



Charles County Commissioners

REUBEN B. COLLINS, II, ESQ., PRESIDENT



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., is a lifelong resident of Charles County, was raised in Bryans Road and is a proud graduate of the Charles County School system. Commissioner President Collins resides with his wife, Debborah, along with their children Janiya, Tyme, and Taj, in Waldorf, Maryland.

Commissioner President Collins earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, advancing to earn his Jurisprudence Doctorate (J.D.) from the District of Columbia School of Law. For over twenty years, he practiced law for R.B. Collins Law, LLC emphasizing on corporate and small business transactions.

Commissioner President Collins' public service career started more than 30 years ago and includes two terms as District 3 Charles County Commissioner where he served as Vice-President during his second term in office. He was elected to office a third time in 2018; he made history by becoming the first African American elected as Commissioner President for Charles County. In 2022, he was re-elected as Commissioner President, marking the first re-election of the Charles County Commissioner President in 20 years.

Along with his real-world experience, Commissioner President's commitment to community service is widely established and he has a proud history of serving others. He is credited with extensive and noteworthy contributions:

- Charles County Housing Authority, 2008
- Minority Business Program Collaboration, 2008
- Rural Housing Improvement Initiative, 2009
- Waldorf Sidewalk Initiative, 2010
- Light Rail Initiative Collaboration, 2011
- Summer Youth Employment Program, 2012
- Waldorf Beautification Project, 2012
- Waldorf Redevelopment Corridor, 2012
- Pomonkey Redevelopment Project, 2013
- Affordable Housing Initiatives, 2020 and 2021
- Charles County Interfaith Commission (first in Charles County), 2021
- Resilience Authority (first in the State of Maryland), 2021

Additionally, in 2021, Commissioner President Collins spearheaded the passage of Resolution 2021-24 Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which includes use of an equity impact assessment tool to assess the actual or

anticipated effect of proposed policies, institutional practices, programs, plans, and budgetary decisions considered by the Board of Commissioners.

Historically, Commissioner President worked to accelerate growth in Charles County Sheriff's Department, facilitated partnerships with local companies to provide jobs to local youth, crafted a 'Smart City Vision' to make Charles County more responsive to the residents, and collaborated with non-profit partners to reduce veteran and chronic homelessness, including the rehabilitation of deteriorating motels into low-cost apartments.

Additionally, he served on numerous committees within his positions as Commissioner and Commissioner Vice President, including:

- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments,
- National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board,
- Charles County Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee,
- Tri-County Council Veterans Regional Advisory Committee
- Southern Maryland Latino Council,
- Charles County Economic Development Commission,
- Charles County Department of Social Services,
- Charles County Economic Advisory Council,
- Chesapeake Bay Area Commission,
- Patuxent River Commission

Furthermore, Commissioner President's community involvement is credited with more noteworthy contributions:

- Akoben Political Action Committee (founder),
- United Way of Charles County,
- The Working Men Associated Enterprises (Chief Counsel),
- Black Leadership Council for Excellence (Founder and President),
- Kiwanis International of Waldorf,
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.,
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Charles County (former Chief Attorney)

Commissioner President is also a published author. His works are: *Evolutionary Actuality* (February 2013) and *On Resistance: And the Expansion of We the People's Civil Rights in America* (June 2021). In his fourth term serving the residents of Charles County, Commissioner President is eager to continue working to advance policies that will ensure Charles County has a bright and prosperous future.



Charles County Government

Gilbert O. Bowling, III ♦ District 1



Commissioner Gilbert “BJ” Bowling III (District 1) is a lifelong resident of Charles County. He currently resides in Dentsville, Maryland, with his wife of 20 years, Jennifer, and their two daughters, Jillian and Caroline.

Commissioner Bowling has always served his community and enjoyed a career in public safety for over 21 years. As such, he is a 22-year member of his union, serving in various capacities on the Board of Directors.

Active in many community organizations, Commissioner Bowling volunteered with the United Way of Charles County, where he served on the Board of Directors as Chairman. Commissioner Bowling was elected to the Charles County Democratic Central Committee in 2014 and served as the Chairman for three years from 2014-2017. He has served as Charles County Commissioner since 2018. He sits on many

committees: the Board of Fire and Rescue, Charles County Chamber of Commerce: Board of Directors, Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission, Fire/EMS Scholarship Committee, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG): Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Committee, Patuxent River Commission, Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland (TCCSMD): Veterans Regional Advisory Committee (Vice Chair 2018 -2022 and Chair 2020-2021), Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board MACo Representative, and alternates on the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo): Legislative Committee, and COG Board of Directors.

Serving as a current member of the Charles County Farm Bureau, Commissioner Bowling was also honored to serve as the Vice-President. He owns and operates a 5th-generation family farm with his grandfather and father. This proud family farm raises grass-fed beef and vegetables they sell to the local community. Commissioner Bowling firmly believes that it is essential that the citizens become involved in the activities of our government and community to ensure a bright and prosperous future for all of our children.



Charles County Government

Thomasina O. Coates, M.S. ♦ Commissioner, District 2



Commissioner Thomasina O. Coates, M.S. (District 2) is a native of Charles County. She is very proud of her deep Charles County roots dating back to the 1700s. Living in White Plains, Maryland with her husband; she also has one adult son, two adult daughters and two granddaughters.

Commissioner Coates is a proud graduate of Charles County public schools specifically from McDonough High School in Pomfret, Maryland in 1982. She earned her Associates degree in Computer Science from the College of Southern Maryland in Charles County. She continued her studies by attending the University of Maryland, University College earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology; as well as, her Master's degree in Information Technology Management.

