

CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF

CADENCE NATIVIDAD

FOR THE STATE STUDENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

My name is Cadence Natividad, and I am a junior at Southern Garrett High School, located in the heart of Garrett County. I am honored to stand before you as a candidate for the State Student Member position on the Board of Education.

As someone from a small and close-knit county, I know what it feels like to want your voice heard. I have a deep passion for making sure every student, no matter where they come from, feels included, valued, and empowered in their educational journey. This position represents an opportunity to bring all voices—rural, urban, and everything in between—to the table and work toward meaningful change for Maryland's students.

I believe I am a strong candidate because of my dedication to community service and leadership experience. As a good communicator, I have worked tirelessly in various roles, including serving as a student member of the Garrett County Board of Education, where I learned the importance of listening, collaboration, and taking action. These skills, combined with my drive to make a difference, equip me to represent the diverse student body of Maryland effectively.

If elected, I will prioritize three key goals: school safety, equity, and student wellness. Every student deserves to feel safe, not just physically but emotionally and mentally. I will advocate for initiatives that foster inclusive environments, support mental health resources, and ensure all schools have the tools they need to protect and empower their students.

I also aim to bring about positive changes that reflect your voices. I hope to see schools implement stronger measures for bullying prevention, expanded access to wellness programs, and a greater focus on bridging inequities in education across the state.

I encourage you to vote for me because I am ready to listen to you, fight for your needs, and ensure that every decision we make uplifts our shared vision for a better future. Together, we can create schools where everyone feels safe, supported, and ready to thrive.

Thank you, and I look forward to earning your trust and vote as the next State Student Member of the Board of Education.

CADENCE NATIVIDAD

MD STATE SMOB CANDIDATE

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: @cadence4statesmob

KEY FACTS

200 Service Hours

Distinguished Honor Roll since 5th Grade

Founded Women's Society

EDUCATION

Southern Garrett High School

2022- Present

Graduating class of 2026

Garrett College

2022- Present

Pursing an Associates degree in General Studies

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Planned and implemented a holiday event to support local families in need.
- Served as a Girl Scout Troop volunteer, assisting with leadership and community service projects.
- Organized and participated in events honoring veterans, including Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and Purple Up Day for military children.
- Contributed to community outreach initiatives such as Stuff the Bus and homeless outreach programs.
- Coordinated and supported various drives benefiting women veterans.
- Led efforts for Women's Equality Day celebrations and awareness campaigns.
- Assisted with programming for the Chautauqua cultural event series.

PROFILE

With a passion for community service, Cadence is involved in several civic organizations that support our youth and other community members, such as Veterans and vulnerable individuals.

As a daughter of a lifetime Garrett County native mother and a now-naturalized immigrant father, Cadence values the inclusion of all individuals.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Awards & Recognitions

- 2019, Girl Scout Bronze Award
- 2020, VFW Patriot Pen Contest, First Place
- 2021, American Legion Essay Contest, Second Place State Winner
- 2022, Miss Poppy Title Granted
- 2022, American Legion Essay Contest, First Place District Winner
- 2022, American Legion Poppy Poster Contest, First Place National Winner
- 2022, Miss Poppy Title Granted
- 2022, Girl Scout Silver Award
- 2023, Miss Poppy Title Granted
- 2023, Garrett County Woman of Tomorrow
- 2023, American Legion Oratorical Contest, Third Place State Winner
- 2023, Let's Drive Scholarship
- 2024, Minds and Motion Award Recipient
- 2024, Southern Garrett Lady Rams Tennis, Team Spirit Plaque

EXTRACURRICULARS

Clubs & Organizations

- Girl Scout Troop 55004, Oakland MD, Ambassador Scout
- Girl Scout Troop 55004, Oakland MD, Daisy Troop Leader 2022-2023
- Junior President of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 71, Miss Poppy since 2022
- Student Member of the Garrett County Democratic Central Committee (until 2024)
- Auxiliary Member of Proctor Kildow Post 71
- SGHS Mock Trial Team
- SGHS Varsity Tennis Team
- SGHS Student Council
- Assistant Secretary SGHS Student Council 2023-24
- GCASC Historian 2023-2024
- Secretary of SGHS Student Council
- Garrett County Student Member of the Board of Education
- Garrett County Student Member of the School Health Council
- Committee for Women's Equality Day Annual Celebrations
- MASC
- SGHS Unified Bocce Team
- Garrett County Public Schools Equity Advisory Board