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## 2018 Questionnaire for United States Congress

Progressive Maryland is a grassroots community organization that acts for social and economic justice by developing civic leaders and cultivating allies in order to advance economic, racial, and environmental equity, and to change our economic system for the benefit of all people in Maryland. Learn more at [www.ProgressiveMaryland.org](http://www.ProgressiveMaryland.org)

Progressive Maryland supports candidates who will work to build a society and economy that works for all Marylanders, with special emphasis on traditionally marginalized groups—low and moderate income residents, people of color, women, LGBTQ+, and all oppressed and exploited people. Elections can have an enormous impact on our work to reduce inequity and to improve the lives of residents all over the state. It is our responsibility not only to advocate for residents but also to empower them to engage in the political process at every level, from member-led canvasses to trainings for our members who wish to run for office.

To be considered for Progressive Maryland's endorsement, please return the completed questionnaire to our Policy and Legislative Director Jennifer Dwyer at [Jennifer@progressivemaryland.org](mailto:Jennifer@progressivemaryland.org) **no later than 5 P.M. on Friday, January 19, 2018**. Your responses will be available to the public at [www.ProgressiveMaryland.org](http://www.ProgressiveMaryland.org)

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### Candidate Information

Candidate Last Name:

HASHIMI

Candidate First Name:

NADIA

Office Seeking:

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District: MARYLAND, CD-6

Party:

DEMOCRAT

**Campaign Contact Information**

Committee Name:

HASHIMI FOR US \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address:

13101 PINEY MEETINGHOUSE RD \_\_\_\_\_

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POTOMAC \_\_\_\_\_

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Campaign Website:

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**Candidate Contact Information**

Cell Phone:

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**Treasurer Contact Information**

Treasurer Name:

Zohra Ibrahim

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City:

Mount Airy, MD

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21771

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**Candidate History**

Previous Elected Offices:

n/a

Which Years Did You Serve:

n/a

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
|   |                       |
| Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?  | YES _____ or NO __X__ |
| If Yes, when:   |                       |
|   |                       |
| Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?   | YES _____ or NO __X__ |
| Describe:   |                       |
| I did participate in the 10/7 rally for Healthcare / Candlelight Vigil held in Annapolis and was generously given a few moments to speak. |                       |
| Major Endorsements (Elected Officials/Organizations/Opinion Leaders):   |                       |
| Feminist Majority (press release to be distributed shortly)   |                       |
|   |                       |

## Issue Questions

1. Do you support a \$15/hour minimum wage for all workers?

YES

Comments:

I believe people working a full time job should not be impoverished. Cost of living cannot be met with less than \$15/hour. Montgomery County has already passed legislation mandating a \$15/hour minimum by 2021. By that time, cost of living will likely have increased as well so this is really simply a catch up resolution. I understand that small businesses are concerned with the payroll they will be facing but I believe that they will recoup their losses in lower employee turnover and I also would support tax breaks to small businesses to mitigate the rise in payroll. This would help gain wider support for a \$15/hour minimum wage.

2. Do you support the “Millions of Jobs” infrastructure resolution?

YES

Comments:

The Millions of Jobs infrastructure resolution makes sense. President Trump campaigned on infrastructure repairs and there is room for agreement on this issue. The MOJ resolution emphasizes the work that needs to be done and the jobs that will be created in order to complete that work. By contrast, the Trump approach will always put investors and corporations first. He is less focused on the individual working on the road than the layers of subcontracts that can line corporate pockets and funnel resources away from local economies.

3. Will you work to protect and strengthen workers’ ability to organize in the workplace?

YES

Comments:

I do believe the right to organize benefits those who are most vulnerable. While it’s unfortunate that we’ve needed Hollywood’s glam to get our attention, the #MeToo movement has brought to light that there are workplace dynamics that put women in a position of disadvantage. Collective bargaining empowers women and protects them against discriminatory practices.

On a broader scale, the right to organize helps offset potentially unfair power balances. It is a vital component of a healthy workplace and a natural extension of freedom of speech.

4. Do you support the People’s Budget?

YES

Comments:

The components of the People's Budget is the real way to "make American great again." It prioritizes people over corporate profits. I would love to see the toxic influence of dollars and lobbying removed from the democratic process. Politics is a bustling financial engine with lobbyists and corporations being enriched while every day citizens have decisions made for and about them.

I recently filmed a public service video in support of public financing for local elections. It is a great way to level the playing field and bring people back into the political process.

