

THE ALLEN CHAPEL REPORT

Informing the body of Christ and providing a biblical perspective on varying local, national, global events, pressing issues, and influential characters within and outside the church walls.

ALLEN CHAPEL METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SECOND QUARTER, 2018 EDITION



2518 FAIRLAND RD. SILVER SPRING, MD 20904

WEBSITE: <http://www.allenchapelame.org/>

PHONE: 301-879-9232

Primer on Primary Elections

By: Fred Wallace

This June, primary elections will occur both in Maryland and the District of Columbia. Political primaries are a big deal, particularly in states like Maryland that heavily favor one party. In many races within the state, the candidate who wins the primary often is the de facto winner of the general election since, rarely, there is not a viable candidate from the opposing party to challenge them in the Fall. This article will provide a concise history of the primary elections, the different types of primary elections systems, and information pertaining to the upcoming primary elections.

The first statewide primary in the United States was held 1899 in Minnesota. The first presidential primary election was organized in 1901 in Florida and by 1916, presidential primary laws had been passed in 26 states. As of 2015, more than 40 of the 50 states held primary elections. In Maryland, some local jurisdictions held primaries earlier, but the first statewide primary election was held in Maryland in 1910. (League of Women – Maryland).

During the period of 1890 through 1920, there was a progressive desire for reform in the political process, which led to the establishment of the primaries. (Northeastern University). With an eye to making the process of presidential

nominations more democratic and transparent, reform efforts focused initially on making the delegate and candidate selection processes more fair and inclusive. One of the earliest efforts was made by Wisconsin Governor Robert La Follette, whose frustration with the backroom politics in the 1904 elections convinced him to draft legislation that allowed Wisconsin voters more say over convention delegate selection. Subsequent states followed Governor La Follette's lead and by 1916, twenty-five of the forty-eight states had presidential primaries and stricter rules binding delegates to popular election results. (Northeastern University).

After World War I, the desire for reform in the political process decreased as the country entered a period of political conservatism. In fact, eight states actually abandoned their presidential primaries in favor of the old tradition of only allowing delegates to cast votes for their party's nominee. As the Progressive movement lost momentum in American politics, so too did the idea of the state primaries in the presidential nominating process. (Northeastern University). Following World War II, primaries made a resurgence. With the advent of new media, such as television and radio, candidates could get their message directly to the voters and circumnavigate the influences of party bosses. This meant that lesser known candidates stood a chance at prevailing in the state primaries over more senior candidates with greater clout among party insiders. (Northeastern University).

It is the responsibility of state legislatures to establish rules and procedures for selecting candidates to run in elections, taking federal requirements, voter needs, and costs into account. These rules are always changing. Within the past five years, over 40 states have seen the introduction of more than 130 bills proposing changes to primaries. Currently, primaries use a variety of systems. Some states even employ different formats in presidential and non-presidential years. (League of Women's Voters)

Primary elections can be either open, closed, or a hybrid. An open primary allows any registered voter to vote in a primary regardless of their party affiliation. In other words, voters may choose which party's ballot to vote, but this decision is private and does not register the voter with that party. This permits a voter to cast a vote across party lines for the primary election. (NCSL).

Closed primaries allow for only those voters registered with a particular party, to vote in the primary of that party. This system deters "cross-over" voting by members of other parties. Independent or unaffiliated voters, by definition, are excluded from participating in the party nomination contests. For example a voter registered as Democratic can vote only in the Democratic primary and a Republican can vote only in the Republican primary. This is the type of system Maryland uses, as well as Delaware, Florida, Kentucky. (NCSL).

One popular hybrid is the partially closed system. In this system, state law permits political parties to choose whether to allow unaffiliated voters or voters not registered with the party to participate in their nominating contests before each election cycle. Additionally, parties may let in unaffiliated voters, while still excluding members of opposing parties. This system gives the parties more flexibility from year-to-year about which voters to include. At the same time, it can create uncertainty about whether or not certain voters can participate in party primaries in a given year. States that incorporate this type of system are Alaska, Connecticut, Idaho, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Utah. (NCSL).

Another hybrid is the partially open system. This system allows voters to cross party lines, but they must either publicly declare their ballot choice or their ballot selection may be regarded as a form of registration with the corresponding party. States that use this system are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wyoming. (NCSL).

Finally, there is a system, which allows primaries to be open to unaffiliated voters. This system only unaffiliated voters to participate in any party primary they choose, but do not allow voters who are registered with one party to vote in another party's primary. This system differs from a true open primary because a Democrat cannot cross over and vote in a Republican party primary, or vice versa.

States with system are Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and West Virginia. (NCSL).

As mentioned earlier, since 1993, Maryland has been a closed primary state. (Maryland Elections). As such, a voter has to be registered as a Democrat or a Republican to vote in the primary elections. (Maryland Elections). State legislation passed in 2003 allows for a political party to notify the Maryland State Board of Elections at least six months before the primary election if the party will allow voters not affiliated with the party to vote in its primary election; however, this has yet to be utilized by a political party. (League of Women - Maryland) If there are non-partisan offices, such as school board, on the ballot, or referenda, any registered voter can vote can participate. A voter can change their political party up to 21 days before the primary election – in this case, the deadline to change political affiliation is June 5th, 2018. (Maryland Elections).

Turnout percentages of all registered voters demonstrate that primary turnout is generally higher in presidential cycles and much lower in gubernatorial primary elections. (League of Women - Maryland). Additionally, turnout also usually is lower when there is an incumbent president or governor seeking reelection than it is when there is no incumbent, and the nominations are open. (League of Women - Maryland)

Contests that will appear on the ballot for the June 26, 2018 Primary Election are:

Governor/Lt. Governor

Comptroller

Attorney General

U.S. Senator

Representative in Congress

State Senator

House Delegate

Circuit Judge

County Offices (i.e. County Executive, County Council, School Board, etc)
(Maryland Candidates)

The District of Columbia has used a closed primary system since 1974. In D.C., although you can register to vote at a polling station on Election Day, voters cannot change their party affiliation within 30 days before the election. (The Atlantic). Per the Board of Elections, contests that will appear on the ballot for the June 19, 2018 Primary Election are:

Delegate to the United States House of Representatives

Mayor of the District of Columbia

Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia

At-large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia

Ward Member of the Council of the District of Columbia (Wards 1, 3, 5 & 6)

