

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MARYLAND STATE-OFFICE CANDIDATES

Michael K. Heney

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> 1. Healthcare

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> 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 support universal health-care, but have not taken public action on this issue previously.

> 2 Environment

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> 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 funding both for mass transit and highway projects.
Transportation is not an either/or proposition; and I believe the solution
to our transportation issues lies in innovative use of technology to
foster a paradigm change in the way we do transportation. I support
the Purple line, and, as a fait accompli, support the ICC as well.

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

Yes - and I believe we need to work with neighboring states to ensure that
such limits apply equally all across the Bay.

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

No - I believe this is more properly a Federal issue - automakers should
not be faced with complying with 50 different sets of regulations. That
said, I am in favor of raising the fuel economy standards for all
vehicles, and encouraging zero-emissions vehicles as well.

> 3. Taxation

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> 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 do support a graduated income tax, with equitable tax rates at all levels. I believe that wealth individuals are entitled to the same tax breaks as any other taxpayer.

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

Yes on combined reporting. I would look at maximizing corporate tax revenues, and if a lower rate resulted in higher collections due to more corporations paying taxes, I would support that. Establishing the correct corporate tax rate is not a black-and-white issue.

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

Yes - especially if the increase were targeted to fully fund safety-net services.

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> 4. Courts & Imprisonment

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> 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, with the caveat that we not go too far in dismissing gang-related behavior due to "victimization".

People who are truly victims should not be punished. But those who rely on a claim of intimidation to explain away illegal actions need to be held responsible for their actions.

> 5. Immigrant Rights

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

No. A Maryland driver's license is an indication of Maryland residence, among other things. We insist that U.S. citizens be legal residents of Maryland in order to get a drivers license (I can't hold both and Maryland license at the same time) - I believe that non-citizens should be held to the same standard when obtaining a license.

> 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.)

No. I do not believe it should be a state or local government employees duty to be a first-line enforcer of Federal immigration law, but I do believe there are instances where it would be appropriate for such an employee to assist in its enforcement.

> 6. Women's Rights

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

Yes - although I would prefer working within existing anti-discrimination statutes before enacting new legislation if possible.

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

Yes.

> 7. LGBT Rights

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> 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 support same-sex marriages and LGBT rights.

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> 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?

While having taken no public action, I support the Montgomery county law

and would support a similar state-wide law.

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> 8. Labor Rights

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

Yes - and I support their right to opt out of the same if desired.

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> 9. Human Rights

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> 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?

Serving as PTA president in a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual school, I worked to help provide a quality education to all students, which included economically disadvantaged, physically and developmentally challenged, and non-English speaking students.

> 10. Education

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> 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)?

I support full funding under Thornton, but believe there are instances where the best use of public funds may involve private or religious schools, and would not categorically rule out their use on a case-by-case basis.

> 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 there is an over-reliance on standardized testing, and believe the

metrics in place are flawed. I would like to let the teachers teach, and look to more general performance-based metrics as measures of success.

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> 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?

Because K-12 education is mandatory, and because children that age are not here illegally through any fault of their own, I believe they should have the same access to the public school systems as anyone else. I do not believe that in-state college tuition falls in the same category, and would not favor offering that status as a rule. U.S. Citizens need to establish residency before qualifying for in-state tuition; I believe the same rules should apply to non-citizens.

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> 11. Elections

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> 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?

I support limits on corporate and individual campaign contributions. I do not support public financing of campaigns - I do not find that to be an appropriate role of government.

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

No - enfranchisement is a privilege of citizenship.

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> 12. Peace and Anti-War

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

No - but I believe the National Guard should be reserved for domestic
use; military assignments overseas should be fulfilled by the military.

> 13. Good Government

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> 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?

There needs to be a balance between transparency and the ability to
negotiate, argue, and debate an issue without the fear that every word may
become part of the public record. I believe "every level" is too broad.