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2018 Questionnaire for County Executive and County Council of Anne Arundel 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 Legislative and Policy Coordinator Jennifer Dwyer at Jennifer@progressivemaryland.org **no later than 5 P.M. on Wednesday March 28, 2018**. Your responses will be available to the public at www.ProgressiveMaryland.org

Candidate Information

Candidate Last Name: Rodvien

Candidate First Name: Lisa

Office Seeking: Anne Arundel County Council

District: District 6

Party: Democratic Party

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name: Friends of Lisa Rodvien

Street Address: 992 Wayson Way

City: Davidsonville, Maryland

Zip Code: 21035

Business Phone: 240-441-2674 (Lisa's cell phone)

Fax: None

Campaign Website: lisarodvien.com

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone: 240-441-2674

Email Address: lisa.rodvien@gmail.com

Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name: Melissa G. Stanton

Street Address: 992 Wayson Way

City: Davidsonville, MD

Zip Code: 21035

Phone: 443-858-7470

Candidate History	
Previous Elected Offices: None	
Which Years Did You Serve: NA	
Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland? NA	YES _____ or NO _____
If Yes, when: NA	
Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or NO _____
Describe: Attended events, provided assistance with room rental for event.	
Major Endorsements (Elected Officials/Organizations/Opinion Leaders): Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County	

Issue Questions

1. Do you support a \$15 per hour minimum wage for all Anne Arundel County workers?
If yes, over what time period would you suggest implementing it?

Yes No

Comments: A \$15 minimum wage should be phased in over a period of 3-5 years. Too many people in Anne Arundel County are struggling to make ends meet, yet still working 2 or more jobs. This is unacceptable and contributes to our growing wealth inequality.

2. Do you support public financing of County Executive and County Council races in Anne Arundel County?

Yes No

Comments: The races currently underway in Anne Arundel County demonstrate the need for publicly financed elections. With a county executive who has promised to use enormous resources to oppose any and all Democrats running for county seats, it is very likely that there are potential candidates who would not even consider running for office. Furthermore, elections financed through large donor individuals and private companies raise questions of loyalty. Will an elected official whose election was financed through such donors be loyal to her constituents or to those who funded her election campaign?

3. Do you support ending the money-based bail system in Maryland?

Yes No

Comments: Money-based bail should be ended in Maryland. If a suspect is considered dangerous or a serious flight risk for a serious crime, then he/she can be held without bail. Bail for non-dangerous suspects or suspects who are not considered a flight risk imposes disproportionate harm on poor defendants. We should end this inequity in the criminal justice process.

4. Do you believe that Anne Arundel County should lease school property to telecommunications companies for the purpose of constructing cell phone towers?

Yes No

Comments: At this point, there is legitimate debate about the safety and risks posed by cell towers, especially for children whose bodies and brains are still developing.

5. Do you support single-payer health care in Maryland? If so, would you be willing to work with the state legislature to pass it?

Yes No

Comments: Access to health care should not depend on one's wealth and no one should profit from keeping people sick. Too much of the money spent in the world of health care goes to middle-men who provide no actual care to patients.

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

SUPPORT OPPOSE

Comments: Even in Maryland where our Charter School law is strong, charter schools add to a school system's economic segregation. Because entrance into a charter school relies on the existence of a parent who is engaged enough to participate in a lottery or application process, there will inevitably be an inequality in the level of parental involvement between charter and traditional public schools. Parental involvement and support can make a substantial difference in a student's achievement. Furthermore, students with significant parental support are less likely to need the same level of social services that traditional public school students. As financial resources are allocated to charter schools and public schools equality on a per-pupil basis, yet traditional public school students require greater/more services, the existence of charter schools creates another inequality.

7. 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: Like charter schools, using vouchers for private school tuition takes money away from public schools, which already face significant funding shortages.

8. Will you prioritize the increase of funding for both Anne Arundel County Public Schools and Anne Arundel Community College? How will you accomplish this funding increase?

Yes

No

Comments: Chronic underfunding of Anne Arundel County Public Schools is the main reason I am running for County Council. I have personally witnessed growing class sizes, school overcrowding, and high teacher turnover due to lagging pay. I will work on improving funding for AACPS and AACC by looking for savings within the existing budget and by working with the BoE to redirect funds from Central Office to school-level employees. If needed, I will work with my fellow council members to look at increasing impact fees as well as the piggy-back tax.

9. Do you support the right to form unions?

Yes

No

Comments: I am a proud union member myself (Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County) and many studies confirm that where unions exist pay and working conditions are better for union and non-union workers alike. Union membership should be encouraged and I support the right of workers to unionize.

10. Will you work to create a higher density of union jobs in Anne Arundel County? If so, how would you accomplish this?

Yes

No

Comments: Currently, much of the work contracted by the Anne Arundel County government is not completed by union workers. I will start to increase union jobs in the county by working towards insisting that County contracts are completed with union labor whenever possible.

11. Would you work to ensure that all county-funded infrastructure and construction projects are done with project labor agreements and assurances that state expenditures will result in good jobs for Anne Arundel County residents?

Yes

No

Comments: Anne Arundel County currently *prohibits* PLAs for County Projects. I will work to overturn this prohibition and work towards ensuring that PLAs or union labor is used for county projects.

12. What would you do to enhance economic stability and wealth for Anne Arundel County residents?

Comments: We are fortunate in Anne Arundel County to have several very well-established employers and entities that can create stability for our area: BWI Airport, Fort Meade, the US Naval Academy, and state and local government departments. In addition to these existing entities, strategies such as increasing the minimum wage, pushing for county work to be completed by union labor, and stronger public schools will all add to the economic stability and wealth for Anne Arundel County residents.

13. What would you do to create more housing options that are affordable for middle- and lower-income families?

Comments: I would like to work with developers to require that part of any project they build will include affordable housing or workforce housing.

14. What are your plans to address the opioid crisis in Anne Arundel County?

Comments: After speaking with health workers who are actively working on this issue, I have learned that the biggest need is additional treatment beds. While the Safe Station program that the County Executive created is a good start, it cannot always get persons needing treatment into facilities immediately, especially on the weekend. We need to work with health care providers to expand the number of treatment beds and find ways to get patients into treatment during weekend and evening hours. In addition, we need to find ways to bring additional mental health workers to Anne Arundel County. Our schools and our communities are suffering from an insufficient number of psychologists, social workers, and psychiatrists who are best equipped to address our opioid crisis.

Furthermore, we need to work with the public schools to ensure that the danger of opioids is covered at multiple grade levels in order to protect against new users.

15. Do you support creating clean energy sources (eg. solar farms) located in Anne Arundel County?

Yes No

Comments: While I generally support locating clean energy projects in Anne Arundel County, I believe it is important to be mindful of which sites are chosen for projects such as solar farms. Surely, cutting down old-growth forests or repurposing farmland for solar farms is not the most environmentally wise land use. Facilitating the use of closed landfills, for example, would be a better choice as we would not have to give up other important land priorities in order to gain a valuable solar farm.

16. Do you support “no net loss” of trees in Anne Arundel County?

Yes No

Comments: Not only do I support a “no net loss” of trees in Anne Arundel County, I believe we need restrictions against allowing developers to clear-cut trees in the first place.

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

- Sign legislation? YES_✓___ or
NO_____
- Work with our legislative coordinator 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_____

18. 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_____