

## Board of County Commissioners

Doug Howard, *President*  
David H. Roush, *Vice President*  
Haven N. Shoemaker, Jr., *Secretary*  
Robin Bartlett Frazier  
Richard S. Rothschild



## Carroll County Government

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Commissioners' Forum on Common Core

Westminster, Thursday, October 24, 2013 – The Board of County Commissioners will hold a forum on the Common Core State Standards on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. The forum will start at 6:30pm and will be held in Room K-100 of Carroll Community College located at 1601 Washington Road, Westminster, MD 21157. Time will be reserved for questions or comments from the public.

Speakers will include education experts from surrounding universities along with one or more professors involved from a Common Core validation committee.

Commissioner Richard Rothschild explained, "The majority of the public still has little insight into what Common Core is, and the long-term implications. I am concerned that most forums around the state have given the podium to state educational officials that support the core, but groups with different perspectives have been denied an opportunity to present. Clearly, there are positives and negatives associated with this approach to education. Also, this will affect both public, parochial, private, and home-schooling. Freedom in education and freedom of speech are cornerstones of our constitutional republic, so I believe the public deserves to hear more than one viewpoint on this controversial topic."

Commissioner Robin Frazier emphasized the fact that the forum offers another opportunity for citizens and commissioners to learn more about Common Core, and get answers from education experts with differing views. "Under Maryland law, every member of the Board of Commissioners is also an Ex Officio member of the Board of Education. Because more than 50% of our total budget goes to education, we have a responsibility to understand how taxpayer money will be spent, and how this will affect our children and teachers. If Common Core is good, we should embrace it, but if it is bad, we should do everything in our power to stop it. Either way, we need more information," explained Commissioner Frazier.

Commissioner David Roush added, "I want an opportunity for everyone to have their say on this subject."

"Of all the functions of local government I believe education is the most important. Since my earliest days in office, I have expressed my concerns about curriculum change, the pace and the burdens put on teachers and support staff and therefore was one of two votes not to accept Race to the Top Funding," said Commissioner Doug Howard. "Curriculum in Carroll County is developed through a local, public process and created by our own teachers. The Board of Education should continue seeking the input of the entire community as it relates to curriculum. While concerns about content are very important, I believe this Board of Commissioners must be committed to appropriately fund

## CARROLL COUNTY

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education so our excellent school system can meet the demands these changes place on our schools.”

This meeting is open to the public and all those interested in this subject are encouraged to attend.

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