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2018 Questionnaire for State Senate

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 26, 2018**. Your responses will be available to the public at www.ProgressiveMaryland.org

Candidate Information

Candidate Last Name: Young

Candidate First Name: Ronald

Office Seeking: State Senate

District: 3

Party: Democrat

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name: Friends of Ron Young

Street Address: 409 Culler Avenue

City: Frederick

Zip Code: 21701

Business Phone: 240-375-4058

Fax:

Campaign Website: SenatorRonYoung.com

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone: 240-375-4058

Email Address: Ryoung6446@hotmail.com

Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name: Kathy Rossen

Street Address: P.O. Box 724

City: Frederick

Zip Code: 21705

Phone: 301-639-2155

Candidate History

Previous Elected Offices:

Frederick City Board of Alderman

Frederick City Mayor

MD State Senate -

Which Years Did You Serve:

Alderman 1970 - 1974

Mayor 1974 – 1990

Senate 2010 - 2018

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: Voted for Marriage equality

MD Dream Act

Gun Registration and all gun control legislation

Minimum wage

Sick leave

Public Education

Voted against Fracking

Funding for Planned Parenthood

Introduced Legislation for:

Free Community College

Forrest Conservation

Zero Energy Housing

I have voted for every piece of Progressive legislation that has come before us and I am the only progressive in MD outside the major metropolitan area.

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

Senator Ben Cardin

Senator Chris Van Hollen

Former Senator Barbara Mikulski

Attorney General Brian Frosh

Congressman Jamie Raskin

Former Governor Martin O'Malley

Former Governor Parris Glendening

Sierra Club

League of Conservation Voters

Issue Questions

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

Yes No
X

Comments:

The present system discriminates against those that do not have the resources to make bail. It should be based on threat to the community, individuals, or the possibility of not showing for court appearances rather than on money.

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
X

Comments:

We should be talking about livable wage rather than minimum wage. Anyone who works full time should make a livable wage. I think a three year phase in would be acceptable though I will support whatever it takes to get it enacted. Yes I support also want to point out that my republican opponents do not support increasing the wage nor does Jennifer Dougherty who has filed against me. She verbally jumped all over me on this issue.

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

Yes X No

Comments:

Yes. I do think it is going to be difficult to get approval of funding. I personally would like to see all money from outside sources removed as well as putting a low cap on contributions to your own campaign. I don't want to see corporations or millionaires buying elections.

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

Yes. The only exceptions is to shift changes in cases of emergency.

Comments:

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

X

Comments:

Yes. I have supported unions and have had their support. I believe any workers groups should have a right to unionize if the majority of their employees vote to do so. The breaking down of unions has been a major cause in the diminishing of the middle class.

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

X

I have supported and will continue to support equal pay for equal work, have introduced a Joint Resolution calling for more women on Boards and supported legislation prohibiting employers from requesting salary history. I also helped raise money for feminine hygiene products for women with low or no income. I have joined the Women's caucus and totally support women's issues.

Comments:

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
X

Comments:

Yes where practical depending on the job and requirements.

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:

I do not think abortion should be permitted if the baby is healthy and would be capable of living outside of the woman's body. Otherwise I am totally prochoice.

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
X

Comments:

I think a simple solution is Medicare for all. Yes, I support single payer. I do not think health care is something that should be run as a for profit business. A combination of government and business funding should be worked out. There would have a provision for government to fund those who cannot contribute.

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
X

Comments:

We have already given approval to the attorney to prosecute for price gauging. We also need to allow Medicare to negotiate for drug prices.

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

Support

Oppose

Comments:

I support Charter schools if they are operated as public schools under the local school boards and if they provide an area of curriculum or specialty that is not available in the existing public schools. They should also be available on a lottery basis to everyone. They should also perform on a level equal to or higher than regular public schools.

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

X

Comments:

Public schools are underfunded. Giving vouchers to private schools would further weaken public schools. We need to increase funding and innovation in our public schools.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

I would like to see us get to where we can. I have a bill in the legislature again this year for free community college and vocational certificates. I have not been able to get it through because of funding. I also have a companion bill in to pay for it this year. I hope we can work towards the goal of graduating students without student debt but it going to have to be a step at a time.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Yes

No

X

Comments:

I supported the MD Dream act and I will support the trust act. We need to give the immigrants here a path to citizenship and they should not have to live in fear. We also need to pass an immigration bill that is fair and enforceable. We do not need a wall nor do we need the prejudiced types of laws the president is proposing.

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:

Yes! I have introduced a combined reporting bill this year to pay for tuition free community college. I also agree that the wealthy should pay a fair share.

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:

Yes! We have already agreed to backfill money for protection if the Federal government cuts funding. I have the support of the environmental community. I received a 100% rating again this year from the environmental groups. I voted against fracking and have opposed the gas lines under the Potomac.

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

Comments:

We are not in a position to introduce regulations with a republican governor . We hope to win back that position. As I stated earlier we agreed to backfill any losses of revenue for the Bay that are cut by federal legislation. We are watching closely to monitor changes in Washington so that we can respond quickly to any detrimental acts out of Washington. We lie several other States are moving a bill to join efoorts for climate change that Trump has withdrawn from.

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

Yes

No

Yes! The House already has one. There are only a handful of Senators who describe themselves as progressives. It would be good if we could join the House group.

Comments:

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