

Frederick Progressives

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March 8, 2018

2018 Questionnaire for County Council

Dear Kavonte Duckett, Candidate for County Council:

Frederick Progressives, as a chapter of 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 Frederick Progressives & Progressive Maryland's endorsement, please return the completed questionnaire by email to FrederickProgressives@riseup.net no later than 5 P.M. on Friday, March 23, 2018. Your responses will be available to the public at www.FrederickProgressives.com

Sincerely,

Josh Cassell
Secretary -- Frederick Progressives
(301) 928-0697

1. What is your vision for Frederick County and what will you commit to doing to ensure a future for Frederick County that provides safety, security and stability for all who live here?

I am proud to be a lifelong resident of Frederick County. I was born here, raised here, and know that my hometown pride is shared by many others. As a Frederick County Council member, I want to push for progress. I vow to be the voice of the next generation of leaders.

I care about our County and that means valuing education, providing opportunities for small businesses, and attracting and retaining young people, and their intellectual capital. The citizens of Frederick County are my primary concern. There is so much untapped potential within our County and I want to help move Frederick forward. I put people over politics and am looking forward to working with each area and neighborhood to implement effective changes. It's time to learn from the past and leap into the future.

2. What do you believe are Frederick County's most critical unmet needs and how would you implement solutions to meet those needs?

- **Education - I care about the state of our school system and will fight to attract and retain top quality talent in Frederick County Schools.**
- **Small Businesses - I will work alongside business owners to help grow our business sector, and support local entrepreneurs; I will be a voice for the local business community.**
- **Substance Abuse - I vow to work closely with law enforcement and other state and local elected officials and agencies to fight this crisis.**

3. If elected, what would you do to combat police misconduct and to ensure that there are appropriate consequences and justice when police misconduct occurs?

As a County Council member, I would join fellow Council persons in reviewing current policies and hiring practices. I would then work with law enforcement and community members to bridge the gap of trust. I would continue the coffee with a cop program as well as integrate the Chief's Forum group created by Chief Ed Hargis. This forum acts as an advisory board for the Frederick City Police to Frederick County Sheriff Office.

4. What do you believe are the County's legislative priorities and how will you ensure those priorities are met?

My priorities, and the County's priorities share some overlap. From education to public safety, to transportation. If elected, I would work alongside other leaders, at the local, County, and State level to ensure we are making Frederick work for working families.

5. Do you support a \$15 minimum wage ? Why or why not? If you do, how would you support and facilitate the enactment of a \$15 minimum wage law in Frederick County?

I believe that everyone deserves a livable wage. To start, we should learn from our neighbors in Montgomery County. I would open conversations with those individuals who played an instrumental role to get a sense of best practices. I would then think about launching a task force to put together a study so that way, when implemented, we would be starting from a place of strength.

6. If elected, what would you do to increase transparency and citizen participation and engagement in the business of the County Council? Would you be willing to change the schedule of meetings where public comment is accepted to evening hours so more citizens could participate in person?

**I understand, firsthand, the importance of putting people before politics. That is why my campaign is centered on Frederick County residents, and understanding the issues they find most pressing. Accountability and transparency are tantamount to my campaign, and if elected, my tenure as County Council member.
If elected, my goal is to hold monthly events/roundtables throughout the County to listen to the concerns of constituents. If changing the time of council meetings would allow more residents to participate in the process I am open to changing meeting times.**

7. What laws do you believe should be implemented in Frederick County to reduce the potential for gun violence in our homes, our schools and our communities?

I plan on talking with students, parents, educators, staff and the BOE to get a better understanding of their specific areas of concern when it comes to school safety in Frederick County Public Schools. I would not want to speak for a group of people, and put forward a solution, without first understanding their specific concerns. I am also proud to support responsible gun legislation current proposed in Annapolis, including the repeal of Maryland's Handgun Permit Review Board, the ban of production and sale of bump fire stocks and similar devices, and a detachable magazine ban.

8. Do you support or oppose the participation by the Frederick County's Sheriff Office in the 287g program? Why or why not?

I strongly oppose the participation by the Frederick County's Sheriff Office in the 287g program. Daily we hear the cries of children who are afraid to leave home not knowing if their parents will be there when they return. Likewise, there are members of our community who are afraid to answer their doors or report crimes because they fear for their lives.

It is reprehensible that in 2018, people are being detained for minor misdemeanors and traffic stops. This The mission of the Sheriff's Office is "...to serve all the people within Frederick County with respect, fairness, and compassion." This isn't happening. Families are being destroyed and lives ruined. I am disappointed with the County's leadership on this issue.

9. What do you see as the needs and priorities specific to the Council District you are running to represent? If At-Large, answer for the whole county.

- **Substance Abuse - I vow to work closely with law enforcement and other state and local elected officials and agencies to fight this crisis.**
- **Education - I care about the state of our school system and will fight to attract and retain top quality talent in Frederick County Schools.**
- **Small Businesses - I will fight to grow our business sector, and support local entrepreneurs; I will be a voice for the local business community.**

10. Where do you stand on progressive issues as they apply to Frederick County including racial and gender equity; economic, environmental and climate justice; a return to true democracy where people, not profits prevail, poverty, homelessness, alcohol and drug abuse, unsafe homes, etc. as symptoms of societal injustice and failure rather than personal failure, ie, blaming the victim, etc.?

I believe that every resident has a voice and my campaign is focused on putting people first.

11. What are the key challenges to adequate infrastructure and what would you do to address infrastructure needs.

I think transportation is a huge issue. However, too many folks tend to focus on one aspect -- highways, public transportation, and high speed rail service. However, to really address these issues we need to look at everything, holistically. Fortunately, my campaign team is made up of people who use all of these modes of transportation when commuting to D.C. I am extremely focused on infrastructure and addressing the needs of the citizens of Frederick County. If elected, I plan to work closely with state and local government officials, and even federal government officials, to determine how we can best address these concerns.

12. If Frederick Progressives /Progressive Maryland does not to endorse you for this race, would that affect your willingness to work with the group in the future on important issues?

My campaign is centered on putting people before politics. Should this group choose not to endorse me, it will have no bearing on my willingness to work with the group in the future.

13. Would you be willing to support Frederick Progressives priorities by:

● cosponsoring legislation?	Yes
● testify in support of legislation?	Yes
● write an op ed?	Yes
● speaking at progressive events?	Yes
● attending meetings?	Yes
● meet with our leadership group?	Yes
● give updates on shared goals?	Yes
● writing letters to endorse a labor organizing drive?	Yes

Other: