

# 2010 PRIMARY ELECTION *VOTER GUIDE*



**Garrett County Board of REALTORS®**

434 Weber Road  
Oakland, MD 21550-9603

To Our Members:

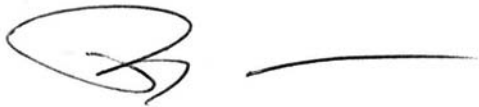
This Voter Guide represents the first effort by the Garrett County Board of REALTORS® to place real issues-oriented election information in the hands of our membership. We encourage each of you to consider the candidates' positions when deciding on who you will vote for in the upcoming primary and general elections.

In July 2010, the Board sent a series of questions about issues related to the real estate industry in Garrett County to all of the filed candidates for County Commissioner and House of Delegates.

We are very pleased to report that we received 100% response rate from the candidates! The candidates' responses were assembled in alphabetical order and are provided to you in this voter guide.

We encourage you to share this information with your families and associates. We hope that this information will help you identify the similarities and differences between candidates, and that it helps you make your decision on how to cast your vote at the polls.

***Most of all, it is important that you VOTE in the primary election on September 14 and the general election on November 2!***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pat Kane', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Pat Kane  
President

# House of Delegates

## District 1A

### The Issues:

#### Economic Development

The economic health of Garrett County is in a large part sustained by the investment of non-residents in the Deep Creek Lake area and in second homes throughout the county. Closely related to this are the economic benefits of tourism and visitors to the county. *What specific proposals do you have to attract and retain investment in real property and in attracting visitors to the county?*

**Wendell Beitzel (R)**

*Reduce real property taxes and curtail increases in user rates for government provided services.*

**James R. "Smokey" Stanton (D)**

*I believe Garrett County has built on one of its major strengths, i.e., the investments in the DCL area and tourism. However, as we also know, this sector is extremely sensitive to the economy of Maryland, the mid-Atlantic region, and the nation. Many of the jobs produced are seasonal and service-oriented with predictable seasonal cycles and many of the jobs are relatively lower-wage. Garrett County is blessed with tremendous natural resources and geographic location as we are close to the Washington, D.C. metro area and the Pittsburg, PA economic development markets.*

- *For the tourism sector: I do not believe we have a consistent and coherent strategy to continually evolve our tourism industry. This industry must continue to be private sector based, but a strategic consensus should be developed that encourages investments and provides a reasonable mix of predictability and risk. We should work together to attract tourists and then compete for their dollar when they get here.*
- *For the real property sector: We must continue to attract and secure investments by non-residents while preserving the attractiveness and quality of our area. I believe it likely that many of the second-home investors will convert to primary-home residents over the next decade. This potential conversion can be a great benefit but will require adjustments to current real property tax policies and still remain able to meet greater demands for services and infrastructure.*
- *For overall economic health: I believe we are missing opportunities to convert visitors and part-time residents to consider Garrett County for capital investments and higher wage job development, especially from the Washington, DC and Northern Virginia area.*

*We can and should be attracting 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology businesses that pay higher wages and salaries, which can result in higher overall standards of living, smoother economic cycles, and a greater sense of community and community involvement. Countywide broadband and wireless are essential.*

- *I believe we must pay far more attention to our incorporated towns and unincorporated communities to better balance our overall recreational, service, investment, and job development strategies. Smaller owner-operated businesses and health and medical care services are two prime examples.*

## **Tourism Center**

**The State of Maryland recently closed its promotion center on I-68. What will you do to ensure that the center is reopened?**

**Wendell Beitzel (R)**

*I am on the Appropriations Committee and worked to restore partial funding for this facility. I will seek to get full funding for the facility to become fully operational.*

**James R. "Smokey" Stanton (D)**

*I believe the temporary closing of the center was necessary for state budget purposes, but the current representative was passive on this issue. The necessary relationships with the Executive and Legislative branches of Maryland government have not been developed to elicit help and support for a very important asset for both Garrett County and Maryland. I would have and will work with the various stakeholder State agencies to develop an interim set of funding streams that would bridge the budget cut and keep the center operating at peak times. Examples of stakeholder state agencies are DNR, MEDCO, MDA, SHA and others who have access to relatively small amounts of funds that together would have been sufficient to maintain limited operations. As far as I am aware, no short distance radio system (such as the SHA highway alert radio system) was even considered to supplement the center or to give tourism information or guidance.*

## **Industrial Wind Turbines**

**What are your specific plans and position with regard to industrial wind turbine regulation and development in Garrett County, and the impact of wind turbines on property values, use and enjoyment?**

**Wendell Beitzel (R)**

*I vigorously opposed the development of wind turbines on state property and was the first local politician to get out front in opposition to this proposal. Fortunately the Governor backed away from permitting wind turbine development on state owned forest and park lands. I opposed and voted against the*

*Governor's bill to do away with the requirement for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for wind turbine projects under 60 megawatts. I introduced 5 bills in the 2009 session to legislate meaningful controls on wind energy development and decommissioning. I introduced three bills in the 2010 session for the same purpose. The Administration opposed and defeated all of them.*

**James R. "Smokey" Stanton (D)**

*I believe industrial wind turbine development on public lands should be prohibited by law. There is no assurance that the current Governor's and DNR Secretary's promise will be kept by future Governors or administrations. I will introduce legislation to assure protection of state and local public parks and forests from large industrial development. This position is in keeping with the original intent and purposes that established our state parks and forests.*

- *I will work with county government and stakeholder groups to develop performance criteria for industrial wind turbine development in Garrett County and will introduce legislation to implement such criteria, to include prohibition where necessary.*
- *I will work with stakeholder groups to develop procedures to assure an adequate public process and public notice of potential development to help assure appropriate accommodations are made to protect property owners and property values. The current situation of "wild west, hands off, no regulation what-so-ever" is unacceptable and shortsighted. I am willing to introduce legislation that enables or requires the county government to adopt an appropriate ordinance. I will follow these same principles for development of the Marcellus Shale gas reserves.*

## **Accommodations Tax**

**The current Board of County Commissioners has on several occasions proposed an increase in the county's accommodation tax rate. The agreement of our Senator and Delegate is needed in order to submit legislation to accomplish this. *What is your position on this tax, its current rate, and what commitments can you make regarding submitting future legislation should you be elected?***

**Wendell Beitzel (R)**

*The County Commissioners cannot increase the rate without legislative authority. The Commissioners have asked for legislation for the past two legislative sessions. The Garrett County delegation, Senator Edwards and I are obligated to introduce legislation for the Commissioners on behalf of the county. I personally was opposed to the idea of raising the accommodation in a down economy. The bill introduced by Senator Edwards in the 2009 session did not pass in the General Assembly. The rental and accommodations industry became very vocal and as a result the Commissioners withdrew their request last year during the 2010 General Assembly session. I think it is incumbent on the business community, and especially those impacted by the accommodation tax to make their case with the Commissioners to convince them not to request legislation to raise the tax if that is the desire of the business community.*

