

a

**Frederick Progressives**

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



March 8, 2018

## **2018 Questionnaire for County Council**

Dear Lisa Jarosinski, 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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?

As the County Council district 2 representative, my vision for Frederick County is a place:

- where everyone is valued for who they are;
- where everyone can earn a living wage;
- where everyone has good shelter, a place to call home;
- where there is no hunger;
- where everyone has good healthcare;
- where every child gets a good education;
- where there is no bullying;
- where there is no gun violence;
- where there is no racial injustice;
- where there is no discrimination: race, color, religion, gender, orientation;
- where there is no fear of authority;
- where we protect our environment;
- where we care for those in their time of need;
- where everyone feels safe.

That's my vision for Frederick County, for Maryland, for America. I can't do any of this on my own, but I can work to put things in place so that we move toward this reality. Safety, security and stability need all of these things. I will do my part on the council to advance these objectives.

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 same as my legislative priorities: Responsible Growth, Education, Transportation, and the Opioid crisis.

We need to manage our growth wisely and carefully. The former BOCC approved too many housing developments too quickly - often inundating specific areas beyond the capacity of their infrastructure and without adequate plans to handle the sudden increase in population. We need to give consideration to all the different populations that live in Frederick County and their different development needs. We must have a variety of housing opportunities so it can be accessed by all of Frederick County's residents. The Council should be required to review each development proposal and assess its value as it relates to the needs of the county. It won't help the county to build lots of million-dollar mansions when no one can afford them and likewise it won't help the county to build shopping malls if there isn't the constituency to shop. It's a balancing act. I will carefully consider each development proposed, its location, and its value to the community.

I am a great fan of Frederick County schools! My children have attended and presently do attend FCPS. I love our schools, our teachers, our administrators, and our staff. I believe they have suffered under the BOCC with years of Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding. I applaud the county executive, BOE, and the county council in taking steps to increase the funding. We need to continue this advancement with respect to additional funding and support for our schools. We need to be diligent about not over-crowding and class size. Our teachers and our

students deserve better. I will support increased funding of our schools including salary increases so that we can attract and keep high quality teachers and staff and so our facilities will remain safe and welcoming.

Frederick County will need to address transportation infrastructure issues as the approved developments increasingly impact traffic. We want safe uncongested roads. The County will need to work closely with the State of Maryland in order to find funding for critical county traffic projects. I am excited to support the expansion of mass transit options such as bus and rail infrastructure. These initiatives are two-fold; while they continue to alleviate congestion on our clogged arteries, they also provide transportation opportunities to citizens that live in our community. We need a county where the transportation infrastructure serves all its residents.

With all the growth and development that has been proposed and approved, we must not lose sight of the necessary water and sewer infrastructure needed to support this growth and any future growth. We need to be sure these projects are fully funded and held to the highest standards both in safety and quality. All work should be conducted so that current wells and septic systems are not compromised.

The Opioid Crisis is serious in Frederick County. I think it's extremely important that the council works directly with organizations in the community to ensure that they provide any and all resources to help curb this epidemic. These organizations range from our local law enforcement, to drug treatment facilities, to educating our youth on the dangers of opioids and other addictive drugs. The recent data shows an average of one overdose per day and one death per week in Frederick County. County Executive Gardner has established a Heroin Consortium that works across government agencies to coordinate efforts to combat this problem. We must continue to boost the stellar programs of Frederick County and the employees that have already been working with citizens affected by this epidemic. We must be open to providing additional resources to ensure our community has everything at its disposal to tackle this issue. This issue cuts across gender, racial, and socio-economic status. It's a problem everyone needs to address.

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?

My understanding is that instances of police misconduct in Frederick County have been rare, for which I am extremely grateful. We must support our police department and the honest men and women who form our first line of defense in keeping our streets, our homes, and our schools safe.

However, the issue of police misconduct and illegitimate overtime charges is currently rampant in the headlines and it is all too real. If elected, I would support a full investigation of any police misconduct. I would be certain to stay informed about any ongoing investigations and if legislation were needed, I would support it. The Sheriff's Department is responsible for communications and should be fully transparent, not just to the County Council but to the citizens of Frederick County as a whole. We must have a strong, honest, and compassionate Sheriff who will work to prevent, as well as to correct any improper behavior.

All police personnel should be required to take training in the area of unconscious bias as a way to prevent forms racial profiling. I would like to see more active steps taken by law enforcement to prevent future issues. If misconduct does take place, there must be an investigation of the incident by both local and unbiased out-of-jurisdiction authorities. Again, investigations like this must be fully transparent so as to foster trust between the Sheriff and his deputies and the citizens of Frederick County.

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

The Legislative priorities of the County are set by the County Executive. However, if I were to choose the priorities I would choose Growth, Education, Transportation, and the Opioid Crisis.

