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## 2018 Questionnaire for County Council Montgomery County

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](http://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](mailto:Jennifer@progressivemaryland.org) no later than **5 P.M. on Friday, January 19, 2018**. Your responses will be available to the public at [www.ProgressiveMaryland.org](http://www.ProgressiveMaryland.org)

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### Candidate Information

Nancy Navarro

Montgomery County Council, District 4

Democrat

### Campaign Contact Information

Nancy Navarro for Montgomery County

PO Box 10998

Silver Spring, MD

20904

Business Phone:

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[nancynavarro.org](http://nancynavarro.org)

### Candidate Contact Information

202-528-7071

[info@nancynavarro.org](mailto:info@nancynavarro.org)

### Treasurer Contact Information

Alejandro Mendoza

Street Address:

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City:

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Zip Code:

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Phone:

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<b>Candidate History</b>	
Previous Elected Offices: 2004- Appointed to the Montgomery County Board of Education 2006- Elected to the Montgomery County Board of Education 2009- Elected to the Montgomery County Council 2010- Re-elected to the Montgomery County Council 2014- Re-elected to the Montgomery County Council	
Which Years Did You Serve:	
Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?	Yes X
If Yes, when:	

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?	YES: X or NO_____
Describe: Minimum Wage Public Camoaign Finance Safe and Sick Leave	
Major Endorsements (Elected Officials/Organizations/Opinion Leaders): Ike Leggett Peter Franchot  Others are being sought	

## Issue Questions

1. As the Kirwan Commission makes its recommendation on school funding, how will you support additional school funding to address the unmet needs in the county?

Comments: I am awaiting the Commission's report, and look forward to help advocate for additional school funding. This is particularly important to Montgomery County's school system, since we continue to experience tremendous growth in student enrollment. Many of these students are affected by poverty and also need wrap-around services in order to support their socio-educational success. The most important aspect is to honor funding the adopted formulas.

2. Overcrowding in public schools in Montgomery County continues to be an issue. What are your plans to address that issue, especially considering increasing budgetary shortfalls?

Comments:

**A comprehensive approach is necessary. Flexible school construction design, modified Revitalization /Expansion (Rev-ex) schedules, and boundary studies will all have to be implemented.**

3. What is your plan to close the performance gap in Montgomery County schools?

Comments:

**Here are some of the areas I have worked on:**

- 1) Investment in a quality and comprehensive Early Care and Education continuum**
- 2) Establishment of a dedicated funding stream for Early Care and Education and youth initiatives**
- 3) Increasing a Culturally and linguistically Diverse workforce**
- 4) Increasing Culturally proficient staff development and classroom practices**
- 5) Lowering class sizes (I voted for a property tax increase last year, precisely to lower class sizes)**
- 6) Promote a Culturally relevant curriculum**
- 7) Promote Authentic Parental engagement**
- 8) Establish Community Schools**
- 9) Support 21st Century Vocational/Technical programs**
- 10) Propose Dual language programs**

- 11) Fund Additional Pupil Personnel workers, Parent Community Coordinators, Counselors
- 12) Support Positive Discipline practices
- 13) Support Differentiated Instruction
- 14) Propose and secure investments in out-of-school programs and initiatives that are collaborative and multi-agency focused- I have spearheaded various efforts to promote this: Kennedy Cluster Project, Latino Civic Project, Children Opportunity Fund, Coding as a second Language, BELL program)
- 15) Propose and secure investments in internship and Job opportunities for disengaged youth
- 16) Propose and secure investments in Positive Youth Opportunities, including gang prevention and intervention

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

Support

**Oppose:** I believe that Montgomery County Public Schools is a high functioning system, that can seek innovative practices in order to continue to improve.

Comments:

5. 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 believe that MCPS is a high functioning school system**

6. Will you support making community college free for all county residents?

Yes: X                      No

Comments: just have to identify how to pay for it

7. Will you commit to vote for full funding of Montgomery County's optional public campaign financing system?

Yes: X                      No

**Comments: I have already done so. I chair the committee that adopted the Bill to create the program. I was the author of the amendment that included a citizen's committee charged with**

recommending the funding levels for the fund. I also, moved the inclusion of above the the The Executive included in his budget request. It is critical to have the appropriate funding level in order for the program to succeed.

The GO/FP Committee recommended and secured the following funding above what the Executive included in his budget request:

FY 16- \$1 Million

FY17- \$5 Millio

FY18- \$1 Million

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\$7 Million

Executive- \$4 Million

Total: \$11 Million

8. Are you using Montgomery County's new public financing option? Have you qualified? If not, how close are you and when do you expect to qualify? If you are not using the public option, why not and what are your funding sources?

Yes: X                      No

Comments: I have qualified

9. In August, the Attorney General's office notified Delegate Marc Korman that counties can legally implement a public-financing option for candidates to statewide elected office. Do you support a statewide public financing program?