I am in favor of getting big business out of healthcare and out of environmental policies as well. I'm also very much in favor of a sustainable defense plan. I prioritize diplomacy before any military or economic intervention. I believe American can and should emerge as a global leader by earning or maintaining the respect of other nations. I look very specifically at our relationship with Afghanistan and see that the war could have been made shorter had the US investment in the country gone to the right needs. It was reported that bags of money were being dropped off periodically in President Karzai's office. That money spun into private hands and truly thwarted the local economy. Weapons are not the answer. Smart, direct investments in local education (especially for women and girls) and economy can empower families and cultivate positive international relationships.

5. Do you support single-payer healthcare?

YES

Comments:

I am in support of single payer and believe we can get there in the very near future. I've seen firsthand that the insurance companies obstruct patient care. In our medical office, we spend far too much time on the phone with a representative from an insurance company who is reading from a policy booklet and insisting that a clinically indicated treatment will not be covered. One of my colleagues spends 30% of her time dealing with insurance companies. The insurance companies make money by feeding off premiums and blocking patient care. They are beholden to their shareholders and are only growing in power because of mergers like Aetna-CVS. It is my belief that they will soon be "too big to fail," just as the banks were.

How do we get to single payer?

I advocate for an approach to getting there which involves lowering the eligibility of Medicare to 55 years old, providing Medicare for kids, and making Medicare a public option. I see this as being a step-wise progression with the clear and necessary goal of getting to single payer. I am worried that if we try to roll out universal coverage in one fell swoop immediately, that there will not be enough support and that any hiccups would be condemning the idea of single payer to failure.

That being said, I would support HR 676 if given the opportunity to vote on it.

6. How will you work to prevent the repeal or weakening of the Affordable Care Act?

Comments:

This is closely tied to my answer to the previous question. In the face of efforts to repeal the ACA, I would use that opportunity to insist we move toward single payer health care.

There have been deficiencies in the ACA, which I would use as opportunity to advocate for more equitable policies. Though not part of the ACA, the current Congress has failed to renew funding for CHIP which means nearly 9 million children will lose coverage. This is a sad statement about our priorities and enrages me, as a pediatrician. I know fellow pediatricians who are reaching out to their patient families and reminding them to fill all prescriptions since their coverage might be ripped out from under them.

The ACA is also an expansion of Medicaid, a program that provides the bare essentials and is not equivalent even to Medicare. We have seen this firsthand as well in my husband's neurosurgical practice which I have been managing since 2011. In the past month, he operated on a patient who came in through the emergency room in debilitating pain due to a herniated disc in her back. She had Medicaid and Medicaid had refused to authorize a 45 minute procedure but her pain persisted. She was increasingly higher doses of painkillers for 3 years before she arrived in the emergency room, unable to withstand the pain any longer. She left the hospital after a straightforward procedure that relieved her pain.

Having seen cases like this one both as a physician and as a practice manager, I can gather patient stories and testimony to move members of Congress to act responsibly. I can speak authoritatively as to the impact policy changes have on individuals and families. I would also gather expert testimony, encourage the public to contact their representatives, reach out to personally to members across the aisle to engage in rational conversations, and work to create a physician caucus. I believe the greatest strength will be in numbers. That's why it's vital that we elect dynamic forward-thinking individuals to congress across the United States.

7. We believe that the financial security of women is integral to the health of our economy. Do you feel that legislation ensuring the equal treatment of men and women in the workplace is appropriate? If so, what legislation will you support as a member of Congress to bring women to parity with their male colleagues?

YES

Comments:

We have gotten as far as we have on gender equality only because brave women paved the way. We can't let the momentum falter. We need equality and parity in the workplace, without disclaimers. Legislation ensuring equal treatment of men and women in the workplace is not just appropriate, it is absolutely essential. It is what we need to do in order to

We need to revive legislation similar to the Paycheck Fairness Act. There needs to be procedural protections of the Equal Pay Act in place. President Trump is a legitimate threat to the progress that so many brave women have worked for over the last century and more. In order to protect women's financial security, we need to resort to legal protections. These protections need to (1) end pay secrecy, (2) strengthen enforcement of equal pay laws, and (3) require the EEOC to collect compensation data disaggregated by race and sex.

Additionally, in order to ensure the financial security of women, we need to propose paid family leave. The FAMILY Act was a step in the right direction; however, it only funded up to 12 weeks paid leave at partial salary through a payroll tax. That simply is insufficient. We need to offer legitimate paid family leave that does not put women in financially vulnerable places during and after pregnancy.

I also support the Healthy Families Act. The bottom line is that people get sick, and they should not worry about financial vulnerability when they have the flu. This Act allows workers to earn seven paid sick days. Importantly, it can also be used by survivors of domestic violence.