Attorney General of the District of Columbia

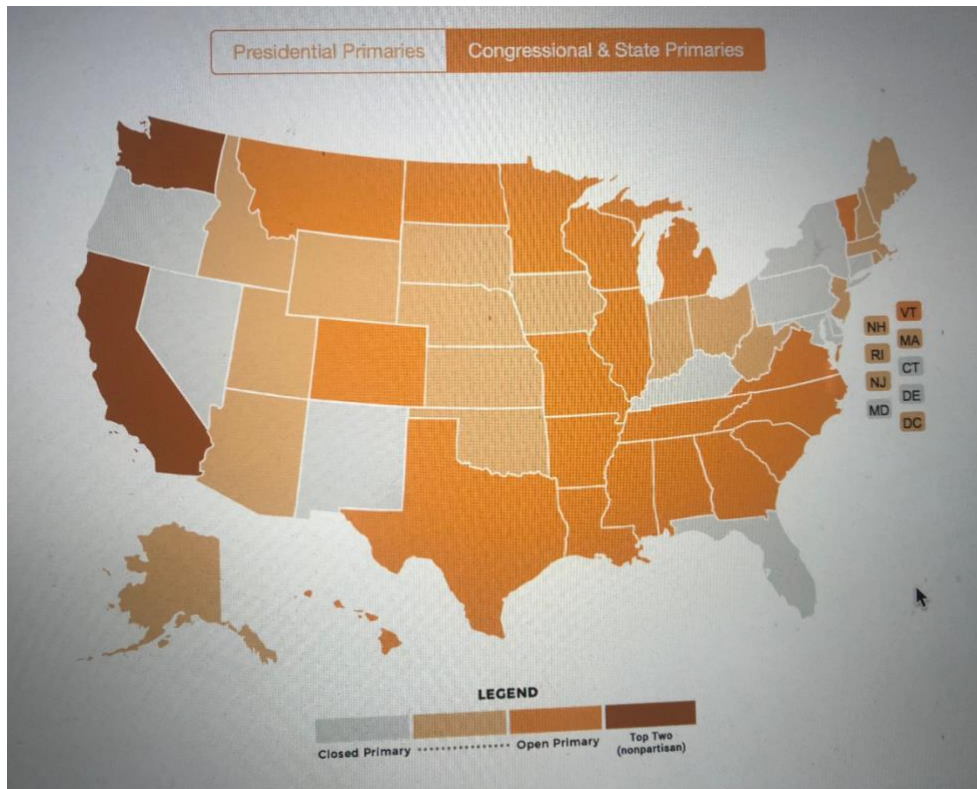
United States Senator

United States Representative

National and Local Party Committee Members (Held at the Request of the Eligible Parties)

D.C. Minimum Wage Act of 2017

(DC Board of Elections)



Source: Open

Primaries

Closed Primaries – Potential Advantages	Open Primaries – Potential Advantages
Discourage strategic votes that set up weak candidates of another party or select candidates not representative of the party's positions	Favor all voter wishes over registered party voters' desires as candidates reflecting the views of a broader range of the electorate may be more successful
Encourage participation by all party activists	Encourage participation by independents and third parties who do not run their own primaries
Party nominees are believed to lead to stability and representation of the wishes of party members	Guard confidentiality about party affiliation and protect voter privacy
Protect the right of free association	Can spur new, moderate coalitions; can protect against rigid ideological orthodoxy
	Preserve the right of political parties to endorse candidates
	May produce competitive, substantive general elections
Closed Primaries – Potential Disadvantages	Open Primaries – Potential Disadvantages
May discourage registered Independents and members of third parties from participating, at least in the primaries	May discourage engagement by core political party activists and people who believe in the principles espoused by a political party
Given the political makeup of some voting districts, may account for low voter turnout in general elections, as voters see the primary as the actual election	Nominees who have stated a party preference may have beliefs inconsistent with party views
May encourage extremism on both left and right	Extreme candidates could win or crowd out moderates since a large number of candidates could split votes to the extent that top vote getters could advance with relatively few votes from partisan voters
Tends to support two-party systems and discourage minority party and Independent candidates	

Source: http://lwvpgh.org/files/study_guide_for_february.pdf

Public Mass Shootings Within The United States

By: Charlene A. Barclay M.ED

A MASS SHOOTING SURVIVOR’S PERSONAL ACCOUNT:

"I was in my dorm room, and everyone could hear the shooting. Not too far away, the gunman, who at the time was a sophomore at Simon's Rock College, was spraying bullets throughout the campus library before moving to a dormitory, killing two people and critically wounding others." Now, more than 25 years later, Kayte Terry recalls memories from 1992 that haunt her to this very day. "The campus was mostly peaceful and quiet and we were situated among the snow-capped mountains of Great Barrington, Massachusetts," continued Terry, "but that changed one frightful night in December 1992, about 10:30 p.m., when shots rang out."



Although an official definition as to what constitutes a mass public shooting has been debatable; according to Grant Duwe of Politico Magazine, "A mass public

shooting is defined as any incident in which four or more victims are killed with a firearm within a 24 hour period at a public location in the absence of other criminal activity, (robberies, drug deals, gang “turf wars”) military conflict, or collective violence. Unfortunately, such horrific events are no longer considered a rarity within the United States. In recent times, they have become a familiar script, often consisting of a mass shooting, followed by waves of grief and outrage, calls for more stringent gun control laws and better mental health resources, an utterance of thoughts and prayers extended to the victims involved, political rhetoric promising change, yet none actually occurs (Duwe, G. 2017). Due to its’ rate of recurrence, Americans are becoming desensitized. While the United States has 5% of the world's population, it holds the title for 31% of all public mass shootings, more than any other country in the world (Christensen, J. (2017).



With the devastating reality of such knowledge, “What's behind all these mass slayings in the United States,” is the lingering question posed by many. The bible

states, "The evil of mankind knows no bounds. For those without the Holy Spirit will become colder and colder in the last days." But from a natural perspective, two theories are also worthy of highlighting:

The copycat phenomenon

Although many of the shooters in the United States were mentally ill, studies have shown that the estimated number of cases of mental illness hasn't gone up significantly while the number of mass shootings in the U.S. has skyrocketed. According to an analysis by the Harvard School of Public Health and Northeastern University, these mass killings can be contagious. One killing or shooting increases the chances that others will occur within a matter of weeks. The copycat phenomenon is more acute in the United States because guns are more accessible than in other countries. "Access to firearms is a significant predictor of these incidents," says Adam Lankford, Associate professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Alabama. (Christensen, J.2017).

A desire for fame

According to Lankford, "It seems like Americans are growing in their desire for fame, and there is no doubt that that there is an association between media coverage that these offenders get and the likelihood that they will act. The fame-seeking

rampage shooters will attempt to kill even more victims.” Lankford continued, "Our homicide rate is higher than comparable European nations. If anything, though, it is these kinds of attacks that make us stand out so negatively from the rest of the world and give us this violent reputation as a country, if we want to give the world a message from what we've learned from all of this, is to say that, 'It is possible, these things do happen, so be prepared and learn from it before you have a tragedy of your own.’” (Christensen, J.2017). Statistically, Americans possess more guns than any other country in the world. There are an estimated 270 million to 310 million firearms in circulation in the United States. With the American population at 319 million, slightly more than one-third of its citizens say someone in their home owns a gun, according to the Pew Research Center. The country with the next-highest number of guns is India, with 46 million guns spread across a much larger population of more than 1.25 billion. Remarkably, India doesn't even crack the top five among countries with the most mass shootings. (Christensen, J.2017).

Although the numbers show that more restrictive gun laws make a difference, gun control is one of the most divisive issues in American politics. (Christensen, J.2017). Proponents of stricter gun regulations fear for their safety in a country where there is an average of 88 guns per 100 people. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence estimates that around 114,994 people are shot each year in the US. This

includes murders, assaults, accidents, police intervention, suicide attempts and suicides.

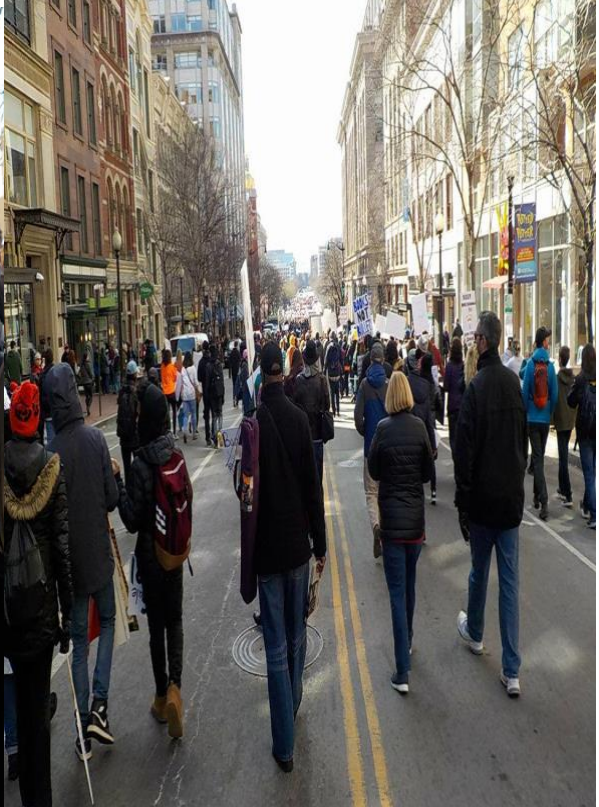
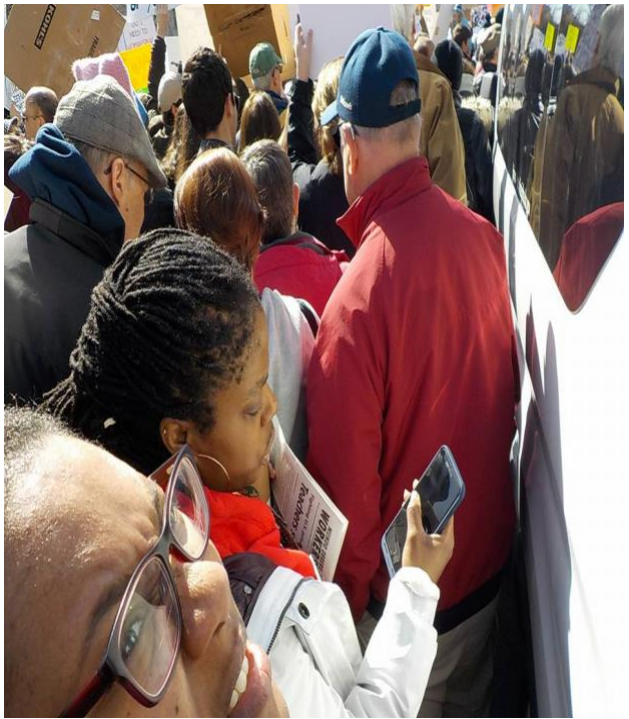
Opponents argue that restricting the right to bear arms equates to a loss of safety; hence, would leave citizens unable to protect themselves in their daily lives.

(Schuster, K. 2018)



On March 24, 2018, hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Washington DC within the “March For Our Lives Demonstration” to call for tighter gun laws following the massacre at a high school in Parkland, Florida, just a month prior (Holpuch, A. 2018). The march was led by young activists from Parkland and supported by a sundry of protestors of all ages and ethnic backgrounds from across

the country, who assembled in an effort to deliver a powerful message. “Protesters in Washington formed a sea of people along Pennsylvania Avenue, while demonstrators also gathered in Parkland, New York City, San Francisco, and in many cities around the world. The rallies aimed to persuade Congress to tighten the US’s notoriously lax firearm laws. Emma Gonzalez, one of the best-known Parkland student activists, also led the crowd in “6min 20secs of silence” to symbolize the amount of time it took the gunman, Nikolas Cruz, to commit the 17 murders.” (Holpuch, A. 2018). Even members from our very own Allen Chapel AME of Silver Spring, Maryland participated within the monumental gathering on Pennsylvania Avenue as well, in an effort to display solidarity and support for such a worthy cause. As events from the demonstration came to an end, many left with the sentiment, “This is just the beginning. Our fight will continue until change with the current gun laws actually occur.”



MINISTRY FOCUS: AFRICAN HERITAGE MINISTRY (A.H.M)

By: Charlene A Barclay M.ED



The African Heritage Ministry (AHM) began 18 years ago when Bro. Prince Sherman, a native of Liberia, West Africa went to Allen Chapel A.M.E.'s former Pastor, Rev. Baron Young, and shared his desire to celebrate African Liberation Day (African Freedom Day) which is celebrated annually on May 25 in his native country and among many Africans throughout the world. The result of their discussion was the initiation of African Liberation Sunday on the fourth Sunday in May, 2001. It followed the example of African leaders who celebrated May 25 as African Liberation Day. During those first few years, the main purpose was to promote one's connection to the Motherland by celebrating Africa's past glories and call attention to her present tribulations. Since its' early days, the focus was widened to encompass the African Diaspora.

In 2003 the name was changed to African Heritage Sunday and the African Heritage Ministry (AHM) was formed. Over the years, AHM became a full fledged ministry and under the mentoring of Rev Alan Gould, it expanded in number and range of activities:

Vision of the African Heritage Ministry is to increase knowledge and awareness at Allen Chapel of countries and peoples of the African continent and the diaspora (the Americas, the Caribbean etc.); to assist and expand membership of people from these countries and help them become a part of the Allen family; to provide a support family away from home for members of the ministry, to do outreach for people of the African continent and the diaspora in the local community and overseas.

Goals:

- To promote at least one or more annual activity which will bring knowledge and awareness at Allen Chapel pertaining to the countries, cultures and histories of people of Africa and the African diaspora.

- To welcome visitors and new members to Allen from such countries, make follow up calls and encourage involvement in the various ministries at Allen Chapel.
- To maintain contact with each other through phone calls and occasional home visits when culturally appropriate or when needed.
- To partner with other ministries and organizations in promoting outreach activities in the local community as well as overseas each year.

Throughout the years, countries represented in the ministry include Barbados, Cameroon, Gambia, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Panama, Sierra Leone, USA, Virgin Islands and Zambia etc. Members of the African Heritage Ministry have planned and participated in a variety of activities at Allen Chapel including health messages, Black History programs, documentaries, Kwanzaa, Yard sale, the Watoto concert, and Cultural Day and Diaspora Festivals which include the fabulous Diaspora Fashion Show. Since 2003 and to this very day, the aims of AHM are to increase knowledge and cultural awareness of Africa and the Diaspora at Allen by supporting the church in welcoming visitors and new members from

other countries in the Diaspora, perform outreach work in the community, and overseas, in partnership with other ministries at Allen.

For more information about this Ministry, contact:

- Sis. Cornelia Stronge – Chair castronge@verizon.net>
- Sis. Jean Taylor – Secretary..... jovienea4@gmail.com
- Sis. Evelyn Ragland – Commissioner..... raglande@comcast.net



YPD FOCUS: Favorite Role Models

By: Fred Wallace



Every second Sunday in June, we recognize the YPDers for their outstanding achievements during the school year, their unrelenting work within the church, and their untiring desire to assist and help everyone here at Allen Chapel. Several middle and high school students were asked who their favorite role models were and below are their responses:

Courtney Lee, 18 years old, 12 Grader at Rockville High School

My biggest role models are my teachers because they encourage me to keep working on the problems that I am working on and to never give up no matter how hard it is. They also urge me to keep trying until I solve my problems. They motivate me to set my bar high and create an environment where I keep pushing myself beyond my comfort zone to reach my goal. Also, having a sense of humor while teaching us the lesson that they have planned the night before or over the weekend, while doing other things like paying bills, putting gas in the car or cooking a nice menu for the family.

Cindy Enwereuzo, 17 years old, 11th Grader at James Hubert Blake High School

My biggest role model is Martin Luther King, Jr. As active as he was throughout the Civil Rights movement, King, a Christian, was not afraid to demonstrate black pride because he believed that God was in control of the whole situation dealing with racial conflict. His peaceful, optimistic attitude was also demonstrated through his peaceful protests that were conducted by him. Moreover, his optimism emphasized his patience, hoping that one day, the United States would be integrated with love and peace.

Ayana Lee, 16 years old, 10th Grader at Rockville High School

My biggest role model is Russell Wilson. Russell Wilson is the quarterback for the Seattle Seahawks and he is not afraid to let anybody know about his faith and his belief in God. Although he plays football, he always makes time for his family and his wife, Ciara. He is a role model to me because it shows me to never be afraid to tell or share what I believe in and to always make time for the ones I love, no matter what I do in the future, because people can get blinded by what they have and what they do that they forget where they come from.

Yunas Jesse Muhammad, 14 years old, 8th Grader at Samuel Ogle Middle School

My biggest role model is Amani Freeman because he is like a brother-figure to me. I also look up to late Stephen Hawking. He studied black holes and gave it his all. I look up to these people. I want to work at NASA, studying space, time and much more. I want to graduate with my Masters in Astronomy, then travel around the world, studying space.

Toku Oscar, 14 years old, 8th Grader at Washington Jesuit Academy

My biggest role model is a priest at my school. He comes every Wednesday or any day is able to make it for mass and other events. He has done many things around the school that not only include preaching but also teaching the Word of God. I have talked to him many times about school and many other relevant things. What really encourages me to only do what is right in the Word of God and I do not have to follow friends. That has inspired me to do things such as volunteering.

Jamal Mayo, 13 Years old, 7th Grader at Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School

My biggest role models are my teachers, because they show me how to help people in need. They also help me with my work even when it is needed. My teachers also show me many examples of how the power of God works.

Jacob Bonner, 13 years old, 7th Grader

My biggest role models are firemen. They are always available to battle fires and help save the lives of many people.

Christyana (Tyana) Nensala, 12 years old, 7th Grader at Forcey Christian Private School

I believe I have multiple role models and they provide support for anything I need. Jesus is the first out of all of them, he died for all our sins and we would never have been here if it were not for him. My parents, my mother and my father are great role models for me, they are not like any other parents. They push me into being the best I can and do more with the talent and gifts God has given me, such as my gift of drawing. My dad paid for me to take art classes and helps me sing and create stories. Meanwhile my mom helps me shine as an honor roll student and a developing author. She also encourages me to think outside of the box. If it was not for my nana, grandpa, grandma, all my uncles and aunts, and my friends, I would have never been the person I am today. Because I am loved, I can share love and support to others who are in need. In conclusion, I will never have just one person as my role model. All of them put together provide the puzzle pieces and shape my life. Therefore, I am grateful to God for all of them.

WORKS CITED/ENDNOTES

Primer on Primary Elections

1. League of Women Voters of Maryland PDF (2017). Background Materials for PRIMARIES in MARYLAND: Open vs. Closed? Top Two/Four or by Party? Plurality or Majority?. Retrieved April 8th, 2018, from https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lwvmaryland/pages/127/attachments/original/1505509988/Primary_Study_Background_Materials.pdf?1505509988
2. Northeastern University Website (2016). Northeastern University U.S. Political Conventions and Campaigns. Retrieved April 5th, 2018, from <http://conventions.cps.neu.edu/history/the-progressive-era-reforms-and-the-birth-of-the-primaries-1890-1960/>
3. League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh, Inc. PDF (2017). LWVPA ELECTION LAW REVIEW AND UPDATE STUDY. Retrieved April 9th, 2018, from http://lwvpgh.org/files/study_guide_for_february.pdf
4. The National Conference of State Legislatures website. (2016). State Primary Election Types. Retrieved April 6th, 2018, from <http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/primary-types.aspx>
5. The State Board of Elections website. (2018). Primary Elections, 2018. Retrieved April 6th, 2018, from <http://www.elections.state.md.us/voting/primary.html>
6. The State Board of Elections website. (2018). 2018 Primary Candidates, 2018. Retrieved April 6th, 2018, from http://www.elections.state.md.us/elections/2018/primary_candidates/index.html
7. The Atlantic Magazine website. (2014). It's Primary Day in DC but My Vote Won't Count. Retrieved April 8th, 2018, from <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2014/04/its-primary-day-in-dc-but-my-vote-wont-count/450153>
8. The District of Columbia Board of Elections website. (2018). 2018 Elections. Retrieved April 8th, 2018 from <https://www.dcboe.org/Elections/2018-Elections>
9. The Open Primaries website. (2018). Open Primaries State – By – State. Retrieved April 7th, 2018 from https://www.openprimaries.org/primaries_by_state

Public Mass Shootings Within The United States

1. Christensen, J. (2017, October 5). Why the U.S. Has the Most Mass Shootings. . Retrieved April 23, 2018, from <https://www.cnn.com/2015/08/27/health/u-s-most-mass-shootings/index.html>
2. Duwe, G. (2017, October 4). Mass Shootings Are Getting Deadlier, Not More Frequent. Retrieved April 23, 2018, from <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/10/04/mass-shootings-more-deadly-frequent-research-215678>
3. Holpuch, A., & Owen, P. (2018, March 24). March for Our Lives: Hundreds of thousands demand end to gun violence – as it happened. Retrieved April 20, 2018, from <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2018/mar/24/march-for-our-lives-protest-gun-violence-washington>
4. Schuster, K. (2018, February 15). 8 facts about gun control in the US. Retrieved April 20, 2018, from <http://www.dw.com/en/8-facts-about-gun-control-in-the-us/a-40816418>