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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

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:

____Queen_____

Candidate First Name:

____Pamela_____

Office Seeking:

____State Delegate_____

District:

____ Legislative District 14 _____

Party:

____ Democratic Party _____

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name:

____ Friends of Pam Queen _____

Street Address:

____ 17340 Blossom View Drive _____

City:

____ Olney _____

Zip Code:

____ 20832 _____

Business Phone:

____ 301 774-0222 or 301 442-2656 _____

Fax:

Campaign Website:

____ www.pamelaqueen.com _____

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone:

_____ (301) 442-2656 _____

Email Address:

_____ pam@pamelaqueen.com _____

Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name:

_____ Charlene Matthews _____

Street Address:

_____ 5748 Stanbrook Lane _____

City:

_____ Gaithersburg _____

Zip Code:

_____ 20882 _____

Phone:

Candidate History
<p>Previous Elected Offices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current State Delegate District 14 (appointed 2016)• Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee (2010-2016)

Which Years Did You Serve:

- State Delegate District 14 (2016 - present)
- Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee (2010-2016)

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?

YES _____ or NO _____

If Yes, when:

Note: first time requesting endorsement from Progressive Maryland

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?

YES _____ or NO _____

Describe:

My advocacy with the League of Women Voters, National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and other community groups; and since my 2016 appointment to the Maryland General Assembly supports Progressive Maryland's priorities of police reform, earned sick leave, \$15 Minimum wage, fair elections, civic engagement, and environmental justice.

As a member of Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, I work with my colleagues to champion these issues and working to enact balanced legislation that achieves the goals of Progressive Maryland. For bills that I have sponsored, co-sponsored, and voting record, they reflect my commitment to promoting social, economic, and racial justice.

For the 2018 General Assembly, I proudly voted for the Governor's veto override to enact Earned Sick Leave in Maryland.

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

During my bid for appointment to the Maryland General assembly, I was supported by County Executive, several Maryland General Assembly members, and the National Organization of Women (NOW).

Issue Questions

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

Yes No

Comments:

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee and Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, I have been working with legislators, Attorney General, and members of the judiciary to put in place guidelines that will reduce the usage and eventually end a money-bail system. Efforts for the 2018 legislative session will focus on developing robust pre-trial services throughout the state.

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:

Yes, I support a \$15 per hour minimum wage with an indexing provision for Maryland workers. Montgomery County has been in the forefront with this legislative push that the entire state may benefit from an implementation approach.

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 like the concept of public financing for elections as research shows it helps to level the playing field and increases the pool of candidates, especially with more women and candidates of color. With appropriate “best practices” and tailoring for type of election (local, state, federal), this can be a good policy approach.

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:

Yes, I support protections for workers regarding shift scheduling that allows for greater notice, employee consent, and compensation for back-to-back shifts with an approach that incorporates emergency and public safety needs.

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 support the tenets of the National Labor Relations Act to protect the rights of employees and employers, to encourage collective bargaining, and to curtail adverse private sector labor and management practices.

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:

Yes, with first-hand experience of pay inequities in the workplace for women, I support legislation that addresses this issue. I have co-sponsored legislation that requires more transparency in pay levels and ranges; and efforts to limit prior pay disclosure to foster equitable salary for the job, not the person.

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:

Yes, I believe reasonable accommodations by employers should be made for 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 X

Comments:

No, I do not believe the state should put limitations on access to abortion or funding for abortion.

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:

Yes, while I support the concept of a single-payer health care system in Maryland, how the cost would be covered and how access to specialized care would be addressed needs more in-depth study. I look forward to supporting a bill that provides the benefits of a single-payer health care system that can be paid for by a combination of public and private contributions.

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:

Yes, I support efforts to provide more transparency in the pricing of prescription drugs and efforts to reduce the cost to consumers. My approach would be to focus on effective “best practices” at both the federal and state level to accomplish the desired goal.

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

Support Oppose

Comments:

In general, as needed, I support providing a variety of educational options that follow state requirements. The charter schools in Maryland serve jurisdictions that have a need to provide specialized education to certain students. When we are able to strike a balance that does not degrade the quality of public school education and resources in a given jurisdiction, the use of charter schools can be beneficial. In Maryland, we need to evaluate the success of these schools to ensure continuous is warranted and implement their “best practices” in other schools.

The priority for funding and resources should be on Maryland public schools, then support for other educational options based upon proven “best practices” and improved educational outcomes.

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:

While the intent of Maryland’s voucher program via the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program is admirable to allow students from low-income families to attend a private school, the implementation of the program has not met the intent in providing an adequate “needs test” and enrolled new students who were not already in private schools. At this time, with the poor condition of Baltimore City Public Schools, there should be more focus on strengthening the conditions of public schools than divert funds to private schools.

The priority for funding and resources should be on Maryland public schools, then support for other educational options based upon proven “best practices” and improved educational outcomes.

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

Yes No

Comments:

Yes, I support expanded opportunities for college education for Maryland students and to reduce tuition costs for Maryland residents. I believe the first approach is to make community college widely accessible and free to more Marylanders.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Yes X No

Comments:

Yes, I support the Trust Act and was a member of the 2017 House working group in Annapolis to achieve state-wide guidelines.

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:

While I support efforts to increase tax revenue, for the 2018 Legislative Session with the impacts to health care and personal tax changes, there will be many tax changes. I will seek to find an approach that does not burden working class residents and small business.

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:

Yes, I will work with colleagues to co-sponsor legislation that continues to protect the environment and fill-the-gap from removed federal funding.

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

Comments:

The Maryland General Assembly will continue to introduce legislation that protects Maryland residents against the Trump federal government, especially in the areas of health care, tax reform, immigrations, environmental protection, and security from global nuclear threats.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

While I like the idea of a progressive caucus in the State Legislature, at this point, I cannot imagine it being a non-partisan body that would be imperative to get balanced legislation enacted.

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