

Friend, my name is O'Marie Barnes. I am a student, advocate, business owner, and proud Marylander fighting for fair, equitable, and common-sense education and resources for student success. Or in other words, **very helpful yapping**, for your benefit!

Now, let's talk about why I want the privilege of your vote and faith to become the next Student Member of the Maryland State Board of Education. To know my why, you must first learn a little about who O'Marie Barnes is, and why I'm motivated to do this work: I was raised in Temple Hills, Maryland, a small but mighty community that's taught me the value of education, and using your talents to overcome long odds.

For too many, however, those odds mean very little chance for success in the first place. This is why I'm dedicated to helping students receive the resources they need to not just get by but to get ahead. I've always been told that a "closed mouth is not fed", so I'm actively using my platform to speak up. I founded the Barnes and Scott Youth At Law, a youth-led Nonprofit organization dedicated to providing young people with the resources in law, politics, civics, and public policy to become changemakers and legal professionals. When I felt an obligation to represent young people in Annapolis, I sought and received an appointment to the Maryland Youth Advisory Council, a council established by the Maryland General Assembly to provide young individuals with a voice in advocating for policy. When I felt I could contribute to mentoring my peers, I led the steering committee for Mentor Maryland | DC's Youth Advisory Council. When I wanted to make a difference at the local level, I ran a competitive race for Student Member of the Prince George's County Board of Education. Now, I'm asking for your grace in granting me the honor of representing your values as the Maryland S.M.O.B.

My platform is centered around the shared experience we have as students in Maryland Public Schools. By focusing on:

Academics: Fight for the institution of in-person and digital (staffing accommodation) remedial courses for the foundation of the Math and ELA curriculums, confronting the COVID-19 learning gap and bolstering student comprehension and postsecondary preparedness.

Providing Transportation Support: Advocating for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to negotiate with local transit agencies, or compel Local Education agencies (LEAs) to negotiate with local transit agencies, to provide free fares from school for students, eradicating the transportation barrier for students.

Chronic Absenteeism: Recategorize illness out of the bounds of Chronic Absenteeism. If you are out of school healing a sickness, that would not count toward being chronically absent. This action, in conjunction with the broadening of the "Concentration of Poverty Grants," can deflate the rate of Chronic Absenteeism while compelling students to attend, and thrive in school.

Community-schooling: Using the advocacy pulpit to push the Board to take a unified stance for the broadening of the "Concentration of Poverty Grants", state grants that classify Community Schools and fund wraparound services across Maryland.

EDUCATION

Crossland High School

Temple Hills, MD

Principal's Honor Roll, GPA: 4.16

Awards and Certifications

- Governor's Citation
- Coca-Cola's "Making the Net-work" Award
- Business Certification from Principles of Business and Management

Graduation Date: May 2026

Principles of Business and Management

- College and Career Preparation
- Participated in class modules

University of Maryland Trio Summer Program

- Provided feedback on the program
- Connected the program with youth in aiding educational specialist

Leadership Experience

Maryland Youth Advisory Council

July 2023 - Present

Member

- Appointed by Speaker of Maryland House of Delegates
- Testify to Maryland General Assembly
- Provide input on policies affecting youth
- Meet with legislators

Congressman Glenn Ivey's Safe Streets Advisory Council

February 2024 - Present

Member

- Meet with Congressman
- Advise on safety-related issues
- Meeting stakeholders

Congressman Glenn Ivey's Youth Advisory Council

February 2024 - Present

Member

- Meet with Congressman
- Advise on youth-related issues
- Meeting stakeholders

Maryland Secretary of State's Office

March 2024 - May 2024

Student Ambassador Program

- Promote youth engagement in electoral process
- Highlight events at my school
- Facilitate community service initiatives

MENTOR MD | DC

June, 2024 - Present

Youth Advisory Council - Steering Committee

- Planning statewide Youth Advisory Council (YAC)
- Attending Mentor MD | DC Conferences and events
- Meeting with Mentor MD | DC Leadership

Barnes and Scott Youth Law Camp

June, 2023 - Present

Founder

- Overseeing executive actions, Vice-Chairing Board of Directors
- Presiding over department meetings
- Networking program

Prince George's County Schools

May, 2024 - April 30, 2024

Student Board of Education Member Finalist

- Ran in first countywide election for secondary schoolers
- Participated in PGCPSS SMOB Town Hall (youtube)
- Developed campaign platform

Prince George's County State's Attorney (SAO)

July, 2024 - September, 2024

Intern

- Completing discovery logs
- Transcribing interviews
- Meet with PGCPSS Staff

Crossland High School Student Government

June, 2024 - Present

President

- Represent Student Body to administration
- Plan Homecoming & schoolwide spirit events
- Preside over all meetings of CHSSGA

Maryland Association of Student Councils

May, 2024 - Present

Executive Board - Division 4 Liaison

- Providing insight to MASC and attendees of meetings
- Proposing events for Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Prince George's County students
- Voting at executive board meetings

EXTRACURRICULARS

- Future Business Leaders for America, *Vice President*
- Office of State Delegate Marvin E. Holmes Jr., *Volunteer*
- Angela Alsobrooks for Senate, *Campus Leader*
- *Green Club, Member*
- Prince George's County Young Democrats, *Vice President of Membership*
- Albrecht Fellow, *World Trade Center Institute*

SKILLS

Skills: Google Spreadsheet, Chrome