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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

Luke Clippinger

House of Delegates, 46th District, Democrat

Friends of Luke Clippinger

1448 Henry Street

Baltimore, MD 21230

410-989-3876

www.luke46.org, info@luke46.org

Treasurer: Melissa Evans

Candidate History

Previous Elected Offices:

House of Delegates

Which Years Did You Serve:

2010 - present

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?

YES or NO

If Yes, when:

2010 and 2014

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?

YES or NO

Describe:

I was the lead sponsor of the Earned Sick Leave bill for the last four years, which will provide the opportunity for 700,000 Marylanders to take the time they need to take care of themselves without worrying about their job.

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

Delegates Lierman and Lewis, Senator Ferguson

LCV

Sierra Club

CASA

I have received significant contributions from SEIU 1199, UFCW, the Laborers, and the Carpenters

Issue Questions

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

Yes No

Comments:

I support the Attorney General's position that judges should pick the least onerous option to ensure that criminal defendants appear in Court. I supported his position openly in the Legislature, and in my public comments. The effect of his policy statement has been significant, with Marylanders charged with non-violent offenses less likely to be held on bails they can not pay.

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:

I support an indexing provision. I believe the length of time in Delegate Hettleman's legislation is appropriate.

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:

I'm generally inclined to support an expansion of public financing in elections. I'd like to learn more about the public financing systems in those counties, and see how those systems operate in this election cycle.

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, to the first part. No

Comments: I would support increased protections for workers related to scheduling practices. I would like to learn more about how the specific proposal above would work in practice before I support or oppose it.

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 No

Comments:

One example is legislation I am co-sponsoring this Session in the General Assembly would prohibit asking for a job applicant's prior salaries in a job interview. Asking for job salaries from previous jobs results in employers generally giving lower salaries for women because, historically, women have been paid less than men in equivalent positions. I also support anti-discrimination legislation and paid family leave.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that studies have shown women around the country have benefited from Earned Sick Leave policies at a higher rate than men - and I am proud to have led the fight for that legislation for the last four years here in Maryland.

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

Comments:

I have received the support of NARAL in previous elections because I support the right of women to make decisions related to their reproductive health. I support abortion rights consistent with the rights established in the Maryland Constitution, and I support existing Maryland law related to access to abortions by younger Marylanders and low-income Marylanders.

However, there are circumstances where the State may place restrictions on a patient seeking an abortion. For example, I would not support abortion to select the gender of the child. I would also not support abortion to abort a child with a physical deformity, unless the deformity threatens the life and health of the mother. I recognize that these are not the examples to which you were referring, however, I wanted to answer the question as it was posed.

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, in principle No

Comments:

Maryland has an all-payer medical system, which has saved the State millions of dollars. I support single payer health care in principle as it would save even more money, but I do not have a plan 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 X No

Comments:

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

Support X Oppose

Comments: I support the existing charter schools that exist in my district. I do not support changes to the existing charter school law, and I particularly do not support changes to the requirements that teachers at charter schools must be part of the collective bargaining agreement in the school district where they are located. Charter schools should be held to the same standards and requirements of a public school, and I would oppose efforts that seek to change that.

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: Vouchers take money away from public education. The current voucher system also supports some schools that discriminate against LGBT Marylanders.

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

Yes No

Comments: My instinct is to support free tuition for all in-state students, however, I'd like to consider this issue more. There are some people who argue that eliminating tuition for all students would benefit upper and middle class families without helping more qualified low-income students attend college. There are others that would argue that greater access to vocational and skills training, including more access to paid apprenticeships, would be more effective in raising opportunities for all Marylanders.

I also know one underlying reason for free in-state tuition is that too many Marylanders leave college with too much debt. I'd consider a state fund to help Marylanders consolidate student debt at lower interest rates, and other ways to lower the need for student loans for Maryland students.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Yes X No

Comments: I co-sponsored it in 2017, and am co-sponsoring it in 2018.

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: Mitigating the damage being done by the Republicans and President Trump must be a top priority. I supported the legislature's decision to give the Attorney General the autonomy to sue the Trump Administration last session and will continue advocating and voting for the AG's office to receive the

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

