

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MARYLAND STATE-OFFICE CANDIDATES

Senator Jamie Raskin

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 spoke at several single-payer rallies; sent out e-mails to my supporters about fighting for universal health; and championed the issue however I could, including signing a letter of state legislators from across the country.

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, I favor the Purple Line and expanded mass transit and have repeatedly voted against the ICC.

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

Yes, and have a 100% environmental voting record and introduced sweeping stormwater legislation.

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

Yes although I haven't seen legislative details on this.

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, progressive taxation is essential to a civilized society.

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, absolutely.

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 we need to intensify and accelerate gang prevention strategies.

5. Immigrant Rights

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

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, I introduced the measure in Takoma Park to grant voting rights to legal non-citizens and wrote a law review article about it that has become the basis for municipal action elsewhere.

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, I have always championed the right to choose, for both women who are able to pay and women who are not.

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 been principal sponsor of the marriage equality bill with Senator Madaleno

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 do, and I recruited Jonathan Shurberg to be our lawyer defending it and I gave money to the cause.

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. I chaired the Maryland Higher Education Labor Relations Board, under which 17,000 state workers won the right to organize and bargain. I introduced the Fairness in Negotiation Act, which passed in 2010.

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?

Yes, through pro-bono work, my kids' volunteer activities and contributions.

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, we must follow through on Thornton!

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?

We need a dramatic shift away from the new testing orthodoxy, which drives lots of good teachers away from teaching, wastes a lot of educational time, shifts intellectual creativity and emphasizes ruthless high-stakes competition over real learning.

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, absolutely, and I have been a major champion of public financing and am the sole member of the Senate who accepts no corporate, LLC or partnership contributions.

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

I'm not sure I understand the question. See 5B.

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?

I oppose the use of the National Guard in illegal wars and for military activity that has not been authorized by Congress, which has sole power to declare war.

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, and I sponsored legislation requiring all state spending over \$25,000 to be put online. I am a strong champion of government transparency at all levels as an essential component of democracy.