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2018 Questionnaire for State Senate

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 **no later than 5 P.M. on Friday, January 26, 2018**. Your responses will be available to the public at www.ProgressiveMaryland.org

Candidate Information

Candidate Last Name:

____ Lee _____

Candidate First Name:

____ Susan _____

Office Seeking:

___ Re-election to Maryland State Senate _____

District:

16

Party:

Democrat

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name:

Friends of Susan C. Lee

Street Address:

9600 Alta Vista Terrace

City:

Bethesda

Zip Code:

20814

Business Phone:

301 493-0377 -Call on cell phone- 240 418-1274

Fax:

301 493-0377

Campaign Website:

www.susanleeforsenate.com

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone:

240 418-1274

Email Address:

senatorsusanlee@gmail.com

Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name:

Joseph D. Gebhardt

Street Address:

5904 Osceola Road

City:

Bethesda

Zip Code:

20816

Phone:

202 295-7340

Candidate History

Previous Elected Offices:

Senator, Maryland State Senate

Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates

Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee Member

Which Years Did You Serve:

Maryland State Senate 2015 to present

Maryland House of Delegates 2002 to 2014

Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee 2000 to 2002

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?

YES_x____ or NO_____

If Yes, when:

Senator, Maryland State Senate 2014

Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates 2002, 2006, 2010

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?

YES_x____ or NO_____

Describe:

As a Senator and Delegate in the Maryland General Assembly, I have supported, sponsored and worked in coalition with Progressive Maryland and leaders of the Asian American & Pacific Islander, African American, Latino, women's faith, LGBT, labor and other progressive organizations to help pass major legislation to protect workers' collective bargaining rights and benefits, have a living wage, earned sick leave, and other laws to empower hard working individuals, women, children and families. I voted on a measure to allow Attorney General Brian Frosh to file suit on Maryland's behalf to protect education, environment and other gains our state have made for hard working individuals and families. In January of 2018, I voted to overturn Governor Larry Hogan's veto of the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act (Earned Sick Leave) and I am cosponsoring legislation to increase the minimum wage to at least \$15. As Chair of the Maryland Legislative Asian American & Pacific Islander Caucus, I will continue to work in coalition with the Legislative Black and Latino Caucuses and Progressive Maryland on issues of common concern. In 2016, I was the Senate Lead Sponsor of the Maryland Equal Pay for Equal Work law, which is now one of the strongest pay equity laws in the nation. During my time in the General Assembly, I have worked with Progressive Maryland to pass a wide range of laws to help empower our fast growing communities of color, including passing an increase in the earned income tax credit, minimum wage, and other laws to uplift those and all communities. Prior to being elected to the General Assembly, in 2000, I helped organized the Asian American community leaders' participation in the Montgomery County Living Wage Rally which was a coalition effort by Progressive Montgomery (later Progressive Maryland), faith, labor, and other community organizations. I was a member of the Progressive Maryland Board and recruited and referred outstanding Asian American students to serve as Progressive Maryland interns and organized support from that community for Progressive Maryland's activities and events. I was honored to receive the Progressive Maryland's Progressive Leader Award in 2002.

Major Endorsements (Elected Officials/Organizations/Opinion Leaders):

2018 Endorsements as of January 2018

Maryland State Education Association

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Sierra Club Maryland

US Congressman Jamie Raskin

Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh

Other colleagues in the Maryland General Assembly

Many organizations have not yet issued their endorsements. However, in my 2014 Senate Race, I received the following endorsements:

For my 2014 State Senate Race, I received endorsements from the following organizations:

Progressive Maryland, SEIU, Local 500; Montgomery County Education Association; Maryland State Education Association; Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association; Maryland/DC AFL-CIO; UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO; Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association MCVFA; Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 35 Montgomery County; Montgomery County Career Fire Fighters Association, Local 1664; The Washington Post; The Gazette; Maryland League of Conservation Voters; Sierra Club Maryland; Clean Water Action; Emily’s List; Equality Maryland; Planned Parenthood Metropolitan Washington (100% score); NARAL Pro Choice Maryland; D.C. Action Fund; Brickyard Coalition; Montgomery County National Organization of Women PAC (MC NOW); African American Democratic Club of Montgomery County (AADCMC); Coalition of Asian Pacific American Democrats of Maryland (CAPAD-MD); and Hispanic Democratic Club of Montgomery County (HDC).

Issue Questions

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

Yes No
X

Comments:

In 2017, I voted against the bill, which was supported by the bail bond industry supporters, to curtail the Maryland Court of Appeals’ Rule that calls for the consideration of non-financial conditions of release before using money bail. This rule ensures that money alone no longer determines if a Marylander is jailed or free to stand trial and that being poor is not a reason to deny release prior to trial. As Chair of the Maryland

Legislative Asian American & Pacific Islander Caucus, I worked with the Chairs of the Black and Latino Caucuses, leaders of other organizations and our Attorney General to oppose and defeat passage of this bill.

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
X

Comments:

I am cosponsoring and supporting the bill being introduced by Senator Richard Madaleno.

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

Yes No
X

Comments:

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
X

Comments:

In past sessions, I have cosponsored Senator Joanne Benson's bill on this issue and intend to cosponsor it again.

