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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](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, March 30, 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:

Hurwitz

Candidate First Name:

Eve

Office Seeking:

State Senate

District:

33rd

Party:

Democratic

### **Campaign Contact Information**

Committee Name:

Friends of Eve Hurwitz

Street Address:

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City:

Gambrills

Zip Code:

21054

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N/A

Campaign Website:

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**Candidate Contact Information**

Cell Phone:

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**Treasurer Contact Information**

Treasurer Name:

Tim Robinson

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18907 St Albert Dr.

City:

Brookeville

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20833

Phone:

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**Candidate History**

Previous Elected Offices:

None

Which Years Did You Serve:

N/A

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ or NO  \_\_\_\_\_

If Yes, when:

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?

YES  \_\_\_\_\_ or NO \_\_\_\_\_

Describe:

I started the Anne Arundel County chapter, known as Take Action AAC, in early 2017 and then handed over leadership to Claire Miller. Before that, I was working with PM as the Anne Arundel County Coordinator. I spoke at and helped organize several events in Annapolis, helped set up the Take Action AAC website and email system, and did a TON of texting support.

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

Public Interest Podcast.

March On

Rep. Jamie Raskin (not public yet)

## Issue Questions

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

Yes                          No

Comments:

The current bail system is discriminatory and prejudicial, and preys on those who are already marginalized and disadvantaged. While awaiting their trial, they face further financial hardships due to lost wages, and sometimes lose their employment. It takes parents away from children who are already lacking support and services. Ultimately the bail-bond system must be changed to eliminate the profiteering that is occurring within our criminal justice system. I believe that bail should be used to ensure that defendants appear in court and not as a means of holding them in jail, since defendants who cannot afford bail do not ipso facto pose a flight risk.

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 have been campaigning with the #Fightfor15 movement for a while now; we absolutely need it! It is imperative that Maryland make expedient progress toward a living wage. According to MIT the current Maryland minimum wage still falls short of a living wage, and even at \$15/hr the wages were insufficient for more than one person. We need to be at \$15/hr minimum wage no later than 2023. Yes, I support indexing, which is crucial to a living wage. If wages do not increase as cost of living increases, hardships will continue to cripple families.

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

Yes    X                      No

Comments:

Absolutely, and I intend to support any resolution produced by the AA County Council to do so. Use of public matching of funds is an economically just way to improve the existing imbalance in election funding. Current laws support big money politics. We must ensure that Maryland politics are free from undue influence from money and corporations. Reducing the cap on campaign donations and matching the donations will allow candidates to focus more on reaching out to the voters and less on chasing big money.

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    X                      No

Comments:

The specifics of worker conditions are a delicate balance between the state and federal requirements and the employer and employee needs. Current employment practices permit the employer to create and change the employee's schedule capriciously and without their input. As each industry requires different working processes, I believe that the best path to fair employment practices is through the careful implementation of collective bargaining, combined with appropriately crafted legislation.

When an employee's schedule changes on a weekly basis, or they are given little notice of their schedule, it is effectively a form of economic repression and potentially a discriminatory practice. Employees who have little time or notice to plan may be unable to plan effectively for their non-work activities. Moreover the lack of predictability can add to a household's economic strain; it is nearly impossible to find childcare that can change from week to week, and school transportation can also be challenging.

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    X                      No

Comments:

Yes, I will protect Maryland workers' rights to organize unions and engage in collective bargaining. Workers must be permitted to organize and bargain collectively. This is critical to protecting Maryland workers from unfair labor practices. Some companies like Wal-Mart are notorious for attempting to dissuade organization. However, I believe that unions help to ensure that all workers have a living wage, and they are a powerful advocate for social justice issues as well.

The workers right to organize helps to ensure that equal treatment and fair pay will not be infringed. I will continue to work with the different labor organizations at the federal, state, and community levels to improve the protected rights of our working families. Furthermore, I support the development of further protections for workers not covered under the National Labor Relations Act. Employees have the right to work in an environment free from unfair labor practices and I will continue to work to guarantee that right.

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    X                      No

Comments:

Equal pay for equal work is very important to me. As such, I strongly support any legislation that combats the wage gap. Additionally, I would support legislation that guarantees salary transparency in the workplace. A factor that perpetuates the wage gap is the obfuscation of employees' pay, and this must stop. We need to demand transparency.

In addition, we must provide paid leave to parents so that the *de facto* discrimination that occurs when a woman gives birth is ended, and we are not jeopardizing the health of the mother and child by forcing her to go back to work. 25% of American mothers go back to work ten days after giving birth. A mother should not have to choose between her newborn and her job. Next we must ensure that positions are fairly advertised and that each position has a corresponding description. Providing enumerated responsibilities and expectations promotes fair employment practices.