We need to manage our growth wisely and carefully. The former BOCC approved too many housing developments too quickly - often inundating specific areas beyond the capacity of their infrastructure and without adequate plans to handle the sudden increase in population. We need to give consideration to all the different populations that live in Frederick County and their different development needs. We must have a variety of housing opportunities so it can be accessed by all of Frederick County's residents. The Council should be required to review each development proposal and assess its value as it relates to the needs of the county. It won't help the county to build lots of million dollar mansions when no one can afford them and likewise it won't help the county to build shopping malls if there isn't the constituency to shop. It's a balancing act. I will carefully consider each development proposed, its location, and its value to the community.

I am a great fan of Frederick County schools! My children have attended and presently do attend FCPS. I love our schools, our teachers, our administrators, and our staff. I believe they have suffered under the BOCC with years of Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding. I applaud the county executive, BOE, and the county council in taking steps to increase the funding. We need to continue this advancement with respect to additional funding and support for our schools. We need to be diligent about not over-crowding and class size. Our teachers and our students deserve better. I will support increased funding of our schools including salary

increases so that we can attract and keep high quality teachers and staff and so our facilities will remain safe and welcoming.

Frederick County will need to address transportation infrastructure issues as the approved developments increasingly impact traffic. We want safe uncongested roads. The County will need to work closely with the State of Maryland in order to find funding for critical county traffic projects. I am excited to support the expansion of mass transit options such as bus and rail infrastructure. These initiatives are two-fold; while they continue to alleviate congestion on our clogged arteries, they also provide transportation opportunities to citizens that live in our community. We need a county where the transportation infrastructure serves all its residents.

With all the growth and development that has been proposed and approved, we must not lose sight of the necessary water and sewer infrastructure needed to support this growth and any future growth. We need to be sure these projects are fully funded and held to the highest standards both in safety and quality. All work should be conducted so that current wells and septic systems are not compromised.

The Opioid Crisis is serious in Frederick County. I think it's extremely important that the council works directly with organizations in the community to ensure that they provide any and all resources to help curb this epidemic. These organizations range from our local law enforcement, to drug treatment facilities, to educating our youth on the dangers of opioids and other addictive drugs. The recent data shows an average of one overdose per day and one death per week in Frederick County. County Executive Gardner has established a Heroin Consortium that works across government agencies to coordinate efforts to combat this problem. We must continue to boost the stellar programs of Frederick County and the employees that have already been working with citizens affected by this epidemic. We must be open to providing additional resources to ensure our community has everything at its disposal to tackle this issue. This issue cuts across gender, racial, and socio-economic status. It's a problem everyone needs to address.

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?

Yes, I support a \$15 minimum wage. I believe in a living wage. One should not have to work two or three jobs to support one's family. I would favor legislation to gradually move to a \$15 minimum wage. There are many resources that can be tapped from neighboring counties, such as Montgomery County. I am sure we could create a process to increase the minimum wage that would help workers and not be so sudden that our small businesses could not adjust. I believe everyone regardless of gender, race, religion, or orientation deserves a living wage and I believe Frederick county should set an example of fair practices. I would support \$15 minimum wage legislation in Frederick County.

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 think there are multiple ways to address transparency and citizen participation in Frederick County. Certainly, we must continue and expand the practice of having meetings and hearings live-streamed and archived for future reference. I think this practice illustrates a desire on the part of county officials to be open and honest with their constituency. If elected, I would hold regular District 2 chats using a variety of communication modes including multiple social media platforms to communicate with constituents about what is being currently discussed and to answer any and all questions.

I believe citizen participation is vital to our democracy. I think we should continue with public comments both before and after meetings. I would be willing to change the meeting schedule if it would allow more people to participate. I attended many hearings for the proposed Kemptown Electric Substation and I attended many hearings for the Monrovia Town Center. Several of those hearings continued late into the evening. They were exhausting for both the citizens and the legislatures. I would hope that in the future complicated hearings such as these could be broken into smaller blocks of time and be held at different times of the day to allow everyone to be heard.

Democracy is messy and hard, but it's what makes it so rewarding in the long run. Everyone deserves to be heard. I am going to be listening.

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?

I believe gun legislation is most effective on a National and State level. However, I do support a minimum purchase age of 21. I support full background checks. I support a ban on assault weapons of any kind and bump stocks. Private citizens do not need a weapon of war. The guns designed to shoot many rounds very quickly (I say it this way so as to not get mired in the semantics of various types of guns.) were designed to kill many people within minutes or even seconds. They were not designed for sport or hunting. They do not need to be in the hands of civilians.

There is much more happening around the issue of violence other than just guns. People that feel marginalized and under-valued lash out. Our culture is violent. Working to have acceptance and equality regardless of race, color, creed, gender, orientation or anything else is what we should be striving for. Everyone wants to feel part of a community that values them; to be appreciated and heard, to know that they are considered a person of value by their neighbors and by those in positions of power. If we can provide the basic needs of a living wage, food, shelter, and healthcare to everyone then we will begin to heal our society at the root and create an environment that would reduce the patterns of violence.

Guns are far too easily accessible. They are especially dangerous because of their immediate and deadly consequences. Mistakes, accidents, and regrets happen because people aren't forced to think things through – they just react and shoot.

