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Aspen Hill woman enters Maryland House of Delegates race for District 19 seat

Scretchen said she wants to improve education, housing and health care

by Mimi Liu | Staff Writer

http://www.gazette.net/stories/07142010/aspenew212909_32542.php

Aspen Hill resident Vivian Scretchen said she will focus on improving education, housing and health care in Montgomery County as she seeks one of three District 19 seats in the Maryland House of Delegates.

As a newcomer to politics, Scretchen said the decision to run for office sprang from her desire to get involved and help others.

"My work experiences, my involvement with the corporate world and private industries, trying to start my own business, my community involvement and involvement in schools and being a mother — all those things have collectively made me realize that I want to do more for more [people]," Scretchen said.

Scretchen works as an instructional data assistant and was a special education and parent educator for Montgomery County Public Schools. She also works part time as a licensed real estate agent.

Scretchen said she will increase access to educational resources and that she wants more affordable housing opportunities for people with low to moderate incomes, particularly for seniors and young adults.

For health care, Scretchen said she will work toward expanding coverage for those who are uninsured.

"There are too many people that don't have health care," Scretchen said. "There is health care reform being formed at the federal level. I would work collaboratively with the federal level and make sure those benefits come down to the state of Maryland to the county districts."

Originally from New York City, Scretchen holds an associate's degree in human services and elementary education from LaGuardia Community College and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Columbia Union College.

She moved from New York City to Riverdale, and then to the Silver Spring area 15 years ago.

Scretchen raised three daughters — one of whom has a developmental disability — and one son — who has special educational needs.

Scretchen is an election precinct chair for the Bel Pre area and is affiliated with the Montgomery County Democratic Committee and the African American Democratic Club of Montgomery County, among other groups.

District 19 includes all or parts of Aspen Hill, Layhill, Olney, Wheaton, Kemp Mill, Four Corners, Laytonsville and Gaithersburg.

Cullison is running against Democrats Sam Arora, Bonnie Cullison, Hoan Dang, Jay Hutchins and incumbent Del. Benjamin F. Kramer in the primary election Sept. 14.

Republican Linn Rivera, who filed as a candidate for a District 19 House seat on July 6, the final day for filing, will advance to the general election on Nov. 2. No other Republicans are in the race.

-Residence: Aspen Hill

-Age: 46

-Party: Democrat

-Education: Associate's degree in human services and elementary education from LaGuardia Community College in 1989, bachelor's degree in business administration from Columbia Union College in 1993

-Work experience: Instructional data assistant for Montgomery County Public Schools and part-time real estate agent; former special education and parent educator and secretary for MCPS; tax preparer

-Family: Three daughters and one son

-Top three issues: Education, housing and health care

-Campaign funds: Approximately \$2,000

-Previous political experience: First time running for an elected political position

-Other affiliations: Montgomery County NAACP, African American Democratic Club of Montgomery County, Montgomery County Democratic Committee, Layhill Alliance, CSAFE-Violence Prevention Initiative, Northwood High School PTSA, MCPS Study Circles Program

-Website: <http://votescreetchen.com>