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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

Candidate Last Name:

Hucker

Candidate First Name:

Tom

Office Seeking:

Montgomery County Council

District:

5

Party:

Democratic

### **Campaign Contact Information**

Committee Name:

Friends of Tom Hucker

Street Address:

10 Stockton Road

City:

Silver Spring

Zip Code:

20901

Business Phone:

240-481-4825

Fax:

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Campaign Website:

tomhucker.com

### **Candidate Contact Information**

Cell Phone:

240-481-4825

Email Address:

Tom@TomHucker.com

### **Treasurer Contact Information**

Treasurer Name:

Dennis Desmond

Street Address:

238 Park Ave.

City:

Takoma Park

Zip Code:

20912

Phone:

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<b>Candidate History</b>
Previous Elected Offices: State Delegate, 2007-2014 County Council, 2014-present

Which Years Did You Serve:

State Delegate, 2007-2014

County Council, 2014-present

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?

YES  or NO

If Yes, when:

I took a leave of absence as Executive Director of Progressive Maryland to run for state delegate in 2006. Progressive Maryland endorsed me in that race, as well as for re-election in 2010, and election to the County Council in 2014.

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?

YES  or NO

Describe:

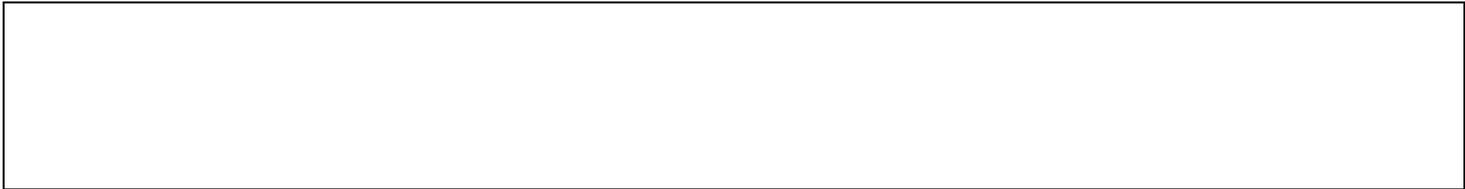
Yes. In 1999, I served as Executive Director of Progressive Montgomery until spearheading the merging of it, Citizen Agenda and Maryland Citizen Action to form Progressive Maryland. I was Executive Director of Progressive Maryland from then until 2006, when I took a leave of absence to run for state delegate.

For many years since I have assisted Progressive Maryland with many activities both as a lawmaker and board member.

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

U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen; Reps. Jamie Raskin and John Sarbanes; Comptroller Peter Franchot, former Democratic Party Chairwoman Karen Britto; Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart; District 14 Sen. Craig Zucker and Dels. Eric Luedtke and Anne Kaiser; District 18 Sen. Rich Madaleno and Dels. Al Carr and Jeff Waldstreicher; District 19 Sen. Roger Manno and Dels. Ben Kramer, Bonnie Cullison and Marice Morales; District 20 Sen. Will Smith and Dels. David Moon and Jheanelle Wilkins.

Teamsters Joint Council 92, Teamsters Local 730, CHOICE (the Washington-Baltimore Building Trades Unions)



## 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:

In 2016, I proudly voted to raise property taxes to fund the County's "education first" budget, which exceeded the Board of Education's request by \$24 million and shrank class size for the first time in nine years. I am committed to continuing to vote for future budgets that prioritize our school system.

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:

I proudly voted to increase the transfer and recordation tax to provide an additional \$170 million in school construction funding over the next six years. I also support MCPS's efforts to better prioritize resources by renovating and expanding schools based on building conditions and school capacity rather than just the age of the school.

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

Comments:

Fighting the performance gap in Montgomery County will require attention to our lowest-performing students. The achievement differential looks to raise the minimum standards for our students while still enabling the top performers to thrive. Working to bring these two goals together requires a combined effort from MCPS, parents, the County Council and the Board of Education. Investing in resources aimed at individual student growth is the key to continuing Montgomery County's standard of school excellence.

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

Support

**Oppose**

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**

Comments:

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

**Yes**

No

Comments

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

**Yes**

No

Comments:

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

**Not at this time**

Comments: Because I do not have a filed opponent, I am not eligible for public matching funds at this time.

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**

No

Comments:

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

Comments:

Continue to increase the 12.5% requirement for moderately priced dwelling units in affluent areas and support public-private partnerships that provide more affordable housing on public land.

