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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:

Brannan

Candidate First Name:

Jennifer

Office Seeking:

State Senate

District:

3

Party:

Democrat

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name:

Friends of Jennifer Brannan

Street Address:

PO Box 1517, 1301 W 7th ST

City:

Frederick

Zip Code:

21702

Business Phone:

240-440-1618

Fax:

Campaign Website:

www.brannanforsenate.org

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone:

240-440-1618

Email Address:

jennifer@brannanforsenate.org

Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name:

Kevin Spurgers

Street Address:

PO Box 1517, 1301 W. 7th St.

City:

Frederick

Zip Code:

21702

Phone:

713-443-1025

Candidate History
Previous Elected Offices: None.

Which Years Did You Serve:

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?

YES _____ or NO

If Yes, when:

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?

YES _____ or NO

Describe:

Though I have occasionally attended meetings/signed petitions and supported on issues, I have not formally assisted in any programs.

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

Alderwoman Donna Kuzemchak

Val Dale

Issue Questions

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

Yes

No

Comments: A money-based bail system criminalizes poverty and is completely unjust.

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: No person who works forty hours a week should ever live in poverty, or struggle to make ends meet. I support the timeline mandated in the current legislation, Senate Bill 543 and House Bill 664, to reach \$15 per hour by 2023, and to index minimum wage to inflation.

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

Yes

No

Comments: I fully support public financing and clean election systems, such as the ones in Montgomery and Howard County, or the system currently in use in Arizona. I would like to see them available statewide for all races.

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

No

Comments: Unfair work schedules and scheduling practices make it difficult to impossible to balance work and caring for a family, disrupt access to transportation, education and access to health care. This is also an issue that disproportionately affects women. Workers have the right to expect that businesses respect their time and contributions to the workplace and the community. It is time to restore respect for the dignity of work and workers.

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

No

Comments: I support the rights of all workers to organize. We owe the protections and benefits we have today to unions, and need them more than ever today.

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

No

Comments: I support legislation to make it illegal to inquire about past salary history at any point in the hiring process. I will support legislation mandating blind recruitment practices in government hiring in order to increase diversity in hiring. A major priority will be developing a paid family leave program, removing one of the barriers to women remaining in the workplace after having children.

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 2018, this should not even be a question.

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 trust women.

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: This will be a process, which will require careful thought and planning. Maryland, because of our current all-payer system, is ahead of the game. The cost-savings of a single payer system will be significant, but more information will need to be gathered to determine the best way to pay for setting up the system. However, beginning the process must be a priority for Maryland, and achieving it will be a priority of mine.

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

No

Comments: We have to rein in the costs of prescription drugs. Nobody should go without the treatment they need for their health because of cost.

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

Support

Oppose

Comments: I support public schools, and prefer a public magnet school structure to charter schools.

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

Oppose

Comments: I cannot state strongly enough my opposition to using tax dollars to support private schools. I will work to end Gov. Hogan's BOOST program. Our schools are a promise to our children and an investment in our future. Every education dollar we have should go towards making sure that every child can attend the school in their neighborhood, and receive the same high quality education as any other child in the state.

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

Yes

No

Comments: I support this idea, though at this time I am still evaluating the best options to pay for it. We must find a way to make college education affordable, so that our young people are not graduating with a mortgage and no home.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Yes

No

Comments: I am a first generation American, and I understand the importance of welcoming immigrants to our country. While the federal government figures out how to find a place for the immigrants here, Maryland should not be forcing them to live in fear. Immigrants are a welcome and important part of our community.

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: I will work to close any and all loopholes, and make sure corporations pay their fair share in Maryland.

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: As a scientist, one of the issues I am most passionate about is protecting the environment. I will defend and protect it vigorously. I will propose that Maryland initiate a "Green Bank" program: a public-private partnership to invest in new and improved green technology.

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

Comments: To the best of our ability, we should work to protect DREAMers. As the Trump administration dismantles the EPA and environmental regulations, Maryland must act to protect our natural resources and our climate. As the Trump administration cuts benefits for the poor, or children at risk, we must step in. That said, my focus is on meeting the needs of Marylanders with legislation that is proactive, rather than reactive. We need a living wage, paid family leave, a modern transit system, and fully funded education. If we take care of Maryland, going after change that is transformational, not transactional, we will insulate ourselves against anything Trump and Congress attempt to do.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

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

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

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

- Speaking at Progressive Maryland events? YES or NO
- Meeting with our membership annually to report on the progress of our shared priorities and answer questions from our members? YES or NO
- Writing a letter to unorganized workers endorsing an organizing drive by a labor union? YES or NO