**James R. “Smokey” Stanton (D)**

*Generally, I am opposed to tax increases, and I spoke in opposition to the Commissioners proposed increase in the accommodation tax at the public hearing. As I have stated publicly many times, my guiding principles on legislation are: is it necessary, is it fair, and is it the right thing to do.*

- *I believe there is a risk that increasing the accommodation tax may price Garrett County out of the market given the current state of the economy and the proximity of other attractions to our tourist market.*
- *Increasing the current accommodation tax (5%) may reduce the return on investment of existing rental units further depressing the value of properties.*
- *As with any legislation, including proposals by the Board of County Commissioners, I believe in and commit to a public process prior to submitting legislation. This process will obtain the input and advice (positive and negative impact) of those who would be most affected by such legislation to help assure fairness and open government processes.*

## **Smart Growth**

**“Smart Growth” regulation occurs on the local and state level. State mandates are of concern to many property owners in Garrett County. What specific things will you do on the state level to enable Smart Growth laws, regulations and principles that reflect the needs of rural Garrett County?**

**Wendell Beitzel (R)**

*Specifically I will oppose and vote against any legislative proposal or bill that I think is detrimental or harmful to our local economy or wellbeing. I certainly will not introduce or co-sponsor any measure that has negative implications for our region of the State.*

**James R. “Smokey” Stanton (D)**

*“Smart Growth” in Maryland has its basis the need to reinvigorate neighborhoods and to slow sprawl in larger urban and suburban areas, and to control public expenditures for infrastructure. Rural areas and communities face a very different situation than many of the solutions suggested by urban and suburban smart growth policies. There are very few “rural planners”.*

- *I will work to assure smart growth principles include appropriate measures and modifications for Garrett County (and District 1A) as a rural county with small towns and communities.*
- *I will work with other rural Maryland counties’ legislators to develop an effective coalition to advocate for modification of state goals and procedures in both proposed laws and proposed regulations.*
- *Most of Maryland’s elected and appointed officials are from urban areas and do not understand or know about the unique situation faced by our area, resulting in a potential cookie-cutter approach. I will work with our other local elected officials to advocate for our case and for modifications.*

- *One resource I will use, with modifications, is the recently released (2010) “Putting Smart Growth to Work in Rural Communities”.*

## **State Government**

**Many local individuals and businesses see that there is a disconnect between the needs of Garrett County and the actions of state agencies and officials, both on the state and local levels. *If elected what will you specifically do to address this problem?***

### **Wendell Beitzel (R)**

*I have worked for many years with State agencies and officials. I have developed a good working relationship with the department secretaries and regulators. As mentioned before I serve on the Appropriations Committee and specifically on the Sub-committee on Transportation and the Environment that reviews the department budgets for many of the agencies that govern our county. I was born and raised in Garrett County and have lived, worked and raised my family here. More than any other political leader I think I understand and appreciate the culture and character of our beloved Garrett County. That’s really why I am honored to serve the people of this region in my current capacity.*

### **James R. “Smokey” Stanton (D)**

*I believe a level of suspicion has developed that government programs and processes are somehow not truly serving or representing the interests of the broader community as a whole, but rather may be serving special interests at the expense of the public interest. Additionally, implementation of some regulations and policies seem to be counterproductive. These combine to cause cynicism and distrust of state and local agencies and officials.*

- *I have a proven record of service in the public interest in both the private and the public sector.*
- *I have a demonstrated commitment to open government processes that are efficient and responsive, and as the Delegate representing District 1A, I will work at both the county and state levels to assure the public interest is served and constituent service is assured. I believe the 1A Delegate has a responsibility to represent people at both the local and state levels.*
- *I have good working relationships and credibility with many state agencies, and these relationships are invaluable when requesting assistance or solutions to problems.*
- *I intend to hold regular mini-town hall meetings across the District during my term of office, and will publish my telephone number and email address.*

# Board of Garrett County Commissioners

## The Issues:

### Real Property Tax Rate

The real property tax rate is a controversial issue in Garrett County. Many of our members are concerned about how recent reassessments combined with the county's tax rate could lead prospective buyers to purchase primary and vacation homes in other locations. In the past four years Garrett County has chosen a rate that exceeds the constant yield. *If elected, what is your commitment regarding the real property tax rate?*

#### District 001

**Leroy Bernard, Sr. (R)**

*withdrew candidacy July 16, 2010*

**Gregan T. Crawford (R)**

*We cannot continue indefinitely to raise property taxes to aid in balancing our budget. The continuation of this practice is becoming a greater financial burden to all property owners and a possible deterrent to future property sales and development. What is needed is a plan for long term economic growth which will expand the tax base and create greater stability in our local economy and local communities, and greater consideration of our spending priorities in regard to our needs, wants, and necessities.*

**Ernest J. Gregg (R)**

*Real Estate taxes are a major component of the county budget. Good management includes keeping downward pressure on the tax rate. I will strive to provide basic services our citizens expect and deserve, in a most efficient manner.*

**Eric V. Robison (D)**

*In trying economic times it is hard to balance the fine line between the issues. There are many factors that as a candidate I can see when considering the placement of the line between taxes and the constant yield, but there may be additional factors that are not as clear now that could influence my decision later. Currently I would leave the tax rate where it is.*

## **District 002**

### **Fred A. Holliday (R)**

*Every year at budget time I look at how we can reduce our budget. However, the quality of services our constituents expect and with the state's reductions in revenues, dropping the current tax to that of the constant yield would not be feasible at this time. Needless to say, discussions will take place as to what we can do to maintain the highest quality of public service and at the same time try to decrease the property tax rate.*

### **Jim Raley (R)**

*The county budget is about priorities. The priorities rest in the hands of the citizens and taxpayers, who under the current administration, have little to no input into the budgetary process. I will seek citizen input into the budget process and capital budget. Additionally, the commingling of the operating budget and capital budget causes deceptive information. The matter of "pay as you go" is indeed the crux of the problem and the reason taxes continue to spiral out of control. Bonding capital projects allows for taxes to be lower and the cost shared by other future property owners, thus lessening the burden on current taxpayers and encouraging new residents or investors to the county. We also need to look to ways to grow our population to increase the number of families who reside in the county and buy goods and services. An increased permanent citizen base helps with our declining school population, business growth, and increases income tax collections. Unfortunately, the current administration has backed the county into a position where it is difficult to lower taxes in that all unreserved/designated funding has been expended on capital projects (\$15.5 million in FY'10). I will commit to studying the current budget and suspending the "pay as you go" method for funding capital projects at this time. I will then ask taxpayers to consider bonding capital projects, or not scheduling any capital projects until such time as our county operating budget is once again solvent. I will likewise require a capital budget for county wide agencies, with anticipated revenues from other sources, so we can plan futuristic for these projects. Then, I feel lowering taxes will become a viable option.*

## **District 003**

### **George Falter (D)**

*Unfortunately, government officials (Democrats and Republicans alike) are always looking for ways to increase taxes without giving much thought to setting priorities. Cost-saving measures are rarely given any consideration. Even when public pressure forces something like The Constant Yield Rate on them; they seem to spend more time getting around it then acting with due diligence. The real property tax rate is a very regressive government policy that hinders the well-being of everyone in the county. That would be a high-priority issue for me that I would work hard to correct.*

### **Robert "Bob" Gatto (R)**

*I work for a small business as general foreman (Heilig's Plumbing, Heating & Electrical LLC). In our business we have a commitment to our customers, to our employees and to our competition. We can't expect any of them to pay for our greed or our mismanagement. Because of this, we not only monitor ourselves in the present, but also look to the future, hoping to predict where we might be. Sometimes it takes tough decisions to accomplish that. The "constant yield" (or net income) can be maintained in two ways. In our business we cannot just keep raising our billing rate to get more money. Expenses need to be controlled and sometimes things eliminated to keep our bottom line profitable. This takes a vision that is shared by all involved. I know this same approach will work for county government if we are committed to making it*

*happen. We have to be and remain competitive. Taxes are adding to a burden that is making us non-competitive. Not only on new businesses and new homeowners, but on current businesses and long-term residents. They need to feel as if we are committed to them also. They've proven that they are committed to Garrett County. I will try to make changes and support ways that can put money into individual pockets where they have a choice. Bottom line is we need to make Garrett County affordable.*

**Denny Glotfelty (R)**

*Every year a lengthy discussion is held concerning the Constant Yield Tax Rate versus current tax rate. In order to maintain the highest quality of services that the public has come to expect, coupled with State reductions in revenue, dropping the current Tax Rate to that of the Constant Yield Rate would not be prudent. In the last four years, we have given the Volunteer Fire Companies 3 1/2, cents of the tax dollar and lowered the tax rate from one dollar to ninety-nine cents which equals a total of 4 1/2, cents. We thought it more beneficial to assist the volunteer groups for the safety and welfare of our citizens rather than lowering taxes. When you figure up the money contributed to the volunteer groups, we are at the Constant Yield Tax Rate. Determining ways to cut expenses in the County's budget are always a matter of great priority. During the past several years capital projects have either been eliminated or reduced; only those projects where construction has already begun or projects with revenue sources other than that of the County, or where the County's share of the capital project is minimal have been allowed to continue. We have cut back on positions within the County's employee pool through attrition and County employees will not receive any salary increases for the current fiscal year. Even with the cuts made at the Local level, major reductions in State revenue still do not allow for a decrease of the Tax Rate to that of the Constant Yield Rate. For FY 2012, we are facing potential funding of the Board of Education teachers retirement. This expense is passed down to County governments by the State and comes with a projected expense figure of \$2 million. However, as always, discussion will take place for additional options to off-set these added expenses while continuing to maintain the highest quality public service and, at the same time, try to decrease the property tax rate.*

**Louis R. Newcomb Jr. (R)**

*The higher the real estate tax rate the more difficult it will be to find buyers for property in Garrett County. However, we must have a tax rate that funds the needed services in our county.*

**Timothy Edward Thomas (R)**

*The constant yield concept is that as assessments rise the tax rate should drop to the point that the revenue stays constant from one year to the next. The constant yield rate for Garrett County is .94 and like many other counties in the state, Garrett County charges a rate higher than the constant yield rate. In my opinion it would be wonderful to match our tax rates to the constant yield rate but doing so would cause a significant loss to the county revenue. I am absolutely in favor of working toward a lower tax rate, but in order to reach this goal we need to supplement the lost revenue with economic growth. Economic growth meaning more businesses, more property owners and other alternative revenue building programs. One such alternative program we could entertain is a tiered tax rate system based on the length of time of ownership. This would encourage primary homeowners to invest in property and encourage secondary home owners to keep their property longer.*

**Bill Welch (D)**

*My commitment is to move as much of heaven and earth as the other two commissioners can be persuaded to move in efforts to hold the real property tax rate while installing measures to increase operational efficiencies and then over time direct new development revenues (and possibly revenues from new jobs and*

population growth) toward lower real property tax rates. This is the opposite of what happened during the last ten to fifteen years. Garrett County has been awash with found money from new development and incompetent leadership burned it on the altar of complacency. It is one of the most amazing displays of being lost in plain sight that I ever witnessed.

## **Zoning**

**Garrett County currently has two approaches to land use and planning, in particular how it applies its zoning powers. Some areas of the county are subject to zoning while others are not. *If you are elected, what will your position be on adopting county-wide zoning?***

### **District 001**

**Leroy Bernard, Sr. (R)**

*withdrew candidacy July 16, 2010*

**Gregan T. Crawford (R)**

*County-wide zoning is an issue that needs to be decided upon by the voters of the county. I believe that the best way to address this issue of county-wide zoning is by referendum.*

**Ernest J. Gregg (R)**

*I would support presenting this issue to our citizens by way of a referendum.*

**Eric V. Robison (D)**

*Currently I would not consider county wide zoning, because it is not the fairest way to assure property rights and property values. I would consider Performance zoning which has a different approach to "zoning" issues, and creates a fair response to all concerned.*

### **District 002**

**Fred A. Holliday (R)**

*I plan to support a referendum to be put on the ballot for county-wide zoning and let the constituents have their choice.*

**Jim Raley (R)**

*The issue of zoning must be applied in some fair and consistent manner. With the advent of wind power, Marcellus shale and expanded mining operations property rights may require some regulation, so as not to infringe on the rights of other property owners. There is research indicating that a combination of zoning and performance zoning can serve areas like Garrett County without the strict regulatory nature and*

*negativity surrounding county-wide zoning. The duty of the County Commissioner's is to protect the property rights of all citizens and I will commit to thoroughly investigate the issue of zoning, but only with open forums/meetings and the gathering of citizen input.*

**District 003**

**George Falter (D)**

*County-wide zoning is an issue that remains controversial because elected officials have not taken the time to examine it closely. Furthermore, they themselves don't even seem to have a handle on what the concerns are. First and foremost, I would conduct well-publicized meetings throughout the county seeking input and, at the same time, getting information to everyone so they understand those concerns. If I can't persuade the other two commissioners to participate, I will use my commissioner's salary to rent space and conduct meetings myself.*

**Robert "Bob" Gatto (R)**

*Right now I cannot support county wide zoning. Basically because I don't support the current leadership. They continue to prove that they don't want to listen to the people. We currently have many ordinances and permits that can be effective ways to manage where and when growth occurs. Some areas might be better served if they had the needed infrastructure. But this comes at a great cost and right now isn't affordable. So we might ask if current policies are being enforced consistently. Are the people who are in charge of doing and monitoring being held accountable - or does it vary from area to area? Garrett County is a diverse region we have agriculture, rural, residential, commercial, lake water shed etc... We have to make sure that all of these are being considered. I think that's why the zoning now in place works for those areas or towns. They have people overseeing their own particular area. Not one group overseeing all. That will ensure that when a variance or exemption is applied for it is handled by people that are familiar and involved. This process works but only in those areas. The rest of the County can be potentially taken advantage of by not having exact laws in place. This is why it's really a County issue. I know the State has mandates and reviews for current zoning and more than likely their state and public land. The facts need to be presented, the truth told and explained if necessary. It also has to be a plan that works for the majority. This is a big issue. We definitely need to take our time and make sure before we enter into zoning that won't work.*

**Denny Glotfelty (R)**

*I would be in favor of placing county-wide zoning on a voting referendum and letting the citizens of Garrett County decide.*

**Louis R. Newcomb Jr. (R)**

*I believe we need to continue the same zoning policies that we have at the present time, making sure that we enforce these policies.*

**Timothy Edward Thomas (R)**

*We need to have County wide zoning, no questions about it.*

**Bill Welch (D)**

*Euclidian zoning is now generally acknowledged as a failed social experiment in rural America. Performance zoning or protecting countywide against nuisance usages is the future in rural America. If elected my*

*commitment shall be to protect property rights while establishing reasonable regulations against nuisance uses and blight. People who want Euclidian-type insulation should buy in county towns and in communities with homeowners' associations.*

## **Economic Development**

**The economic health of Garrett County is, in a large part, sustained by the investment of non-residents in the resort area and in second homes throughout the county. Closely related to this are the economic benefits of tourism and visitors to the county. *What specific proposals do you have to attract and retain investment in real property and in attracting visitors to the county?***

### **District 001**

**Leroy Bernard, Sr. (R)**

*withdrew candidacy July 16, 2010*

**Gregan T. Crawford (R)**

*We must continually work to raise the awareness of all that Garret County has to offer both "on the lake" and "off the lake" for the sake of tourism and economic development. Garrett County, from a marketing stand point, needs to be "branded" in the minds of potential visitors and industry and as a unique and dynamic place to visit, live, and work. In order to raise our presence, I would work at establishing a "media affairs/public relations" intern position. Coordinated with the Office of Economic Development, the Chamber of Commerce, and the local government the intern with perhaps a marketing, journalism or multi-media background would be responsible for helping to generate, attract, and direct positive media attention into various, regional, multi-media markets (Baltimore, Washington, Annapolis, Pittsburgh, PA, Columbus, Ohio, etc) about Garrett County in exchange for college credit.*

**Ernest J. Gregg (R)**

*Continue to provide amenities that attract visitors and encourage investment. Examples such as the Community Athletic and Recreation Center, the Exhibit Hall, the Airport and a roads system that is the envy of our neighbors. I also support a Performing Arts Center to enhance cultural amenities.*

**Eric V. Robison (D)**

*I don't feel that placing industrial sites within the view shed of the lake or ski slopes will increase tourism. We need diversified recreational activities to draw tourism and a Heritage for them to want to come back.*

### **District 002**

**Fred A. Holliday (R)**

*Investment in second/vacation homes by non-residents is a significant component of the County's economy. It is imperative that the county do everything possible to protect and encourage these present and future investments. We must continue to provide quality services (law enforcement, safety, fire & rescue, etc.) and*

support infra-structure (roads, water/sewer, snow removal, etc.) to the County's home owners and visitors.

**Jim Raley (R)**

*There is no doubt a substantial impact on the economy to Garrett County as a result of the lake, mountains and other amenities we offer. The accommodations tax is an excellent source of income (\$1.4 million last year) to be shared between the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development; however the county uses portions of this funding to build infrastructure such as industrial park improvements. Instead, it would be my position that said funds should be directed toward the promotion of our area and funneled through the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development without capital improvement and infrastructure projects exclusively coming from these funds.*

**District 003**

**George Falter (D)**

*I won't be about the same old hackneyed phrases: "new leadership", "change", and "new blood", etc. Instead, I will take an "outside the box" approach. As I travel through the county, I constantly see opportunities that are being missed because of a lack of vision on the part of our elected officials. I have kept a journal of these ideas. Let me cite just one. Some years back, I approached Casper Taylor (former speaker of the house) with an idea for bringing a film-making presence to the county. He thought it was great. Even publicized it. Then dropped the ball. I will bring the people together to decide if this is, indeed, a good idea. If they do; you can be sure that I will make it happen. It never ceases to amaze me that tunnel vision is so prevalent in government.*

**Robert "Bob" Gatto (R)**

*We have to have a clear understanding as to why those people are there. The majority are here for things we take for granted; like the beauty, calmness, variety of the seasons etc ... They could choose to be at the beach, at the amusement park or traveling abroad; but they choose to be here in Garrett County. So that choice shows us what we need to be preserving in our area and striving to do. We need to maintain our beauty and our people. We don't need to compete against amusement parks etc ... If we are thinking that we're wrong. We will lose the very people who are here now. The experience of Garrett County can be the difference of returning or perhaps staying. Any way we can improve those things that the people expect when they come here is to our benefit. They want to see the beauty and create their own experience. We must also understand that there is a level that no matter how much we want to exceed it, we cannot. At that point, we are then losing our efficiency or we are destroying what we have. It is not about quantity, but quality. I know we do a great job promoting our area, but are we promoting it 365 days a year or are we sacrificing some times for others? If we've reached our max at any particular time, then shift some of the emphasis on the down times and promote them. These are people that want to be here for those times also. We are very blessed with our diversity. We can offer so much more just because of where we are. As much as we complain about it, the weather is "the card up our sleeve". Anything we can do to make people want what we have is going to work.*

**Denny Glotfelty (R)**

*There is no doubt that investment in second/vacation homes by non-residents is a significant component of the County's economy; therefore, protecting these investments and encouraging new investments are high priority. Development of additional amenities and infrastructure that make Garrett County a more attractive place to live, visit, work and conduct business would be one way to accomplish this goal. Examples of investments by the county include the Community Athletic and Recreation Center at Garrett College, the*

*new McHenry Business Park, the Exhibit Hall at the Fair Grounds, the upgrade of the Garrett County Airport, and numerous water and sewer upgrades in the Deep Creek lake area. These projects represent tens of millions of dollars of investment. Additionally, the second home owners' investment can be protected by insuring that regulations and policies are in place to preserve the environment and aesthetics that make Garrett County attractive. The County must also continue to provide quality services (law enforcement, safety, fire and rescue, etc.) and supporting infrastructure (roads, water/sewer, snow removal, etc.) to the home owners and visitors of Garrett County. Currently, the County is working with the Chamber of Commerce and other agencies to update the County's Strategic Plan for Economic Development. Through this process, the County's leadership will identify specific initiatives aimed at making Garrett County an even more attractive place to visit, live and work.*

**Louis R. Newcomb Jr. (R)**

*We need to look at our land use policy and watch that we are fiscally responsible in using our tax revenues. We need to provide equal opportunities for all income levels to have access to quality housing. This might mean another look at the land use regulations.*

**Timothy Edward Thomas (R)**

*I propose that we bring in more attractions, like more brand name Restaurants, stores and amusements for the younger generations. I also propose we have a greater focus on technical training so that we can train individuals for more credible jobs to raise the overall wages, so that those individuals can start a family in Garrett County, rather than moving out causing our population to shrink and lose revenue.*

**Bill Welch (D)**

*First, to apply all the pressure the law allows local government to apply lobbying state and communications corporations to build low impact business infrastructure including broadband. Second, to protect property rights by implementing performance zoning standards against nuisance uses for the purpose of promoting business friendly use as well as tourist friendly use that are both low impact and family friendly. Third, to explore potential tie-ins between Garrett County and tech companies to increase private sector funding and increase education levels and job opportunities here.*

## **Industrial Wind Turbines**

***What are your specific plans and position with regard to industrial wind turbine regulation and development in Garrett County, and the impact of wind turbines on property values, use and enjoyment?***

**District 001**

**Leroy Bernard, Sr. (R)**

*withdrew candidacy July 16, 2010*

**Gregan T. Crawford (R)**

*The Commissioners have failed to adequately address the issue of wind turbines for over 8 years. Instead of acting to resolve and address legitimate concerns from a variety of concerned citizen groups and individuals, the Commissioners assumed an unwavering siege mentality and summarily dismissed all concerns. This issue will continue to fester and suppress property values, deter sales, and threaten development until it is resolved. I will work to resolve this issue, as someone who will now have 8 to 10 turbines (of 28) within 1/2 mile of my house and within sight of my house, and who has postponed construction of a new home, I am deeply concerned about the impact of wind turbines in Garrett County.*

**Ernest J. Gregg (R)**

*The county currently has no authority to regulate or deny construction of wind turbines. If the public favors county wide zoning, limitations can be implemented. However, I continue to support property rights.*

**Eric V. Robison (D)**

*I am not opposed to any one industry, per se. I do have issue with the current administration fast tracking permitting for Turbines in Garrett County. I also have issue that Garrett County is one of 5 counties in the state of Maryland that has not adopted nor is Garrett County considering adopting policy regarding wind turbines, but 18 other counties that won't have turbines have already adopted a policy regarding turbines.*

**District 002**

**Fred A. Holliday (R)**

*I have supported wind turbines in Garrett County and believe it is a part of the energy puzzle. I also believe in private property rights—that if a person owns the land they should be able to use it as they see fit. We tried to get legislation enacted to implement set-backs. I will continue to try for this and also, as stated above, will try to put county-wide zoning on the presidential election ballot in two years.*

**Jim Raley (R)**

*I have long believed that without some protections through zoning/regulations that we have left ourselves vulnerable to the opportunists who see Garrett County as a money venture, with short-term financial gain to the county and potential long-term negative effects. I think there should be reasonable setbacks and regulations/standards to avoid what could be detrimental to environmentally sound areas of our county. We have become so desperate for jobs in the area that we have had to rely upon such projects to ease our unemployment rate. I am not a huge fan of this industry as it relies heavily upon government subsidies (our tax dollars) and out of country material purchases, thus leading one to believe that without big profits for developers and no regulations in our county, such corporations would not be jumping at the opportunity to develop wind energy.*

**District 003**

**George Falter (D)**

*I believe that there are legitimate concerns on both sides of this issue. I also believe that all of the divisive yelling from both sides is counter-productive. Getting the people to sit down and discuss this in a reasonable manner is the road to resolution, a means of getting us to where we should be going. Our current officials*

*have not been able to do this nor, it seems to me, have they even tried. I believe in the people; we can do this.*

**Robert "Bob" Gatto (R)**

*The windmills are sure a hot topic. The worst thing about it right now is it is putting neighbor against neighbor. The facts that have been mishandled and the process as to how they got here are giving everyone a bad taste in their mouths. For now, we must hold everyone that entered into these agreements accountable from our leadership and the people involved in their construction and operation both now and in the future. For the most part it is a done deal. I am watching them being constructed in the distance. I do question why with all the facts as to effective locations - Garrett County was chosen over a more effective area. Is it because the current laws were not enforced or are the necessary laws not in place? We also need to know that it's just not the windmills, but also access roads, right of ways, storm water management etc ... are these being given careful consideration? As for declining property values this is a concern - not only from windmills but our current economy (local, state, & national). These can cost us more than we realize. There always seems to be cycles and with those cycles come adjustments. Change can be embraced or fought against. We have to as individuals, a county, a state and a nation live within our means. We get so caught up in everything that when we do have problems we are quick to blame others when really, we are to blame. Right now who is suffering more; those who mismanaged or wasted or those who were financially responsible? We have to do at every level the small things and worry about the things we can control. As far as use and enjoyment; the windmills are here so we need to promote them. Make them another reason why people come to Garrett County, incorporate them into our thinking, make them accessible, possibly put in trails for snowmobiling and cross country skiing etc ... Tie them in with the highest point in Maryland. Promote the positives. Do the same things that were done after the lake was built. I'm sure that was also a hot topic when it was first being discussed.*

**Denny Glotfelty (R)**

*Three Boards of County Commissioners (1998-2010) have supported the development of wind generation in Garrett County. This issue has been approached as an economic development project and absent the authority to regulate this development with county-wide zoning, the Board of County Commissioners has no jurisdiction to prohibit this development. There is no evidence that the placement of wind generation turbines and supporting structures will have a negative impact on property values in Garrett County. Wind generation companies are classified as a public utility and will pay public utility business tax. Estimated annual tax at full construction for the Constellation and Synergies projects is \$1.8 million and \$1.1 million, respectfully, after a ten year full depreciation schedule. The Board of County Commissioners believes in property rights for all property owners and public opinion is vastly not in favor of county-wide zoning. This certainly has to be taken into consideration as it applies to the position the Board of County Commissioners has taken for many years. Two windfarms, Constellation Energy / Clipper and Synergies Energy, have been approved and permitted for construction. The County will be monitoring these projects closely to determine the environmental, economic, recreational and health impacts (if any). These findings will be used to shape future policy and request appropriate changes to laws and regulations.*

