

PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND
2018 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR STATE SENATE

Candidate Information

Candidate Last Name:

DOUGHERTY

Candidate First Name:

JENNIFER

Office Seeking:

State Senate

District:

3

Party:

Democrat

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name:

Jennifer Dougherty for State Senate

Street Address:

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21701

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Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name:

Deborah Childers

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Candidate History

Previous Elected Offices:

Mayor, The City of Frederick

Which Years Did You Serve?

2002-2006

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland? NO

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals? NO

Major Endorsements: None, at this writing.

Issue Questions

1. Do you support ending the money-based bail system? YES
2. Will you support a \$ 15 per hour minimum wage for all Maryland works? If yes, over what period of time would you suggest implementing it? Do you support an indexing provision?

NO. I have been a small business owner for more than 32 years and have a direct understanding of the minimum wage and managing a business budget. As part of the Downtown Frederick business community, I understand the impact raising the minimum wage to \$15 will have on dozens of small businesses that make our city thrive. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 may not seem impactful, but it pushes consumer prices up. An employee currently earning \$15-20 per hour, would go to \$20-25 per hour. These are rates that are unaffordable for most small businesses and could reduce entry-level jobs.

The minimum wage is designed as a starting point, not the ending point. Since approximately 25% of minimum wage workers are teenagers, better options include expanding apprenticeships and career training.

Attacking poverty is beyond just raising the minimum wage. I will work for affordable housing, improving public transit options, and supporting smart child care solutions.

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

YES. In 2014, the average cost of a State Senate race was \$290,000. Incumbents always have the edge and the playing field is slanted.

4. Do you support increased protections for workers in terms of scheduling practices? In particular, will you support requiring employers to give 3 week' 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 hour apart without the employee's consent?

No. This is not practical in the customer service/hospitality fields or weather-dependent/landscaping work. Progressive Maryland has rolled a lot into this question, but the State Legislature CANNOT be in the business of scheduling workers and when customers choose to spend their money.

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' relation act, similar to the National Labor Relations Act, which has governed work in the private sector for over 80 years?

Yes, my record as Mayor of Frederick reflects my support for employees' right to negotiate and organize. I successfully negotiated two contracts with the rank-and-file police officers, endorsed the bargaining unit for the command staff for the Frederick Police Department, allowed the non-police City employees to pursue collective bargaining (which they opted to turn down).

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 important? If so, what legislation will you support as a member of the General Assembly to bring women parity with their male colleagues?

Yes. The biggest issue facing the General Assembly is the impression that “the Good Old Boys” get away with anything, including sexual harassment and assault of peers and employees. I will introduce legislation requiring transparency if any members of the General Assembly, government staff, or lobbyists are accused of sexual assault/harassment. Included in the legislation will be a requirement that the elected official have hearing within 30 days and expelled from his/her seat, if found guilty.

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, as an employer for over 30 years, I have had many young women and mothers working with me. This is easy and fair.

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. Although, I am pro-choice, the 20-week restriction is important to maintain unless the life of the mother is at risk. Minors seeking abortions obviously have many issues to handle. If her parent(s) are unwilling or unable to authorize an abortion; or if seeking the parent(s) approval will place the young woman at greater risk, I support continuing to allow medical professionals to verify the medical needs of the young woman. I generally support Medicaid funding for all reproductive care, but cannot promise there are not legitimate limitations.

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.

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.

I support limited use of public charter schools as long as the standards and monitoring are the same as traditional public schools. In some instances, the standards are not being enforced and incumbents should be held accountable.

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.

Diverting public money from public schools make solutions very difficult. As a child, I attended parochial schools. It was my parents' choice, but there was never an expectation of tax money going to the school. Allowing public money to go to religious schools opens a "Pandora's Box" of possible Establishment Clause violations.

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

No.

It is not affordable and there is no model that shows Marylanders will pay for it. Further, it will damage the many private colleges/universities in Maryland. Finally, it does not demonstrate the value of college education. I do, however, support freezing the tuition/fees at state schools and introducing expanding grants/forgivable loans/professional internship programs to help make college more affordable/accessible.

14. Will you support the Trust Act?

Maybe, if it is enforceable in law.

As a former mayor, I know that creating "sanctuary cities" has an adverse impact of allowing dangerous people to act with impunity, having a particularly negative impact within their own community. During my term, our police department enacted General Orders that clearly stated that FPD would not make any efforts to determine the citizenship status of anyone. If arrested for a Part I Crime (serious/violent) then the process became more involved at the jail.

15. Will you support closing tax loopholes by requiring combined reporting, as most other state 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.

I support regular review of tax policy to make sure it is fair.

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.

I will support practical legislation that has built-in funding sources and will push to include Chesapeake Bay, the Potomac River, and the Monocacy River in these funding strategies.

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

Reform our income tax legislation to allow itemization, continue support of efforts to protect our air quality and waterways (including the Chesapeake Bay) with existing funds and identifying continuing funding sources as a percentage of existing taxes/fees.

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

Yes, but I caution against the "Balkanization" of the General Assembly. I hate the idea of such strong lines of division that we make no progress because the steps are incremental, rather than perfect.

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? NO