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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

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 19, 2018**. Your responses will be available to the public at www.ProgressiveMaryland.org

Candidate Information

Candidate Last Name: Brooks

Candidate First Name: Brandy

Office Seeking: Montgomery County Council

District: At-Large

Party: Democrat

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name: Brandy Brooks Power Posse

Street Address: P. O. Box 1976

City: Silver Spring

Zip Code: 20915-1976

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Campaign Website: www.brandy4montgomery.com

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone: 301-887-3693

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Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name: Carol McSween-Brooks

Street Address: 1604 Constance Street

City: Silver Spring

Zip Code: 20902

Phone: 240-621-0510

Candidate History

Previous Elected Offices: I have not held elected office. I held an appointed position as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals in Somerville, MA.

Which Years Did You Serve: 2013-14

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?

YES _____ or NO _____

If Yes, when: N/A

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?

YES _____ or NO _____

Describe:

I have been a member leader with Progressive Maryland since October 2016. I have been conducting and organizing training for Progressive Maryland members since January 2017, and in July 2017 I became the Leadership Development Organizer for Progressive Maryland.

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

Metro DC Democratic Socialists of America

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 hope that the Kirwan Commission will provide not only information about the educational needs we must meet in order to develop a world-class school system, but also suggestions for state and local funding strategies that will allow us to achieve these goals. As the needs of our students and MCPS staff evolve, our budgetary approach must also evolve. I believe this means not just allocating more money to the schools, but also re-prioritizing the budget to ensure our the most critical needs for our school system take precedence. I commit to working not only with school board members, but also with students, parents, teachers and administrators in a participatory process that allows us to assess the impacts of the Commission's recommendations and determine how to innovatively and equitably fund our school system going forward.

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:

Overcrowding is often one of the unforeseen (or unheeded) impacts of unchecked development without proper planning for infrastructure. We need to review data to see which localized growth trends are creating overcrowded schools. Analyzing the impacts of unbalanced and inequitable development proposals to build new higher density projects is key to proactively address school overcrowding. Shifts in urban to suburban migration - such as the displacement of working-class families from nearby high cost-of-living cities - also have a direct impact on residential growth, which adds students to schools.

Two preventative measures to consider are: 1) appropriate school expansion and new school construction that keeps pace with the projected geographic increase student enrollment; 2) reinstate, enforce and implement Adequate Public Facility Ordinances (APFOs) in Montgomery County. Strategically localized APFOs prohibit the issuance of a building permit if the new construction would cause the local schools to exceed a capacity threshold. Similarly APFOs can also be applied to address road/traffic congestions, infrastructure capacity and under-resourced emergency services.

In the past, smart growth advocates [condemned APFOs](#) for limiting dense development. But in the last decade, we've seen that when APFOs aren't used in the county, development creates school overcrowding - especially for diverse-income communities. According to the [2017 APFO Workgroup report](#) from the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission:

In CY2014, Montgomery County did not report any school districts to be in moratorium, over 120% of the State Rated Capacity. However, nineteen schools are reported to be within the 105% - 120% School Facility Payment range restriction. In CY 2015, Montgomery County reported that no school districts were in moratorium; however, twenty-four schools are within the 105% - 120% School Facility Payment restriction.

We must return to coordinating and balancing residential growth and development with the creation of the transportation, education, and other public service infrastructure that ensures a good quality of life for residents of these communities. Our priority in authorizing new development has to be public benefit, not private profit.

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

Comments:

When it comes to educating our young people, we must move beyond creating good test-takers or emphasizing a single type of educational pathway. Instead we must prepare them with the learning, relationship-building and civic skills that will be necessary for them to tackle the most pressing issues of the 21st society. We urgently need young leaders who are able to address the environmental, social and economic crises of today and build new systems that support a diverse, just and healthy society for tomorrow.