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

Comments:

I firmly believe in an ongoing and dedicated budget to public transportation. Working with our partners at MDOT, MCDOT and WMATA, we can alleviate the strain placed on our roads and highways. Starting when I was running Progressive Maryland and then continuing as a board member of Purple Line Now! and the Chair of the House Purple Line Caucus, I have been consistently in support of the Purple Line as a means to move thousands of Montgomery County residents as well as take more cars off the road.

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:

Fighting for Montgomery County's working families has been my priority since being elected to the Council. Low-income and minority neighborhoods will need to be protected by zoning and development regulations. Equally important, by continuing to invest in affordable housing and our inclusionary zoning, we can ensure that more poor families have a variety of places to live throughout the county, thereby deconcentrating poverty.

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

Comments:

I was a leader in the effort to set our ambitious new carbon-reduction goals. I will soon introduce legislation to lift the restriction on community solar projects in the county and to make it easier for commercial property owners to install solar arrays on their property. This will reduce both residential and commercial dependence on carbon-based energy sources. I'll also continue to push to close the Dickerson incinerator, to dedicate a portion of the energy tax to green retrofits, and to accelerate the County's own adoption of solar and geothermal energy.

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

Comments:

Promoting wealth and economic stability occurs when businesses are properly taking care of their employees. The Council's recent vote to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour is a huge win for Montgomery County's working families. Additionally, I have been working with unions and trade associations to include Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) in county contracts to ensure laborers and workers are fairly compensated for their time.

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

**Yes**

**No**

Comments: By supporting union organizing drives. Just today I met with the General Manager of a local utility to win a commitment to a card check election for a local union.

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

Comments:

I was a leading proponent of the police body camera program and I voted to include funding in the budget to fully equip all 900 field/patrol officers in the County. I plan to continue to monitor this program to ensure that police are using the latest technology and following national best practices. I also support expanding the program to police secondary employment.

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

Comments:

State law limits the County's ability to create a Civilian Review Board and it requires the County to collectively bargain any civilian addition to a police disciplinary hearing board.

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

Comments:

The County does not have the authority to end cannabis prohibition, but when in the General Assembly I supported the decriminalization of marijuana and both laws that legalized medical marijuana. And I support the Police Department's relaxed enforcement of marijuana laws.

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 just voted to cut \$93 million in unspent funds from the FY18 budget. We rejected some of the County Exec's proposed cuts to critical services like firefighters and paramedics.

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:

My colleagues and I have all been very vocal to ensure that our residents know that in Montgomery County, everyone is welcome and everyone is safe. Our police very much believe in community policing, and know they cannot do their job if residents do not trust the police. They do not cooperate with ICE and do not ask about immigration status at traffic stops or other interactions with residents. Our county service providers are open to everyone regardless of immigration status. I support legal action to protect DACA and TPS.

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

Comments:

As a state lawmaker, I passed the Pregnant Worker Protection Act, the Civil Rights Tax Relief Act, and two wage theft laws. As a member of the County Council, I have ensured workers can use paid sick leave when they become new parents, including adoptive and same-sex parents, through common-sense expansion of County's existing paid sick and safe leave law.

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

Comments:

Besides founding and directing Progressive Maryland, I have worked closely for decades with progressive organizations to drive reforms in the state and the county. Besides local unions, some of the many groups I've worked closely with include Progressive Maryland, NAACP, Food and Water Watch, Equality Maryland, Clean Water Action, Sierra Club, 350.org, Takoma Park Mobilization, League of Conservation Voters, Maryland Nurses Association, Humane Society, ACLU, Metro Washington Employment Lawyers Association, LOKA, CAPAD, Latino Democratic Club, Women's Democratic Club and CASA.

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

**Yes**

No

Comments:

24. For the measures above that you have agreed to support would you be willing to:

- Co-sponsor legislation? YES\_X\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_
- Work with our Policy and Legislative Director to help pass a bill? YES\_X\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_
- Speak at public events in support of legislation? YES\_X\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_
- Write an op-ed in support of legislation? YES\_X\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_

25. Would you be willing to engage with Progressive Maryland members and their communities by:

- Speaking at Progressive Maryland events? YES\_X\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_
- Meeting with our membership annually to report on the progress of our shared priorities and answer questions from our members? YES\_X\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_
- Writing a letter to unorganized workers endorsing an organizing drive by a labor union? YES\_X\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_