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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:

Palakovich Carr

Candidate First Name:

Julie

Office Seeking:

House of Delegates

District:

_17_____

Party:

_Democrat_____

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name:

_Friends of Julie Palakovich Carr_____

Street Address:

_PO Box 1421_____

City:

_Rockville_____

Zip Code:

_20849_____

Business Phone:

_(301) 284-0694_____

Fax:

_n/a_____

Campaign Website:

_www.juliepalakovichcarr.com_____

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone:

_(301) 284-0694_____

Email Address:

_julie@juliepalakovichcarr.com_____

Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name:

_Emily Chesterton_____

Street Address:

_PO Box 1421_____

City:

_Rockville_____

Zip Code:

_20849_____

Phone:

_n/a_____

Candidate History

Previous Elected Offices:

Rockville City Council

Which Years Did You Serve:

2013-present. I'm currently serving my second term.

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?

YES_____ or NO__X__

If Yes, when:

n/a

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?

YES_____ or NO__X__

Describe:

I have not previously worked directly with Progressive Maryland on any initiatives, but as a City Councilmember, I have championed several issues in Rockville that advance Progressive Maryland's goals, including raising the minimum wage paid by the City of Rockville and working to increase voter turnout.

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

I have been endorsed by District 17 incumbents Delegates Kumar Barve and Jim Gilchrist.

Issue Questions

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

Yes

Comments:

The current bail system unfairly holds poor people in jail even when they don't pose a risk. Reforms are clearly needed to ensure that racial and economic disparities do not continue to be propagated within our judicial system.

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:

I supported the change to a \$15 minimum wage in Montgomery County and have pushed for the county's higher minimum wage to be implemented by the City of Rockville, which is not required for a municipal government. After the first county wage increase, I successfully pushed for the city to increase its hourly minimum wage as well as other hourly wages to prevent wage compression.

Montgomery County's \$15 minimum wage takes effect in the years 2021 to 2024, depending on the size of the employer. This time period is also a reasonable one for the statewide increase.

I support indexing the minimum wage so that it continues to increase over time. People's expenses increase over time—so should their 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 is the gold standard for ensuring clean and fair elections, since it ensures that the voices of individual voters carry the most weight in an election, rather the voices of special interests. (I did a public service announcement on public financing for MoCo Voters, which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s32dFtBJNo&t=1s>.)

Until public financing is available to all candidates and unless it is mandatory, we need to ensure that campaign finance laws are stringent enough to end “pay to play” by special interests in state elections. Two commonsense reforms I’ll pursue in office are to prohibit registered lobbyists from contributing to candidates for state elected offices and to bar business entities who contribute to state campaigns from being able to receive contracts from the state during the next term. Simply put: entities that have a financial stake in state laws shouldn’t be able to buy election outcomes that are favorable to their business. This isn’t just a campaign promise, it’s a foundation of my campaign. I don’t accept any contributions from state lobbyists or entities that do business with the state.

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 “Fair Scheduling Act,” which was previously considered by the General Assembly, would provide reasonable protections for hourly employees at large retail and food service businesses. I am supportive of the provisions in that legislation, which were drafted in a way that would protect workers while not placing undue burdens on small businesses.

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:

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:

The "Maryland Equal Pay for Equal Work Act" went into effect in October 2016 and was an important step forward in closing the wage gap between women and men in Maryland. The state should ensure that the law is meeting its goals and determine if additional legislation is required.

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:

As the mother of a young child, I feel for women who have lost their jobs because of physical limitations during their pregnancy or after giving birth. Current Maryland law provides protections for employees to be able to request a change in job duties, position, or time off for a disability related to pregnancy or childbirth. This law is an important protection that should be maintained, however we can do more to help new mothers.

One of my top priorities if elected is to create a system for paid parental and family leave in Maryland. New parents should be able to take time off of work to bond with their infant or adopted child without worrying about making ends meet. California's paid family leave system is a great model for Maryland, as both the employer and the employee both pay into the system.

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?

I support current Maryland laws.

Comments:

Every woman should have access to safe and affordable contraceptives and reproductive health care, including an abortion, if so desired. A woman should make her own choices about her body and her health, using accurate medical information from her doctor. The state should aim to prevent the creation of new barriers, as is occurring in a multitude of other states.

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:

Single-payer health care has the potential to offer many benefits for Maryland, including improved access to medical care for all residents and cost savings for individuals. However, there is significant risk of major economic disruptions and job losses in the insurance industry in the state. With proper planning, these disruptions can be mitigated.