Intersectional and experiential programs that allow students to use and apply their critical thinking skills can truly transform our educational system. We can support our students in exploring and honing the diverse range of skills and talents they possess that are part of building a better society: artistic, technical, physical, cultural and interpersonal learning and development as well as more conventional studies. Ultimately, this approach to education changes what we even understand to be the “performance gap” - instead of valuing only one way of knowing and being in the world, we can actually recognize and foster all of the gifts our young people possess and will need to deal with the challenges of the future.

Lastly, If we are serious about addressing educational equity in our county, our approach to education has to support the wellbeing of not only individual children but also their families and communities. And it can't be an deficit-based approach, focused on “fixing” communities that have been marginalized and underserved. It has to be about supporting the health and development of all our community members as family members, community and civic leaders, workers and entrepreneurs, and lifelong learners.

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

Comments:

In general, I do not believe that charter schools are the best solution to achieve an equitable, high-quality education for all students in Montgomery County. While charter schools can be useful laboratories for educational innovation, they must remain community-based and publicly controlled to actually ensure they are serving our students and families. Charter schools cannot be used as a wedge to privatize our educational system, remove worker protections for teachers and staff, eliminate community accountability, or siphon off the resources in ways that diminish educational quality for other students. We must particularly be aware of the way that charter schools have been promoted to communities of color and low-income communities as a solution to our collective failure to adequately serve their young people - while in reality, charter schools in many of these areas have been used to further racialize and segregate our education system and decrease the ability of parents and community members to control the schools in their neighborhoods.

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. **Oppose**

Comments:

I believe that public money for education needs to be dedicated to providing a high-quality *public* education for every student in our county (and state). Parents should not feel forced to seek private schooling because their child's educational needs are not adequately being met in the public school system. I include in the definition of a student's educational needs not only the ability to successfully gain knowledge, but also a safe, healthy and respectful school environment that supports learners with a wide variety of talents, socioeconomic backgrounds, and cognitive or physical abilities.

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

Comments:

I want to see Montgomery County follow the example of Garrett County and make Montgomery College free for residents. We must also continue working to defend and expand state and federal funding for higher education: from reducing tuition and increasing aid for the UMD system and other public colleges in Maryland to protecting Pell grants and public service loan forgiveness at the federal level. This is one of the many reasons why our 2018 electoral goals as a progressive movement must include winning seats at the local, state and federal level - our people need to be in the seats of power in order to protect our interests around higher education policy and funding.

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

Comments:

The Public Election Fund was a critical factor in my being able to run for office this year. As someone who has benefited from this system, it would be my duty as a public official to ensure that benefit remains available to future candidates. I intend to work to improve how the system functions for candidates, based on my experience as a public financing campaign; we need to make certain that the PEF doesn't create new barriers for prospective candidates through a difficult and confusing filing process. I also commit to providing support and mentorship for candidates of color, women candidates, and young candidates who share my progressive values and are interested in running. Access to networks and advising is as important as access to fundraising, so that the PEF is not merely a symbolic gesture, but actually results in more diverse candidates winning office.

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**

Comments:

As noted above, I am a public financing candidate. We are 86% of the way to the Montgomery County donor threshold and 49% of the way to the fundraising threshold. We have raised nearly \$20,000 overall, including strong support from donors in other parts of the state and other parts of the country who want to support a progressive black woman for elected office. We anticipate reaching the donor threshold by early February, and we plan to reach the fundraising threshold by the end of March.

We are particularly proud of our average contribution amount - \$36 - and our average total contribution per donor - \$45. In contrast, the lowest average contribution amount for other candidates who have filed is \$56, and the lowest average per donor is more than \$60. Many of our contributions have come from outreach in

places like the Crossroads Farmers Market - located in the Langley Park area, with a strong Latino population and a market clientele that makes heavy use of nutrition incentives for their farmers market purchases. Some of those donors could only give \$5 - but they still felt that supporting our grassroots, people-powered campaign was a good investment of their hard earned money. Overall, 75% of our donors have given \$50 or less. We are building a truly democratic political movement by connecting with working people and families who want to see a candidate like them fighting for their interests as an elected official.

