

# Kendel Ehrlich joins list of possible Anne Arundel executives

By ALLISON BOURG, Staff Writer | Posted: Saturday, February 9, 2013 5:00 am

A former Maryland first lady will appear Thursday at a forum for Anne Arundel County executive candidates.

Kendel Ehrlich, wife of former Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., will join Del. Steve Schuh, R-Gibson Island, and 2012 U.S. Senate candidate Dan Bongino at the forum at the West County Area Library in Odenton. The event will be hosted by the West County Republican Club.

Organizers said County Council Chairman Jerry Walker, R-Gambrills, who has not officially announced his candidacy, might attend if his schedule permits.

Del. Cathy Vitale, R-Severna Park, another potential candidate, submitted a statement to the club on the qualifications she believes the next county executive should have.

Sen. Ed Reilly, R-Crofton, who is not planning to apply for the seat, will moderate.

Applications for the county executive seat must be submitted to the County Council by noon Friday. Former County Executive John R. Leopold resigned the position last week, three days after retired Circuit Court Judge Dennis Sweeney found him guilty of two counts of misconduct.

The council has 30 days to fill that seat with another Republican, according to the County Charter. The council will hold a special meeting on Feb. 21 to conduct interviews for the position and is expected to appoint Leopold's successor that evening.

As of Friday afternoon, no one had submitted an application.

Council Vice Chairman John Grasso, R-Glen Burnie, who previously announced his intention to run for the seat next year, said he is also thinking about applying now but wants to wait to see if he has enough support from the rest of the council.

Ehrlich didn't return a call seeking comment Friday afternoon.

An attorney, Ehrlich has worked as a public defender in Anne Arundel County as well as a prosecutor in Harford County. She was Maryland's first lady from 2003 through 2007, and was often rumored to be interested in seeking public office.

She's on the board of directors for Annapolis Bancorp, which was recently acquired in a merger.

Her husband tried unsuccessfully in 2010 to reclaim the Governor's Mansion from Gov. Martin O'Malley, who defeated him four years earlier.

The Ehrlichs hosted a show on WBAL Radio, "The Bob and Kendel Ehrlich Show," from 2007 through 2010.