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2018 Questionnaire for State Senate

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, March 30, 2018**. Your responses will be available to the public at www.ProgressiveMaryland.org

Candidate Information

Candidate Last Name: Douglass

Candidate First Name: Jessica

Office Seeking: MD State Senate

District: 4

Party: Democrat

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name: Friends of Jessica Douglass

Street Address: PO Box 584

City: Mt. Airy

Zip Code: 21771

Business Phone: 301-524-0356

Fax: NA

Campaign Website: www.douglass4senate.com

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone: 301-524-4425

Email Address: jess@douglass4senate.com

Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name: Rebecca Smith

Street Address: 3905 Skyview Drive

City: Mt. Airy

Zip Code: 21771

Phone: 301-305-7186

Candidate History	
Previous Elected Offices: None	
Which Years Did You Serve: None	
Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?	YES _____ or NO_X_

If Yes, when:	
Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?	YES _____ or NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _
Describe:	
Major Endorsements (Elected Officials/Organizations/Opinion Leaders):	
Moms Demand Action	
Emmitsburg News-Journal	

Issue Questions

1. Do you support ending the money-based bail system? No

Comments: While money or cash bail institutionally criminalizes poverty, I don't believe in "throwing the baby out with the bathwater." There are other types of bail that judges should exercise more often, and money-based bails should be diminished.

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

Comments: There needs to be an adjustment period for implementing a \$15/hr. minimum wage, possibly with a longer period for smaller businesses. I am not familiar with all the studies available on the impact, so I do not have a time frame or indexing provision for suggestion. My understanding is that some types of indexing are more effective at building the middle class than others. I would need more information before committing to a specific timeframe or indexing provision.

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

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

Comments: I am in favor of applying these practices to larger businesses, with perhaps more leniency for smaller businesses – for example, 3 weeks' notice for a shift schedule might not be feasible for a company with a small staff. When a few employees constitute a large share of staffing, an employer may not have the flexibility to implement so much notice if more than one employee quits or encounters emergency that influences work.

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

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

Comments: The workplace policies in Maryland, as I understand them, ensure equal treatment of men and women. If legislation is proposed that highlights and seeks to amend inequality, I will support it.

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

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? No

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

Comments: I will support legislation that provides quality healthcare for all that is fiscally responsible. Preventative and wide-spread healthcare is much more cost-effective than lack of healthcare leading to emergency healthcare. I believe the transition to single-payer health care would be in the state's best interest, but I do not know enough to propose such a plan.

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

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

Comments: Traditional public schools can provide the experiences charter schools promote if they are fully funded.

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. Oppose

Comments: Traditional public schools can provide the experiences private schools promote if they are fully funded.

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

Comments: If legislation is proposed that makes this possible and is fiscally responsible, I will support it.

14. Will you support the Trust Act? Yes

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

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

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

Comments: Like Maryland's pledge to continue to fund Planned Parenthood regardless of federal support, we need to commit to protect the watersheds and continue the increased health of the Potomac and Chesapeake. We also need to prioritize funding of public schools.

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

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

- Co-sponsor legislation? Yes
- Work with our Policy and Legislative Director to help pass a bill? Yes
- Testify at a hearing in support of legislation? Yes
- Speak at public events in support of legislation? Yes
- Write a letter in support of legislation? Yes
- Write an op-ed in support of legislation? Yes

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

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