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**

Comments:

As the public financing system for county council and county executive has gotten underway in Montgomery County, many state level candidates quickly noted the benefits such a system would hold for them. We need to expand fair elections to state as well as other county offices. The same issues with representation that we have on the county council are replicated within our county's delegation to the General Assembly.

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

Comments:

We are facing a deep crisis when it comes to safe, affordable housing in Montgomery County. We are not producing enough housing that is affordable to all income levels. We are not sufficiently preserving existing affordable housing. And we are not ensuring that landlords respect the rights of tenants to have safe and livable homes. It is unacceptable for public officials to act as if they are resigned to this crisis for the foreseeable future. We must commit to enforcing and strengthening tenants' rights and to drawing on the full range of creative solutions used by cities and counties around the county to address housing affordability.

I want to increase in the percentage of affordable housing required by the MPDU program, as well as extend the affordability periods for both rental and sale units. I want to protect existing affordable housing units through rent stabilization, preventing rent hikes on existing tenants as a neighborhood's amenities improve. And I want to prioritize infill mid-rise residential and commercial development over high-rise development, with better incentives and support for infill and mid-rise developers who commit to deep levels of affordability in their developments. We need to empower more people to participate in building out the residential and commercial space we need for low and moderate income residents and for small businesses. Relying primarily on large developers and large projects is creating unsustainable and unmanageable impacts on our community infrastructure (from roads to schools) - yet still not producing the number of units we need to address the housing crisis in our community, nor creating spaces that help the many small businesses in our community to remain, thrive, and grow.

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

Comments:

We have huge race, class, and geographic inequities when it comes to transportation access in Montgomery County. We need a fully multi-modal transportation network that reaches east, west, and up-county. Roads, light rail and heavy rail are all critical parts of the transit network. But strong bus systems, bike paths and

walking paths also make up our public transit infrastructure, and we need to make sure that all of our transit modes are designed to operate efficiently. De-prioritizing the regular bus systems (not just BRT) that serve our county exacerbates racism and classism in our communities.

We must ensure that our local transportation system in all its modes reaches as deep into the county as possible and that each mode gets users efficiently to where they need to go. This allows us to maximize the number of both existing and new communities that can rely on public transit for a larger share of their transportation needs. I want our planning and development policy to prioritize developments that include support for and connections to transit infrastructure - whether that means building in safe walking and bike paths to buses and trains, building roads with dedicated bus lanes and good bus shelters, or building new light rail and BRT stations as part of a development. Developers benefit from our transit infrastructure in the money they make from their projects, so they need to be investing in the public goods that those projects rely on for their appeal and profitability.

Last, but by no means least, we must protect and fully fund our regional public transit system so that it is safe, affordable, and accessible for all users. WMATA must have a dedicated funding stream so that it can maintain and operate a safe and effective transit system that is central to our regional economy and quality of life.

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:

I noted in question #10 some of the strategies I want to use to ensure that we have affordable residential and commercial space in the county. But to make sure that these strategies have the necessary impact, we must prioritize the construction and preservation of affordable housing and commercial space in **all** of our land use planning. That means directing incentives toward both middle-income and low-income affordable development projects, not hoping that we'll produce enough affordable units by having them tacked onto luxury development. And that means seeking out the best policy innovations from around the country that have been used to protect the affordability of existing neighborhoods when new development is imminent, such as the use of community-based land trusts to give communities more control over land use decisions.

The same way that we now recognize that climate change is a global crisis demanding a commitment to environmental sustainability, we must recognize that our lack of affordable housing and commercial space is a crisis that threatens the economic and social well-being of our county as a whole. If young people, elders, families, and workers of all kinds can no longer afford to live in Montgomery, we will lose our diversity and cultural richness; our livability; and our ability to attract new people to live and operate businesses here.

