**Jennifer- Thanks for your patience! Here is my questionnaire. I am having a little trouble with the formatting. Please let me know if you would like me to reformat and resend.**

**All the best,**

**Jen**

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**2018 Questionnaire for the House of Delegates**

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. Responses will be available to the public at [www.ProgressiveMaryland.org](http://www.ProgressiveMaryland.org)

**Candidate Information**

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| --- | --- |
| **Candidate Last Name:** | **Terrasa** |
| **Candidate First Name:** | **Jen** |
| **Office Seeking:** | **State Delegate** |
| **District:** | **13** |
| **Party:** | **Democrat** |

**Campaign Contact Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Committee Name:** | **Friends of Jennifer Terrasa** |
| **Street Address:** | **7491 Setting Sun Way** |
| **City:** | **Columbia** |
| **Zip Code:** | **21046** |
| **Business Phone:** | **(410)446-5846** |
| **Fax:** | **n/a** |
| **Campaign Website:** | **www.teamterrasa.com** |

**Candidate Contact Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Cell Phone:** | **(410) 446-5846** |
| **Email Address:** | **jen@teamterrasa.com** |

**Treasurer Contact Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Treasurer Name:** | **John Hendrix** |
| **Street Address:** | **7491 Setting Sun Way** |
| **City:** | **Columbia** |
| **Zip Code:** | **21045** |
| **Phone:** | **(410)446-5846** |

**Candidate History**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Previous Elected Offices: | I have been on the Howard County County Council since 200. Before that I was an elected member of the Kings Contrivance Village Board. |
| Which Years Did You Serve: | County Council (2006 - present); Kings Contrivance Village Board (December 2001 to December 2006) |
| Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland? | YES |
| If Yes, when: | 2010 |
| Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals? | YES |
| Describe: | I worked directly with Progressive Maryland and others to co-sponsor Fair Elections legislation in Howard County. I have also worked on many progressive issues over the years. |
| Major Endorsements (Elected Officials/Organizations/Opinion Leaders): | Current  1.  Our Revolution  2.  I am running as a member of Team 13 along with Guy Guzzone, Shane Pendergrass, and Vanessa Atterbeary  Past Endorsements include HCEA, AFL-CIO, Sierra Club, African-Americans in Howard County |

**Issue Questions**

1. *Do you support ending the money-based bail system?*

Yes. A person’s ability to stay out of jail while awaiting trial should not depend on their income/ability to pay. I believe that the reforms the courts passed are an important first step and will work to oppose any legislative efforts to overturn those rules while supporting proposals that would further eradicate the money-based bail system.

2. *Will you support a $15 per hour minimum wage for all Maryland workers? If yes, over what time period would you suggest implementing it? Do you support including an indexing provision?*

Yes.  ASAP. People who work full-time should not have to live in poverty. I support the current proposal to raise the state’s minimum wage from $9.25 to $15.00 per hour by 2023, and believe indexing is critically important to ensure that our families are not just left behind again as cost of living continues to rise.

3. *Do you support public financing of State Senate and Delegate races similar to systems enacted in Montgomery County and Howard County?*

Yes. I was one of the sponsors of the Howard County legislation, and I would very much like to see this system expanded to include state senate and delegate races. In addition, I would like to expand to the Comptroller and Attorney General as well. I also commit to supporting funding for such a program even if the funds must come from general funds.

4. *Do you support increased protections for workers in terms of scheduling practices? In particular, will you support requiring employers to give 3 weeks’ notice to employees of their shift schedule, requiring employers who call employees into work only to send them home before the end of their shift to provide a certain percentage of the pay that the employee would have made that day, and prohibiting employers from scheduling an employee to work back-to-back shifts or shifts scheduled only a few hours apart without the employee’s consent?*

Yes. Absolutely! These practices have a major impact on a person both physically and emotionally and their families and our communities. The lack of predictability for workers leads to difficult and sometime precarious financial situations. Employees need increased protections and increased predictability with their paycheck.

5. Do you support workers’ rights to organize in the private and public sectors? Will you make it a priority that all public employees be covered by a public employees relations act, similar to the National Labor Relations Act, which has governed work in the private sector for over 80 years?

Yes. While the NLRA may preempt this, I would support any permissible reforms that the state could take to further strengthen and protect employees rights to organize. I will aggressively fight any efforts to bring “right to work” laws – more accurately called “right to work for less” laws – to the state.

6. *We believe that the financial security of women is integral to the health of our economy. Do you feel that legislation ensuring the equal treatment of men and women in the workplace is appropriate? If so, what legislation will you support as a member of the General Assembly to bring women to parity with their male colleagues?*

Yes. The legislation that took effect in 2016 was a good first step at expanding transparency, protecting transgendered individuals, and expanding a person’s ability to bring action against an employer who discriminates. I would work with advocates to monitor implementation of that reform and identify any continued gaps or further legislative action needed.

7. *Do you believe that employers should be required to make reasonable accommodations for employees and applicants for employment who have known limitations due to conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth?*

Yes. Absolutely. A critical element of gender equality is ensuring that women are able to safely work while pregnant, and that parents have guaranteed leave after childbirth (or adoption) to take care of the mother and infant. I support any efforts to strengthen our laws to ensure that women receive accommodations, and that they have a clear and immediate ability to take action against their employer should a problem arise.

8. *Are there any instances in which the state should place restrictions on a patient seeking abortion care, such as stage of pregnancy, access based on age, or the type of abortion care that state funding should cover?*

No. A woman’s right to control her own body should be absolute and should not be subject to scrutiny by the state or anyone else.