Yes: X                      No

Comments:

10. What would you do to create more affordable housing options for Montgomery County residents?

**Comments:**

- 1) Fund the HIF**
- 2) Incentivize developers to build affordable units (MPDUs)**
- 3) Use public land for affordable/workforce housing**
- 4) Co-locate housing with public facilities**
- 5) Accessory apartments**



11. What will you do to relieve road congestion and improve transit options?

Comments:

- 1) Continue to Support the Purple Line
- 2) Continue to support BRT
- 3) Continue to support CCT
- 4) Continue to support bike paths, bikeways, and bike share

12. How will you ensure that future housing and transportation projects ensure that poor or minority neighborhoods will not be forced to bear the burden of making way for new development?

Comments:

**We have been mindful of preserving market affordable housing through zoning decisions. The active engagement of residents affected by redevelopment and revitalization projects is key.**

13. How will you help Montgomery County become cleaner and increasingly carbon-free?

Comments:

**1) Continue to support our robust environmental policy portfolio**

14. What would you do to enhance economic stability and wealth for Montgomery County residents?

Comments:

**Important steps I have spearheaded and/or actively supported:**

**1) My number one agenda priority has been to bring jobs and amenities to my District. I have focused on making the following a reality: White Oak Science Gateway project, Wheaton Revitalization Project, Wheaton library/Recreation Center project, Glenmont Enterprise zone, re-zoning designation. Worksource Montgomery**

**2) I believe that our Master Plans are an important vehicle for Economic Development and Job creation**

**3) Economic Development Corporation: I made sure that the corporation included a position especially dedicated to mentoring and supporting minority-owned businesses.**

**4) Worksource Montgomery: I am currently working with them to launch an apprenticeship program that matches youth with local industry needs.**

**5) Minimum wage increase: I have been an original co-sponsor for both efforts.**

**6) Micro-lending program**

**7) Small Business Impact Assistance Program: I introduced a Bill to create this program, which provides funding and technical assistance**

**Additional efforts:**

**Bill 13-14 - Contracts and Procurement - Formal Solicitation - Local Preference**

- **The Bill requires the County to award a bid to a County-based bidder when there is a tie bid between a County-based bidder and a non-County-based bidder.**
- **If a contract is awarded based on price alone, the County must award the contract to the County-based bidder when there is a tie bid between a County-based and non-County-based bidder.**
- **This Bill will make sure our County businesses have a small, but significant advantage when it comes to County Procurement**
- **Awarding County-owned businesses more contracts will keep taxpayer dollars in the County and help stimulate our local economy**
- **[https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllims/bill\\_details.aspx?doc=899&hl=1163](https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllims/bill_details.aspx?doc=899&hl=1163)**

**Bill 48-14, Purchases from Minority Owned Businesses - Procedures - Request for Proposals**

- The County Council on April 14 unanimously approved Bill 48-14 that will assist firms owned by minorities, females and disabled persons to become a prime contractor with the County for certain types of contracts. The bill allows creation of an evaluation factor that gives additional points to those firms when the County is evaluating certain proposals for contracts
- [https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllms/bill\\_details.aspx?doc=933&hl=1379](https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllms/bill_details.aspx?doc=933&hl=1379)

#### Creation of Office of Procurement:

- In March 2015, the Council unanimously approved Expedited Bill 7-15, which was proposed by the County Executive, to create a standalone Office of Procurement within the Executive Branch
- [https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllms/bill\\_details.aspx?doc=955&hl=1510](https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllms/bill_details.aspx?doc=955&hl=1510)

#### Creation of the Procurement Policies and Regulations Task Force and the Minority Owned and Small Business Task Force:

- In September 2015, I recommended creating these two Task Forces, working in parallel tracks to review the County's procurement and social policy programs, including the MFD and Local Small Business Reserve Programs.
- <http://www.councilmembernavarro.com/2015/10/13/improving-the-procurement-process/>
- [http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2015/151013/20151013\\_G02-3.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2015/151013/20151013_G02-3.pdf)

#### Bill 49-16 - Economic Development - Workforce Development - Microlending Program

- I was one of the Lead Sponsors to create a County microloan program that would provide loans from \$500 to \$15,000 for County residents needing additional help to start small businesses
- During FY18 Operating Budget deliberations, the Council included
- [http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press\\_Detail.aspx?Item\\_ID=20984](http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=20984)

#### Bill 8-17, Business Solutions Group, Established

- Bill 8-17 created a “Business Solutions Group” to assist, inform and advocate on behalf of businesses, including helping them interact with County Government.
- During FY18 Operating Budget deliberations, the Council included \$240,000 to fund the Business Solutions Group
- [http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2017/20170502\\_8-17A.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2017/20170502_8-17A.pdf)

- [http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press\\_Detail.aspx?Item\\_ID=21031](http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=21031)

### Small and Minority Business Development

- Proposed to MCEDC the creation of a bilingual position to serve as a liaison, and offer information, counseling, and research opportunities, all free of charge to County entrepreneurs.
- The Director works closely with the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to ensure that local entrepreneurs and small business owners, in a culturally and linguistically competent manner, with starting or growing a business in Montgomery County
- <https://thinkmoco.com/mcedc-team-bios#daniel>