**Louis R. Newcomb Jr. (R)**

*We need alternate energy resources. At the same time we need to work to protect our citizens' land values and have in place ways to decommission the wind towers if they do not effectively provide what we are being told they will provide.*

**Timothy Edward Thomas (R)**

*I do not believe we need all the wind turbines that have been proposed to be built. Some of them will generate revenue, but at what cost? I understand that with the construction there is a spike in income levels providing money in a down turn market but it is a temporary fix only providing a handful if that of permanent positions. Not to mention the effect it will potentially have on real property values, does the revenue that the turbines produce outweigh the loss in property revenue? I think not. Let's find an alternative to this problem. We need to upgrade our county not tear down our Mt. Tops. If turbines are the answer then my question is why are so many of the employment opportunities for the construction being brought in from out of state, for example the buildings that house portions of the electrical units. They are being shipped in from out west, why is that? There are local companies that build these types of structures every day.*

**Bill Welch (D)**

*Garrett County's present commissioners could not have managed this state and corporate boondoggle more incompetently if their objective was to disgrace themselves. And there is no evidence of any change. To paraphrase a famous Yogi, the commissioners are lost but seem to believe they are making good time. Performance zoning, an existing tool commissioners seemed to deny having and the county attorney incompetently claimed doesn't exist, is 100% equitable and could have established setbacks making some projects prohibitively expensive. Similarly, noise abatement requirements could have stopped some turbines being located near existing dwellings. The way to defeat corporate welfare nonsense like tax subsidized wind farms is to take control, something no one in the courthouse today seems to have the courage or the wit to do.*

## **Accommodation Tax**

**The current Board of County Commissioners has on several occasions proposed an increase in the county's accommodation tax rate. *What is your position on this tax, its current rate, and what commitments can you make about this rate should you be elected?***

**District 001**

**Leroy Bernard, Sr. (R)**

*withdrew candidacy July 16, 2010*

**Gregan T. Crawford (R)**

*Raising the accommodation tax is regressive in good times and unthinkable in hard times.*

**Ernest J. Gregg (R)**

*Revenue from the accommodation tax is used to promote the county. At the request of the hospitality industry I opposed increasing the tax.*

**Eric V. Robison (D)**

*Again in poor economic times, this would be like shooting ourselves in the foot to raise a tax that might lower the return rate of tourist. Currently I would not support increasing this tax.*

**District 002**

**Fred A. Holliday (R)**

*The accommodation tax is one that does not affect the majority of local residents. This tax is also the funding source for the Chamber which advertises and supports the tourist industry and the Economic Development Department.*

**Jim Raley (R)**

*I feel the county enjoys a steady revenue stream from the real estate taxes paid on the homes in Garrett County, including rental and vacation homes. The proposal this year by the county commissioners to raise the accommodation tax is an example of not listening to the people. We can be penny wise and pound foolish. I would not agree to raise said tax, without the input/agreement of those closest to the issue, and would recommend channeling more of these dollars into sustaining what we have and growing our tourist and part-time resident population. The occupancy of these facilities is critical to many aspects of our economy and jobs. The recent Bing clip on destination lakes and new commercial advertisement are opportunities we must expound upon if we really want to grow out part-time and full-time population. The word is one has to spend money to make money.*

**District 003**

**George Falter (D)**

*Have you noticed that when talking about the current commissioners, it's almost always about unfair taxes or some other negative aspect of their governance? The commissioners don't seem to have a grasp of positive things that could help. Despite the commissioners ineptitude, people continue to elect them; then they complain. My commitment is to facilitate a means for the people to have input that will result in fair policies for the people of Garrett County.*

**Robert "Bob" Gatto (R)**

*This is a similar question to #1 in that it involves taxes and increase. I would question why we feel this way. Is it just to create more revenue, more spending etc ... ? I know you can't do that in the private sector; eventually people go with other options. They feel as if you are using them. I personally use local businesses as much as possible. I have a personal relationship with either the owners or their employees. I can see the benefit in our community but they also understand my needs. I think the government sometimes looks only at numbers and dollar signs not at the entire picture. Another reason is government can't be the answer to all the problems. Individuals should manage their own money and question the government when they don't agree with their spending. This tax is one that Garrett County can't afford the cost is more than the gain.*

**Denny Glotfelty (R)**

*The county's Accommodation Tax Rate is a tax rate that would not affect the majority of local residents while at the same time supplement the loss in State revenue. Our decision to request a change in legislation was only to allow us the ability to increase the tax. Currently, the Accommodations Tax Rate is set at 5%*

*which is the maximum rate presently allowed by the County Code. The Annotated Code of Maryland allows the rate to not exceed 8%. We approached our State Senator and Delegate to introduce legislation that would allow the County Code to replace the 5% with 8% as the maximum rate to be charged. Initially, when we heard of the State revenue reductions that would hit Garrett County so hard we evaluated different avenues that could potentially replace that loss in revenue; one of them being to increase the Accommodations Tax Rate from 5% to 6% for FY 2011. Based on actual Accommodations Tax revenue received in the past, this 1% increase would amount to approximately \$300,000. However, when we met with individuals directly involved in the hotel and room rental business, they quickly pointed out that raising the Accommodations Tax even 1% would, more than likely, drive tourists away from Garrett County resulting in only a nominal increase in revenue due to the potential drop in overnight visitors because of the 1% increase. The Accommodations Tax helps to fund both the Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Economic Development operations, including staffing, research/studies, and infrastructure development. The Accommodations Tax is critical to the health and effectiveness of both organizations. The County's tax seems to be competitive with rates in other jurisdictions and therefore does not put Garrett County at a competitive disadvantage. There is consensus in the business community that there is room for improvement in marketing directed specifically at enticing more visitors to Garrett County. Statistically, the County's resident population is stagnant or declining - and aging. This was identified as a challenge to business health and growth during the strategic planning process. Given this demographic trend, the challenge is how to get more people to visit, work, and live in Garrett County. Any revenues from an increase in the tax rate should be directed to addressing this challenge. If you look at my vote, I voted against increasing the Accommodations tax; however, I support the Board of County Commissioners. With the current economic status, this is not the time to raise taxes.*

**Louis R. Newcomb Jr. (R)**

*Accommodation tax should not be increased. A revenue gain in accommodation taxes will not offset what would be lost in higher priced rentals.*

**Timothy Edward Thomas (R)**

*The accommodation tax rate, in my opinion is in line with where it should be. Raising it will only hurt the rental market and deter visitors by inflated costs. There are other alternatives for the county to raise revenue.*

