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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:

Barnes

Candidate First Name:

Ben

Office Seeking:

Delegate

District:

21

Party:

Dem

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name:

FRIENDS OF BEN BARNES

Street Address:

4601 AMHERST ROAD

City:

COLLEGE PARK

Zip Code:

20740

Business Phone:

301-346-4711

Fax:

Campaign Website:

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone:

____ SEE ABOVE ____

Email Address:

Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name:

____ BURKE MILLER ____

Street Address:

____ SEE ABOVE ____

City:

Zip Code:

Phone:

Candidate History

Previous Elected Offices:

DELEGATE SINCE 2006

Which Years Did You Serve:

2006-PRESENT

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?

YES or NO

If Yes, when:

ALL MY ELECTIONS

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?

YES or NO

Describe:

Probably too many to name over last 12 years

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

Issue Questions

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

Yes No

Comments:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

To pay:

a. We should ^{repeal} the Estate tax
giveaway

b. We should close corporate
loopholes and pass combined reporting

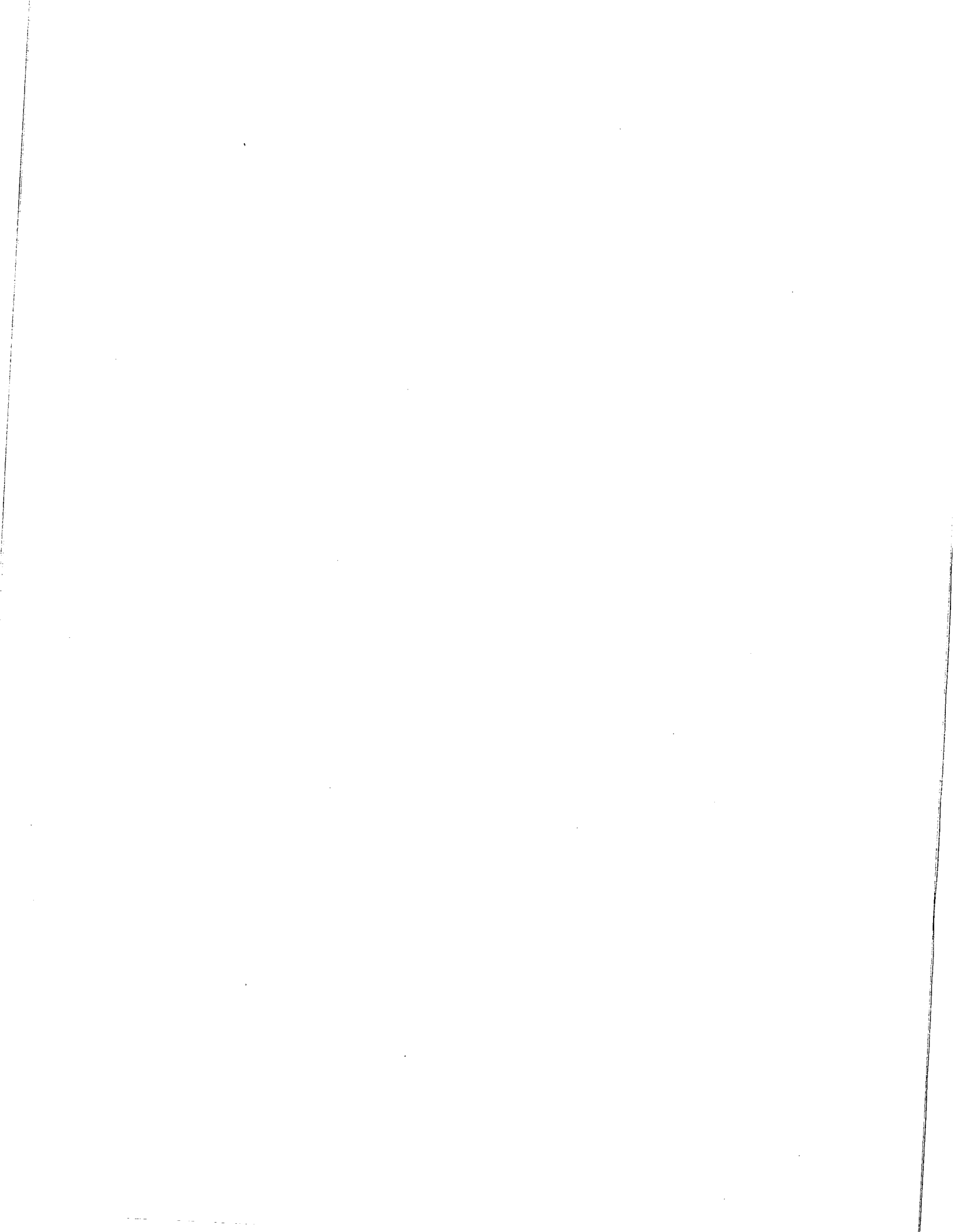
c. Raise alcohol tax

d. Consider raising income tax on high earners

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:



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

Support

Oppose

Comments: I only support charter schools if they are part of the public 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.

Support

Oppose x

Comments:

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

Yes X No

Comments:

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:

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:

We have done a lot and will continue to monitor.

For example – we passed bills giving the AG the ability to sue the Federal Government, back filling Public Television Funding and Planned Parenthood funding, among others, last year.

Already we have had discussions about possible way to back fill CHIPs if it is de-funded and I have pledged to de-couple our state from the estate tax give aways to multi-millionaires.

I remain committed to doing all this and anything else necessary as we try to contain the damage from Trump.

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

Yes

No X

Comments: ALREADY PROBABLY 70% OF THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS IS PROGRESSIVE. MORE AND MORE STORNG PROGRESSIVES, LIKE ME, ARE FINDING THEMSELVES IN LEADERSHIP. I EXPECT THAT AFTER THIS NEXT ELECTION OUR CAUCUS WILL BE EVEN MORE PORGRESSIVE AND SO I JUST THINK, ITS JUST NOT NECESSARY. WHEN 80% OF THE CAUCUS IF PROGRESSIVE, WELL, THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS IS THE PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

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