

To: Frederick Progressives

From: Tom Slater, candidate for Democratic State Central Committee (Frederick County)

Re: Answers to 2018 Questionnaire

1. What professional experience, personal experience, education or training to you possess that makes you a qualified candidate for a member of the Central Committee.

*B.S.- Frostburg State College – 1966

*Married Anne 8/21/66. Anne is retired and Professor Emerita at Frederick Community College

*Three Children: Stephen, Stacy, and Mark

*Taught social studies in Frederick County Public Schools at Walkersville High School, Thurmont High School, Catoctin High School, and Linganore High School – 1966-1982

*Active in the Frederick County Teachers Association(Treasurer), Maryland State Teachers Association(Board of Directors), and National Education Association(attended numerous conventions)

*Received M.A. degree from The George Washington University – 1971. Majored in United States History and Diplomatic History. Wrote Master's Degree Thesis on "Frederick County Politics, 1950-1970: A Study in Rural Conservatism"

*J.D. – University of Baltimore – 1981. Have practiced law in Frederick County since 1982. Have practiced with Stephen Slater since 2008, Slater and Slater, P.C.

Former President of the Frederick County Bar Association and member of the Board of Governors of the Maryland State Bar Association

*Was Adjunct Instructor at Frederick Community College for over 20 years. Taught United States History, State and Local Government, Business Law and Evidence for Legal Assistants

*Former member Frostburg State College Board of Visitors(appointed by Governor Harry Hughes)-1981-1991

*Active member of Frostburg State University Alumni Association(former President) and Frostburg State University Foundation(former Chair)

*Active in political campaigns – 1964-present

*Elected to Democratic State Central Committee for Frederick County: 1974, 1978, 1986, 1990, 1998, 2002. Served as Secretary(1974-1982), Vice Chair(1986-1990), and Chair(1990-1994, 1998-2005). Initiated and edited newsletter for over 20 years. Initiated and implemented Monocacy Plowman and Fisherman Club. Served on the Executive Committee of the Maryland Democratic Party for over 20 years. Attended Democratic National Conventions: 1972, 1976, 1980(Kennedy Delegate), 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008(Rules Committee), 2012(Obama Delegate), 2016

6th District Alternate Delegate to the first Democratic Mid-term Conference in 1974; attended 3rd and last Democratic Mid-term Conference in 1982

*Unsuccessful Democratic candidate for House of Delegates (1982); unsuccessful Democratic nominee for House of Delegates (1994) and Frederick City Alderman (2005)

*Founder and Chair, Western Maryland Democratic Caucus, 1999-2012. Initiated and Chaired Planning Committee for 9 Western Maryland Democratic Summits(2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013)

*Co-Founder, United Democrats of Frederick County – 1980. Served two terms as President

* Current Historian, Frederick County Democratic Party

*Appointed by Governor O'Malley and confirmed by the Maryland Senate to a five year term on the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland-2007. Reappointed in 2012. Was a Regent for 10 years (2007-2017). Served as Assistant Secretary, Chair of the Effectiveness and Efficiency Committee and Education Policy and Student Life Committee. Member of the Advancement, Finance, and Organization and Compensation Committees. Currently a member of the USM BOR Workgroup on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement.

*Member, Board of Advisors for University System of Maryland at Hagerstown(2007-2017).

*Panelist on "Pressing Issues"(Cable 10) – 1998-2008

*Current memberships:

Bar Association of Frederick County(BAFC)

Maryland State Bar Association(MSBA)

Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys Association

Maryland Association for Justice(MAJ)

National Organization of Social Security Claimants Representatives(NOSSCR)

Frederick County Retired School Personnel Association (FCRSPA), currently
President-Elect

Frederick County AARP

Society for American Baseball Research(SABR)

Maryland Bar Foundation

Monocacy Ploughman & Fisherman Club

United Democrats of Frederick County(U.D.F.C.)

Frederick County Historical Society

League of Women Voters of Frederick County

*Awards: Alumni Achievement Award from Frostburg State University(1990)

President's Award from the United Democrats of Frederick County(1990)

& Award for Continuous and Dedicated Service to the Democrats of
Frederick County(2011)

Award of Appreciation from the Maryland Democratic Party(1982)

Award for Dedication and Service to The Democratic Party and the Citizens
of Frederick County from the Democratic State Central Committee (1995)

Western Maryland Democratic Summit Founders Award (2014)

10 Year Volunteer Award from the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service(2005)

Voted 7 times by attorneys in Frederick Magazine as best Disability Attorney in
Frederick County

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2. What, in your opinion, differentiates traditional/establishment/centrist parties and progressives? Do you consider yourself to be a progressive, and why? Not sure what you mean by traditional/establishment/centrist parties. There are two major parties in the United States – the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. Of the two, the Democratic Party is the most progressive, although, in my view, the Democratic Party represents a wider range of opinion than the Republican Party does. There are very few progressive Republicans left.

I consider myself a progressive because I support many causes that may be considered progressive such as, but not limited to, freedom of choice, equality, economic and social justice.

- 3 . What can the Central Committee do to bridge the gap between the different groups of voters such as Progressives, Libertarians and Democratic Socialists and how, as a Committee member would you facilitate that bridge building. The Democratic Party is open to all who ascribe to the basic principles of the party, including the above mentioned freedom of choice, equity and economic and social justice. All who desire to support the principles of the Democratic Party should be welcome and encouraged to participate in the party.
- 4 . How would you promote diversity within the Party? By continuing to encourage all who wish to participate in the party to do so. The Democratic Party is already very diverse. So long as the Party continues to be open to all who support its values, the Party will be diverse.
- 5 . Would you support expanding the Primary to include independent voters and how would you advocate for that change in Maryland. The primary election, in my opinion, should be limited to those who self determine to be Democrats. If people do not desire to profess to be a Democrat, they should not have a say in determining the nominees of the Democratic Party.
- 6 . As a Central Committee member how do you plan to organize issue campaigns to engage voters on important progressive issues? What are some of those issues for you? Campaigns are about electing candidates for office. The Democratic candidates who emerge victorious in the primary election will chose for themselves what issues to emphasize. The role of the Central Committee is to facilitate the election of those who have been selected in the primary. Personally, some issues that are important to me include: the reduction of the influence of money in political campaigns, strong support for public education, protecting the Chesapeake Bay, increasing public transportation options as opposed to building more roads, the reduction of the prison population, health care for all, decriminalization of drug usage and possession, and equal treatment for all people.
- 7 . How will you reach out to diverse communities and increase their participation in the Party? What means will you employ to improve voter turnout? Listen, promote involvement of diverse communities. Voter turnout will be increased by promoting qualified and talented candidates who engender support among the voters. Also, Republican attempts to discourage voter turnout should be fought vigorously.
- 8 . What do you see as your most critical function as a Central Committee Member? My extensive experience in the Democratic Party will allow me to provide some history and perspective to my fellow members. I also have demonstrated over the years a willingness to work hard for the Democratic Party and intend to continue to do so.
- 9 . If Frederick Progressive/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? If elected, I will work with any group that supports the basic principles of the Democratic Party and that does not take actions to harm Democratic candidates for public office.

10, 11, 12 – My questionnaire did not include questions 10,11, or 12.

13. Would you be willing to support Frederick Progressives by: cosponsoring legislation, testify in support of legislation, write an op ed, speaking at progressive events, attending meetings, meet with our leadership group, give updates on shared goals, writing letters to endorse a labor organizing drive. Yes, but my primary responsibility, if elected, will be to fulfill my responsibilities as a member of the Democratic State Central Committee.