**Bill Welch (D)**

*Gutless politicians raise taxes and blame it on taxpayers' demands for services. If I am elected we're going to see some serious push back to increasing government revenues or services before spending is under control. Further, if I need to resist bad judgment there shall be newspaper articles on the subject. No one is going to see me go against the math because some expert tells me that is the way they do it downstate. Jerkwater revenue generation using other people's money to cover up financial incompetencies goes way beyond one parochial tax; it pollutes the entire breadth and depth of public policy.*

## **Planning Commission**

The County's comprehensive plan and its land use and development regulations directly impact the real estate industry and real property rights and values. For many years, many people have suggested that there should be a person on the Planning Commission with professional experience in the real estate industry. *If elected, will you appoint a real estate professional to the Planning Commission?*

### **District 001**

**Leroy Bernard, Sr. (R)**

*withdrew candidacy July 16, 2010*

**Gregan T. Crawford (R)**

*Input from the real estate community, as it is a driving force in our local economy, would always be welcome. If and when an opportunity where to arise, I would consider all relevant candidates.*

**Ernest J. Gregg (R)**

*The composition of the Planning Commission does not stipulate membership criteria. As always, I would consider appointment of a real estate professional from a list of candidates that would also be geographically representative of the county.*

**Eric V. Robison (D)**

*If elect, I would appoint a real estate professional to the planning commission, it would seem that with our rental market and sales market representing the large bulk of dollars into our community there should have already been one appointed for representation on this market.*

### **District 002**

**Fred A. Holliday (R)**

*The Planning Commission is comprised of members from different geographical locations within the county. I would be willing to see a list of proposed members when a vacancy opens up.*

**Jim Raley (R)**

*I would agree to such an appointment if there are no regulations or policies prohibiting such an appointment. I would want more time to research the make-up of the committee to determine if said person should serve more in an advisory (non-voting) role or have full voting rights. Certainly, I would hope that the Planning Commission currently offers opportunities for real estate professionals to provide guidance and input at public forums and meetings.*

### **District 003**

**George Falter (D)**

*Any commission that makes decisions and recommendations concerning the county should have*

*professionals with the appropriate background to deal with said issues. I will see to it that all sides are represented and that serious consideration will be given to all input. To the extent that I am able, I will strive to arrive at fair and equitable solutions for the county and its people.*

**Robert “Bob” Gatto (R)**

*There are 3 positions that will come open in 2011. That would be a good time to review the backgrounds of those on the commission. I would look at the backgrounds of those who were interested in having a position and attempt to have as great of diversity as possible. It certainly seems logical to me that the planning commission would be made up of a diversity of professionals, including someone from the real estate profession. Their insight is invaluable because they have a different perspective. They are in contact with people that many of us never see or know. Not doing that would be the same as saying you don't need to involve doctors or nurses when constructing a hospital or firemen when building a fire house. Any discussion whether for or against a topic creates questions and different viewpoints. I don't have all the answers but my ego won't get me in the way of what's best for everyone. Bottom line is to show cooperation and willingness to listen. This no doubt will save money and time and build respect and trust.*

**Denny Glotfelty (R)**

*I believe all organizations should be represented on the Planning Commission, including a professional from the real estate industry.*

**Louis R. Newcomb Jr. (R)**

*A real estate professional needs to be appointed to the Planning Commission. I feel the Board of Realtors must help in determining which of their members is best qualified to fill that position.*

**Timothy Edward Thomas (R)**

*Absolutely, but with certain Agreements and Conditions*

**Bill Welch (D)**

*Why would there be a real estate professional on a planning commission? On a more serious note, of course I will.*

## **Smart Growth**

**“Smart Growth” regulation occurs on the local and state level. State mandates are of concern to many property owners in Garrett County. What specific things will you do on the local level and in concert with the State to enable Smart Growth laws, regulations and principles that reflect the needs of rural Garrett County?**

**District 001**

**Leroy Bernard, Sr. (R)**

*withdrew candidacy July 16, 2010*

**Gregan T. Crawford (R)**

*As with all proposed regulations and mandates it is necessary for the Commissioners (and when necessary to coordinate their efforts with our local state delegation) to be as proactive as possible so as to abate and or mitigate any negative aspects to our region.*

**Ernest J. Gregg (R)**

*The concept of smart growth has become a mandate of state government. We have participated in regional and state wide organizations addressing this issue. We have been adamant that our region is unique and "one size does not fit all".*

**Eric V. Robison (D)**

*As with several questions posed, this one has a variety of meanings and connotations. Garrett County has several policies/ordinances that address protecting our Heritage that have of late been specifically overlooked and or ignored. The States view of Smart Growth is about containing sprawl, where we can walk or bike to everything we need. There will be difficult decisions to make regarding how to best meet the requirement the state will pass down and what our 650 square mile county can afford to contain.*

**District 002**

**Fred A. Holliday (R)**

*The principles of smart growth have become more demanding on local government as the advocates for these principles have become more influential among members of the Maryland General Assembly. I have personally worked with and have directed staff to work with various organizations including the Smart Growth Task Force, the Smart Growth Sub-Cabinet, and the Department of Planning to stress that the criteria developed for PFA designation and for the preservation of land do not equally apply across the State of Maryland. I continually stress that one size does not fit all when it comes to land use planning.*

**Jim Raley (R)**

*The Garrett County Commissioners have to be an active voice for the county in Annapolis and must work closely with organizations, such as MACO, and other small rural counties to enhance their powers through cooperative efforts. The commissioner's must be willing to take positions and actively pursue said positions through active involvement and interactions, and build relationships, with other legislators from throughout Maryland. While we have to work with these agencies, we do not have to surrender to their impositions and demands on our property rights, without our input and our ability to challenge what is being imposed. There are many statewide initiatives that cause harm to small rural jurisdictions and we must make our small voices heard by state officials.*

**District 003**

**George Falter (D)**

*Educate the people as to what all of it means. How many people know what a PFA is? Or a Sensitive Areas Map? Or Wetlands set-asides.? Or almost anything concerning Smart Growth? How it will ultimately impact them, now and in the future? Or, for that matter, where to get the information? Is it any wonder that it so difficult to make positive progress on this issue? We can change this. You can count on me to do everything possible to do so. One third of the power on the Garrett County Commission will go a long way to that end.*

**Robert "Bob" Gatto (R)**

*Smart Growth means just that being smart. As I mentioned earlier about our county being diverse, well our state is even more diverse. We must make sure on every level that our representatives and our leaders are just that ... OUR leaders and listening to us. We must also watch mandates they usually come with ties to money both availability and the use of it. Sometimes these ties can take and hold you hostage. It may be something that works in Southern Maryland, but not in Western Maryland. I want us to be financially responsible at the local level. With the conditions of both the state and national governments, we can't really expect anything from them. We should be using their money as a bonus rather than depending on it. It also goes back to question #4 which people or states are hurting more, those who were responsible or those who were irresponsible. This thinking also pertains to our local towns. They should be only coming to the county or state as a last resort - not the first. They too need to be responsible. I'm not saying to ignore them, but help them in other ways not just hand outs. We can make Garrett County a positive example in all ways including government and spending. Let people come to us for answers again. Make them want what we have.*

