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FEATURED

Politics

## Candidates Jesse Colvin and Heather Sinclair host meet and greets

By JACK RODGERS [jrodgers@thekentcountynews.com](mailto:jrodgers@thekentcountynews.com) Dec 4, 2017



Jesse Colvin, left, and Chestertown resident Michael McDowell discuss issues Thursday, Nov. 30. Colvin spoke for half an hour on issues and held a question-and-answer session with guests.

PHOTOS BY JACK RODGERS

CHESTERTOWN — Two candidates in different races hosted meet and greet events in Chestertown last week.

Congressional candidate Jesse Colvin, 33, is mounting a campaign against U.S. Rep. Andy Harris, R-Md.-1st. Colvin met with potential voters Thursday, Nov. 30 at a residence on Church Alley.

“I’m here to tell you I don’t have all the answers,” Colvin, a Democrat, said. “But I know what the problem is, and I’m running towards the problem, and I’d like you to build a connection with me and run with me.”

Heather Sinclair, 32, participated in a Meet the Candidates event Saturday, Dec. 2., at the Democratic Club of Kent County headquarters on High Street. Sinclair filed in late September for the District 36 seat in the state Senate. She challenges incumbent Steve Hershey, a Republican and the Senate minority whip.

Her goal is to simply “change a few things,” she said.

Colvin, a native Marylander and Perry Hall resident, can trace his roots to his two-times great-grandfather arriving at the Baltimore port in 1899.

He served for six years as an intelligence officer and U.S. Army Ranger. He spent four combat deployments in Afghanistan, managing lethal drone programs and intelligence missions.

He graduated from Duke University in 2006 with a bachelor’s degree in history and earned a master’s degree in international affairs in 2015 from Columbia University.

Colvin takes pride in his bipartisan marriage. His wife, Jordan, is a “career Republican.” She was previously a member of the Metropolitan Police force in Washington, D.C. and is now the executive director of the Association of Service Dog Providers for Military Veterans. The couple is expecting their first child next year.

Colvin spoke briefly on his approach to the campaign during the event. He presented topics that are important to him, health care being a leading issue he wants to address if elected.

"Health care is going to be a ginormous issue on the campaign trail," Colvin said. "There are 54,000 people in this district dependent in some form or fashion on the ACA (Affordable Care Act). My view is it's a flawed document, but there's too much at stake to repeal it."

Colvin also touched on how important agriculture and job cultivation are to the Eastern Shore.

"I'm stating the obvious to say that the lifeblood of this district, particularly the Eastern Shore, rises and falls with the health of the (Chesapeake) Bay," Colvin said.

When asked about his chances of winning the primary, Colvin said his life experience will help him in the campaign.

"I think there should be more people in politics for whom the hardest thing they've had to do is not the campaign that got them there," Colvin said. "This is not the hardest thing I've ever done. It's a lot of work, but that's OK, I'm used to hard work."

Sinclair, a Shore native, attended the University of Maryland University College studying communications. A single mom, she has two children, ages 8 and 13. She currently lives in Galena.

Sinclair has dealt with personal struggles that have shaped her advocacy. A sexual assault by her mental health physician launched her into a lobbying campaign for background checks for mental health professionals, she said.

Lynette's Law, a bill passed in West Virginia that Sinclair lobbied for, made it a crime for mental health professionals to sexually exploit their patients. The law requires physicians' disciplinary records to be made available on a public database. It also requires those health professionals to have criminal background checks before their licensing.

In 2016, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan signed a bill into law that Sinclair lobbied for. The bill allowed homeless citizens to receive a free birth certificate.

Sinclair recognizes the importance of her campaign, and the importance of the state government.

"The only way to effect the biggest change is at the state level," she said.