In an ideal world, the federal government would create a national single-payer system instead of a patchwork of state plans. But without that federal leadership, it may make sense for individual states to go it alone. To be frank, it will be up to the next governor to develop a plan and identify the budgetary means to pay for it.

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:

Prescription drug prices have been skyrocketing, which forces people into untenable situations, like choosing between their medication and other household expenses. My own family was impacted by skyrocketing EpiPen prices. In 2016, my son's EpiPens were free through our insurance. By the next year, they cost \$300 each—and we need to have two on hand. \$600 is a big financial hit for a family. Others faced even more egregious price increases for their medications.

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden has introduced legislation in Congress that would increase transparency in what are currently private negotiations between pharmacies and drugmakers. Although the bill's prospects are uncertain at the federal level, Maryland and other states can and should proceed with similar initiatives.

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

Oppose

Comments:

As the product of a public school system and as the parent of a future attendee of public schools, I am a firm believer in public education. Where deficiencies exist in public schools, we should be working to fix those problems rather than investing in an alternate education system.

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:

A strong public school system is of vital importance to Maryland's future. Research is clear that states that invest in K-12 education reap the rewards of a stronger economy, as well as better outcomes for individual students before and after graduation. Maryland must invest in our public education system with additional funding. We should be working towards reducing taxpayer support of private schools.

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

Yes, for community college

Comments:

Community college should be free for graduates of Maryland high schools. This is a key step to making higher education affordable for all students.

In addition, Maryland should create a universal children's college savings account program. In a handful of other states, such accounts are seeded with deposits from private foundations and/or corporate donors and therefore are offered at no expense to taxpayers. For instance in Maine, every child born in the state is automatically provided with a college savings account with \$500 in it. Research shows that students from low-income households are three times more likely to go to college if they have saved as little as \$500.

Maryland can also do a better job of educating students about the financial implications of their borrowing decisions. I would support a requirement for colleges to provide individual student loan information to each student, such as the total amount of loans, total payoff amount, and monthly repayment amount. In Indiana, providing this information has helped to reduce student borrowing.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Yes

Comments:

In 2017, I sponsored legislation in Rockville that bars city police from asking about immigration status or from honoring ICE detainer requests. The ordinance was adopted in June 2017. Now, a city police officer cannot ask someone about their immigration status during a routine traffic stop, while they walk down the sidewalk, or if they are the victim of a crime. Immigration status only comes into play when someone is arrested. We need similar protections across all of Maryland.

15. Will you support closing corporate tax loopholes by requiring combined reporting, as most other states have done?

Yes

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?

I'm still evaluating this proposal

Comments:

Half of U.S. states have implemented combined reporting for corporations that operate in multiple states. Legislation to implement combined reporting in Maryland has been repeatedly introduced, but has not advanced in the General Assembly. Given the recent federal changes to tax laws, Maryland may be facing additional budgetary challenges. Combined reporting poses an opportunity to generate additional revenues for the state.

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 trained ecologist, I had the opportunity years ago to spend a summer studying restored oyster reefs on the Choptank River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. I saw firsthand the impacts Maryland's restoration efforts are having on the Chesapeake Bay and believe that restoration of the Bay is a critical for Maryland's future.

The Trump Administration's proposal to eliminate funding for EPA's Chesapeake Bay cleanup program is very troubling. Although Bay restoration will be most efficient if the federal government and states in the Bay watershed work together, Maryland cannot sit idly by if other jurisdictions fail to uphold their commitments.

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

Comments:

- 1) Maryland should do its part to address climate change and to improve local air quality by aiming for 50% of its electricity to come from renewable sources by 2030. Five other states plus DC have already set similar goals. This is especially important when the federal government is abdicating its responsibility to mitigate climate change.
- 2) We need to enact the Maryland Trust Act. Rockville passed a comparable law in 2017 that I championed. That law keeps Rockville police focused on fighting crime rather than enforcing federal immigration laws. Our immigrant population should not fear police officers because of federal immigration raids.
- 3) We need to invest in public transportation to reduce traffic congestion and ensure that everyone has access to jobs and education opportunities, even when federal budgets cut transit funding.
- 4) Require any presidential candidates who want to appear on the ballot in Maryland to publicly release their tax returns.
- 5) If the Trump Administration weakens current vehicle fuel economy standards and if California moves forward with their own efficiency standards, Maryland should also adopt those fuel economy standards.

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

Yes

Comments:

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

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