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    X                      No

Comments:

Legislators have continually introduced bills to accommodate pregnant and pumping women in the workplace and they have not passed. We need to make it a priority to protect and support our mothers in the workplace and out. Too often we have seen women lose their employment unnecessarily and unfairly. We can look to

employers like NASA as an exemplar; not only do they understand the needs of pregnant women and new mothers by having light duty roles, nursing/pumping spaces and allowing flexible breaks, but they also encourage them with a SuperMoms program. This program pairs mothers who previously breastfed their children with new moms who can mentor them.

In general, we need to elevate the needs of mothers and children in our priorities. When we take care of our youngest and most vulnerable and the women who bear them, we create healthy, stable families who are productive members of our society. There are only three countries on the globe that do not have paid family leave: Papua New Guinea, Suriname, and the U.S. But four states now have it, and I am determined to make Maryland the fifth in 2019. Now that paid leave for state employees passed in the 2018 session, it is absolutely within our reach. We just need to elect the evolutionary leaders that know how important it is to keep mother and baby together for the first months after birth. Military mothers have 12 weeks of paid leave, because federal lawmakers know how crucial that “fourth trimester” really is. It’s time to provide that to everyone.

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:

A woman and her medical team are responsible for making the decisions that impact her health. Under no circumstance should any other outside individual or entity dictate decisions about medical procedures. Medical patients ultimately bear all risk during the surgery and therefore should make the decision in a singular capacity whenever possible (*i.e.* if the procedure is a medically acceptable treatment and the patient wants the procedure while understanding the risks, then the state must not interfere). Furthermore, it sets an exceptionally dangerous precedent to legislatively determine when a medical procedure should or should not take place.

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:

Yes, I support single-payer health care. There are two options I see for funding: proceeds from the tax on legal responsibly used recreational cannabis, and Tricare. Regarding the cannabis option: there are constant discussions about how to pay for single payer healthcare with no real answers except raising taxes. In 2016, Colorado’s \$1.6 billion in cannabis sales yielded \$247.4 million in taxes, licenses and fees. While we would likely have lower sales initially, there is no doubt that it would provide much of what is needed to initiate a universal healthcare program.



Another option is to expand the military medical program, called Tricare. Since more than half of our taxes go to the Department of Defense, I believe we can make a strong case for expanding Tricare to include the citizens that are already paying into it. Tricare has a robust electronic reporting system, an international network, and is already set up to handle millions of people across all ages. Further, it has not fallen under the same intense scrutiny that other systems have for their systemic waste, fraud and abuse. I intend to set up a working group to explore the viability of this idea.

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. The pharmaceutical industry inflates the cost of medications and essentially holds us hostage, forcing those who most need the help to go deeply in debt just to live every day. There needs to be more transparency with Pharmacy Benefits Managers so that oversight can be properly held. The process by which they negotiate rebates, and how the rebates are implemented, need further scrutiny. We need to reveal what is behind the mega-mergers and constant blame shifting between PBMs and pharmaceutical companies. I support a drug cost review commission for high cost drugs to find way to lower those costs and I would co-sponsor another SB1023 in 2019.

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

Support  Oppose

Comments:

In general, I do not support them. Studies reveal that charter schools are not shown to be more effective than public schools. They just end up taking funds away from the public school system. Their for-profit nature means that if they run out of funds they can close their doors in the middle of the school year and leave the students out in the cold.

Charter schools are not successful at solving any serious education problems. This is not because charter schools are failing, but rather that we are failing to provide our children with their educational needs. Until Maryland is able to overhaul how money flows in and out of education, so that money bound to individual schools reach those schools, charter schools cannot flourish – they will have many of the same issues found in public schools.

I am in favor of giving our children the best education they can receive. This often means developing custom solutions for challenging students. When we stop the overcrowding in our schools, we will have better success with our truly exceptional young minds.

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    X

Comments:

In general, I don't support vouchers because most private K-12 schools have some sort of religious component to their lessons. Of the 847 private schools in Maryland, 57% of them are religiously affiliated, most commonly Roman Catholic or Christian. As a strong supporter of the separation of church and state, I find taxpayer money going to support a religious organization the antithesis of this ideal.

The parents who choose to send their children to private school are choosing to do so in spite of the fact that a free public education is available to their children. That is their right and their choice, but there is no obligation for taxpayers to support that choice, especially when there are choices being made with regard to religion. Additionally, there have been significant recent changes in federal legislation that will likely positively affect those Marylanders that choose private education.