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

Comments:

Outdated energy generation and consumption of fossil fuel-based carbon intensive energy systems and products create a public health crisis. To address this health crisis at the county level, we must actively engage with residents about their options for reducing energy usage; diversify our transportation options; embrace the use of solar in our everyday life; and incorporate a just transition model to all clean energy initiatives, especially as it relates to inclusion and equitable green jobs for all.

At the county level, we must increase efforts to electrify transportation which in turn benefits job creation and further develops grid services through integrating renewable energy and reducing air pollution and GHG. We must also increase electric vehicles, which includes light-duty passenger vehicles, and heavy-duty vehicles, like delivery trucks. By creating an internal commission/committee on electric transportation, we could oversee that the public benefits are appropriately integrated and capitalized for all county residents/owners.

We must not forget that climate protection through energy savings is most easily accomplished by being more efficient with the energy that we use. Therefore, we must support curtailing energy use, instead of chiefly focusing on incentives for private investment. The County needs more public education campaigns on best practices for reducing energy use, as well as measuring the effectiveness of current incentives. Are we regularly sharing energy use reduction information in ways that are easily accessible to the busy life of working-families? Are we informing people about current resources and resources in development (like the Rt. 29 BRT) that will support them in reducing their transportation emissions? These are key questions that engage our most impacted communities beyond mailings and online information - empowering county residents to both change their own behavior and act as community ambassadors for sustainability.

At the neighborhood residential level, two critical programs that have begun implementation across the county: solar co-ops and community solar. Neighborhood-based solar coops can achieve huge savings on bulk solar installations. In addition, by incorporating workforce development training programs to solar co-op installations we can gain intersectional and collective benefits for all county residents.

Encouraging, supporting and allocating resources for community solar initiatives is vital. By implementing progressive environmental state laws, such as the 2015 Community Solar Energy Generating System bill, we can provide residents and businesses (including those that lease property) access to local solar electricity while encouraging investment in solar resources. Another important element that is much needed in the county is developing an equitable clean-energy workforce, that specifically prioritizes the economically distressed parts of the county and people who have historically experienced barriers to employment and entrepreneurship. We can accomplish this by opening more investment capital to minority-and-women-owned businesses, facilitating these entrepreneurs to enter and thrive in the clean energy economy.

I want to follow the example of organizations like the Climate Justice Alliance that prioritize the leadership of marginalized communities in determining environmental and climate policy. Through translocal organizing, CJA's "Our Power Campaign" is supporting a network of communities across the country to develop projects that build local economies, develop community resilience, and promote climate justice for all.

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

Comments:

I'm proud to be a member and to serve on the staff of Progressive Maryland, one of many organizations that worked hard to achieve November's legislative victory. You can read my statement on the passage of Bill 28-17

(<https://brandy4montgomery.com/brandy-brooks-9-0-vote-to-raise-living-wage-is-first-step-toward-a-just-economy-for-all/>). In my statement, I stress that a \$15 minimum wage is not the final goal in our pursuit of economic justice. We must continue to pursue living wages for workers in our county; fight wage theft; eliminate pay discrimination by race, age, and gender; and protect workers from unsafe working conditions.

We must also support our community members not just as workers, but as owners, through structures like cooperatives and through investment in small business infrastructure. We must change our approach to economic development so that it no longer focuses on giveaways for wealth corporations, but on shared

economic prosperity. I will work with my colleagues on the council to invest in the things that provide the most benefit for both small businesses and residents in the county: a more efficient transportation network; stronger lifelong education, workforce development and entrepreneurship programs; transparent government processes; more affordable office and incubator space for small enterprises; and community-based finance innovations like public banking and direct community investment in local businesses.

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

Comments:

I strongly support workers' right to collectively bargain. Workers must have the power to ensure good wages and working conditions. As public officials, we must lead by making this commitment within public agencies. We can then use the power of our role as public leaders to create the expectation that responsible employers who value their workers will support the right of those workers to ensure their wellbeing.

