

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MARYLAND STATE-OFFICE CANDIDATES

1. Healthcare

Jodi Finkelstein

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.*)?

As the executive director of the Domestic Violence Center of Howard County (DVC) , I worked to ensure that all of our clients received the best health care possible. For those eligible, the staff at the DVC encouraged clients to sign up for Healthy Howard, a pilot-health care program for the un or underinsured in Howard County. I certainly agree that quality health care should be made available to everyone.

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?

In order to support the environment, I think the state should do all it can to encourage the use of mass transit. The less dependent we are on cars the better. I have mixed feelings about the Purple Line. As a biker/runner, I often utilize the Capital Crescent Trail. I would hate to see the trail destroyed, but I understand the need for improved transportation.

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? **I support tax credits for individuals who use hybrids, etc., and am pleased to see that the state of Maryland has implemented the Pavley rule.**

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?

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? **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? **I have worked in the field of violence prevention for over 15 years. Legislation and policy are integral to violence prevention. However, education plays a significant role as well. I would support enhancing public education about gangs, assisting kids get out of gangs through education and supporting appropriate legislation.**

5. Immigrant Rights

5A. Do you support granting of Maryland drivers' licenses without any restrictions dependent on immigration status? **I support the compromise that was passed in 2009 by the State of Maryland.**

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 do not have a history in this area.**

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? **I am a full supporter of a woman's right to choose and will support every piece of legislation having to do with a woman's right to choose. I have a strong history in this area; I am a member of NARAL AND a former board member.**

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? **I am completely for same sex marriages and will work to further that if elected. I would vote for a bill similar to HB 808**

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?

I support Montgomery County's gender identity law. And, if elected, I would support a bill similar to or the same as HB 1022.

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?

For the past 15 years I have worked with victims of domestic violence. During that time I have passed NUMEROUS pieces of enabling domestic violence legislation, policies, and educated the public, including the criminal justice system about improving the community response to families in need.

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**

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 think standardized tests are a good benchmark of how well children and teachers are doing. However, it should not be the only indicator. In order to evaluate schools and teachers, I would look at other factors, including parent and student feedback.**

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?

I would consider supporting legislation as long as it includes the following: residing in or attending school in the state for a specified number of years (two to four), graduation from a high school in the state or complete a GED, and submission of an affidavit stating intent to file for legal residency.

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. **I believe tax paying individuals should be able 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? **I do not have any history in this area.**

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? **Absolutely.**