

Frederick Progressives

FrederickProgressives@Riseup.Net
P.O. Box 492
Buckeystown MD, 21717



March 8, 2018

2018 Questionnaire for County Council

Dear Shannon Bohrer, Candidate for County Council:

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 is your vision for Frederick County and what will you commit to doing to ensure a future for Frederick County that provides safety, security and stability for all who live here?

Managed growth is my top priority. The growth affects education, infrastructure and public safety. Managed growth affects everything.

2. What do you believe are Frederick County's most critical unmet needs and how would you implement solutions to meet those needs?

The most critical unmet needs are the future. The basic needs that we are dealing with, but not as well as we should, include the elderly, the homeless and addicted individuals. The elderly population in Frederick county is expected to double in ten years. We have over 800 homeless school children and our substance abuse keep increasing. While we are currently dealing with these issues are we making any progress? Then we should ask what these social issues will be in ten years. If our current strategies are not effective, our future social problems will grow.

3. If elected, what would you do to combat police misconduct and to ensure that there are appropriate consequences and justice when police misconduct occurs?

Police misconduct is an issue - with a minority of police officers. Having been in law enforcement for over 42 years, my experiences tell me that most officers respect the law and enforce the law fairly.

It may sound simple to say that only minorities of officers are the problem, but if you are a victim of one of these officers- it is important to you.

When police officers violate citizen's constitutional rights and display bias toward minorities, we all lose. Justice requires that all citizens be treated equally and fairly.

As a County Commissioner I will have very limited authority and control over the Sheriff's deputies, but I do have a voice and my voice with my experiences will be used.

This is a greater problem that includes more than just the police.

4. What do you believe are the County's legislative priorities and how will you ensure those priorities are met?

The legislative priorities should start with fiscal responsibility and meeting the basic needs of all citizens. The second priority is that of being responsible to citizens. Rules and regulations that promote equity and fairness to all citizens are important. The government is supposed to be working for the citizens and for that to occur the citizens should expect an open and honest government. I can't ensure they would be met, but I can insure that is the direction I will take. The government belongs to the citizens; it is supposed to work for them.

5. Do you support a \$15 minimum wage ? Why or why not? If you do, how would you support and facilitate the enactment of a \$15 minimum wage law in Frederick County?

I do support a \$15 minimum wage, but the minimum wage must be somewhat consistent with the neighboring counties. Just as Frederick County teachers have left the County for better pay, I don't want to see small business relocating from Frederick County over one issue. To support \$15 minimum wage the county could move up the minimum over several steps and it should be a state goal of the same.

6. If elected, what would you do to increase transparency and citizen participation and engagement in the business of the County Council? Would you be willing to change the schedule of meetings where public comment is accepted to evening hours so more citizens could participate in person?

I would not be willing to change the schedule for all of the meetings, but I would be willing to change the schedule for a percentage of meetings to accommodate more public input. While it may sound nice to change all of the meeting, numerous county employees are associated and work before and after the meetings and changing their schedules would affect their day time responsibilities. That said I think any government should hold a percentage of their meetings to accommodate public input. The County has a CCTV/television and all meetings are recorded and available on line. That is somewhat an open government.

7. What laws do you believe should be implemented in Frederick County to reduce the potential for gun violence in our homes, our schools and our communities?

8. Do you support or oppose the participation by the Frederick County's Sheriff Office in the 287g program? Why or why not?

9. What do you see as the needs and priorities specific to the Council District you are running to represent? If At-Large, answer for the whole county.

10. Where do you stand on progressive issues as they apply to Frederick County including racial and gender equity; economic, environmental and climate justice; a return to true democracy where people, not profits prevail, poverty, homelessness, alcohol and drug abuse,

unsafe homes, etc. as symptoms of societal injustice and failure rather than personal failure, ie, blaming the victim, etc.?

11. What are the key challenges to adequate infrastructure and what would you do to address infrastructure needs.

12. If Frederick Progressives /Progressive Maryland does not endorse you for this race, would that affect your willingness to work with the group in the future on important issues?

13. Would you be willing to support Frederick Progressives priorities by:

● cosponsoring legislation?	
● testify in support of legislation?	
● write an op ed?	
● speaking at progressive events?	
● attending meetings?	
● meet with our leadership group?	
● give updates on shared goals?	
● writing letters to endorse a labor organizing drive?	

Other: