of bringing people together to accomplish goals. I am a hard worker with tremendous visions and motivated to see the people of the 4th District succeed. I have owned and managed several successful restaurants since the age of 15. I have earned a degree in Human Resources which will enabled me to conduct programs and propose legislation in an effective, legal, fair, and consistent manner to allocate funds for the enhancement of the citizens of the 4th District.

5. How long have you lived in Maryland, and how has it changed since that date? Explain why those changes have been to the benefit or detriment of Maryland residents. (Maximum 100 words)

I have been a Maryland resident for 50 years. As a kid I grew up in the projects of Baltimore, Maryland. Although the projects weren't the best place to live, as a community we knew one another and cared for each other. As look Maryland today, as a community we have grown apart from each other. There is more violence, increased high school drop-outs, more teenage pregnancies and less jobs opportunities. We deserve better and must work as a community to strengthen one another, to bring politics back to the people for a better tomorrow for our children.

6. Fill in the following blanks (Maximum two sentences):

a) **The most recent book I read and enjoyed** was Making a New You by Joel Osten

b) **My favorite television show/movie is** Forrest Gump & Lackawanna Blues

c) **In my spare time I love to** Read - especially newspapers from all over the world.



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Albert R. Wynn (Democrat)

Member, U.S. House of Representatives
Maryland's 4th Congressional District
Candidate for Re-election

Web: <http://www.albertwynn.org>

1. Name the two biggest challenges facing Maryland, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them. (Maximum 100 words)

Education and transportation: We must build a better educational system by making significant reforms to the No Child Left Behind Act, making tuition tax deductible, cutting loan fees, and increasing grants for underprivileged students. We also have a serious transportation problem in this region. We need to focus on putting Rail across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. In addition, continue to secure funding authorization for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project, the Purple line and Corridor Cities Transitway.

2. Name the two biggest challenges facing the United States, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them. (Maximum 100 words)

Ending the war in Iraq and prioritizing domestic issues (health care, environment, and education). By cutting spending in Iraq we can better use our funds to reinvest in domestic priorities and the war on terror. In addition, the War on Terror is a global problem that requires broad diplomatic solutions, global cooperation and funding. We need to involve other nations, and find a greater role for the U.N. which is why I have sponsored legislation to establish a U.N. emergency peace service.

3. Name a political figure (either local or national) you greatly admire and explain why. (Maximum 100 words)

Lyndon B. Johnson, because he was the first real politician to get things done, which included passing the civil rights act.

4. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent Maryland. (Maximum 100 words)

I have seniority and a proven record of getting things done. Through my leadership and experience I have secured billions of dollars for healthcare, transportation, public safety, and education.



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5. How long have you lived in Maryland, and how has it changed since that date? Explain why those changes have been to the benefit or detriment of Maryland residents. (Maximum 100 words)

I have lived in Maryland for over 30 years and seen it grow from a rural suburb of Washington, D.C. into one of the most diverse, economically developed, and active communities in our country. One of the main attributes of the 4th Congressional Districts diversity is that it houses the greatest percentage of federal workers in the country, which has prompted the funding and delivery of many intricate Maryland transportation and urban development projects.

6. Fill in the following blanks (Maximum two sentences):

a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was Sands of Empire: Missionary Zeal, American Foreign Policy, and the Hazards of Global Ambition, by Robert Merry

b) My favorite television show/movie is Laura (1944).

c) In my spare time I love to read.