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**BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND’S FUTURE  
ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Accountability and Implementation Board Nominating Committee  
Announces Nominees**

**September 1, 2021** – The Accountability and Implementation Board Nominating Committee (AIBNC) is required to submit at least nine nominees to the Governor to initially serve on the seven-member Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB), which was established as part of the landmark Blueprint for Maryland’s Future legislation. On July 12, 2021, AIBNC released the application publicly, along with information on the process to apply for consideration to serve on AIB. The announcement was shared with over 40 media outlets in the State and posted on the AIBNC website (<http://dls.maryland.gov/policy-areas/aib-nominating-committee>).

A total of 43 valid applications were submitted by the August 4 deadline. Most of the applicants reside in Montgomery County (13) and Baltimore City (16), with other applicants living in Baltimore County (5), Anne Arundel County (4), Prince George’s County (3), Charles County (1), and Frederick County (1). Slightly more than half of the applicants were male (23) or white (23); the remaining applicants identified their race as Black (16), Asian (3), Hispanic (1), and Afro-Latino (1).

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act and the Public Information Act, AIBNC held four meetings in August and voted for the nominees in closed session. To be selected by AIBNC, an applicant must receive at least four favorable votes with at least one favorable vote cast by one of the two appointees of the Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker. **The following nine nominees were unanimously selected by the Nominating Committee.**

**Accountability and Implementation Board Nominees (in alphabetical order)**

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>County of Residence</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Areas of Expertise*</u>							
				<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	
Doss, Mara	Anne Arundel	Black	Female		■		■	■		■	
Harris, Fagan	Baltimore City	Black	Male								
Kirwan, William	Montgomery	White	Male		■						
Leggett, Isiah	Montgomery	Black	Male		■		■	■			
Lynch, Jennifer	Baltimore County	White	Female	■		■	■	■			
Manko, Joseph	Baltimore City	Asian	Male		■	■	■	■			
Preston, Harry	Baltimore City	Black	Male				■				
Stapleton, Laura	Montgomery	White	Female	■		■	■	■			■
Starr, Joshua	Montgomery	White	Male								

\*(1) early education through secondary policy; (2) post-secondary education policy; (3) teaching in public schools; (4) strategies used by top-performing state and national education systems in the world; (5) leading and implementing systemic change in complex organizations; (6) financial auditing and accounting; (7) other.

AIBNC is required to select nominees from among the applicant pool that, to the extent practicable, reflect the geographic, racial, and gender diversity of the State, as well as a slate of nominees that collectively reflect the six areas of expertise specified in the law. Overall, the slate has six males and three females, with race/ethnicity self-identified as White (4), Black (4), and Asian (1). The nominees reside in four counties, which reflect the diversity of the applicant pool, but several members have a statewide perspective or work in a different county than they reside. Brief biographical information is provided for each nominee below.

The Governor must select seven individuals to appoint to AIB from among AIBNC's nine nominees within 30 days of receiving the slate. The Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker must jointly appoint the AIB chair from among its members.

**Mara R. Doss**, Ed.D. has worked at Prince George's Community College for 29 years, beginning as an instructor in workforce development in 1992. She is currently the Associate Vice President for Teaching, Learning, and Student Success. She is the lead administrator for the college's nationally recognized early/middle college programs developed in partnership with the Prince George's County Public Schools. As part of these responsibilities, Dr. Doss has focused on training public school secondary teachers for dual enrollment instruction and oversees the college's Career and Technical Education programs.

**Fagan Harris** attended public schools in Maryland and is a former Rhodes Scholar. He has dedicated his career to advancing the educational and employment opportunities of young adults in Baltimore City. After several positions in community development and community organizing, including the Director of the Aspen Institute, he co-founded the Baltimore Corps in 2013 to attract talent to advance race equity and social innovation. In addition to his work as Chief Executive Officer of Baltimore Corps, he is Chairman of Just Economy and a board member of AmeriCorps.

**William E. "Brit" Kirwan**, Ph.D. served as Chancellor of the University System of Maryland from 2002 through 2015, the culmination of a 50-year career in higher education and public service that included university president of University of Maryland, College Park and The Ohio State University. He is currently a Regents Professor in Mathematics and Executive Director of Transforming Post-secondary Education in Mathematics. He was appointed by Governor Hogan and the Presiding Officers of the General Assembly to serve as chair of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, which over its three-year tenure developed the policy and funding recommendations that form the basis of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

**Isiah "Ike" Leggett**, J.D. served in elected office in Montgomery County for 32 years, including 12 years as County Executive and 16 years as a member of the county council. During his tenure leading Montgomery County government, where he was the first African American county executive, he made hard choices to ensure the county was on strong fiscal footing and successfully leveraged the growing diversity in Montgomery County. Trained as a lawyer, he taught at Howard University Law School as a Professor of Law for 31 years and also served as Assistant/Associate Dean. He is currently a member of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents and serves on the Board of Advisors for Universities at Shady Grove.

**Jennifer M. Lynch**, Ph.D. worked in the Baltimore County Public Schools for 15 years, beginning as a school psychologist, then an assistant principal, and finally principal of an elementary school for five years. She was a Principal of the Year Nominee in 2018 and 2019 and her school was named one of the 2019 top-performing schools on the PARCC standardized tests in the Baltimore region by the *Baltimore Sun*. As principal, she implemented programs to extend services to families who are underserved and became a system level principal leader in the Peer Assistance Review Program. She is currently Director of Educational Partnerships for the Baltimore County Executive.

**Joseph Manko** was an elementary school principal in the Baltimore City Public Schools for 10 years before assuming his current position at The Abell Foundation as the Education Program Officer. Prior to that, he taught in the Baltimore City Public Schools, where he earned National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Under Mr. Manko's leadership, his elementary school became one of the highest performing schools in Baltimore City for both student achievement and parent and community engagement. He was also an adjunct professor at Towson University and Johns Hopkins University.

**Harry F. Preston V** is a 16-year veteran teacher in the Baltimore City Public Schools whose certifications include secondary math, business, computer science, and Project Lead the Way (engineering). He is currently Director of the Elijah Cummings Innovation Center, which develops STEM, robotics, and entrepreneurial after school programming, at Green Street Academy. He has also taught science and engineering and for many years was the Department Chair for Career and Technical Education at Edmondson Westside High School.

**Laura M. Stapleton**, Ph.D. is currently Interim Dean of the University of Maryland, College Park College of Education, where she is also a Professor in Human Development and Quantitative Methodology. Prior to assuming the role of interim dean, she was Associate Dean for Research, Innovation, and Partnerships. Over the course of Dr. Stapleton's 31-year academic career, she also served as Associate Director of Research for the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center from 2013 through 2018.

**Joshua P. Starr**, Ed.D. was superintendent of schools in Stamford, Connecticut (2005 through 2011) and Montgomery County, Maryland (2011 through 2015), both of which were majority-minority school districts. He began his career as a public high school teacher for special education students in 1993, and then moved into administration where he managed school accountability requirements for closing the achievement gap and district-wide curriculum development. Presently he is Chief Executive Officer of Phi Delta Kappa International, a nonprofit membership organization for K-12 educators.