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## 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](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 26, 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:

Hettleman

Candidate First Name:

Shelly

Office Seeking:

House of Delegates

District:

11

Party:

Democrat

### Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name:

Friends of Shelly Hettleman

Street Address:

\_P.O. Box \_32677\_\_\_\_\_

City:

\_\_\_\_\_Baltimore\_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code:

\_\_\_\_\_21282\_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_410-841-3833\_\_\_\_\_

Fax:

\_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Website:

\_\_\_\_\_shellyhettleman.com\_\_\_\_\_

### Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone:

\_\_\_ 410-608-8016 \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address:

\_\_\_ shelly@shellyhettleman.com \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer Contact Information**

Treasurer Name:

\_\_\_\_\_ Jodi Schwartz \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address:

\_\_\_ 254 Grange Hall Drive \_\_\_\_\_

City:

\_\_\_\_\_ Gaithersburg \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code:

\_\_\_\_\_ 20877 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_ 301-704-5877 \_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate History**

Previous Elected Offices:

House of Delegates, District 11

Which Years Did You Serve:

2015- present

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?

YES  or NO

If Yes, when:

2014

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?

YES  or NO

Describe:

I consider myself an unapologetic progressive, voting consistently for progressive social and economic causes and believe, for the most part, that my votes reflect that philosophy.

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

For 2018, so far:

Sierra Club, League of Conservation Voters

## Issue Questions

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

Yes    X                      No

Comments:

I was one of five legislators who wrote to Attorney General Brian Frosh asking his official opinion on whether our bail system was constitutional. This set in motion the Judiciary Rules Committee change preventing a defendant from being jailed because they could not afford bail. I was also very involved in fighting attempts in the House to legislatively roll back the rule. I am also supportive of enhancing pretrial services, and a cosponsor of the bill, so that jurisdictions can support individuals without resorting to incarcerating them before there has been a determination about their guilt or innocence.

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    X                      No

Comments:

I am proud to be the lead sponsor in the House of legislation that would increase Maryland's minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2023, and add an indexing provision that guarantees automatic increases over time.

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:

Public financing is one of the best ways to expand democracy. By taking money out of the electoral system, it opens up the process to more people and lessens the impact of special interests. It also enables candidates to spend more time interacting with the community and voters and less time having to worry about raising campaign funds.

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:

I believe workers should have fair notice of when they're scheduled to work and when their schedule is changed. The changing nature of the work environment has not resulted in subsequent changes in the infrastructure that supports workers. Childcare is one such example. If a worker experiences last minute changes to a schedule, it is unlikely they will be able to plan - on such short notice - for childcare. Workers are frequently faced with the challenges of balancing a delicate array of services that allow them to work. Transportation is another such service that must be planned and can be very difficult to change without sufficient notice.

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, similar to the National Labor Relations Act, which has governed work in the private sector for over 80 years?

Yes    X                      No

Comments:

I believe profoundly in the importance of unions to our democracy and economy. Unions are essential to protect worker rights, to combat growing inequality and the shrinking middle class, and to drive economic growth. Because of this basic belief, I will continue to be deeply involved in the struggle to preserve and strengthen organized bargaining in the public and private sectors. Now, more than ever in our country's history, unions must be a counterforce to the increasing sway of corporate power over our country's politics and policies.

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:

One of my top priorities as a legislator is to be an advocate for women. I do this by sponsoring and supporting legislation that protects and empowers women. I absolutely believe legislation ensuring the equal treatment of men and women in the workplace is necessary. One of the biggest issues affecting women in the workplace is the gender pay gap and I have been a cosponsor of pay equity legislation.

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:

No employee should be forced to choose between having a child or keeping their job. The United States is virtually the only country in the developed world where families must face this issue. I believe employers should accommodate employees during pregnancy, and after giving birth and have cosponsored legislation to ensure these protections.

