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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

Masset

Candidate First Name:

Sabrina

Office Seeking:

Senate

District:

4

Party:

Democrat

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name:

Sabrina Massett

Street Address:

5 Walnut Street

City:

Thurmont

Zip Code:

21788

Business Phone:

240-357-8752

Fax:

Campaign Website:

sabrinamassett.com (soon to go live)

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone:

240-357-8752

Email Address:

sabrinamassett@gmail.com

Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name:

Linda Franklin

Street Address:

8515 Orndorff Road

City:

Thurmont MD

Zip Code:

21788

Phone:

240-608-7530

Candidate History
Previous Elected Offices: This is Sabrina Massett's first run for elected office.

Which Years Did You Serve:

N/A

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?

YES ____ or NO

If Yes, when:

N/A

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?

YES or NO ____

Describe: Consistently canvassing for and voting for progressive candidates.

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

Candidates for County Council Kai Hagen and Mark Long are supporting me and will publicly endorse me. I currently have the support of the North County Democrats. I am seeking the endorsement of the League of Conservation Voters, Moms Demand Action, Frederick County Teachers Association, and MSEA. If I win the primary I will be supported by the Frederick County Democrats, Central Committee and Senate President Mike Miller and other state leaders.

Issue Questions

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

Yes X No

Comments: Cash bail requirements do nothing to ensure court appearances by those charged with a crime. They unfairly penalize low income citizens, leading to incarceration when the defendant cannot afford bail for what is often a minor crime and the defendant is not a danger or threat to the community. Money based bail often leads to loss of employment when the defendant is incarcerated, breaks up families, and creates a downward spiral from which many defendants never recover. Incarceration for lack of bail ends up costing the state money to house defendants who could be home working, contributing to their families and the local economy, paying their child support, etc.

This system favors the wealthy who can afford to buy their way out of often more serious crimes, and who pose a danger to the community.

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 x No

Implement over a 4-5 year period to allow employers to plan and budget for the change. Would support an indexing provision to assist in allowing wages to realistically keep up with inflation and determine an equitable pension.

Comments:

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

Yes x No

Comments: Public financing levels the playing field and allows quality candidates who otherwise would not be able to even think of running for office to run. Public financing frees candidates to think, talk, research, and attend meetings of grassroots, non-profit community organizations addressing the issues affecting our community rather than spending the bulk of their time on fundraising.

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: Would seek to build bridges with and obtain the assistance of the employers affected by these changes in implementing, and work to prevent layoffs or staff reductions due to the changes. These scheduling practices are typical of service and retail industries who depend upon low paid workers to survive and are often dependent themselves upon the fluctuations in the economy and even the weather. Need to define size of employers affected by these changes in order to protect small businesses while ensuring all employees are treated fairly. Employers who provide fair wages and a caring environment retain employees and ultimately do better in the long run.

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: As the granddaughter of an immigrant coal miner in West Virginia who had to dodge union busters, daughter of a public school teacher, and a current state employee I understand the history and value of all worker's right 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?

Yes No

Comments:

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 x No

Comments: Making accommodations reinforces societies' value of the family and protects women (the only sex who can carry the pregnancy) who wish to, and often need to financially, continue working for the duration of their pregnancy. Accommodations allow women to continue to advance in their chosen field without being penalized for starting or adding to their family.

Accommodations for pregnancy are equivalent to any other condition such as needing to stay off feet or provide light duty due to an orthopedic or back injury, or a "sunshine light" in the office to combat anxiety. All accommodations that employers routinely provide to their employees.

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 x No

Comments: As a mother, sister, daughter, and grandmother, I support the right of women to control their reproductive choices with protected access to birth control education and methods. I also advocate for respect and acknowledgement of the passion behind the self-labeled "Right to Life" movement and suggest increased attempts to improve dialogue. Late term abortions after 6 months should not be encouraged or funded as infants at this stage are increasingly viable. Alternatives and therapeutic support and guidance should be provided if the mother's life or health is in danger at this stage. Clinics providing abortions for children younger than 18 years of age should attempt to include family members in the process if it is safe for the patient to do so, or other concerned entities such as school guidance counselors or pastors if the child desires, or mentors to guide the child through the process.

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 x No

Comments: Single-payer health care in Maryland will ultimately pass when the legislature can demonstrate it is cost effective and raises health out-comes for each Marylander. Educate the public and other legislators on evidence-based research showing improved outcomes in other states & countries who provide their citizens with this basic right. Demonstrate the inefficiencies in our current multi-layered Medicaid and public health care system which often forces citizens in one of the richest states in the union to rely upon charitable organizations for health care.

Funding can come in part from reduction in the mass incarceration of our citizens, particularly our young men of color. Also need to ensure the very wealthy are paying their way with reduction in corporate welfare or tax

loopholes that benefit those at the upper end of the income scale. Maryland can also participate in negotiating drug prices with pharmaceutical companies to reduce costs.

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: Drug corporations hold the paying public hostage and there is a built-in no questions asked culture when it comes to drug pricing.

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

Support Oppose

Comments: While charter schools have a place and value in some instances they are typically financed at the expense of public school funding while not being held to the same standards and oversight as public 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: Public financed private school vouchers drain money from public school systems there by contributing to their decline. In the rare instances where a private school may be the best choice for a student the family must go through a means testing process to determine financial need and the charter school must be one that adheres to the civil rights, teacher certification, methods, outcomes, and other standards met by public schools.

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

Yes No

Comments: Much is made about students graduating from high school with no training for employment or plans to attend college. I think we need to step back and examine why more students are not applying to and entering college. Free state colleges and universities as well as adequate funding for high school guidance counselors dedicated to encouraging all students to reach their potential and continue life-long learning for learning's sake would go a long way to increasing the college attendance rate.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Yes No

Comments:

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:

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: Protecting the natural resources of Maryland from the policies of the current federal government policies is a primary motivator behind my decision to run for state senate.

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

Comments: Protection of Clean Air and Water Act. Prohibition of off-shore drilling and fracking.
Protection of Medicaid expansion and Affordable Health Care until single payer health insurance can be passed.

Raising standard tax deduction.

Protection of the rights of all residents no matter gender, sexual orientation, race or socioeconomic status.

Protection of immigrants from deportation and discrimination. Remove question about citizenship status from census.

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: Research issues, look at evidence-based studies for best results. Bring all parties to the negotiating table, seek and hear testimony in support of measures. Promote and support progressive candidates, bring bills to floor, support other legislators in passing bills.

• 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