

Frederick Progressives

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March 11, 2018

2018 Questionnaire for Democratic Central Committee

Dear Gene Stanton, Candidate for Democratic Central Committee:

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 professional experience, personal experience, education and or training do you possess that makes you a qualified candidate for a member of the Central Committee?

I meet the basic qualifications already, as a registered Democrat and a resident of Frederick County. Beyond that, I have worked on a number of political campaigns over the last 37 years. I am a public school teacher in Maryland. Through work, I am an MCEA Representative and I was a delegate for the Maryland State Education Association annual convention, this year. I am active in my community. I am the Treasurer of my neighborhood HOA, the Vice President of the United Democrats of Frederick County, a member of the Human Relations Commission of Frederick County, and a former board member for the Frederick Center and the Frederick County Solid Waste Advisory Commission. I am also a former candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates, District 4, in 2014.

2. What, in your opinion, differentiates traditional/establishment/centrist parties and progressives? Do you consider yourself to be a progressive, and why?

I definitely consider myself a Progressive! I strongly want to see Universal Health Care in this country! I believe in Medicare for all! I want to expand public transportation and I do not believe that toll roads should replace the government's obligation to maintain and expand our roads and highways, as needed! As a member of the LGBTQ community, I strongly believe that all people are born with innate Human Rights. I believe our government has an obligation to fight for human rights everywhere in the world. I believe in Global Climate Change and I believe our home is in trouble. We have an obligation locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally to protect our planet. I believe college should be free or practically free. In addition, I strongly believe we need to get money out of politics! Most people in the Democratic establishment believe in similar things, but there are some disagreements on how to get there! And yes, some are taking corporate money! The best way to fix the corporate money problem is to convince people that run for office that they can win when they do not! Which is why people need to learn about the candidates, contribute to campaigns with money or time, and yes, always vote!

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 main job of a member of the Democratic Central Committee is to elect Democrats! I will always work hard to welcome people into the Democratic party, because I believe that together those of us on the left are on the right side of history. I believe we move forward when we build bridges. I want to see moderates, liberals, and progressives work cohesively to fight back against Trumpism and what passes for conservatism these days.

4. How would you promote diversity within the Party?

I am a Democrat because it is the Democratic Party that fought for human rights for the LGBTQ community! It was the Democratic Party that fought for African American rights! And, it is the Democratic Party that is fighting for Dreamers and the rights of Hispanic Americans. As a Democrat, I will always fight to expand human rights.

5. Would you support expanding the Primary to include independent voters and how would you advocate for that change in Maryland?

If I am elected to the Democratic Central Committee, this would be well out of my purview, because I want people to join the Democratic Party. However, I am open minded about the concept.

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?

One of the most effective strategies is to talk to voters one on one. Key strategies include going to their homes to talk about Democratic candidates, making phone calls, talking to people at local events, and conversing on social media, etc. Since the DCC is a county position, my emphasis would be on things that local Democrats believe in, like improving education in Frederick County, improving transportation, fighting for human rights in Frederick County, and preserving our environment and our green spaces!

7. How will you reach out to diverse communities and increase their participation in the Party?
What means will you employ to improve voter turn out?

Democrats continue to fight to make sure everyone has equal access to the voting booth. It is important that DCC members actively reach out and keep diverse communities involved in both the party and the electoral process. We all need to be active in making sure Democrats, Independents, and everyone that wants to see a better world in general, turns out to vote. High turnout is important to getting good people elected. Democrats have good people running in 2018 and we will have good people in 2020. We need young people and progressives to become more active in the Democratic Party and to become reliable voters for progressive causes.

8. What do you see as your most critical function as a Central Committee Member?

Consistently fighting to get Democratic Candidates Elected to office.

9. 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?

No. However, I hope I have convinced you to endorse me, because I honestly believe in progressive causes.

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: