

**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:    Levi  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
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| Candidate First Name:   Gerron  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
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| Office Seeking:   Prince George’s County Council At-Large  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
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| District:  n/a  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
| Party:  Democrat  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
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| **Campaign Contact Information** | | |
| Committee Name:  Committee for Gerron Levi  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
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| Street Address:  P O Box 2282  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
| City:  Upper Marlboro  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
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| Zip Code:  20773  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
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| Business Phone:  301-801-6121  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
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| Fax:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
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| Campaign Website:   votelevi.org (a new website coming)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
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| **Candidate Contact Information** | | |
| Cell Phone:  301-801-6121  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
| Email Address:   votelevi@gmail.com  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
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| **Treasurer Contact Information** | | |
| Treasurer Name: Deron K.  Roberson  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
| Street Address:  (same as above)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
| City:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
| Zip Code:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
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| Phone: 202-302-9264  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |
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| **Candidate History** | | |
| Previous Elected Offices:  State Delegate 23-A | | |
| Which Years Did You Serve:  2007-2011 | | |
| 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:  In the House of Delegates, I was a key supporter of:  collective bargaining legislation;  increasing the state’s minimum wage/a living wage; expanding unemployment insurance; the state apprenticeship training fund; legislation to stop workplace fraud (i.e. misclassifying employees as independent contractors); smart growth and development legislation; statewide efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions; green buildings/LEED certifications; the state’s use of renewable energy; and ex-offender reentry legislation. | | |
| Major Endorsements (Elected Officials/Organizations/Opinion Leaders):  LIUNA  UNITE-HERE Local 25  I am also being actively considered for several other labor endorsements. | | |

**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:

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

Yes X No

Comments:

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

Yes X No

Comments:  I voted for the 9-member elected Board.

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

Comments:    I am a strong supporter of the county’s public schools.  I have assembled stakeholders, won grant dollars and undertaken a number of efforts to strengthen and improve community support for the school building.

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

Comments: Vouchers would put even greater pressure and strain on funding for the county’s public school system.   I support a strong public school system and will specifically use my platform to build greater parent, family and community support for the local school building.

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:  I have been speaking about my support for smart economic development during the campaign.

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:

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

Yes X No

Comments:  I have been speaking about my support for the rural tier during the campaign.

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 No

Comments:  Overall, I have been getting up to speed on the rewrite.  The rewrite presents a real opportunity to move away from a text amendment and exception driven zoning process.  I am very interested in there being sufficient opportunity for input by the public in how a community is developing; that there are appropriate incentives for smart, transit-oriented development; and that the rural tier is protected.

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

Comments:   Homeownership is the way that most low- and moderate-income people build wealth and I am very focused on protecting homeownership in the county and providing better access to it.   Overall, I will be focused on restoring and improving property values because values are key to household wealth and real property tax collections for the county.

I will also focus on facilitating affordable rental housing and economic development in our inner beltway community.  The passage of federal tax reform lessens the value of several popular credits in the tax code (e.g. LIHTC, NMTC etc) and spending caps in the federal budget mean fewer dollars for economic development (e.g. CDBG, HOME etc).  These are critical “soft subsidies” that facilitate affordable housing and economic development in key county communities where it is more difficult to attract private investment and to finance projects.  I will be very focused on policies and innovative approaches that make those deals work.

I have a number of strategies around the county’s condominium communities where many owners are facing serious negative equity and undervalued property, and potential home buyers into those communities are facing severe financing issues.  Condos are frequently the first step in homeownership.

I also want to ensure that taxpayers in the county get value for their investments.  In exchange for the  county’s economic development incentives (e.g. TIFs, PILOTs etc), the community should receive strong benefits so that the county facilitates developments that create good quality and family-sustaining jobs.  I will support project labor agreements and labor peace agreements, and ensure that there is an appropriate balance between commercial revenue options and the residential tax base.

I will also support the work of the food justice coalition to improve food options in the county’s “food deserts”.

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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: | |
|  |  |
| * 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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