

**2018 Questionnaire for County Council**

**Prince George’s 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

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| **Candidate Information** | | |
| Candidate Last Name: Oriadha  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Candidate First Name: Krystal  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Office Seeking: Prince George’s County Council Seat  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| District: 7  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| Party: Democrat  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| **Campaign Contact Information** | | |
| Committee Name: Friends of Krystal Oriadha  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Street Address: 406 71st Ave  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| City: Seat Pleasant  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Zip Code: 20743  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Business Phone: Office line: 301-456-7429 Cell: 713-498-5179  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Fax:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Campaign Website: [www.votekrystaloriadha.com](http://www.votekrystaloriadha.com)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| **Candidate Contact Information** | | |
| Cell Phone: 713-498-5179  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| Email Address: [Krystal@voteKrystalOriadha.com](mailto:Krystal@voteKrystalOriadha.com)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| **Treasurer Contact Information** | | |
| Treasurer Name: Ernesto Rodriguez  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| Street Address: 4325 Canada Hills Ct  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| City: Waldorf  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| Zip Code: 20602  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| Phone: 202-230-1215  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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| **Candidate History** | | |
| Previous Elected Offices: | | |
| Which Years Did You Serve: | | |
| Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland? | YES\_\_\_\_\_ or NO\_X\_\_\_\_ | |
| If Yes, when: | | |
| Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals? | | YES\_X\_\_\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Describe:  I have worked with Progressive Maryland on such issues like bail reform, fair elections, the fight for $15, stopping the Maglev project and developing community schools. I have represented the organization by speaking on panels around criminal justice reform issues. I have rallied and hosted events to help spread our message. I have also help to build membership and lead deep canvassing teams. As the criminal justice lead for the Progressive Maryland’s Prince George’s Chapter, I have cultivated strong partnerships with my counterparts at other organizations like WISE, BASFA, NAACP, Color of Change and Reid Temple Warriors Ministry. I am currently the co-chair of the Prince George’s Chapter. | | |
| Major Endorsements (Elected Officials/Organizations/Opinion Leaders):  I am currently working on securing endorsements from Progressive elected officials and Unions. | | |

**Issue Questions**

1. Do you support a $15 per hour minimum wage for all Prince George’s County workers?

If yes, over what time period would you suggest implementing it? Do you support including an indexing provision?

Yes X No

Comments: The $15.00 minimum wage should be fully in place no later than by the end of the calendar year 2022. It should be County wide and cover all classes of workers. It should be indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for the mid-Atlantic States, the Washington DC Metropolitan Area, as maintained by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). I believe that it is important that as the cost of living increase so does the minimum wage.

2. Do you support public financing of County Executive and County Council races in Prince George’s County?

Yes X No

Comments: I believe that we have to take money out of politics, so that our elected officials only answer to the people they serve not the people that fund their campaign. I think that money is a huge barrier for most activist running for office because they usually do not run in circles of big money and they have dedicated their life to working jobs that don’t pay a lot of money. I think we as Prince George’s County should have been leading the fight to see this across the state not struggling for support from the County Council.

3. Do you believe that all Prince George’s County school board members should be elected?

Yes X No

Comments: I think that it is important that everyone on the school board is elected, so that they only answer to the community. I think when you have too many people appointed to certain positions it means that things will constantly shift based on the agenda of the person that appointed them and I think the school system should be independent of that type of influence.

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

Comments: I oppose charter schools. I believe that the solution to better public education is not taking more resources away from public schools and that is exactly what charter schools do. I think that school choice will lead to creating a new segregation structure in education by class and race, and will be funded with our dollars. I will never support anything that helps to cripple public education because I know that education is an equalizer and the best tool we have to uplifting ourselves and our communities.

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.

Yes No X (I oppose)

Comments: Again, vouchers like charter schools reduce resources available to the regular public schools, both financial and social. Vouchers tend to be asked for by more ambitious, academic minded families. Children who lack academic support at home and remain in the schools find themselves more isolated in the regular school environment. Better to use all resources available to get better schools than using resources to allow some children to escape poorly managed systems.