Needless to say, I will oppose any bill, policy, or proposal that limits access to reproductive health care, including birth control and abortion. While it might not seem like it right way, reproductive health care does impact women's economic security.

I will support proposals that encourage workers who experience workplace harassment to report it. There should be strong laws that create incentives for businesses and other groups to work toward prevention. This may include eliminating the tipped minimum wage. This would benefit many low-paid workers, many of whom are women; tipping also makes it difficult for workers to report sexual harassment (ie. waitresses harassed by customers, etc).

8. Are there any instances in which the federal government should place restrictions on a patient seeking abortion care, such as stage of pregnancy, access based on age, or the type of abortion care that state funding should cover?

YES

Comments:

I am pro-choice (which I always remind people does not mean anti-life). I believe in a woman's right to choose. I would advocate for restricting elective abortions in the 3rd trimester except in cases where the mother's life is at risk or if the fetus has been identified as having conditions incompatible with life. I respect the work of Dr Jen Gunter, an advocate for reproductive rights. The statistics should reassure those who are fearful that large numbers of third trimester abortions are being performed.

In 2012, 0.17% of the abortions performed were done after 21 weeks across the United States (only permitted in 7 states + DC). The vast majority of those were performed under 24 weeks and most were done because of fetal anomalies, some were cases of rape or incest. It's a total number of 600 abortions/year.

I do not believe in limiting access based on age. I support Planned Parenthood. I would work to repeal the Hyde Amendment though realistically I don't think efforts in that direction would get very far (and I'm not usually a pessimistic person.)

9. Do you support the Universal Childcare Resolution?

YES

The cost of caring for a child in America keeps rising, while our biggest corporations book bigger and bigger profits. As a pediatrician, I recognize the importance of quality, affordable child care and I will work hard so that no family in the United States faces a future without affordable child care. The research shows that quality early education has a strong impact on social-emotional, physical, language and cognitive development with effects seen far beyond childhood. Both from my work with families and my personal experience as a mom of 4, I'm quite aware that child care is a significant expense on a household budget. Establishing a healthy foundation for our children is the smartest investment we can make. It has long term benefits for the child, the family and for our communities as a whole because of the improved outcomes and expanded potential of the child. The American Academy of Pediatrics is quite clear on this matter and I will stand strong on this as well.

If we want quality early childhood education for our children, we need to support training and living wages for those providers. The Universal Childcare Resolution can to improve the quality of child care by guaranteeing child care workers a living wage and wage parity with K–12 staff with equivalent education and experience, by improving training opportunities, and by giving workers a voice on the job to advocate for higher workplace standards and standards of care for the children they serve.

10. In general, do you support or oppose charter schools?

**Oppose**

Comments:

My first priority is to strengthen public schools in order to minimize inequality in resources and to provide adequate funding for teacher training and retention. I believe it is in our collective best interests to have every public school be a learning institution that positions children to succeed in the next phase of their education.

Plainly, we shouldn't need charter schools. We shouldn't see families choosing homes based on zip codes/school districts.

That being said, I would not seek to dismantle charter schools. It is imperative that charter schools are held to the same standards of transparency and accountability as public schools. Charter schools can motivate public schools to improve their standards and outcomes.

11. If you are running for the House, would you support the Government By the People Act sponsored by Rep. John Sarbanes?

**YES**

Comments:

I would absolutely support the Government By the People Act. I believe that we need to bring the government back to the will of the people and not just the wealthy. Fair elections are the most sacred feature of our democracy, which is why we cannot allow big money to continue skewing Congress' representation of our economically diverse nation. While bold, the three main components of H.R. 20 demonstrate a thorough approach to campaign finance reform. Empower, amplify, and protect: these three words are at the core of the American rally, whether for a candidate or against corrupt forces like big donors.

The time has come to stop politicians who overlook the real-life concerns of American citizens in order to continue being funnelled million of dollars to their re-election campaigns. It is unfortunate that candidates who challenge small, wealthy organizations have to fight so much harder to stay in the ring. With this Act, we can rightfully reclaim our elections and our democracy from big donors. I stand by this Act because I truly do want a government for the people, by the people.

12. Do you support the Debt-Free College Resolution?

**Yes**

Comments:

As a first generation American, my parents had to work overtime and make many sacrifices in order to help pay for my graduate expenses. My parents, just like the *Debt-Free College Resolution* sponsors, understood the burden of graduating with crippling debt and the stress of paying off college debt instead of contributing to the economy by purchasing homes, opening businesses, or being able to purchase other goods.

Data collected by the college board states, "71 percent of students who earn a bachelor's degree graduate with debt averaging \$29,400. Fifty-nine percent of students who graduated in 2012-2013 with a bachelor's degree from a four-year public institution were in debt and had borrowed, on average, \$25,600."