She has over 30 years' experience in the Information Technology workforce, serving as an Information Technology Project and Program Manager for the federal government. Her experience includes, but is not limited to, successfully managing and budgeting multi-million-dollar Information Technology (IT) projects and business infrastructure for the federal government; providing solutions to meet the agency goals and mission, enabling program growth, and automating and implementing best practices department-wide to attain operational excellence.

Additionally, Commissioner Coates is the business owner and President/CEO of TTI Enterprise, LLC a successful minority woman owned trucking company located in White Plains, Maryland. She owns a real estate rental and property management company, Coates Estates, LLC with her husband also located in White Plains, Maryland.

Commissioner Coates' commitment to volunteerism is widely established and she is proud of her long history of serving others. As a member of or service on several local and regional boards across the Southern Maryland region, Commissioner Coates' community service is expansive and noteworthy:

- Chair of the Charles County Board of License Commission (Liquor Board), 2010 – 2018,
- Vice President for the Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce, 2014 – 2018, where she educated and advocated for minority owned businesses in the tri-county region,
- Elected Vice Chair Charles County Democratic Central Committee, 2014 – 2018,
- Re-elected in 2018 to the Charles County Democratic Central Committee,
- Member of Charles County NAACP,
- Member of the African American Heritage Society,
- Member of Women of Action Charles County (WOACC),
- Member of the Charles County Chamber of Commerce,

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- Member of Northern Democratic Club,
- Member of the Western Democratic Club,
- Member of Waldorf Rotary Club, 2013, and
- Served as Data Coordinator for Charles County, Obama for America (OFA), 2012.

As her second term begins, Commissioner Coates remains motivated and committed to faithfully serving all residents of Charles County.



Charles County Government

Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed ♣ District 3



Commissioner Amanda M. Stewart, M. Ed. (District 3) has lived in Charles County for over 30 years. A graduate of Thomas Stone High School in Waldorf, she holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and a Master's in Education, Administration and Supervision from Bowie State University. Amanda is currently a doctoral candidate. Her research is focused on the professional development of teachers in implementing writing in a science classroom. Additionally, Commissioner Stewart has earned the Maryland Administrative I & II certification and Advanced Professional Certificates in Biology and Health.

Commissioner Stewart was elected to the Charles County Board of Commissioners in 2014 and is currently serving her third term. With more than 20 years of experience in the education field, Commissioner Stewart has served as a teacher leader in the public school system.

Amanda has transitioned into an educational consultant role. She enthusiastically provides professional development for teachers across the United States and serves as a data and legislation expert for schools to ensure they are meeting educational legislation policies.

Commissioner Stewart co-founded Reach One Touch One, Inc., a non-profit organization focused on empowering people with personal growth skills, educational tools, and wellness services. Along with her husband, she co-owns a small business, Patrell's Cleaning Solutions. Commissioner Stewart is active in her community, a member of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Charles County Chamber of Commerce. At the start of her term as a commissioner, she was appointed to the Charles County Public Library Board of Trustees, and joined the Smart Growth America Local Leaders Council, Maryland Chapter. Commissioner Stewart is the County Commissioner representative on the Charles County Department of Social Services board.

Amanda continues to serve as a facilitator, conference presenter, and guest speaker at various organizational and community events. Amanda lives in Charles County with her husband, Alvin and their son.



Charles County Government

Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A.

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4



Commissioner Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A. (District 4) is a proud lifelong Charles County resident. A graduate of McDonough High School, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the American University in Washington, D.C. He received a Master of Arts degree in History from the University of Alabama, Birmingham. Also, Commissioner Patterson holds an Advanced Professional Certificate from Trinity University. Currently, Commissioner Patterson is a high school Special Education teacher in Prince George's County.

He was Special Education Transition Coordinator for Surrattsville High School (2020-present) and the National Academies Division Awards Chairman (2005). Commissioner Patterson is a member of the Prince George's County Education Association and National Education Association.

Commissioner Patterson served on:

- Charles County Democratic Central Committee (2021 – 2022);
- Charles County Government Ethics Commission (2021-2022);
- Education Association of Charles County; and the
- Prince George's County Education Association Government Relations Committee (2019-present).

In 2005, Commissioner Patterson was bestowed with The National Academies Team Award for Outstanding Achievement. In 2011, while serving as the Girls Soccer Coach at Henry E. Lackey High School (LHS), he was named Southern Maryland Athletic Conference Coach of the Year. Commissioner Patterson is the author of *"Silver Bullet: Depleted Uranium as a Military Weapon,"* published in 2008 in the Vulcan Historical Journal.

Commissioner Patterson enjoys giving back to his community through coaching. He was head coach of the varsity girls' soccer team at LHS (2010 – 2014); head coach of the junior varsity softball team at LHS (2011 – 2014); head coach of the Mock Trial Team at LHS (2011 – 2014); and is the head coach of the varsity boys' soccer team at Surrattsville High School in Prince George's County (2021 – Present).

Commissioner Patterson has a strong family background of service. His mother is Maryland State Delegate and former Commissioner Edith Patterson, and his father was a Desert Storm Veteran and served 30 years in the U.S. Army. His

parents instilled in him a fierce sense of service to his community and country. Commissioner Patterson believes it is essential and that one shows commitment to what you support through words and service. Commissioner Patterson has a strong family background of service.