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

I do not support the Frederick County Sheriff Office's participation in the 287g program because I believe it is not ethical to make assumptions based on race. Racial profiling is an invisible quagmire; far too easy to be sucked into without realizing it. No one, even a trained police officer, is above racial profiling because we all have an unconscious bias. Our county is not immune and I believe that there are many families in our community that are living in fear. Law enforcement officials should be working with the community and have the confidence of the community to find true violent criminals. Communities should not live in fear of law enforcement. It should be a partnership.

The Frederick County Sheriff Office has been participating in this program for many years. We should, at the very least, audit its effectiveness in terms of resources, results, and repercussions.

Our country needs to address our immigration issue honestly, but our leadership is too distracted to discuss the issues. Everyone's contributions to our community should be valued and we should not discount the potential value of our newest members.

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.

The biggest issues facing District 2 are Responsible Growth, Education, and Infrastructure.

We need to manage our growth wisely and carefully. The former BOCC approved too many housing developments too quickly - often inundating specific areas beyond the capacity of their infrastructure and without adequate plans to handle the sudden increase in population. We need to give consideration to all the different populations that live in Frederick County and their different development needs. We must have a variety of housing opportunities so it can be accessed by all of Frederick County's residents. The Council should be required to review each development proposal and assess its value as it relates to the needs of the county. It won't help the county to build lots of million-dollar mansions when no one can afford them and likewise it won't help the county to build shopping malls if there isn't the constituency to shop. It's a balancing act. I will carefully consider each development proposed, its location, and its value to the community.

I am a great fan of Frederick County schools! My children have attended and presently do attend FCPS. I love our schools, our teachers, our administrators, and our staff. I believe they have suffered under the BOCC with years of Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding. I applaud the county executive, BOE, and the county council in taking steps to increase the funding. We need to continue this advancement with respect to additional funding and support for our schools. We need to be diligent about not over-crowding and class size. Our teachers and our students deserve better. I will support increased funding of our schools including salary increases so that we can attract and keep high quality teachers and staff and so our facilities will remain safe and welcoming.

Frederick County will need to address transportation infrastructure issues as the approved developments increasingly impact traffic. We want safe uncongested roads. The County will need to work closely with the State of Maryland in order to find funding for critical county traffic projects. I am excited to support the expansion of mass transit options such as bus and rail infrastructure. These initiatives are two-fold; while they continue to alleviate congestion on our clogged arteries, they also provide transportation opportunities to citizens that live in our community. We need a county where the transportation infrastructure serves all its residents.

With all the growth and development that has been proposed and approved, we must not lose sight of the necessary water and sewer infrastructure needed to support this growth and any future growth. We need to be sure these projects are fully funded and held to the highest standards both in safety and quality. All work should be conducted so that current wells and septic systems are not compromised.

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.?

Everyone wants to feel loved and appreciated. As a culture, America has moved away from knowing our neighbor and looking out for one another to a me-first mentality. We commute to work, rush home, participate in our activities or attend children's activities, go to bed and do it all again the next day. We don't seem to make time to get to know one another – get to know our neighbor. We have lost our sense of community – our sense of oneness. We, for too long, have been listening to those that want to incite fear: fear of the other, fear of the unknown, fear of difference. I don't buy into all of that. I want to believe that Americans are basically kind and want what is best for everyone.

I believe everyone deserves a living wage.

I believe in equality: gender, race, religion, sexual orientation.

I believe we should protect the environment.

I believe we need to address climate change now.

I believe in democracy.

I believe in the "little guy."

I believe in fairness: wages, laws, profiling.

I believe we should help those who are hungry.

I believe we should help those who are homeless.

I believe we should help victims of abuse: mental, physical, or otherwise.

I believe in a fair justice system that doesn't have different rules for different people.

I believe it's time to step up and speak up.

I believe it's time to stop being afraid and get to work!

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

The key challenges for adequate infrastructure are money and resources. We must work with the State for partnerships on fixing some of our road infrastructure. As the approved developments are built, our road infrastructure will feel the burden of the increased traffic.

We also need to look at our mass transit options and look to expand them. Transportation is vital to economic growth and job creation. Employees need to be able to get to jobs.

We should also consider other areas of infrastructure like water, sewer, and communications. All these areas are important. Remember Flint, Michigan's water issue – it still isn't resolved! If our schools are going to rely more and more on technology then we need to be sure every student has access to electronic media and communication via the Internet. Not all the citizens of Frederick county have access to decent internet connections.

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?

No, the endorsement would not affect my willingness to work with Frederick Progressives. Of course, I would like the endorsement. I believe that my viewpoints and the issues that are important to me are compatible with this organization, but more importantly, I would never choose to NOT work with anyone or any group. That would be immature and irresponsible. I would strive to work with all the citizens of Frederick County. After all, as an elected official, it would be my responsibility to represent all of my constituency regardless of whether they voted for me or not. It would be my job to listen to all sides of an issue, to hear the words and intent of every member of District 2, and work for compromise where ever it is appropriate.

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, if time permits
● meet with our leadership group?	Yes
● give updates on shared goals?	Yes
● writing letters to endorse a labor organizing drive?	Yes
Other:	