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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 P.M. on Friday, January 26, 2018**. Your responses will be available to the public at www.ProgressiveMaryland.org

Candidate Information

Candidate Last Name:

Lewis Young _____

Candidate First Name:

Karen

Office Seeking:

House of Delegates

District:

3A

Party:

Democrat

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name:

Friends of Karen Lewis Young

Street Address:

PO Box 3662

City:

Frederick

Zip Code

21705

Business Phone:

301-682-7339

Fax:

Campaign Website:: karenlewisyoungfordelegate.com

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone:

Email Address:

klewisyoung@hotmail.com

Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name:

Kathy Rossen_

Street Address:

PO Box 3662

City:

Frederick

Zip Code:

21705

Phone:

Candidate History

Previous Elected Offices:

President Pro Tem City of Frederick Board of Alderman

MD House of Delegates

Which Years Did You Serve:

President Pro Tem 2009-2013

House of Delegates 2014 - present

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?

YES _____ or NO _____

If Yes, when: Not certain. I receive an endorsement from a Progressive organization in 2014.

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?

YES _____ or NO _____

Describe: The vast majority of my legislative activities are aligned with Progressive Maryland's goals.

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

Former Governors Martin O'Malley and Paris Glendening, AG Brian Frosh, Former Senator Barbara Mikulski, Senators Cardin and Van Hollen, Congressman Raskin, Speaker of the House Michael Busch, Sierra Club, League of Conservation Voters

In addition, MD PIRG (MD Public Interest Research Group) a non-profit, non-partisan advocate for the public interest scored all legislators based on our voting record. I scored 100%.

Issue Questions

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

Yes

No

Comments:

The commercial bail system is unfair, unsafe, costly and racially biased. Thankfully, Maryland and a handful of other states now lead the nation in moving away from it. Six months after a new judicial rule went into effect requiring court officers to seek alternatives to cash bail, its use has declined significantly, without causing an increase in the relatively small number of defendants who fail to appear at trial.

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:

Two Maryland lawmakers are pushing to raise the state's minimum wage to \$15 an hour, joining a national movement that is being embraced by three of the state's Democratic candidates for governor and has already succeeded in Montgomery County and the District. State Sen. Richard S. Madaleno Jr. (D-Montgomery) and Del. Shelly L. Hettleman (D-Baltimore County) announced recently that they will introduce legislation this year

to raise the state's lowest allowable wage from \$10.10 an hour to \$15 by 2023. I will support this. There should be a provision for an automatic cost-of-living increase.

3. Do you support public financing of State Senate and Delegate races similar to systems enacted in Montgomery County and Howard County?

X Yes No

Comments: I would be willing to support this and participate in it as long as it is a requirement for ALL state legislators. We must be competing on a level playing field.

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?

X Yes No

Comments: I strongly support efforts to make scheduling more fair and predictable for employees. However, some flexibility needs to be allowed for emergency situations.

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?

X Yes No

Comments: Employees should always have the option to organize.

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?

X Yes No

Comments: I have been a recognized leader in Equal Pay initiatives in the Maryland General Assembly. During 2016, I introduced HB 401, which intended to establish an Equal Pay Commission to study and promote research on wage disparities and recommend ways to remediate them. I also introduced HB343, which prohibited a unit from awarding a procurement contract unless the contractor had a specified equal pay

certificate. These bills were incorporated into the Equal Pay legislation that passed that year and I was a lead co-sponsor.

In 2017, I was the lead sponsor of HB398, which prohibited employers who employ 15 or more employees from seeking salary history as a screening and selection criteria for applicants. This legislation passed in the House but not the Senate. I am bringing a stronger version back in 2018, which was “dropped” on 1/25.

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:

In fact, I agreed to co-sponsor a bill that does this.

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: I believe in the right to choose. I believe that decision should remain between a woman, her doctor, and her family. However, once the fetus has developed to the stage that it can live independently outside of the mother’s body, I no longer support abortion.

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: The United States spends almost twice as much on health care, as a percentage of our economy, as other advanced industrialized countries – totaling \$3.3 trillion, or 17.0% of gross domestic product in 2016. Obviously, there are many inefficiencies in our system. Some of them include over-pricing for prescription drugs, too many services delivered in hospitals versus community clinics; and too many tests and unnecessary procedures. With some reforms in these areas, considerable dollars could be saved.

The uncertainty over the efficacy of the Affordable Care Act is placing health care policy decisions back to the state. States from New York to California are starting to explore a single-payer option. I believe that many states will start the transition in the near future.

Since the Individual Market has major financial challenges, one options is to consolidate the product offerings. I believe that this is a first step in the transition.

At a hearing on 1/24, I asked the State Insurance Commissioner if a cost/benefit analysis has been done on a single payer plan. He responded negatively.

It is time to do that analysis because single-payer could be more economical over the long-term. Certainly, there will be substantial savings in administrative costs. In addition to savings on prescription drugs and administrative costs, revenues can be generated from some of the following options:

- Progressive income tax reform

- Responsible estate tax reform
- Payroll tax in lieu of Health care premiums
- Capital gains tax
- Small tax on stock and bond transactions

<http://harvardpolitics.com/united-states/the-pro-business-argument-for-single-payer-healthcare/>

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?

X Yes No

Comments:

Pharmacy benefit managers arose to fulfill a need created by the Medicare Modernization Act. However, now these companies are contributing to escalating drug prices, the very opposite of their original purpose.

I was a co-sponsor of the 2017 legislation to fight prescription drug price gouging and I will continue to advocate for increased transparency, monitoring, and accountability.

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

Support x Oppose

Comments:

Unless they remain public schools under the governance of local school boards and meet an “unmet need” Also, they must have the same high academic standards as public schools and they may not be discriminatory in their admission process.

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 x Oppose

Comments: Private schools take funding away from public schools. If you choose to send your child to private school, you should be prepared to pay for that option.

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

X Yes No

Comments:

First, I believe that we need to make tuition free at Community Colleges. There will be a bill supporting this during 2018 and I will support it. The next phase will be free tuition at state colleges and universities for all in-state students. I will support this as well as soon as we identify a reliable funding source.

“Higher education in America should be a right for all, not a privilege for the few,” Senator Sanders said in an April 3rd statement. “If we are to succeed in a highly competitive global economy and have the best-educated workforce in the world, public colleges and universities must become tuition-free for working families and we must substantially reduce student debt.”

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Yes No

Comments: During 2017 I was a co-sponsor of the legislation and I spoke favorably about it publicly. I will support it again in 2018.

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:

There will be a bill this session to close corporate loopholes and I will support it as well as co-sponsor it. The gap between the poor and the wealthy has been growing exponentially. Now that corporations will benefit from the Trump Tax Plan, it is even more urgent that these loopholes are eliminated.

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: I have always supported and co-sponsored legislation to protect the Potomac, Chesapeake, and other waterways. “Clean Water Action” endorsed me in 2014 and I have always received high scores from the Environmental groups.

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

Comments:

MD Taxpayer Protection Plan Personal Exemptions:

- Restores Maryland’s longstanding personal exemptions that Congress eliminated – \$680 million of annual State tax benefits for 92% of all Marylanders;
- Returns an income tax deduction – up to \$3,200 per dependent – to millions of Maryland taxpayers;

- The legislature made our personal exemptions income-based in 2012.

Preventing the top 0.1% ultra-wealthy from paying zero Maryland estate taxes: Estate Tax:

: • The Republican-led Congress doubled the amount of money that the ultra-wealthy can pass on to their heirs completely tax free – from \$11.2 million jointly to \$22.4 million.

- Maryland is scheduled to follow the federal rules in 2019 – but when the State agreed to recouple four years ago to around \$5 million, nobody envisioned these new tax breaks for the top 0.1%.
- Our bill keeps Maryland’s estate tax consistent with 2014 State law – and prevents the doubling of a tax giveaway to the ultra-wealthy.

Allowing Marylanders to make new charitable contributions that benefit public education:

New Charitable Contributions for Public Education:

- Maryland has a variety of programs to incentivize contributions to (1) neighborhood and community assistance projects; (2) qualified permanent charitable endowment funds; and (3) donations of conservation and preservation easements;
- To encourage more charitable giving, our bill creates a new charitable fund solely benefitting public education across the State, and allows some Maryland taxpayers to make these new donations.

Continue to move legislation forward that keeps are environment clean and healthy.

Protect Maryland Healthcare from the federal sabotage against the Affordable Care Act:

- Preserve individual mandate
- Move towards single-payer
- Support Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP, Planned Parenthood
- Protect subsidies for income-challenged families in the Individual Market

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

Yes No

Comments:

The House of Delegates already has a Progressive Caucus. It is known as the “Book Club” and there are about 27 members. This is the third year and I am a charter member. I host the group in my Annapolis residence once a week during session.

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

- Co-sponsor legislation? YES x or NO _____
- Work with our Policy and Legislative Director to help pass a bill? YES x or NO _____
- Testify at a hearing in support of legislation? Where I am lead sponsor. YES x or NO _____
- Speak at public events in support of legislation? YES x or NO _____
- Write a letter in support of legislation? YES x or NO _____
- Write an op-ed in support of legislation? YES x or NO _____

20. Would you be willing to engage with Progressive Maryland members and their communities by:

- Speaking at Progressive Maryland events? YES x or NO_____
- Meeting with our membership annually to report on the progress of our shared priorities and answer questions from our members? YES x or NO_____
- Writing a letter to unorganized workers endorsing an organizing drive by a labor union? YES x or NO_____