

## **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.*)?

Yes. I took a public stance in favor of the public option. At the state level, I have consistently cosponsored the universal healthcare bill: HB 400: Maryland Universal Health Care Plan (2007), HB 1125: Universal Health Care Plan (2008), HB 1186: Maryland Health Security Act (2009), and HB 767: Maryland Health Security Act (2010).

### **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 was Pro Bono Counsel to the Sierra Club in our legal fight against the ICC.

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

Yes. I proudly voted for the Critical Areas Act (HB 1253, 2008) and the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund (HB 369, 2008). I was a leader in the fight *against* cutting funding for the environmental law program at the University of Maryland because they took on factory farming in Maryland.

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

Yes. I was a cosponsor of HB 131: Maryland Clean Cars Act (2007). I support going even further.

### **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?

I strongly support progressive taxation. I proudly voted for SB 2: Tax Reform Act (2007), which required wealthy Marylanders to pay their fair share of income taxes. I support eliminating certain tax breaks for wealthy individuals.

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

Yes. I was a cosponsor of HB 584: Corporate Income Tax - Combined Reporting (2010).

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

Yes. I have consistently cosponsored this legislation: HB 1310: Alcoholic Beverage Tax – Special Fund for Adult and Adolescent Addiction Treatment and Prevention Services (2008),

HB 904: Alcoholic Beverages Tax – Rates (2008), HB 791: Alcoholic Beverage Tax – Increase and Distribution of Funds (2009), HB 1160: Alcoholic Beverage Tax – Increase and Distribution of Funds (2009), and HB 832: The Lorraine Sheehan Health and Community Services Act (2010).

#### 4. Courts & Imprisonment

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

Yes. I proudly voted for SB 279: Criminal Law - Death Penalty – Evidence (2009), which began life entitled SB 279: Criminal Law - Death Penalty – Repeal.

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. I strongly support funding for early intervention, and sponsored legislation that keeps the focus on gang kingpins, not kids mixed up in the wrong crowd (HB 1235, 2010).

#### 5. Immigrant Rights

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

Along with other immigrant rights champions such as Del. Mizeur, Del. Ramirez, and Del. Valderrama, I supported the Jolene Ivey bill (HB 387, 2009).

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 proudly voted **against** the following anti-immigrant bills in Committee: HB 885: Counties and Municipal Corporations – Illegal Alien “Sanctuary Laws” – Prohibition (2008), HB 735: Counties and Municipal Corporations – “Sanctuary Laws” for Illegal Aliens – Prohibition (2008), and HB 486: Counties and Municipal Corporations – “Sanctuary Laws” for Illegal Aliens – Prohibition (2009).

#### 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 served as Chair of NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland.

## 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 was a cosponsor of the following marriage equality legislation: HB 351: Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act (2008), HB 1055: Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act (2009), and HB 808: Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act (2010).

In Committee, I proudly voted **against** both HB 90: Same Sex Marriages – Foreign Jurisdictions – Invalidity (2010) and HS1: Articles of Impeachment of Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler (2010).

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 and yes. I was the primary cosponsor, with Delegate Carr, of HB 1022: Human Relations - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity - Antidiscrimination (2010).

## 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?

Yes. I am proud to be a champion for individuals with developmental disabilities. It's a personal issue for me—one that has touched my family. I consistently fought off cuts to programs for this vulnerable population. I was also the lead sponsor of HB 500: Child Support Guidelines – Revision (2010), successful legislation that will lift thousands of single-parent children out of poverty (the guidelines had not been updated since Reagan and are not indexed to inflation).

## 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 and yes.

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. I support changes that de-emphasize over-reliance on high-stakes testing and returns us to a more comprehensive curriculum (including music, physical education, and experiential 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. I was the cosponsor of: HB 731: Election Law – Public Campaign Financing Act for Candidates for the General Assembly (2007), HB 971: Election Law – Public Campaign Financing Act for Candidates for the General Assembly (2009), and HB 1251: Campaign Finance Reform Act (2010).

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

I'm not sure I understand the term "right enfranchisement." I support the right to vote without encumbrance. I have strongly stood *against* "show me your papers" laws that intimidate voters at the polls and discourage electoral participation by Latinos, the elderly, transit riders, and the poor.

## 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. I was a cosponsor of HB 907: Public Safety - National Guard Deployment - Governor's Powers (2009).

## 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. I was a cosponsor of both HB 107: Legislative Voting Sunshine Act (2010) and HB 344: Maryland Open Government Act (2010).