6. As a member of the District Council, would you ensure that development in our county adheres to the principles of smart growth?

Yes X No

Comments: As a Council Member, I will work to make sure that we have more emerging mixed-use developments in Prince George’s County. I think we have to continue to advocate for Smart Growth principles, especially the integration of pedestrian, bicycle, public and private transit.

7. Would you work to ensure that residents’ vision for how their communities should develop is present in every land use plan, amendment to the zoning ordinance, and application approved by the District Council?

Yes X No

Comments: This is a big issue in the current rewrite. To some degree, the rewrite shifts power away from public participation and puts it in the hands of the planners. Many of the current Council Members and significant “public bodies”, particularly municipalities, civic organizations, and homeowner associations have demonstrated against it. While minor technical issues can be resolved by planners, larger community planning issues that revolve around how the community sees itself and the types of life styles they wish to promote should not solely be in the hands of the planners. I argue that when developing sector plans and especially traffic plans for larger areas, real and influential public input needs to be a part of the process. Home owners have a right to expect that the value of their property will not be sacrificed at the altar of some abstract urban planning principle or special interest.

8. Do you support the preservation of the rural tier?

Yes X No

Comments: Open space is important in maintaining ecological balance and reducing urban sprawl. It is becoming increasingly clear in the face of climate change that urban sprawl into open space is pushing many ecological systems to precipice of collapse. Maintaining the rural tier will reduce the likelihood of urban sprawl and makes Prince George’s County an inviting place to live.

9. Over the past few years, the County has been conducting a significant effort to rewrite and simplify the zoning codes that govern development in Prince George's County.  Are you satisfied with this process so far?  Are there important areas where you might want see changes or modifications made in the new proposed code?  If so, what are they?

Yes X (There are important areas that need to be addressed) No

Comments: I am satisfied that they have made a huge effort to reach out and talk to the public. The problem is that I am not always sure they have listened. Many community members feel that the final draft continues to shift too much power to the planners, hence the developers. I personally do not believe that they have fully integrated an economic vision into the rewrite. Without focused leadership from either the Council or the Executive’s Office, this could lead to problems down the road. For example, while they have lifted certain adequate public facility (APF) requirements, particularly traffic studies, from developers working in the Town Center Zones, they have not indicated how such studies are to be carried out or who will pay for them. A perfect recipe for long-term problems and poor traffic patterns.

10. What would you do to enhance economic stability and wealth for Prince George's County residents?

Comments: I believe we have to start by bringing high quality, high paying jobs to Prince George’s County, improving the public education system, and attracting quality of life businesses to the county. There is evidence that high income families are moving out of the county. This is likely a phenomenon of two factors: (a) difficulty in finding high quality housing and (b) access to high quality public education. Also, many areas in the County (District 7 being one) lack easy to reach amenities, whether recreational, food markets, restaurants, etc. While there have been positive changes in the past few years, much work still needs to be done. I believe we do this by creating a systematic approach and a long-term strategy that looks at all the moving parts. I would start with supporting the fight for $15, creating a small business grant focused on incubator projects and funding a community school pilot program. I think that we have to look at the intersectionality of all the issues we face and create a thoughtful strategy.

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| 11. For the measures above that you have agreed to support would you be willing to: | |
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| * Co-sponsor legislation? * Work with our Policy and Legislative Director to help pass a bill? * Speak at public events in support of legislation? * Write an op-ed in support of legislation? | YES\_\_\_x\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_    YES\_\_\_x\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_    YES\_\_\_x\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_    YES\_\_\_x\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 12. Would you be willing to engage with Progressive Maryland members and their communities by: | |
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| * Speaking at Progressive Maryland events? * Meeting with our membership annually to report on the progress of our shared priorities and answer questions from our members? * Writing a letter to unorganized workers endorsing an organizing drive by a labor union? | YES\_\_x\_\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_\_\_x\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_  YES\_\_\_x\_\_ or NO\_\_\_\_\_ |
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