

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MARYLAND STATE-OFFICE CANDIDATES

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.*)?

I was proud to work on the Obama transition team for healthcare, and then continued my work with Physicians for a National Health Plan and the Leadership Committee for Guaranteed Health Care. I arranged meetings for single-payer activists with members of Congress, and assisted Margaret Flowers in her campaigns in Congress and the state.

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? *Yes. Please see my recent interview in Greater Greater Washington re: my suggestions for financing, including a Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority-like agency, or Marc Elrich's special tax district plan for BRT.*

2B. Do you support limiting the Maryland pollutant runoffs reaching the Bay? *Yes, and I will work with Mike Tabor and the organic farmers next year to stand up to President Miller.*

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. This is a major component of my platform, as well as a major plank of the PWG this past year.*

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

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? *Yes.*

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.*

5. Immigrant Rights

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

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.) *Yes.*

6. Women's Rights

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

6B. Do you support women's access to government-funded abortion under MHIP, or have you opposed restrictions on those rights? *Yes. As I've noted over the years, I am the only candidate in the County to have actually provided reproductive health services as a medical professional.*

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.*

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. I was a leader of Basic Rights Montgomery, defending the unanimously-passed county bill, and I am still fighting the good fight. It should be noted that the only delegates to support BRM, with either effort or money, were Heather Mizeur, Kirill Reznick, Anne Kaiser, Doyle Niemann and Jim Gilchrist.*

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.*

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 for the vulnerable and marginalized over the past six years, both as a County Council staffer focusing on public health, the mentally ill and developmentally disabled, and as an advocate -with Equality Maryland, Maryland NOW, HRC, the National Center for Transgender Equality, Keshet, Community Bridges, etc.*

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*. I was a leader of the grassroots effort to kill BOAST this year. I also oppose the proposed transfer of teacher pension liabilities to the counties.

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? *Yes*. This is a complex problem, with new national standards becoming the norm. I would prefer more creativity from teachers in the classroom and less standardization, though I fear that cannot be accomplished in our current climate where standards reign supreme.

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*. Another of PWG's major agenda items this past year.

11B. Do you support the right to enfranchisement for all residents of Maryland, regardless of legal status? For localities granting suffrage rights to all lawfully present adult residents in local elections only. This includes *ex-felons* as well.

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? *Yes*.

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*. This was/is the purpose of the TEAG committee of PN, of which I am proudly a member.