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
X

Comments:

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
X

Comments:

This year, I am the Lead Senate sponsor of a bill to ban salary history as a condition of being interviewed or promoted for a job. Pay should be based on merit, experience and skill not past salary level. A lower and previous salary which may have occurred because of past discrimination should not follow employees for the entire duration of their career. In 2016, I was the Lead Senate sponsor of the Maryland Equal Pay for Equal Work Act, which is now one of the strongest pay equity laws in the country. I was proud to help spearhead the efforts to pass this important law to ensure women and all workers receive equal pay for equal work, have greater transparency in the workplace, ban “mommy tracking”, and have pay that is based on merit, experience and skills and not sex, gender, or discriminatory factors.

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
X

Comments:

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
X

Comments:

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
X

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

Yes No
X

Comments:

Yes, I would like to make state colleges and universities free for all in-state student. However, we need to find funding to achieve this goal. As education is the great equalizer, I would like to support legislation with a funding formula that can achieve this notable goal.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Yes No
X

Comments:

In 2017, I was a cosponsor of the Trust Act bill and as Chair of the Maryland Legislative Asian American & Pacific Islander Caucus, I joined leaders of the Maryland Legislative Black and Latino Caucuses, faith, immigrant, and other organizations in supporting and testifying in support of the Trust Act.

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
X

Comments:

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
X

Comments:

I support legislation that will direct the governor to join the US Climate Alliance in support of the Paris Climate Agreement and prohibit the state from withdrawing without the approval of the General Assembly. Just recently, Governor Larry Hogan, who had not previously expressed support for being part of the Alliance, has stated that the state will join the Alliance. I strongly support legislation and/or actions by Attorney General

Brian Frosh and/or the governor to protect federal funding for the Potomac, Chesapeake or other shared environments. In 2017, I voted to support a measure to allow Attorney General Frosh to file suit against the Trump Administration. Already, Attorney General Frosh has filed a suit against the Environmental Protection Agency and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt in US District Court for failure to act on a petition requiring power plants in upwind states to implement air pollution controls. I support Attorney General Frosh's and Governor Hogan's opposition to offshore drilling, which poses a serious threat not only the health and wellbeing of Maryland's citizens, coastline, and marine life, but also to its economy. With the Trump Administration's move to rescind the rule defining which waterways are covered under the Clean Water Act, I support Attorney General Frosh's opposition to rescind the Clean Water Rule. I also will support and work with our Congressional delegation in their efforts to protect funding for Chesapeake Bay cleanup and to prevent the elimination of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, which includes a Department of Agriculture initiative that works with farmers to reduce the amount of harmful soils being washed into our estuaries. If federal funding is lost, I will work with my colleagues to look at passing a measures to provide funding, as we did with the funding for Planned Parenthood. With climate change also posing a serious threat to our environment, I supported the Clean Energy Jobs Act which was enacted in 2017 after voting to override Governor Hogan's veto of setting Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard of 25% by 2020. I will support legislation to increase that RPS to 50% by 2030. Maryland currently is part of the Regional Greenhouse Initiative that prices carbon pollution from power plants. I would support looking at pricing carbon pollution from other sectors and use those revenues to promote clean energy initiatives and assist vulnerable communities impacted by climate change. We also need to look to ending reliance on using coal to generate electricity, while at same time, support job retraining for workers. To protect our Chesapeake Bay and water, I will continue to support legislation to strengthen regulations to ensure the reduction of agricultural, poultry waste, development, and septic pollution. We also need to ensure that the Maryland Department of Environment considers cumulative pollution sources in its permit issuance. I support legislation that would ban the use of pesticides containing chlorophenols, particularly in agricultural uses. To prevent forest loss, I would support legislation to strengthen the Forest Conservation Act. I also support continuing to maintain full funding of Program Open Space and to increase funding for applicable agencies' enforcement and compliance activities with respect to our environmental laws and standards.

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

Comments:

In addition to my answer in question 16, I will support the following legislation and actions. As indicated in answer 16 - In 2017, I voted to support a measure to allow our Attorney General Brian Frosh to file suit against the Trump Administration. Already, he has filed a suit against the Environmental Protection Agency and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt in US District Court for failure to act on a petition requiring power plants in upwind states to implement air pollution controls. I support Attorney General Frosh's and Governor Hogan's opposition to offshore drilling, which poses a serious threat not only to the health and wellbeing of Maryland's citizens, coastline and marine life, but also its vibrant economy. I support legislation that will direct the state to join the US Climate Alliance in support of the Paris Climate Agreement and prohibit the state from withdrawing without the approval of the General Assembly. Just recently, the governor, who had not previously expressed support for being part of the Alliance, has stated that the state will join the Alliance. With climate change also posing a serious threat to our environment, I supported the Clean Energy Jobs Act

- Co-sponsor legislation? YES or NO
- Work with our Policy and Legislative Director to help pass a bill? YES or NO
- Testify at a hearing in support of legislation? YES or NO
- Speak at public events in support of legislation? YES or NO
- Write a letter in support of legislation? YES or NO
- Write an op-ed in support of legislation? YES or NO

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

- Speaking at Progressive Maryland events? YES or NO
- Meeting with our membership annually to report on the progress of our shared priorities and answer questions from our members? YES or NO
- Writing a letter to unorganized workers endorsing an organizing drive by a labor union? YES or NO