**Denny Glotfelty (R)**

*With regard to Smart Growth at the state level, we need to make the State understand that "one shoe does not fit all." Therefore, we need to fight for more Priority Funding Areas (only 3 1/2% of Garrett County is currently in P.F.A.). On the local level, we need to look at ways to maintain our agricultural community so we don't lose our heritage for the future. We also need to make sure we're not mistaking special interest groups for Smart Growth. We need to look further into the future to develop better infrastructure, transportation and jobs so we're sure we're always in a position to have prosperous, productive growth for the future. Smart Growth is betterment of Garrett County for all of Garrett County, not just a fragment of it.*

**Louis R. Newcomb Jr. (R)**

*Garrett County needs to regulate our "Smart Growth". We need to work more closely with the state to ensure the preservation of the uniqueness of Garrett County's environment.*

**Timothy Edward Thomas (R)**

*This is where we all must work together, there are new laws going into effect every day. We are all responsible for these new laws. In the end we need to work together, hold public meetings on newly mandated regulations, discuss them, then go to action working with local, state, and federal regulators, discussing what is best for our county. What works in one county may not always be practical in another county.*

**Bill Welch (D)**

*The first indicator of a stupid idea is some government numbnut puts the word "smart" in its title. Smart growth makes sense in some suburban areas. It is crazier than Euclidian zoning is in rural areas. What I will do is work with the planning commission and the state to make changes in local code that are proven to work in rural areas similar to Garrett County. One of those ideas is not "smart growth". Large lot development is lower impact than small lot development and looks better. That is the future I see for Garrett County.*

## **State Government**

**Many local individuals and businesses see that there is a disconnect between the needs of Garrett County and the actions of state agencies and officials, both on the state and local levels. *If elected what will you specifically do to address this problem?***

### **District 001**

**Leroy Bernard, Sr. (R)**

*withdrew candidacy July 16, 2010*

**Gregan T. Crawford (R)**

*Garrett County must elevate its presence and stature in the minds of our state officials. The "downstate" officials must begin to realize and appreciate the dynamic region that is Garrett County. It's a long term, continuous process to make them realize that we as important to the state as are the bay or Eastern Shore, for example. It's a matter of "education", of building an awareness, of expanding the networking opportunities among all of our local officials, the business communities as well as the continued efforts of our local state delegation. It is matter of courting them of inviting them here for starters, so that they may experience the region. Part of the solution goes back to my response in question 3. It requires a continuous, multi-faceted approach to reducing this disconnect.*

**Ernest J. Gregg (R)**

*Local officials must work to ensure that County polices are not detrimental to our citizens. We maintain dialog with our representatives to the General Assembly regarding actions of state agencies.*

**Eric V. Robison (D)**

*Recently, as a taxpayer, I discovered that laws were changed last year regarding gas production taxes. It bothered me that 1) I was not informed 2) this reduction was again for a select few. I feel that there should be more transparency about what our officials are doing on OUR behalf. There should be a mechanism that would allow a working person to see and review what specifically Garrett County Officials are doing, again on our behalf. This maybe in the form of a monthly newsletter that informs taxpayers what legislation is proposed by our Delegate and Senator and how the commissioners are for or against said legislation. We should be having more input from taxpayers regarding spending. Our counties brightest minds are not going to be available on Tuesday at 10 to help with this input, because they are working to support their families, so we should allow for something different to get their input.*

### **District 002**

**Fred A. Holliday (R)**

*First of all, the County has to make sure that all agencies and policies/regulations—those under county-control—are focused on meeting the needs of citizen stakeholders. Second, the County's leadership must continue to identify issues (laws, policies, etc.) at the state level that are detrimental to the County's interest*

*and work with local representatives to the legislature to seek necessary changes. County agencies must work with their counterparts at the state level to make sure state agencies recognize that Garrett County is different than other jurisdictions and that "one size does not fit all."*

**Jim Raley (R)**

*I will work with my constituents and the citizens and taxpayers of Garrett County to bring about positive changes to attitudes and behaviors of our elected leaders and the cabinet level officials. Respect is not an option within my governance. It is a mandate. We must debate issues, vote on issues, and not be held hostage to arrogance or get even schemes following being on different sides of an issue. I am not afraid to speak out on issues even when I know said issues are of a controversial nature. I carefully research issues and listen to the debate. With this attitude, I think I can alleviate much of what one considers to be a disconnect, by having contacts who can be counted upon to voice concerns in a responsible and respectful manner.*

**District 003**

**George Falter (D)**

*Publicize the issues. Get county people involved. Let local officials (and state officials) know that we expect appropriate action. Finally, if elected, use my one third share of the commission to accomplish the above.*

**Robert "Bob" Gatto (R)**

*Again, we need to make sure that our representatives are representing us. Listening and working for us. Hold them accountable to those they serve. I want to be commissioner to both serve and make a difference - not for what it can do for me. I'm a humble person. I hold common sense. Again, I don't have an ego that will get in the way of what's best. It does not matter to me if it is someone else's idea. I will speak up even if I am the minority. Many politicians will go along with something so that it looks unanimous - wrong. Basically, I'll be Bob ... to me that's more important than being commissioner. That's who I am. I know that being Bob will make me a better commissioner.*

**Denny Glotfelty (R)**

*First of all, the County has to make sure that County agencies and policies/regulations (those controlled by the county) are focused on meeting the needs of the County's stakeholders. Secondly, the County's leadership must continue to identify issues (laws, policies, etc.) at the state level that are detrimental to the County's interest and work with local representatives to the legislature to seek necessary changes. County agencies must work with their counterparts at the state level to make sure state agencies recognize that Garrett County is unique. We as local elected officials need to provide more information to local businesses and the citizens and not be afraid to ask for their support with the state government to show that "one size does not fit all". To provide more information, we can post more listings on the web page and make larger newspaper announcements. Most importantly, we can't be afraid to ask for help.*

**Louis R. Newcomb Jr. (R)**

*As your commissioner I will serve you full time, meeting with individuals and local businesses to hear your concerns and then act on issues that will help Garrett County continue to grow and prosper.*

**Timothy Edward Thomas (R)**

*In my opinion, the people are correct in this statement. If I am elected I will try to bring all those agencies together as a whole so that we can work together to make Garrett County an overall better investment for the future.*

**Bill Welch (D)**

*Plenty. I make my living in the private sector getting stuff done on time and on budget, mostly without scaring people. My analytic abilities alone are sufficient to upgrade the office. Add executive function (ability to manage numerous projects) and leadership skills and Garrett County could get the break it has long needed.*