

**2018 Questionnaire for the House of Delegates**

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

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). Responses will be available to the public at www.ProgressiveMaryland.org

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| **Candidate Information** | | |
| Candidate Last Name:  \_\_\_\_Lam\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Candidate First Name:  \_\_\_\_Clarence\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Office Seeking:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_State Senate\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| District:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_12\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| Party:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Democratic Party\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| **Campaign Contact Information** | | |
| Committee Name:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Friends of Clarence Lam\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Street Address:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_PO Box 891\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| City:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Columbia\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Zip Code:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_21044\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Business Phone:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_443-977-6004\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Fax:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Campaign Website:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_www.clarencelam.com\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| **Candidate Contact Information** | | |
| Cell Phone:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_410-567-5345\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| Email Address:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ckl@clarencelam.com\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| **Treasurer Contact Information** | | |
| Treasurer Name:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Patricia Payne\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| Street Address:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_PO Box 891\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| City:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Columbia\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| Zip Code:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_21044\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Phone:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_443-977-6004\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| **Candidate History** | | |
| Previous Elected Offices:  Howard County Democratic Central Committee  State Delegate, District 12 | | |
| Which Years Did You Serve:  Howard County Democratic Central Committee (2010-2014)  State Delegate, District 12 (2014-current) | | |
| Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland? | YES\_\_X\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| If Yes, when:  2014 | | |
| Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals? | | YES\_\_X\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Describe:  I ran as a progressive candidate in 2014 and was elected to serve as a state delegate representing District 12. Since then, I have a voting record that reflects the goals of Progressive Maryland, including supporting initiatives like expanding healthcare and university access to healthcare, justice reinvestment, restoring of voting rights to ex-offenders, paid sick leave, protecting LGBTQ rights, and increasing the minimum wage. | | |
| Major Endorsements (Elected Officials/Organizations/Opinion Leaders):  Sierra Club  Baltimore County Progressive Democratic Club | | |

**Issue Questions**

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

**Yes** No

Comments:

I believe the money-based bail system further punishes those who are lower-income and unable to pay for bail. This often results in them remaining in jail for longer than those who can afford bail, and can lead to even further negative consequences like loss of job, income, separation from family/children, etc. Whether one can be released from jail should not be dependent on whether one has the income to afford bail or not.

2. Will you support a $15 per hour minimum wage for all Maryland workers? If yes, over what time period would you suggest implementing it? Do you support including an indexing provision?

**Yes** No

Comments:

I do support an increase in the minimum wage to $15 per hour, and I believe a reasonable period of time for implementation would be 2-3 years. I would support an indexing provision so that the minimum wage will increase automatically with cost of living and so that it is not dependent on the political will of elected officials to ensure that the minimum wage increases proportionally to cost of living and expenses.

3. Do you support public financing of State Senate and Delegate races similar to systems enacted in Montgomery County and Howard County?

**Yes** No

Comments:

Yes, I do support a public financing system for legislative races, and I attended several public financing house parties in Howard County in support of the county referendum two years ago. I believe that a candidate’s ability to run for office should not dependent on how much money he/she has or is able to raise, but should be based on one’s ability to serve and the merits of one’s perspective and views to reflect the district.

4. Do you support increased protections for workers in terms of scheduling practices? In particular, will you support requiring employers to give 3 weeks’ notice to employees of their shift schedule, requiring employers who call employees into work only to send them home before the end of their shift to provide a certain percentage of the pay that the employee would have made that day, and prohibiting employers from scheduling an employee to work back-to-back shifts or shifts scheduled only a few hours apart without the employee’s consent?

**Yes** No

Comments:

Shift workers need adequate warning to be able to account for changes in their schedule. Suddenly changing schedules can affect their ability to secure child care, can lead to hours on public transportation without assurance of work, and place tremendous strain on their family. I believe reasonable notice must be provided to shift workers so that then can plan accordingly. Thus, I do support efforts to require employers to give 3 weeks’ notice to employees of their shift schedule, requiring employers who call employees into work only to send them home before the end of their shift to provide a certain percentage of the pay that the employee would have made that day, and prohibiting employers from scheduling an employee to work back-to-back shifts or shifts scheduled only a few hours apart without the employee’s consent.

5. Do you support workers’ rights to organize in the private and public sectors? Will you make it a priority that all public employees be covered by a public employees relations act, similar to the National Labor Relations Act, which has governed work in the private sector for over 80 years?

**Yes** No

Comments:

I have been a strong supporter of organized labor (this is reflected in my voting record), and I will continue advocate and protect the rights of workers to organize.

6. 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 the General Assembly to bring women to parity with their male colleagues?

**Yes** No

Comments:

I believe that legislation ensuring the equal treatment of men and women in the workplace is not only appropriate, but essential. One example of legislation that I would support in sponsoring/co-sponsoring in the General Assembly is to shield candidates for jobs from salary inquiry. At least eight other states have passed this type of law. This legislation is important because women have typically been paid less than men, and without this protection from salary inquiry, many women’s salaries (and pay increases) will continue to perpetually lag.

7. Do you believe that employers should be required to make reasonable accommodations for employees and applicants for employment who have known limitations due to conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth?

**Yes** No

Comments:

Yes, I believe accommodations for employees and applicants for employment who have known limitations due to conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth is very reasonable. Women should not be discriminated against because of pregnancy or childbirth.

8. Are there any instances in which the state 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 **No**

Comments:

No, I believe in a women’s right to make her own reproductive choices. As a physician, I am concerned about the ability of the state to interfere in a medical decision that should be made between a patient and her doctor.

9. Will you support single-payer health care in Maryland? If so, how would you pass it and how would you pay for it?

**Yes** No

Comments:

As a physician, I am a firm believer that health care is a right and not a privilege. As such, I have supported legislation that expands access to healthcare and measures for universal healthcare, including single-payer. I support single-payer as the best solution to ensuring healthcare for all, and I would be willing to sponsor and/or co-sponsor legislation that advances this. Several mechanisms can be considered to fund a single-payer system: this could include expanding Medicaid for all, increasing the tax on hospitals, a payroll tax, or raising taxes on for-profit health insurers.

10. Will you support instituting transparency rules for Pharmacy Benefit Managers and drug corporations as well as creating a drug cost review commission for high cost drugs?

**Yes** No

Comments:

Yes, I have supported this legislation in the General Assembly this year (either as a co-sponsor or by my voting record).

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

Support **Oppose**

Comments:

I have concerns about continued expansion of charter schools. This is because charter schools may drain resources or funding from public schools, and they also pull some of the better performing students from schools, leaving those students that are remaining (as well as that school) potentially at a disadvantage.

12. Do you support or oppose school vouchers that would allow public school students, K-12, to attend a private school instead of their local public school? Please explain your support or opposition.

Support **Oppose**

Comments:

I oppose school vouchers for the same reasons that I oppose charter schools: they tend to drain resources or funding from public schools, and they also pull some of the better performing students from schools, leaving those students that are remaining (as well as that school) potentially at a disadvantage.

13. Will you support making state colleges and universities free for all in-state students?

**Yes** No

Comments:

I am a firm believer that education (both K-12 and higher education) is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty and in closing the widening income inequality gap. Thus, higher education must be made more accessible and universal for everyone and that is why I support tuition free college for all in-state students.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

**Yes** No

Comments:

I was an ardent supporter of the Trust Act. I testified in support of the bill, both as an individual legislator and on behalf of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus. I was also a co-sponsor, and supported and publicly spoke in support of similar local legislation (CB9) in Howard County.

15. Will​ ​you​ ​support​ ​closing​ ​corporate​ ​tax ​ ​loopholes​  by​ ​ requiring​ ​ combined​ ​ reporting,​ ​as​ most​ ​other​ states​​ have​ ​ done?​ ​ Will​  ​you​ ​​support​ ​bringing ​​back​ ​Maryland’s​ 6.25​ %​ tax​ ​rate​ ​on​ ​ income​ of​ ​more​ than​ ​$1​ ​million​ ​to​ ​allow​ ​upper​ ​income​ residents​ ​to​​ ​contribute​ ​more​ ​to​ ​Maryland?

**Yes** No

Comments:

Yes, I support combined reporting as a method of closing corporate loopholes and ensuring that big businesses are paying their fair share of taxes. I support an income tax increase as described above because I am concerned about the widening income inequality gap. This is a progressive tax (rather than regressive), which I believe will serve to reduce income inequality here in Maryland.

16. Do you plan to introduce or support legislation to provide protection for the Potomac, Chesapeake or other shared environments that have had federal funding for protection removed?

**Yes** No

Comments:

Yes, I am deeply concerned about EPA funding cuts to protect the Chesapeake Bay and other state watersheds. The EPA is one of the nation’s most important public health agencies, and as a doctor, I find the dismantling of EPA policies to be particularly alarming. That is why in this legislative session, I sponsored two bills that banned chemicals that had been proposed for prohibition by the Obama Administration, whose regulations were undone by the Trump Administration.

17. What legislation and regulations can Maryland state government enact to protect our residents from the damage inflicted by Trump’s federal government?

Comments:

I proposed banning two chemicals that had been proposed for prohibition by the Obama Administration whose regulations were undone by the Trump Administration. (HB1136: Ban on NMP and DCM, HB1212: Ban on Trichlorethylene)

I also proposed HB644, which was an effort to minimize the harm to the state from one component of the GOP tax plan that Trump signed into law. The tax bill included a provision to allow parents to use 529 plan funds for K-12 education. (Previously, 529 funds were restricted for use in higher education tuition and expenses.) I saw this as an effort to allow funds from 529 plans to be used for K-12 private schools, which was a way of subverting the original intent of the 529 plans, and which could likely cost the state over $50 million in lost tax revenue (based on a Comptroller’s report). My bill would apply state income tax to any 529 plan funds used for purposes other than higher education.

I also supported other legislation aimed at protecting Maryland from the Trump Administration. This included:

* Empowering the Attorney General to sue the federal government
* Repealing Maryland’s prior consent for a Constitutional Convention
* Trust Act
* Increased funding from the state for the 2020 Census
* Funding for Planned Parenthood in the event that federal funding was eliminated

18. Do​ ​you​ ​support​ ​the​ ​creation​ ​of​ ​a​ ​progressive​ ​caucus​ ​in​ ​the​ ​state​ ​legislature?

**Yes** No

Comments:

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| 19. For the measures above that you have agreed to support would you be willing to: | |
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| * Co-sponsor legislation? * Work with our Policy and Legislative Director to help pass a bill? * Testify at a hearing in support of legislation? * Speak at public events in support of legislation? * Write a letter in support of legislation? * Write an op-ed in support of legislation? | YES\_\_X\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_\_X\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_\_X\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_\_X\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_\_X\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_\_X\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 20. Would you be willing to engage with Progressive Maryland members and their communities by: | |
|  |  |
| * Speaking at Progressive Maryland events? * Meeting with our membership annually to report on the progress of our shared priorities and answer questions from our members? * Writing a letter to unorganized workers endorsing an organizing drive by a labor union? | YES\_X\_\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_X\_\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_X\_\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  | |