

**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

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| **Candidate Information** | | |
| Candidate Last Name:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Dernoga\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Candidate First Name:  \_\_\_\_\_\_Matt\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Office Seeking:  \_\_\_\_\_Maryland State Delegate, District 21\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| District:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_21\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| Party:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Democrat\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| **Campaign Contact Information** | | |
| Committee Name:  \_\_\_\_\_Citizens for Matt Dernoga\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Street Address:  \_\_\_\_\_\_9737 52nd Ave\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| City:  \_\_\_\_\_College Park\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Zip Code:  \_\_\_\_\_\_20740\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Business Phone:  \_\_\_\_\_\_240-473-3764\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Fax:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Campaign Website:  \_\_\_\_\_\_www.mattdernoga.com\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| **Candidate Contact Information** | | |
| Cell Phone:  \_\_\_\_\_240-593-1268\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| Email Address:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_matt@mattdernoga.com\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
|  | | |
| **Treasurer Contact Information** | | |
| Treasurer Name:  \_\_\_\_\_\_George Arnold\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| Street Address:  \_\_\_\_8200 Canning Ter\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| City:  \_\_\_\_\_\_Greenbelt\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| Zip Code:  \_\_\_\_\_\_20770\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Phone:  \_\_\_\_\_301-633-9260\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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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\_\_\_Y\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Major Endorsements (Elected Officials/Organizations/Opinion Leaders):  Nothing official announced yet, but there will be some | | |

**Issue Questions**

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

**Yes - X** No

Comments: Yes I do support this, I think we should detain people if they are a danger to society or a flight risk, and if they are not, then support them with pre-trial services in the community, rather than hold them in jail if they can’t afford bail.

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: Yes, I support a $15 an hour minimum wage. I suggest implementing it over a period of 3 years for Prince George’s County since there is already a higher minimum wage, and 4 years for the rest of MD. If we passed this in 2019 (the first year I could vote on it) that would mean by 2022 we’d have it fully implemented in Prince George’s, and by 2023 for everywhere else. I also support an indexing provision, and while we’re at it, we need to increase the minimum wage for tipped workers as well, since I believe that was exempted last time there was an increase.

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: Yes, I have a background of working on this in Prince George’s. When you’re a candidate, you can more easily see why we need a different campaign finance system that rewards candidates reliant on small donors.

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 think this is an important next step to take.

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: I believe strongly that our economy and the income inequality gap would be much better off if more employees were unionized. I would make this a priority on the public employee relations act, but would need to understand the specifics so that I could be an effective advocate for it.

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: I think that a critical thing missing is the posting of salaries for jobs that are advertised. Many governments post a salary range, but most private sector jobs do not. I think this makes it difficult for employees to know what starting salary to ask for, and it is easier for an employer to get away with paying a woman a lower starting salary than a male counterpart. I would support legislation to make the posting of the salary range a requirement for job postings, either the /hour pay or the annual salary.

I also think paid family leave and investments in child care are critical, so that women who give birth have time to recover and look after their child, and then be able to afford child care, without having to leave their job. Leaving the work force for 1-3 years to raise a child can be a blow to salary increases and promotion opportunities.

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:

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:

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:

We would really need to flesh out a specific proposal for Maryland. I would like to be a partner in putting together a policy proposal that brings together key stakeholders, and can pass. We’d need to be able to assess the overall cost, savings to citizens when compared to private insurance, and what basic health care services single payer would cover. I would support a single payer proposal with a combination of tax increases to fund the program, because there is no other way to raise the billions needed. My litmus test would be the impact on low-income to middle-income citizens. The projected savings from eliminating their insurance premiums must be greater than any tax increase.

I also believe that we need to aggressively go after health care costs, which would lower the cost of single-payer. Two areas of focus for me would be healthier lifestyles as a form of preventative care, and more strictly regulating prescription drug prices in MD.

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, prescription drugs are part of my platform. I would like to learn more about the transparency rules for Pharmacy Benefit Managers and drug corporations. I think a commission should have the ability to reject or curtail proposed price increases, similar to the MD Insurance Commission or MD Public Service Commission.

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

Support **Oppose- X**

Comments: I think with Maryland’s rules and oversight we do it better than other states to ensure there are real standards in place for these schools. At the same time, I am concerned these schools are becoming a way for more affluent families, or those fortunate enough to win a lottery, to take their kids out of our public schools the majority of kids go to. I think the more of these we do, the more we undermine our public school system, since many of the kids who would have a positive influence on others, and parents who would be involved in that school, are now somewhere else.

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: I am strongly opposed, I just do not believe that public $$ should go to private schools in any way, shape, or form.

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

Yes **No- X (see my explanation for the nuance, I support it for most)**

Comments: I support making state colleges and universities tuition free for in-state students up to a certain income level, in the $75,000-$100,000 range. I do not think that it should be tuition free for wealthy families, I think after say $100,000 there is some cost but on a sliding scale. For example, a family with an income of $125,000 pays $5,000 a year, a family with $250,000 income pays $15,000 a year. Etc.

You might ask why this nuance, I just simply think we don’t have unlimited dollars to go around, and the question becomes what is more progressive, to put a few millions into tuition free college for upper-income families, or direct those millions to funding the $3 billion that’s needed to fully fund Maryland public schools K-12 where in some systems (Baltimore and Prince George’s for example) many kids futures are being shortchanged because of a lack of resources.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

**Yes- X** No

Comments:

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 love the framing of the question “to allow upper income residents to contribute more” ☺

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:

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 think we should compile a list of all the regulations the Trump admin is undoing that protected our environment, workers, public health, etc. to see if we can enact many or all of them at the state level to ensure Maryland residents still benefit from these protections.

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

**Yes**- X No

Comments:

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| --- | --- |
| 19. For the measures above that you have agreed to support would you be willing to: | |
|  | |
| * Co-sponsor legislation? * Work with our Policy and Legislative Director to help pass a bill? * Testify at a hearing in support of legislation? * Speak at public events in support of legislation? * Write a letter in support of legislation? * Write an op-ed in support of legislation? | YES\_\_X\_\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_\_\_X\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_\_X\_\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_\_\_X\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_\_X\_\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_\_X\_\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 20. Would you be willing to engage with Progressive Maryland members and their communities by: | |
|  |  |
| * Speaking at Progressive Maryland events? * Meeting with our membership annually to report on the progress of our shared priorities and answer questions from our members? * Writing a letter to unorganized workers endorsing an organizing drive by a labor union? | YES\_\_X\_\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_\_X\_\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_\_X\_\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_ |
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