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:

There are no instances in which the State should be dictating a women's reproductive health. I will continue to be a tireless advocate for women's health, to ensure that every woman has access to a variety of safe family planning services as well as abortion services. I have repeatedly spoken out in support of a woman's right to choose when opponents seek to remove funding for abortion services when the budget is considered in the House.

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    X                      No

Comments:

I support a single payer system for healthcare in Maryland. I understand that passing legislation of this magnitude would be no small task and would be quite complicated. Health care reform may soon be required, mostly as a result of federal attempts to chip away at the ACA. I would support continuing our state mandate for health insurance as well as figuring out a way to have a single payer system. I support tax reform and by making a more progressive tax structure, we could realize revenue to fund important services, like healthcare.

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    X                      No

Comments:

I was proud to support legislation in 2017 that made Maryland the first state in the nation to ban price gouging on generic prescription drugs. We cannot stop there. We still need to implement measures to ensure greater transparency of drug manufacturers, which is why I support a drug cost review commission.

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

Support            X                      Oppose

Comments:

I support **public** charter schools, however we must hold charter schools to the same high standards that public schools adhere to and keep them under local control. Additionally, we must eliminate barriers to entry for all students, and require enrollment be open to all students. Efforts by the Governor to eliminate these requirements would have disastrous affects on the education that students receive.



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 believe that a limited number of scholarships under the BOOST program are appropriate for ensuring that every student in Maryland has access to an education that suits their needs. The program is targeted to low-income families and the scholarships enable children to attend schools that can best address their unique needs. Some of my constituents, many of whom are Orthodox Jews, have been assisted by this program. The public school system cannot address these students' needs. I agree that nonpublic schools that receive public funds should have to conform to nondiscrimination standards and be monitored so that the program is administered in an equitable fashion. Lastly, I do not view this program as a drain on funds from public schools. My top priority as a legislator is to see that every student in Maryland has access to a top quality education regardless of the street they live on, religious group of which they are a part, or community to which they belong, and this program makes strides towards meeting that goal.

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

Yes                                                  No

Comments:

We are fortunate to have high quality public universities in Maryland. I have been very supportive of dual enrollment programs, which enable students to attend community colleges while in high school and then to matriculate at a four-year college or university directly. However if financial barriers limit people from attending them, then they are not serving their purpose. I spend a fair amount of time working on legislation to broaden access to college, so I would be willing to support legislation that would reduce or eliminate the financial barriers.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Yes                                                  No

Comments: I supported the Trust Act in the 2017 General Assembly session and plan to support it again this year.

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:

I believe that everyone and every corporation should have to pay their fair share. It is why I support closing tax loopholes, doing combined reporting, and bringing back the millionaire's tax.

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:

I grew up sailing on the Chesapeake Bay, out of Middle River and having seen the Bay's decline firsthand, I know how important it is that we do everything within our power to bring the Bay back to health by protecting fish, underwater habitats, wetlands, surrounding buffers and water quality from pollution caused by rapid population growth and development. I am a cosponsor of the Styrofoam ban that would help to eliminate a major source of pollution. I also supported a ban on plastic bags. I supported the Maryland Defense Act that enabled the Attorney General to file suit against the Trump Administration for its violations of the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act, among other laws. I

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

Comments:

It seems that at least once a week the Trump White House releases another destructive policy that harms more Marylanders. I support the Maryland Defense Act that enables the Attorney General to sue the Trump Administration without having to first obtain permission from the Governor. I supported legislation last session that created oversight committees to closely monitor the Trump Administration's actions on rolling back the Affordable Care Act and its efforts to de-regulate the financial industry and roll back consumer protections.

The recent tax law changes need to be addressed so that the middle class are not being overtaxed while the wealthy get a huge break. Finally, I support counteracting the Trump Administration's actions on Net Neutrality. We have the power to be able to protect the open internet .

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

Yes    X                      No

Comments:

I would support creating a progressive caucus in the General Assembly. I am a proud progressive woman and I believe that we have a greater ability to get things done as a group than we do as individuals.

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