As a councilmember, I can work to increase the density of union jobs by advocating for collective bargaining for employees at all county agencies; by supporting project labor agreements for all projects receiving county subsidy; and by targeting economic development incentives toward companies that permit and promote collective bargaining, cooperative management, and other forms of workplace democracy.

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

Comments:

I am committed to ensuring that Montgomery County is a safe, welcoming place for all people. We must end institutional racism and other forms of structural oppression in the policies and practices of our county that perpetuate inequality under the law. We need to change the reality that our black and brown young people are directed into the juvenile and criminal justice system instead of receiving the education they deserve; that communities of color experience police harassment and brutality because they are presumed to be more "criminal" than white residents; and that people with mental illnesses or with disabilities are threatened and mistreated by police who are not trained to support community members who have special needs.

We must provide police officers with better training around implicit bias, cultural competency, and de-escalation. But we must also change the police and criminal justice culture that increasingly treats vulnerable community members as enemies rather than those who should be protected and served. We need to take a multi-layered community approach to criminal justice reform that starts from a place of restorative justice, not punishment. We must radically re-evaluate the use of police officers in our school system. We must support returning citizens in their re-entry with access to housing, social services, and workforce development. And we must demilitarize our police forces, so that weapons of war are no longer being deployed against our communities.

Lastly, we must bring public accountability to policing. When police are permitted to violate the rights of community members and ignore regulations with impunity, community members cannot trust them. Civilians must be equitably incorporated into the review process for police misconduct. Instead of a "blue wall of silence," we must ensure that the right to use force in the name of public protection is paired with the responsibility to account to members of the public when such force is used.

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

Comments:

First, as a candidate, I want to organize power behind a coalition of progressive candidates for Montgomery County races at both the county and the state level who support economic, social, and environmental justice. In order to move forward the changes in policy that we truly want to see, we must get not just one progressive legislator or executive into office, but many legislators across the county and the state.

Second, as a councilmember, I intend to work with my colleagues and with the county executive to pass legislation authorizing civilian participation on police trial boards in accordance with state law passed in 2016. I will also work to organize my colleagues and county residents to prevent weak trial boards from being included in police collective bargaining agreements - so that public accountability for police misconduct is not optional, but required.

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

Comments:

Cannabis policy is not a central platform of my campaign. That said, I support decriminalization of cannabis at the local, state, and federal level. It should be regulated similar to alcohol. I also believe that we must ensure economic and racial justice in the expansion of medical marijuana licensing and distribution, including the end of restrictions that prevent individuals convicted for possession from working in the industry and public accountability for the racial and economic makeup of those who are granted licenses.

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:

Most experts explain that the recent budget short falls in the county are caused by looming long range economic problems and/or the declining income tax payments from the wealthy. Overall, I favor a progressive tax system where a larger percentage of high-income earners are taxed more than low-income individuals, and where we eliminate loopholes that help wealthy corporations and other special interests avoid taxation.

Our county budget reflects our values. The budget should answer this question for our county: what do we believe are the priorities for a thriving community? We need to prioritize programs in the budget that protect our most vulnerable communities and focus on serving working families rather than wealthy special interests. And we need to develop budgeting processes that give stakeholders in the county power over these important policy decisions - while equalizing power imbalances that exist in our county along race, class, geography, and other dimensions.

Participation in the budget decision-making process enables us to feel that our interests have been taken into account and to understand why and how certain choices were made. Across the country local jurisdictions tested out participatory budgeting methods to give residents more control over a portion of the public budget. Other places have used various visualization tools to help residents understand the impact of budget tradeoffs. We need to bring these participatory tools to Montgomery County, along with community focus

groups or advisory boards that take public engagement on the budget beyond testimony at hearings - so that our community members are informed and empowered to play an active role in shaping our county's budget.

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:

I am the granddaughter of immigrants. I will continue to stand in solidarity with my sisters and brothers in the immigrant community through direct and legislative action.