### Bill 37-17, Local Small Business Reserve Program - Eligibility - Amendments

- Sponsored by Lead Sponsor Council President at the request of the County Executive, was introduced on November 14, 2017. A Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee worksession will be scheduled at a later date.
- Bill 37-17 would increase the aggregate dollar amount of County contracts awarded to a business before the business is no longer eligible for a procurement under the Local Small Business Reserve Program.
- [https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/resources/files/lims/bill/2017/Publichearing/pdf/3527\\_1463\\_Publichearing\\_12012017.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/resources/files/lims/bill/2017/Publichearing/pdf/3527_1463_Publichearing_12012017.pdf)



15. Will you work to create a higher density of union jobs in Montgomery County? If so, how would you accomplish this?

Yes X

No

Comments:

16. What are your plans for implementing police reform and accountability?

**Comments: We have taken important steps like Police worn cameras, additional community police liaisons, and efforts to diversify the police workforce.**

17. How do you plan to ensure the implementation of Civilian Review Boards for police misconduct?

Comments:

18. What are your plans, if any, to end cannabis prohibition? What are your plans to change cannabis policy in Montgomery County?

**Comments: I introduced a resolution in support of decriminalizing marijuana and have supported the state level efforts towards that end.**

19. The County Executive has announced a budget shortfall of about \$120 million and has asked departments to cut 2% of their budgets in response. What cuts would you make to the budget? How would you change the county's budget process to make it more progressive?

Comments:

We will begin our committee deliberations shortly, so I can't say exactly what I will do. I am concerned about the HHS cuts, and will be looking closely at MCPS's cuts.

20. How do you intend to protect and support the undocumented community beyond what is currently being done? What would you do if the administration refuses to renew DACA and TPS?

Comments:

As the first Latina to be elected to the County Council and the only immigrant to have ever served on this body, I have an unique perspective on these issues. I happen to represent an area of the County with the highest Latino population, and provide constituent services to Spanish speaking residents who reside throughout the County. Our office understands the tremendous negative impact this decision will have on our County. I also have the dubious honor of being the target of intense anti-immigrant attacks by right-wing, white supremacist groups.

As Chair of the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee, I have achieved important structural changes to the way the Council communicates with under-represented communities. At my urging, we hired a bilingual Public Information Officer, launched a Spanish language Radio show, and provide interpretation services during our public hearings. If a resident wants to testify in a language other than English, we provide English subtitles on the monitors in the hearing room.

In addition, I launched 'The Latino Civic Project' in my District. I have hired an organizer who created a Civic Education curriculum that is taught in my District's Title 1 schools , Holiday Park Senior Center, and apartment complexes.

Also, I urged my colleagues to join me in requesting an County Government "Critical Response Action Plan" in case deportation raids would to occur in the County, plus the establishment of a Legal assistance fund. This fund is housed in the Montgomery County Community Foundation.

I have introduced the following resolutions throughout my tenure on the County Council:

**Resolution 17-108 on promoting community safety and trust among residents and the County's law enforcement agencies. <http://tinyurl.com/z29lade> (secure communities)**

**Resolution 18-673 on reaffirming community safety and trust and denouncing anti-immigrant activity, racial bias and discrimination, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, hate speech, hate crimes and harassment in Montgomery County. <http://tinyurl.com/gm5h2wp>**

**Resolution 18-991 in support of extending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for all nations currently included in the program, and establishing a pathway to permanent residency for TPS and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. <https://tinyurl.com/ybqzsluy>**

I have mentored DREAMERS who have become national advocates, helped secure the release of a family that sparked a movement "JSA" in the County, as a matter of fact, Jorge Steven Acuña, just graduated with an Engineering degree from University of Maryland.

I say all this because it is pivotal to strengthen the Civic Education base of the immigrant community. This community must be empowered to advocate for themselves and those who can need to exercise their civic duty. Unless this community begins to turn out as a block, they will continue to be used as scapegoats and fodder for fear-mongering.

I don't know what we will do if DACA and TPS is eliminated, but I do know that it will have a significant human and economic impact on our County.

21. What is your plan to implement greater protections for women and children?

Comments:

**Sick and Safe Leave:**

- **As one of the lead-sponsors for Bill 60-14, I worked to pass the strongest Sick and Safe Leave law in the nation. Making sure workers have the ability to take time off for an illness, to care for a sick child, or to handle a domestic issue should be a basic right**

22. Which progressive groups or organizations are you a part of, have worked with, or supported?

Comments:

Some are:

MCEA

MCGEO

SEIU 500

LIUNA

SEIU 32BJ

CASA de Maryland

Identity

Working Families

Common Cause

AFLCIO

JUFJ

AIM

Women's Alliance for Democracy and Justice

One Montgomery Green

Purple Line Now

Sierra Club

350 MoCo

23. Will you support ending the money-based bail system in Maryland?

Yes: X

No

Comments:



24. 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\_\_\_\_\_
- Speak at public events in support of legislation? YES\_\_\_\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_
- Write an op-ed in support of legislation? YES\_\_\_\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_

25. 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\_\_\_\_\_