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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:

_____ McCray _____

Candidate First Name:

_____ Cory _____

Office Seeking:

_____ Maryland State Senate _____

District:

___ 45th Legislative District

Party:

___ Democrat

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Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name:

___ Friends of Cory McCray

Street Address:

___ P.O. Box 18741

City:

___ Baltimore

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Zip Code:

___ 21206

Business Phone:

___ (443) 520-2611

Fax:

Campaign Website:

___electcorymccray.com

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone:

_____(443) 520-2611

Email Address:

_____info@electcorymccray.com

Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name:

____Danille McCray

Street Address:

____P.O. Box 18741

City:

____Baltimore

Zip Code:

____21206

Phone:

____(443) 520-2611

Candidate History

Previous Elected Offices:

Serving as a member of the House of Delegates is my first elected office.

Which Years Did You Serve:

I was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2014.

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

Describe:

I have worked with Progressive Maryland in past legislative efforts, as we have many overlapping ideological concerns.

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

I have received the support of many City Councilmembers in Baltimore City, including Shannon Sneed, Brandon Scott, Ryan Dorsey, Kris Burnett, John Bullock, in addition to an ever-growing list of community leaders across the 45th District.

Issue Questions

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

Yes

Comments:

My opinion on the money-based bail system reflects the opinion that Attorney General Brian Frosh released. I believe we are headed in the right direction by rolling back the bail industry, and am particularly concerned about people losing their jobs because they are held for prolonged periods over low-level crimes.

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

Comments:

My track record proves beyond question that I am a strong supporter of the \$15 minimum wage, and have been a go-to advocate for organized labor in the House of Delegates on other worker protections like prevailing wages.

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

Yes

Comments:

Public financing expands political access to a greater share of the population, by making it easier to run a viable campaign if the candidate can demonstrate a critical mass of community support. I am a strong proponent of bringing more voices into the Democratic Party, and offering them an opportunity to speak on even footing with preexisting powers that may be better resourced.

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

Comments:

The policies you bring up address two poles of a particularly important issue. On the one hand, workers deserve predictability when it comes to their immediate financial future, and the hours that will be necessary in order to provide for it. On the other hand, workers should not have to work to the point of exhaustion or be on-call without guarantees that being called in will be worth the time and effort of answering that call. I believe that we can account for both interests, offering our workers financial stability without it coming at the expense of a reasonable work pace over the course of a pay-period.

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

Comments:

I have been a strong supporter of the right to organize both as a Delegate and as a private citizen. For instance, I stood in solidarity with organizing efforts at BWI Airport by walking the picket line, attending the press conference, signing Unite Here's letter of support on the issue, and co-sponsoring House Bill 228 on behalf of the workers at BWI. Similarly, in 2017 I co-sponsored House Bill 871, in coordination with SEIU and AFSCME's organizing efforts at community colleges. In 2017 I also co-sponsored House Bill 1370, which would have established collective bargaining agreements with local jurisdictions.

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

Comments:

I believe that worker protections necessarily include protections that ensure gender-parity in worker pay, and freedom from harassment or other discriminatory practices. While I cannot with complete honesty say what future legislative efforts on this front will entail, I believe that my track record of support for organized labor and other progressive advocates makes it clear that I will be an active and vocal member of any coalition that comes together on gender-parity legislation in the years ahead.

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

Comments:

Men should not be unfairly privileged in the workplace simply because they do not give birth. I believe that reasonable accommodations for pregnancy and childbirth are a natural part of an inclusive, just work environment.

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?

No

Comments:

A woman is always the party best suited to making decisions about her body.

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

Comments:

I have gone on the record as an advocate for bringing back revenue streams that also serve an economic justice role like the millionaire's tax, and believe that these revenue streams have a track record of success and stability that could be used to help pay for social programs like single-payer healthcare. For that reason I also believe Maryland should not have weakened its estate tax, and should consider an expanded Marijuana industry as another potential revenue source.

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

Comments:

The only parties that benefit from lack of transparency are parties with something to hide. Moreover, I believe that high cost drugs are a direct threat to health-justice and an equal opportunity to thrive for all Marylanders.

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

Comments:

I do not support the expansion of charter schools, but I believe it is important to acknowledge that Maryland has comparatively effective charter laws that lead to a greater level of accountability and consistent performance from the charter schools that we already have. I will continue to support keeping charters under the umbrella of the local school board, and ensuring that charter school employees are offered the same protections as traditional public school employees. I will also continue to support scrutiny of underperforming charters.

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.

Oppose

Comments:

We must remain committed to a fully and equitably funded public school system, and vouchers for private schools undercuts that goal by diverting revenue and students from the public school system.

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

Yes

Comments:

The student loan debt burden that our current system creates is a serious barrier to economic freedom, and undermines long-term quality of life. Providing pathways to debt-free college, like tuition-free higher education at public colleges and universities, is perhaps the biggest win we can achieve on this front.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Yes

Comments:

I was proud to vote for the Trust Act, and remain committed to the ideals it represents.

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

Comments:

Other states have not only closed these loopholes, but demonstrated that the loopholes can be closed without the negative economic repercussions that opponents like to argue will follow such actions. The same principle applies to the millionaire's tax, as Maryland's economy continued to thrive after the millionaire's tax was first created, and did not suddenly begin to over perform when the millionaire's tax was allowed to expire. That means we have firm precedent that shows these economic justice measures do not come at the expense of a thriving economy, and in fact, help fuel a thriving economy.

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

Comments:

As a member of the Environment and Transportation Committee, I have a strong track record of supporting our waterways, and other natural spaces be they rural or urban. I believe that resources like clean water and clean air are public goods that must be preserved for the public's well-being.

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 believe that the most damaging thing Trump can do is undermine social safety nets, and create an economic structure that benefits those who already enjoy financial privilege. Maryland can defend against these attacks on equity by strengthening state-level social safety nets. I believe this includes a single payer healthcare system, stronger oversight of wage theft and prevailing wage protections, a \$15 minimum wage, a progressive tax structure, a more accessible higher education system that does not saddle working class or poor families with egregious debt burdens, a health based rather than crime-based approach to addiction, and a stance on immigration that ensures all of our municipalities are welcoming places for new Americans.

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

Yes

Comments:

I believe that the same organizing principles that apply outside of the legislature can apply inside the legislature, which means that we are stronger when we have an established framework for working together as progressives, and stand in solidarity with one another on shared issues of importance.

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

Yes for all

- Co-sponsor legislation? **Yes**
- Work with our Policy and Legislative Director to help pass a bill? **Yes**
- Testify at a hearing in support of legislation? **Yes**
- Speak at public events in support of legislation? **Yes**
- Write a letter in support of legislation? **Yes**
- Write an op-ed in support of legislation? **Yes**

20. 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**