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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:

Washington

Candidate First Name:

Alonzo

Office Seeking:

Maryland House of Delegates

District:

District 22

Party:

Democrat

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name:

Friends for Alonzo T. Washington

Street Address:

PO Box 224

City:

Hyattsville

Zip Code:

20781

Business Phone:

240-394-9274

Fax:

N/A

Campaign Website:

www.AlonzoWashington.com

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone:

240-481-6374

Email Address:

Alonzo@AlonzoWashington.com

Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name:

Cierra Washington

Street Address:

P.O. Box 224

City:

Hyattsville

Zip Code:

20781

Phone:

240-394-9274

Candidate History
<p>Previous Elected Offices:</p> <p>Maryland House of Delegates</p> <p>Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee</p>

Which Years Did You Serve:

Maryland House of Delegates: 2012-Present

Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee: 2010-2014

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:

Voting to Raise the Minimum Wage, Voting to Provide Paid Sick Leave, Voting for HB1016 in 2016 to Institute Police Transparency and Accountability Measures, Opposing Governor Hogan's Cuts to Public Education Funding, Supporting the Democracy Amendment

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

Maryland Sierra Club

Maryland State Education Association

Issue Questions

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

Yes

No

Comments:

In the 2017 Legislative Session, I opposed legislation that would have preserved Maryland's cash-bail system, and I co-sponsored legislation that would have largely codified the Court of Appeals rule that instructs judges not to set bail that defendants can't afford.

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:

This year, I have co-sponsored legislation to implement a \$15 per hour minimum wage in Maryland by 2023. I also support an indexing provision.

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 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 No

Comments:

I will support legislation that has been introduced this year that requires an employer to provide the pay scale for a position to an applicant for the position upon request and prohibits an employer from requesting the wage history of a job applicant or using the applicant's wage history to determine a salary for the applicant. I believe these are important steps in achieving pay equity.

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:

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:

I support Maryland's current laws regarding abortion care.

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 pass single-payer health care in Maryland would require a broad coalition of legislators, residents, advocates, and members of the health care community. We could begin to pay for a single-payer system by closing corporate tax loopholes and updating our state income tax structure, but in the long-run, a single payer system will likely save money by decreasing administrative costs, eliminating excess costs, and allowing for negotiations for hospitals and pharmaceuticals.

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 No

Comments:

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

Support Oppose

Comments:

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 oppose school vouchers because we need to fully fund our public schools before we can begin to consider providing vouchers for private schools. As a member of the Kirwan Commission, I know firsthand how inadequately and inequitably our public schools are currently funded. Our efforts should be focused on fully funding these institutions.

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

Yes No

Comments:

As a first-generation college graduate from a low-income family, I know firsthand of the financial barriers students and families face to afford a college education. Since my appointment to the House of Delegates, one of my top priorities has been to make a college education more affordable and accessible by providing debt-free community college in Prince George's County. In 2016, I established the Prince George's Promise Scholarship Task Force that recommended that it is feasible to implement a "Promise Scholarship Program" at Prince George's Community College (PGCC) to send students to PGCC tuition free. This year, our Promise Scholarship Program was funded at \$1.7 million, and right now, we are sending 500 students to PGC for free. My goal is to expand this program to colleges in the entire state.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Yes 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 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

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:

In the 2017 Legislative Session, I was proud to support a number of measures to protect Maryland from the Administration in Washington. These included the Maryland Trust Act, the Maryland Defense Act, and legislation establishing the Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission. This year, we need to pass the Trust Act as well as comprehensive legislation to protect Marylanders from the 2017 federal tax overhaul and the decision on net neutrality.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

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