

## 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.*)? **During each of my three sessions in office, I have co-sponsored Del. Karen Montgomery's single payer healthcare bill (HB 767 in 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? **I do support increased funding for mass transit and have written and co-sponsored several pro-transit bills in Annapolis. I co-sponsored each of the anti-ICC bills during my term of office.**

2B. Do you support limiting the Maryland pollutant runoffs reaching the Bay? **Yes. I took a strong stance by voting against the HB1257 stormwater management bill which was heavily favored by developers at the expense of environmental protection.**

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? **I support progressive taxation and believe that wealthy individuals and corporations need to pay their fair share. However, I believe that changes need to be implemented in a way that acknowledges the fact that Montgomery County has unique needs from other areas of Maryland. Unlike other Maryland counties, Montgomery is larger than 6 U.S. states and is a high-cost area that is growing more diverse and has many needs within its borders. I was the lead sponsor of bills in 2008 and 2009 that would have given Montgomery County the authority to address the fact that tax burden has dramatically shifted away from commercial properties and onto homeowners.**

3B. Do you support combined reporting for corporations, and imposing higher corporate tax rates in line with neighboring states? **Yes. I was a co-sponsor of Del. Justin Ross' 2010 combined reporting legislation.**

3D Do you support an increase in the alcohol tax? **Yes. I co-sponsored legislation to increase the alcohol tax.**

### 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.**

## **5. Immigrant Rights**

5A. Do you support granting of Maryland drivers' licenses without any restrictions dependent on immigration status? **I supported the compromise legislation that passed in 2009 and conformed Maryland's law to federal regulations.**

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 believe state and local police should be responsible for enforcing federal immigration laws.**

## **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? **Support.**

## **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.**

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 was the lead sponsor in 2010 for the statewide Gender Identity bill.**

## **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? **I have a record of sponsoring and co-sponsoring legislation that benefits public health, fair housing, consumer protection, tax fairness and other issues affecting underprivileged communities and individuals.**

## **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? **As a legislator and as an MCPS parent, I believe there is an overreliance on standardized testing to the detriment of the overall quality of education.**

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 lead sponsor on several campaign finance reforms bills.**

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. I co-sponsored several bills promoting greater transparency for the legislative process. I worked behind the scenes to have the Montgomery County Delegation adopt a policy of posting committee votes online in advance of the General Assembly making this change. I was the lead sponsor of legislation to reform the Maryland Public Information Act to allow access to public records in their native electronic format.**