

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MARYLAND STATE-OFFICE CANDIDATES

Tom Hucker

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.*)?

As a member of the White House Task Force of State Legislators for Health Care Reform, I was an advocate within that group first for single-payer and then for a robust public option. With Dels. Montgomery and Manno, for the third year I am the co-lead sponsor of HB 767, the Maryland single payer bill and pushed for that bill to be allowed a vote: <http://mlis.state.md.us/2010rs/billfile/hb0767.htm>.

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 am the senior member from Montgomery County on the House Environmental Matters Committee, I Co-Chair the Purple Line Caucus of the Maryland General Assembly, and I represent the General Assembly on the board of Purple Line Now!, the lead advocacy group for the PL. I am vociferously opposed to the ICC, and always have been.

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?

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, and I have been the most vocal advocate for the millionaires' tax and progressive tax policy since before I was elected.

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

Yes, at Progressive Maryland I led the statewide campaign for this issue and am now, with Del. Ross, a co-lead sponsor of the bill. It is long overdue.

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

Of course.

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. I was one of only 28 House members to vote against the MD Gang Prosecution Act of 2010.

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. Yes, I have opposed such restrictions on those rights.

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 am a vocal cosponsor of civil marriage and serve as a "Marriage Ambassador" to other colleagues for Equality Maryland. I strongly urged AG Gansler to reach the finding he reached in support of same-sex marriages in other jurisdictions.

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 provided advice to advocates for the bill. Yes.

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 was the lead sponsor of a bill this year to grant collective bargaining to all librarians.

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 am the author and co-lead sponsor of the first statewide living wage law in the nation (2007), which has already lifted thousands of Marylanders out of poverty.

Prior to that I led a campaign to pass the same bill, which was vetoed by Gov. Ehrlich in 2004.

Instead of overriding the veto, I worked with Speaker Busch and Pres. Miller to raise the Maryland minimum wage, which brought a raise to over 140,000 Marylanders. Prior to that, I led successful campaigns to pass living wage laws in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

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?

Yes.

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.

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

Yes.

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.