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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 **no later than 5 PM on Friday, June 15, 2018**. Responses will be available to the public at www.ProgressiveMaryland.org

Candidate Information

Candidate Last Name:

Cain _____

Candidate First Name:

Alice _____

Office Seeking:

Delegate _____

District:

30A _____

Party:

Democrat _____

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name:

Friends of Alice Cain _____

Street Address:

426 Ferry Point Rd. _____

City:

Annapolis _____

Zip Code:

_21403_____

Business Phone:

202-460-0229 _____

Fax:

_None_____

Campaign Website:

_www.alicejain.com_____

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone:

202-460-0229

Email Address:

alice.johnson.cain@gmail.com (personal) or alice@alicejcain.com (public)

Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name:

Jenni Rooney

Street Address:

PO Box 6225

City:

Annapolis

Zip Code:

21401

Phone:

410-212-1613

Candidate History

Previous Elected Offices:

I have not served in elected office but a worked for elected officials for about 12 years, Congressman and Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller (D-CA) and Senator Paul Simon. The Sierra Club called them "progressive icons" in its endorsement announcement about me.

I also serve on the Annapolis Education Commission after being appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the Annapolis City Council.

Which Years Did You Serve:	
Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?	YES _____ or NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____
If Yes, when:	
Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ or NO _____
Describe:	
<p>I am on your mailing list and Jamie Raskin's (I have supported him since his first run for the state senate when I met him at the Takoma Park Farmer's Market) and have responded to various opportunities over the years – attending marches, reaching out to policymakers, etc. I'm on a lot of mailing lists and I don't remember which events were organized by which organization but I call, email and march regularly for causes that include: anti-war protests (going back to Bush years), women's rights, the environment, gay rights, raising awareness about racism, preventing gun violence, vigil for people who were homeless who have died, etc.</p>	

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

Gun Sense Candidate, Mom's Demand Action for Gun Sense in Maryland

100 Percent Rating from NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland

"The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club has decided to endorse Alice Cain because it felt that she was the stronger candidate due to her experience as Congressional staffer to progressive environmental icons Representative George Miller and Senator Paul Simon, her presentation at her interview, and her sophisticated campaign." - **Earl Bradley, Sierra Club**

"Over many years, I have seen Alice's support for public schools and kids. I endorse her because of her brain, her experience, her passion, and her belief in the potential of all children."

- **Dr. Lillian Lowery, Superintendent of Maryland Public Schools under Gov. O'Malley**

"Alice embodies tenacity, passion, creativity, smarts, and wit. She is a coalition-builder and that's what we need now more than ever – and that's why I'm excited to have Alice represent me in the General Assembly." - **Alderman Marc Rodriguez, Annapolis City Council**

"Alice brings honesty, integrity and passion to serving the public. She understands the close link between education, jobs, and the American Dream, and has been a tireless advocate for enhancing educational equity for children and adults who deserve better. Her voice, experience and commitment in the Maryland House of Delegates would benefit the children and families of Maryland at this critical time."

- **U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, appointed by President Obama**

"Alice, I'm so psyched you're running for the State House. You're going to bring tremendous energy and creativity to Annapolis." - **Maryland Congressman Jamie Raskin**

"What I admire most about Alice is her authenticity. She is someone who cares deeply for our children, our environment, and our future. Her years of service in the community proves this point and gives her the knowledge, experience, and connections to succeed."

- **Alderman Rob Savidge, Annapolis City Council**

"When Alice worked for me on the Education and Labor Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, she was an invaluable ally in our fights for children, teachers, public schools, and working families. She knows how to get things done in the legislature and I enthusiastically endorse her for the Maryland House of Delegates."

- **The Honorable George Miller (D-CA), former Chair, House Education and Labor Committee**

"Alice is passionate about the environment and public education – she has the experience, skills, and knowledge to turn passion into progress."

- **Anne Perrault, Center for International Environmental Law**

"I've known Alice in Annapolis for years and seen her dedication and knowledge on a wide variety of issues, including education and economic opportunity for all. She has the integrity, vision, and experience to help District 30A with wise budgets and smart legislation. She knows how to get things done." – **Janet Norman, Commissioner, Annapolis Education Commission**

"Alice Cain is a champion of equity in Maryland public schools and she is firmly committed to the Democratic platform in education. I'm a Maryland Public School Teacher and I've worked with Alice through Teach Plus for three years. I can't think of anyone more dedicated than Alice to fight for our children's education in the MD State House."

- **Michael Meadows, Language Teacher, Maryland Public Schools**

"Alice is not only an incredibly smart, fierce advocate for students, teachers, and families - she is one of the kindest, most genuine people I've ever had the pleasure of working with." - **Stephenie Johnson, Center for American Progress**

"Alice is a shining example of good government service. Having worked with her [on the staff of Senator Paul Simon] in U.S. Senate, I know Alice to be intelligent, authentic, reasonable, and dedicated. She's one of the hardest-working and most generous people I've encountered. Our nation needs more public servants like Alice Cain."

- **Amy Isbell, advisor to former Democratic Presidential Candidate and Senator Paul Simon**

"Alice Cain has integrity, smarts, guts and a heart. That's what we need in government, and that's why I'm supporting her. You should too."

- **Bob Shireman, Deputy Undersecretary of Education for President Obama**

"I know two things about Alice. I know she's a champion for education [and] I know that [when] Marc Rodriguez introduced this fantastic nondiscrimination stuff, you were there hand in hand with Marc making sure that this happened...The energy is fantastic here...this turnout is so good, you can just see something is going to happen here!"

- **Mayor Gavin Buckley at my campaign launch party – Note: He is not formally endorsing in any primary race this year but spoke at my launch party and gave me permission to use this quote.**

Issue Questions

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

Yes No

Comments: **Yes, I strongly support ending this 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 No

Comments: **Yes, I strongly support Rich Madaleno's legislation – would like to see it phase in as quickly as possible and I do support an indexing provision. I would be proud to vote for this bill – and fight for it. I don't know anyone who can live on \$370/week and it is immoral to pay people only \$9.25/hour. When I worked for Rep. Miller and Sen. Simon they both led the fights nationally to increase the minimum wage.**

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:

Yes, we need to keep corporate and PAC money out of politics and do everything possible to end Citizens United. It is ridiculous that candidates in MD are allowed to give unlimited amounts to their campaigns. This only makes it easier for the very wealthy to get elected, which is not the representation we need in our legislature.

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:

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: **The best way to revitalize a strong middle class and address the growing gap between the 1% and the rest of us is through strong labor unions. I am worried about the impact of the Janus decision, which is expected next month from the Supreme Court.**

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: **Yes, yes, yes! It is about equal pay AND it is also about safe and professional working conditions, in the General Assembly and for working women across our state. I am very supportive of Aruna Miller's leadership in this area, including but not limited to addressing sexual harassment and misconduct. I spoke out during the early days of the #MeToo movement and was quoted in the New York Times expose on sexual harassment in Congress and appeared on MSNMC as a face of the #MeToo movement. We need equal opportunities, equal pay, higher minimum wage, better parental and sick leave, and some sort of Lilly Ledbetter-like law. My former boss, Rep. George Miller was chief sponsor of that law at the federal level (the first law signed by President Obama) and I was never prouder of him than I was that day!**

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:

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: **There is nothing more personal than our bodies and I believe this should be woman's decision, period. She can consult and collaborate with her spouse or partner, her doctor, and her faith leader if she is a person of faith, but – in the end – the decision about whether or not to carry a child should be made by the person doing that carrying. That said, I think we should do more to make abortion less necessary for women who see it as the only choice.**

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

I don't know. (I know the answer you want is yes, but I am still learning about this very complex issue.)

Comments: **I like the goals of this idea but this is a topic I need to understand better. I am making efforts to learn about it – including how much it would cost and how to pay for it. It is an absolute priority for me to make sure all Marylanders have access to affordable health care. When I worked at the Children's Defense Fund I co-led our national effort on behalf of expanding the CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program), which led to about 140,000 Maryland children getting health coverage for the first time. They were at grave risk this year of losing coverage because of the Trump Administration and GOP Congress and I fear they could be at risk again. I will fight with everything I've got to make sure they keep their coverage.**

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:

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

Support Oppose

Comments: **I strongly oppose the charter school model being pushed by Trump and Betsy DeVos, which is based on the horrible model she pushed in Michigan. I work at a nonprofit (Teach Plus) where we fight the DeVos agenda every day on charters, deporting Dreamers, cutting federal education funds, and arming teachers, and I organized thousands of teachers across the country to mobilize against DeVos at her confirmation hearing, at the request and in collaboration with Sen. Patty Murray's staff. I am, however, fine with PUBLIC charter schools that are opened with the support of the local school district. There is one in my district, Monarch, that was supported by the union (in accordance with Maryland's charter school law that was co-written by the Maryland State Education Association), the local school superintendent, and the local school board and it has helped alleviate overcrowding and reduce segregation in our local 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

Comments: **Public dollars should go to public schools, period. When I worked on Capitol Hill, Rep. Miller and I led the fight against efforts by the Republicans to pass law that would allow public dollars to go for vouchers like this. We fought for more federal dollars for PUBLIC schools and were successful in passing a law that brings hundreds of millions of new federal dollars to Maryland PUBLIC schools each year.**

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

Yes

No

Comments: **When I lived in New Zealand, this was how things worked there and I saw firsthand what it does for ALL school children to know college is in their future. I will work like crazy for this – for in-state students, including Dreamers!**

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Yes

No

Comments: **When the Annapolis City Council considered a similar law in 2017, the Non-Discrimination Ordinance, I testified in support of it and organized other community members to do so 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

No

Comments: **Yes, and I would love to send as many of these dollars as possible to our schools and affordable/accessible health care!**

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: **We need to get federal funding back, which I understand to be a priority of Sen. Van Hollen that I strongly support AND provide this protection.**

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 need to protect our community members who are immigrants and refugees from repals of DACA, our schools from the DeVos agenda, our environment from the Pruitt agenda, our healthcare system from the GOP Congressional agenda, our people struggling with addiction from Big Pharma, our gun laws**

from the NRA, especially the Concealed Carry law that they are pushing hard and would allow state law in places like Texas and Florida to supersede Maryland law here in Maryland, and so much more! The main reason I am running for office is that I had had it with the damage Trump is inflicting and I want to fight back on everything! And also just build a government that operates with integrity that people can trust and respect (again, the opposite of Trump).

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

Yes

No

Comments: **Would love to be a Founding Member!**

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