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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

Candidate Information

Candidate Last Name:

Hovermale _____

Candidate First Name:

Tracie _____

Office Seeking:

MD State Delegate _____

District:

33 _____

Party:

Democrat _____

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name:

Citizens to Elect Tracie Hovermale _____

Street Address:

2801 Rutland Road _____

City:

Davidsonville _____

Zip Code:

21035 _____

Business Phone:

410-279-7872 _____

Fax:

none _____

Campaign Website:

www.TracieHovermale.com _____

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone:

410-279-7872 _____

Email Address:

HovermaleForDelegate@gmail.com _____

Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name:

Dawn Stein _____

Street Address:

307 Rockwell Terrace _____

City:

Frederick _____

Zip Code:

21701 _____

Phone:

301-964-6786 _____

Candidate History

Previous Elected Offices:

None

Which Years Did You Serve:

NA

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?

YES _____ or NO __XX__

If Yes, when:

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?

YES __XX__ or NO _____

Describe:

I have supported progressive legislation, contacted legislators, attended meetings, and supported people within the community. I have also supported working families, immigrants and women's rights organizations.

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

Issue Questions

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

Yes **YES** No

Comments:

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 **YES** No

Comments:

A phased in approach is necessary to ensure business can plan and prepare for the increase. The increase at large businesses should be phased in first and smaller businesses later. Full implementation should be feasible within 3 to 5 years.

I do support an indexing provision for 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 **YES** No

Comments:

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 **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 **YES** No

Comments:

We should study the provisions in the statutes of the 20 states that allow state and local employees to engage in collective bargaining to determine which provisions will work in Maryland.

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 **YES** No

Comments:

I support prohibiting prospective employers from asking about salary history and believe they should be required to provide the relevant pay scale for the position to the applicant. We need to continue to look for ways to make workplaces family friendly and ensure women with children are able to continue to work to maintain their financial security.

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 **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. **NO**

Comments:

Decisions about a woman's health care should be made by a woman in consultation with her medical professional.

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:

I support the concept of single-payer health care however, I am not convinced that it can be implemented in just one state quickly and effectively. A few of the impediments may be cost considerations, mobility across state lines to consider and the possible risk to people of losing health care during the process of abandoning the current system completely. It seems we should continue to extend all-payer rate setting for all services which will provide a basis for moving to a single-payer system on a national (or possibly regional) level.

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 **YES** No

Comments:

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

Support

Oppose. **OPPOSE**

Comments:

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 **OPPOSE**

Comments:

Public funds should be used to support the public school system and ensure that all students have access to an excellent education so that all students can reach their full potential.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

I believe a better-educated workforce would help fill many of the skills gaps that slow our economic growth and would benefit all of us. All students should have access to the level of education that they seek so that they can reach their full potential. However, we should also look at other options such as an income-based repayment system that would have allow an expiration of loans should a person's income stay low. Many of the highly technical fields do not require a college degree but do require extensive technical training which should be made available to students. It seems that first we should move toward an Associate degree through the community college at no cost to students while at the same time consider this for technical training institutes.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Yes

YES

No

Comments:

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 **YES** No

Comments:

Corporate tax avoidance must be stopped.

investment income is often a very large portion of the extremely wealthy. As a result of the preferential treatment of investment income, the extremely wealthy have a more advantageous tax situation than the 'moderately' wealthy. This needs to be corrected.

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 **YES** No

Comments:

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

Comments:

The State must avoid imposing unfunded federal mandate and should continue to try to maintain a working relationship with the federal government for the benefit of the people. We need to counter the negative impact to the environment, criminal and social justice reform, immigrant rights, and rights of all people to be protected from discriminatory actions.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

I believe the progressive priorities are embodied in almost all of the caucus' in the state legislature now and we should continue to support the individual caucus' and encourage collaboration across lines. However, a progressive caucus would likely provide benefit to this effort of coordination.

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