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

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### Candidate Information

Candidate Last Name: Berkowitz

Candidate First Name: Allison

Office Seeking: House of Delegates

District: District 7

Party: Democratic

### **Campaign Contact Information**

Committee Name:

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Allison Berkowitz for Delegate

Street Address: PO Box 563

City: Fallston

Zip Code: 21047

Business Phone: 410-344-3422

Campaign Website: [allisonfordelegate.com](http://allisonfordelegate.com)

### **Candidate Contact Information**

Cell Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_  
410-344-3422

Email Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
[allison@allisonfordelegate.com](mailto:allison@allisonfordelegate.com)

### **Treasurer Contact Information**

Treasurer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rachel Pedersen

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ PO Box 563

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Fallston

Zip Code: 21047

Phone: 443-463-9077

### Candidate History

Previous Elected Offices:

Which Years Did You Serve:

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ or NO  \_\_\_\_\_

If Yes, when:

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ or NO \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: I don't believe I have in an official capacity, however I am a champion of working people, am a working person myself, and believe their issues to be at the heart of the progressive movement in our country. So in that capacity I have indirectly assisted. I regularly do "teach-ins" in my free time sharing how people can get involved and which bills are relevant to our shared causes.

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

- Run for Something, Maryland League of Conservation Voters, #VOTEPROCHOICE, Delegate Eric Ebersole, and Public Interest Podcast

## Issue Questions

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

Yes                      No

- Comments: Our current system is flawed. Arresting people for crimes that are largely due to their circumstances (for example, arresting a homeless person for begging for change) is bad for the individual and bad for the whole society. It is harmful to the individual and is costly to tax payers.

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                      No

- Comments: I support a \$15 minimum wage with an indexing provision. I believe poverty to be the major defining issue of our time and that many of our country's social issues are based in poverty in one way or another, and we should do everything we can do narrow the widening wealth gap in our country.

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

Yes                      No

- Comments: Political races should be a battle of ideas and energy, not proxy wars fought with corporate dollars. I believe that public financing makes elected officials more beholden to their voters.

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                      No

- Comments: Workers deserve protections and information, too. We need to make sure that Maryland has the best working environment in this country.

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                      No

- Comments: I am strongly pro-union and will work diligently to increase Maryland's number of unionized workers.

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                      No

- Comments: I believe that all companies receiving public money in any manner should be required to move towards gender and racial parity on payscales. Also, I will support efforts to combat sexual harassment in the workplace.

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                      No

- Comments: Pregnant workers and workers with young children deserve a safe and accommodating work environment.

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?

Yes                      No

Comments: Access to family planning and abortion is a right that should not be tampered with. I will not limit women's right to safe abortions in any manner.

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                      No

- Comments: healthcare is a right and preventative care is better for individuals and whole societies. It is the kind thing as well as the humane thing to do.

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                      No

- Comments: Overly expensive pharmaceutical medicines are a burden on older Americans and we must ensure that any and all price increases are seen by the public.

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

Support                      Oppose

- Comments: I believe public funds should stay in public schools. Generally, I think instead of taking money out failing systems, we should keep it there and try to make the systems better.

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.

Support                      Oppose

- Comments: Vouchers to private schools move money out of the public school system and limit the resources that public school children can get. We need stronger public schools and vouchers don't help that.

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

Yes                      No

- Comments: Maryland needs to harness education as a tool to improve our economy and bring new residents. Keeping our state competitive in the 21st century means education, especially higher education, needs to be as accessible and affordable as possible.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Yes                      No

- Comments: while immigration is a complex issue, I believe it is a federal issue. Our Maryland police should not be an extension of ICE. Additionally, some places (like hospitals and courthouses) should be sacred and should not be places where ICE agents linger in wait.

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

No

- Comments: Reducing income and wealth inequality within our state is an important goal for tax policy.

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

No

- Comments: The Bay and our various watersheds must be protected to maintain our state's economic engine and natural beauty.

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

- Comments: I think the 2017 tax bill was immoral and was very pleased that our state legislators created measures which help protect Marylanders somewhat. I would seek to do similar measures which aim to soften that blow. Additionally, I would support efforts to help make voting easier so that people can work to elect more legislators to help repeal and replace legislators who cause us harm.

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

Yes

No

- Comments: To ensure that progressive legislation can be introduced in the most effective manner, we must be able to organize a caucus of progressives in the statehouse.

19. 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
- Testify at a hearing in support of legislation? YES  or NO
- Speak at public events in support of legislation? YES  or NO
- Write a letter in support of legislation? YES  or NO
- Write an op-ed in support of legislation? YES  or NO

20. 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