9. *Will you support single-payer health care in Maryland? If so, how would you pass it and how would you pay for it?*

Yes. Absolutely. I support Medicare for all (universal health care, high quality affordable health care). This is among my highest priorities. I believe healthcare is a human right. As a county councilmembers, I was one of the biggest supporters of Healthy Howard, our county’s precursor to the Affordable Care Act, and in fact voted to fund it over the years until ACA passed on the federal level. Healthy Howard did not go far enough, nor did the Affordable Care Act, but they were important steps in the right direction. Now, sadly, the new administration and his supporters in Congress have stepped back from even that. Going forward, we will have to pick up the pieces on the local and state level and provide a safety net while we work toward what I believe is the only right answer - a single- payer universal health care system.

10. *Will you support instituting transparency rules for Pharmacy Benefit Managers and drug corporations as well as creating a drug cost review commission for high cost drugs?*

Yes.  This year the legislature heard HB 1194, which is a good first step but lost some important initial provisions that would have protected Marylanders from price-gouging by big Pharma. I hope that the commission passes this year and would support reforms next session to further strengthen consumer protections.

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

Oppose. I oppose any state efforts to establish, expand, or fund private charter schools. Our public schools suffer from chronic under-investment, and every dollar the state spends on charter schools takes away from the children and teachers in our public school system. Furthermore, too often charter schools are allowed to act outside the rules; from teaching religious doctrine to failing to meet accommodation laws for disabled students. Taxpayer dollars should never flow to institutions that flout these laws.

12. *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. Similar to my concerns above, I strongly believe that public funds should be used for public education. In addition to the concerns above, private schools (and, too often, private charter schools) have been used to re-segregate our public school system, creating two types of education. We should invest in our public schools at a level that ensures all children can thrive and learn safely in that environment, not divert public funds for the privileged few.

13. *Will you support making state colleges and universities free for all in-state students?*

Yes. Our young adults are entering the workforce burdened with crippling loans that delay other life milestones – from buying a home to starting a family to saving for retirement. Our youth should not have to leverage their future security to reach their immediate educational goals. Furthermore, I support efforts to provide additional support to those who need it, from child care to housing assistance to hunger solutions.

14. *Will you support the Trust Act?*

Yes. Absolutely! I sponsored Howard County’s similar bill, CB9-2017 last year.  In addition, I heavily lobbied for the Trust Act last year and was disappointed that it did not pass.  I support this years bills as well.

15. *Will​ ​you​ ​support​ ​closing​ ​corporate​ ​tax ​ ​loopholes​  by​ ​ requiring​ ​ combined​ ​ reporting,​ ​as​ most​ ​other​ states​​ have​ ​ done?​ ​ Will​  ​you​ ​​support​ ​bringing ​​back​ ​Maryland’s​ 6.25​ %​ tax​ ​rate​ ​on​ ​income​ of​ ​more​ than​ ​$1​ ​million​ ​to​ ​allow​ ​upper​ ​income​ residents​ ​to​​ ​contribute​ ​more​ ​to​ ​Maryland?*

Yes to both! These are some of the most common-sense solutions to pay for the massive needs identified in this questionnaire. To leave these basic and progressive income sources off the table is a blow to our budget, and forces more regressive taxes to pay for basic needs.

16. *Do you plan to introduce or support legislation to provide protection for the Potomac, Chesapeake or other shared environments that have had federal funding for protection removed?*

Yes. Howard County is where the Patuxent River starts, and while on the Council I have fought for protections that would keep our watershed safe. I supported the stormwater impact fee, and have been aggressively supporting projects that would improve stormwater retention on state properties. At the state level we can do more to ensure all polluters – whether urban or rural – are paying their fair share and implementing practices that protect our waterways.

17. What legislation and regulations can Maryland state government enact to protect our residents from the damage inflicted by Trump’s federal government?

The assault by the Trump administration is aggressive and far-reaching. There is not an issue area where we are not facing rollbacks; whether education, environment, health, immigration or racial equity.  This means Maryland’s elected officials must do more to protect our basic rights and liberties here at home. While I have spoken to many of these important issues previously in this questionnaire, especially around public funding for public schools, protecting unions and women’s rights, ensuring healthcare for all, and protecting the environment, some specific issues that have not been addressed include:

* Ensuring that the 2020 census is implemented in a way that every Marylander is counted;
* Considering racial equity in our legislation to make some progress towards closing the disparity gap for our communities of color;
* Stronger consumer protections;
* Ensuring that our schools are making progress on school climate and ending the school to prison pipeline.

18. *Do​ ​you​ ​support​ ​the​ ​creation​ ​of​ ​a​ ​progressive​ ​caucus​ ​in​ ​the​ ​state​ ​legislature?*

Yes.  I will work with progressive leaders to strengthen the role of the caucus with a goal of making it a unified voting bloc on key reforms.

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

* Co-sponsor legislation? Yes
* Work with our Policy and Legislative Director to help pass a bill? Yes
* Testify at a hearing in support of legislation? Yes
* Speak at public events in support of legislation? If needed!
* Write a letter in support of legislation? Yes
* Write an op-ed in support of legislation? Yes

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

Speaking at Progressive Maryland events? While my leadership style is about listening and working behind the scenes, I have spoken at PM events about the Citizen Elections Fund and would be willing to speak at future events if truly needed.

Meeting with our membership annually to report on the progress of our shared priorities and answer questions from our members? Yes

Writing a letter to unorganized workers endorsing an organizing drive by a labor union? yes