

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MARYLAND STATE-OFFICE CANDIDATES

Anne Kaiser

1. Healthcare

1A. As an individual or an elected official, did you take any actions last year to advance the national issue of universal, single-payer healthcare solution, and if so, what were those actions (to include taking a public stance and making contributions, etc.)?

My record demonstrates my strong support for universal health care. I don't believe anyone should go bankrupt paying for their health care.

2 Environment

2A. Do you support increased funding for mass transit, as well as the Purple Line, and do you oppose the Inter County Connector (ICC) in particular?

I support increased funding for mass transit. I have always opposed the Inter County Connector.

2B. Do you support limiting the Maryland pollutant runoffs reaching the Bay?

Yes.

2C. Do you support legislation that places stricter State-limits on gasoline consumption to force auto makers to create more efficient vehicles?

Yes.

3. Taxation

3A. Do you support a full, graduated income taxation solution for Maryland residents, including the "Millionaires' Tax; and eliminating tax breaks for wealthy individuals?

Yes. I believe in the 'ability to pay' principle of taxation.

3B. Do you support combined reporting for corporations, and imposing higher corporate tax rates in line with neighboring states?

Yes.

3D. Do you support an increase in the alcohol tax?

Yes.

4. Courts & Imprisonment

4A. Do you support the repeal of the death penalty in Maryland?

Wholeheartedly.

4B. Do you support policies/legislation to strengthen gang prevention in Maryland without punishing young victims of gang violence and intimidation, and further eroding communities where gangs dominate?

Yes. This past session, I worked extensively on successful legislation of the Speaker of the House aimed at addressing gang activity.

5. Immigrant Rights

5A. Do you support granting of Maryland drivers' licenses without any restrictions dependent on immigration status?

I support regulated granting of Maryland driver's licenses.

5B. Do you have a history of support for legislation to make Maryland a "sanctuary state" and/or are you willing to support it in the future? (In a sanctuary state, no agent, officer or employee of the state, may assist the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the investigation or arrest of any persons for violation of the U.S. immigration and nationality laws.)

I have a strong record of supporting the rights of our immigrant population.

6. Women's Rights

6A. Do you support enacting state laws that require equal pay for equal work irrespective of gender?

Yes. Additionally, I introduced legislation, now law, that required the state to continue the study of pay disparity.

6B. Do you support women's access to government-funded abortion under MHIP, or have you opposed restrictions on those rights?

Yes, I have a strong record supporting a women's right to choose.

7. LGBT Rights

7A. Do you have a history of advocating for legalizing same-sex marriages in Maryland, and for opposing restrictions on recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions?

Yes. I have led the fight for LGBT rights and protections, passing and cosponsoring many such bills.

7B. Do you support Montgomery County's Gender Identity Law, and have you taken any actions to defend it when it was under attack, and if so, what actions; in addition, do you support a similar State-wide law?

Yes, the transgender community deserves full rights under state and county law. I have cosponsored gender identity anti-discrimination legislation.

8. Labor Rights

8A. Do you support the rights of Maryland's private and public-sector workers to have collective bargaining and union representation?

Yes. My record reflects strong support of collective bargaining and binding arbitration. This past session, I had a key role in passing the Fairness in Negotiations Act.

9. Human Rights

9A. Outside of the context of health insurance reform and the other "rights" cited above, as an individual or an elected official, did you take any actions over the last six years to advance the needs of what is sometimes called "the underprivileged" (e.g., economically disadvantaged, mentally ill, developmentally disabled, etc.); and if so what were those actions?

I have worked tirelessly to promote and protect the interests of Maryland's underserved communities. I have introduced and passed legislation to aid the physically and developmentally disabled, women, and the LGBT community.

10. Education

10A. Do you support full funding of the Thornton Commission on Education Finance, Equity, and Excellence, and for opposing public funds being used for private schools (including the use of vouchers or the BOAST Bill)?

Yes. My record reflects my support of full funding for Thornton and my opposition to public funds being used for private schools.

10B. Do you oppose the current level of reliance on standardized test scores as the measure of student success and evaluating schools, or would you make changes, and if so, what changes would you make?

I do not believe that any one test should be the sole measure of a child's educational success. Also, I believe the main value of testing should be to help teachers and parents identify the strength and weaknesses of students, and then to address those weaknesses.

10C. Do you support the right for undocumented residents and their children to have equal access to the public school systems at all levels as apply to other State residents; for applying the same in-state college tuition, and for using the same formula for scholarships as applied to other State residents?

Yes.

11. Elections

11A. Do you support enacting State campaign finance reform and laws that curtail corporate influence on elections, and laws that enable voluntary public financing of campaigns for state offices in a way that would allow candidates to receive funding after demonstrating significant community support?

Yes.

11B. Do you support the right enfranchisement for all residents of Maryland, regardless of legal status.

No, I support only the right of legal residents to vote.

12. Peace and Anti-War

12A. Do you have a history of opposing the use of the Maryland National Guard in non-humanitarian military assignments in other countries?

No.

13. Good Government

13A. Do you support enacting open government and transparency legislation that would include the public web-posting of the entire record and votes of all meetings/hearings of General Assembly official bodies at every level, including subcommittees; and the posting and sign-up sheets for all General Assembly hearings?

Yes. As a subcommittee chair, I take openness and transparency to a level not usually seen in other subcommittees, by simply alerting advocates of when our subcommittee votes and what we intend to vote on.