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

Yes    X                      No

Comments:

Yes. We need to catch up with the rest of the developed world that provides state funding to offset the cost of higher education for students. 12 states have free in-state colleges, and it's time for Maryland to join that list. Legislatures that are both Democrat-led and Republican-led have done it; this is a nonpartisan issue that will soon gain widespread support. Student debt is crippling, and it gives our youth a financial burden as soon as they leave school and enter the full time workforce. We need to have better options to produce a thriving economy.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Yes    X                      No

Comments:

Yes, I support the Maryland Law Enforcement and Governmental Trust Act. According to the ACLU, "Since 2008, over 43% of persons deported from Maryland under the Secure Communities program (S-Comm) had no criminal convictions of any kind. An additional 33% had convictions only for minor offenses. These deportations have a negative impact on Maryland's working families and children, targeting individuals who are living and working peacefully in our communities, sometimes for years or even decades." Hardworking

families contributing positively to our community are being ripped away and apart from each other. We can protect our immigrant family and neighbors by preventing ICE from deputizing our law enforcement officers. While we cannot interfere in the activities of ICE agents, we don't have to fund or assist them with any of Maryland's resources.

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    X        No

Comments:

This loophole has cost Maryland too much in lost revenue and needs to be closed immediately. The Byzantine nature of the current tax code needs to be simplified to prevent loopholes like this from existing in the first place. Large and sprawling corporations are avoiding paying millions of dollars of taxes on billions of dollars of profit by capitalizing on the loopholes in the law, and it must stop.

I fully support returning the tax rate of our highest earners to the higher level. The current highest tax bracket is 5.75%, so adding .5% must be a priority. I talk to wealthy voters frequently who support this change, and I will do my best to solicit their testimony and vocal support while pushing this legislation through the General Assembly.

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    X                No

Comments:

Absolutely. Maryland has always been a leader in clean water laws. Having unpolluted waterways is not only important for drinking and bathing but for Maryland's economy. Since the founding of the Maryland colony in 1632, its economy has always been tied to the bay. Both as a trade route and for its fisheries, it's these fisheries that are most important. We eat out of the bay; the health and safety of everyone who enjoys fresh caught seafood will be at stake if we allow the water quality to deteriorate. The Maryland Blue Crab, one of the state's greatest natural resources, is a bottom feeder. If the bottom of the bay is full of poisonous trash, it will destroy a major industry along with the already fragile environment. In that effort I will sponsor or co-sponsor legislation to ban EPS expanded polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) packaging both in the restaurant industry and retail stores. Styrofoam is NOT recyclable; it breaks into miniscule spheres that absorb toxins and poison sea life, plant life, and therefore our families.

I also plan to institute a commercial recycling program so that we can decrease the amount of recyclables that end up in Maryland waterways and landfills. Every business with whom I've spoken has said that they would gladly take part in a recycling program for businesses. In fact, many expressed frustration at putting recyclable materials in the trash and have pledged to support legislation to establish business-based recycling programs.

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

Comments:

- We can increase the strength of environmental laws, to combat the dismantling of the EPA. We can protect funding for our bay and implement other environmental programs such as the Styrofoam ban and business recycling programs previously mentioned.
- We can ensure funding for our public schools and sufficient salaries for teachers to insure a highly educated workforce, and combat DeVos's Dept of Education policies.
- We can protect our immigrant family and neighbors by preventing ICE from deputizing our law enforcement officers. While we cannot interfere in the activities of ICE agents, we don't have to fund or assist them with any of Maryland's resources. And we can ensure that the Fourth Amendment rights of Marylanders are protected from illegal and unconstitutional search and seizure.
- We can continue to protect Planned Parenthood from attempts to defund them. We can protect a woman's right to make an educated choice, which is even more important in light of recent challenges at the national level.
- We can establish a universal healthcare system for Maryland to offset the systematic dismantling of the ACA.
- We can support and protect Maryland sole proprietors and small businesses to counteract the burden put on them by the recently passed tax bill.
- We can pass public funding laws and/or modify existing campaign finance laws to decrease the impact of money on politics.
- We can pass a Maryland Constitutional amendment to give voters the right to initiate referendums, so that the people can petition the government for what they want and need. And so we can be empowered to initiate change quickly when needed. (Maryland currently only has veto referendum and General Assembly-initiated referendum.)
- As a veteran, I know how important it is to handle weapons responsibly. I also know what assault rifles are made for – quick and mass destruction of humans – and I believe that is not what our state and country are about. We can establish a state militia where citizens are educated and firearms are protected, stored, regulated and insured.

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

Yes    X            No

Comments:

Absolutely! Not only would I support the creation, but I would gladly be a founding member. We need fresh, progressive voices coming together to support one another and brainstorm on innovative solutions.

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

- 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