As the federal government continues to devalue and endanger immigrant members of our community, we must stand up at the local and state level to increase our commitment to supporting our neighbors. Having local agencies enforce federal immigration law makes our communities less safe. Communities of color and immigrant communities already distrust the police and the criminal justice system, because they see how racist and xenophobic biases are used as excuses to unjustly target them - so they don't report crimes perpetrated against them, don't use legal protections that are available, and don't cooperate with law enforcement. Making local agencies into immigration enforcers will only exacerbate this mistrust.

In 2017, at the state level two bills were introduced to prevent local and state agencies from engaging in civil immigration enforcement, Senate Bill 835 & House Bill 1362. Similarly these TRUST proposals would prevent local agencies from establishing MOUs under ICE's 287g program. I strongly support passage of these bills, and would continue to work for their passage as a council member. Earlier this year, the County Council declined to take a position on the bill, with some local leaders opposing the bill claiming potential unintended consequences by making the state a major target and preferring to continue relying on the county's longstanding policy that county police do not aid federal immigration enforcement efforts and do not ask individuals about their immigration status. However, that policy doesn't prevent other agencies - such as the Department of Corrections - from cooperating with ICE and sharing data about those in their custody. Without a clear commitment to keeping our local public agencies from becoming extensions of ICE, Montgomery County's policy creates a false sense of security, and the policies of nearby jurisdictions (like Frederick and Anne Arundel, which do have 287g agreements) actively endanger Montgomery County residents who travel in those counties.

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

Comments:

There are a number of policies currently being advanced by Progressive Maryland and its allies that would help to strengthen protections for women and children: the Women's Economic Security Agenda; restricting parental rights for rapists; and strengthening protections around domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. We need to defend and expand programs that focus on women's and children's health, such as improving access to reproductive health services for women and people who identify as transgender and the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program that would ensure health coverage for 140,000 Maryland children.

But we must also think intersectionally about what we define as women's and children's issues. Housing and food insecurity disproportionately affect women and children, so affordable housing and food justice are critical women's and children's issues. Passage of WESA components is a children's as well as a women's issue, because family economic security directly affects education and health outcomes for children. And as a child

who grew up benefitting from the walking, biking and bus infrastructure that allowed me to easily and safely travel from home to school to ballet as a 10-year-old in Reston, VA, I believe that one of the best measures of a high-functioning transportation network is how well it provides mobility and independence for our children.

Lastly, a combination of common-sense child welfare policy and child care support for working families is essential for both working women and their children. Most women in middle-income and low-income households need to work to provide for their families - but they can't do that if they don't have safe places where their children can be cared for. Working parents are often vilified and criminalized for the ways they have to try and arrange child care, with no acknowledgment that childcare costs in the DC metro region are enormously high.

Expanding the child care subsidy makes it possible for these parents to provide care for their children while they work. It also generates economic opportunity for those within our county who want to use their talents and make a living by caring for the children of our communities - many of whom are women. And decriminalizing childhood self-reliance will make it easier for parents and communities to support the safety of our young people while also encouraging them to become independent, confident adults.

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

Comments:

I am a member of Progressive Maryland and the Metro DC Democratic Socialists of America. I'm also a supporter of Our Revolution in Maryland. I'm an active member of the People's Action Institute's national training network, and I work with other groups like the HEAL Food Alliance and the National Black Food and Justice Alliance, which fight for food justice and food sovereignty for communities across the country that have been targeted by structural oppression. I'm a 2016 New Economy Maryland Fellow with the Institute of Policy Studies and an Environmental Leadership Program Senior Fellow (Chesapeake Regional Network 2015).

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

Comments:

Cash bail has nothing to do with public safety and everything to do with criminalizing poverty. It leaves people imprisoned not because of the severity of an alleged crime, but because they don't have the means to buy their freedom. As a result, people who have not been convicted of any crime can spend days, months, or years in jail before they are able to appear at trial. Cash bail compounds economic injustice - those who are held and unable to pay bail can lose their jobs due to the absence, further miring them in economic hardship or poverty.

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 _____