Finding solutions such as early high school programs, increasing financial aid and eliminating tuition for 2 year community colleges can begin the process of creating a debt free education for all students. In sum, a more educated population would have both economic and social benefits for the country.

13. Do you support ending the money-based bail system?

**YES**

Comments:

The front of the United States Supreme Court, the building that represents the democratic essence of the American judiciary, reads "Equal justice under law." The money-based bail system is a direct threat to that sacred phrase. My heart breaks at stories like that of Crystal Patterson, who paid a portion of her bail just to get out of jail for a crime that she was eventually not charged with. We need to figure out a different approach to our bail system. We need one that does not include arbitrary bail amounts. We cannot allow the wealthy to pay for liberty. That is not equal justice under law.

14. Do you support the Fix 96 Resolution? Will you support candidates for Frederick County Sheriff who seek to end involvement with the 297g program?

**YES**

Comments:

I am in full support of the Fix 96 Resolution. The Fix 96 Resolution takes a logical approach; it allows us to focus in on where problems within our complicated immigration system originate. This Resolution is one battle out of many necessary ones that tackles problematic immigration laws, especially those that expand incarceration for immigrants, deprive deportees of due process, and have local law enforcement act as ICE agents. I will fight for practical and humane immigration reform that addresses national and global challenges. We need compassion, respect and acknowledgment of individual responsibility. The Fix 96 Resolution will be part of that fight.

Again, it is not the responsibility of our local law enforcement to identify and begin deportation proceedings against illegal aliens committing crimes within Frederick County. I will support candidates for Frederick County Sheriff who seek to end involvement with the 287g program.

15. Do you support the Climate Change Resolution supported by the Congressional Progressive Caucus?

**YES**

Comments:

The Climate Change Resolution (as proposed by the Congressional Progressive Caucus) calls for positive steps towards 100% renewable, clean-sourced energy by the year 2050 as well as supporting re-training for US veterans in green-energy jobs. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the U.S. receives roughly 65% of its electricity from fossil fuel sources including coal, natural gas, and petroleum.

As a Pediatrician, it is alarming to see the effects of these harmful sources of energy impacting the health of this country and I am devoted to reducing the use of fossil fuels, especially in order to promote longevity and higher quality of life - not only in my district but in all corners of this country. Coal, for instance, is known to contribute greatly to air pollution and therefore higher rates of asthma in people living near coal mines and coal power plants.

Fracking is harmful for nearby residents. It has been found to contaminate local soil and water sources with toxic chemicals. By moving away from these high-risk energy sources, we can not only improve the health of our neighbors but of the planet as well because renewable sources of energy will reduce our carbon footprint and help limit global warming.

16. The entirety of CD 6 draws drinking water from the Potomac River. Though they receive less attention, natural gas pipelines leak just as frequently as oil pipelines and pose major risks to the environment and our health. What will you do to prevent the natural gas pipeline currently being proposed by TransCanada?

**YES**

Comments:

I will be a strong advocate against the Potomac Pipeline in any form that poses a potential threat to the clean drinking supply, and therefore health and wellbeing of the residents of CD-6. Additionally, I have the responsibility to speak on behalf of CD-6 where there is overwhelming concern over this pipeline. Environmental groups such as the Potomac Riverkeeper Group, Maryland Sierra Club, and Maryland Environmental Health Network have spoken out against the pipeline in fear of it contaminating the Potomac River and endangering not only those who draw their drinking supply, but of those who enjoy recreational activities on and around it as well.

17. Do you support H.R. 3671 Off Fossil Fuels for a Better Future Act?

**YES**

Comments:

This act will serve as an aggressive and progressive goal for the American auto and energy industries to meet and will spark meaningful change. Beginning with the ban on future fossil fuel projects following 2018, this act will have an immediate effect on limiting fossil fuel development while holding the long-term goals in mind to keep progress moving quickly in the right direction. The long-term goals, while ambitious, are positive and

attainable and would mark an impressive accomplishment for the U.S. in term of renewable and responsible energy usage.

18. For the measures above that you have agreed to support would you be willing to:

- Sponsor legislation? **YES**
- Work with our Policy and Legislative Director to help pass a bill? **YES**
- Speak at public events in support of legislation? **YES**
- Write an op-ed in support of legislation? **YES**

19. Would you be willing to engage with Progressive Maryland members and their communities by:

- Speaking at Progressive Maryland events? **YES**
- Meeting with our membership annually to report on the progress of our shared priorities and answer questions from our members? **YES**
- Writing a letter to unorganized workers endorsing an organizing drive by a labor union? **YES**