

Del. Susan Lee

Candidate History	
Previous Elected Offices: Maryland House of Delegates 2002-Present Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee Member	
Which Years Did You Serve: Maryland House of Delegates: 2002-Present Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee-2000-2002	
Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
If Yes, when: 2002 and 2006 Elections for Maryland House of Delegates	
Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Describe: <small>Since being in the House of Delegates, I have supported Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals and legislative agenda. Prior to being elected to the Maryland House of Delegates, I worked with Progressive Maryland (then Progressive Montgomery) and labor organizations to pass the Living Wage bill in Montgomery County. I played an important role in bringing Asian Pacific American and immigrant community leaders into a coalition to pass the Living Wage. After being elected to the House of Delegates, I have continued to support, cosponsor and vote for bills supported by Progressive Maryland, including those to pass the state Living Wage, increase the Minimum Wage, Campaign Finance Reform, Fair Share Health Care Fund Act, and Healthy Air Act, to make income tax more progressive and to ensure corporations pay a fairer share of taxes, have early voting, and many others. I have supported, cosponsored, and voted for numerous bills to expand and protect the collective bargaining rights and benefits of workers in Montgomery County and statewide. I have also supported, cosponsored, and voted for bills to limit the state from engaging in outsourcing. I voted to override former Governor Ehrlich's veto of the Minimum Wage bill, Pay Equity Commission, International Trade Agreement Procurement Rules-General Assembly Approval, Fair Share Health Care Fund Act, Voter Bill of Rights, and other bills.</small>	
Major Endorsements (Elected Officials/Organizations/Opinion Leaders): <small>Currently, I have the support of U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, Speaker Mike Busch, Maryland Attorney General Doug Gansler, District 16 Team colleagues Senator Brian Frosh and Delegate Bill Frick, and other elected officials and I am in the process of expanding this list as the endorsements come in. In the 2006 election, I was endorsed by Progressive Maryland, the Washington Post, the Gazette, Montgomery County Education Association, Maryland Teachers Association, Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association, Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Montgomery Green Democrats, NARAL Pro-Choice, Equality Maryland, Maryland State & Metro DC AFL-CIO, SEIU, Local 500, UFCW Local 1994 Municipal & County Government Employees Organization, Coalition of Asian Pacific American Democrats of Maryland, Montgomery College Democrats, Montgomery County Career Fire Fighters Association, and other organizations.</small>	

Issue Questions	
1. The minimum wage no longer guarantees a full-time worker enough to support a family without public assistance. Currently at least seven states and the District of Columbia have minimum wages above \$8.00/hr. Do you support raising the state minimum wage to \$8.50, which would fall just short of the rate in Washington State, which is the highest in the country?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Comments:	
2. If the minimum wage had been indexed to inflation when it was last set in Maryland, it would be over \$9.00 an hour now, allowing working families across the state to keep up with the rising cost of living. Do you support indexing the state minimum wage to the rate of inflation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO

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Comments:	
<p>3. There is a serious concern that the state's economic development subsidies (i.e. direct grants, special tax districts, tax abatements, state revenue bonds, etc.) go to companies which ultimately take more in state aid than they return in the tax base by creating poverty wage jobs which require their employees to use public assistance. Do you support requiring companies which receive economic development subsidies to create good jobs that pay a prevailing wage with benefits as embodied by SB785/HB1317?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Comments:	
<p>4. Do you support extending collective bargaining rights to any company which receives economic development subsidies from the state of Maryland, allowing the workers their right to decide if they would like to join a union or not?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Comments:	
<p>5. The skyrocketing cost of campaigns gives wealthy individuals and large corporations too much power in deciding who gets elected in Maryland. These same moneyed interests enjoy privileged access in Annapolis after the election on account of their campaign contributions. According to a recent Gonzales poll, 70% of Marylanders favor enacting a voluntary public campaign finance system. Do you support enacting a voluntary public campaign finance system for Maryland General Assembly races that is similar to systems enacted in Maine, Arizona and Connecticut and embodied in the SB681 legislation?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Comments:	
<p>6. Maryland current sales tax law was instituted decades ago when sales of goods were the overwhelming majority of the economy. Today, the majority of sales transactions are for services rather than goods, yet Maryland receives no sales tax from the purchase of services; disadvantaging retailers and manufacturers. Do you support modernizing Maryland's sales tax law to fit our current service economy?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO

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<p>Comments:</p> <p>I would support modernizing our sales tax law to also include some services. All service industries are not identical and must be reviewed with respect to each service industries' unique set of factors. Particularly, any such tax should not have a negative, disproportionate impact on small, minority or women owned service businesses, those business communities which are the bedrock of our state and have contributed to its economic vitality, and of which Progressive Maryland and I seek to assist and empower. As such, I look forward to continuing to work with Progressive Maryland to modernize the current tax law with respect to the current service economy which are consistent with its mission and goals.</p>	
<p>7. Thanks to ever more loopholes created by corporate accountants, one third of the biggest corporations in the state no longer pay a single penny in state income tax, even though under current law profitable firms are supposed to pay an 8.25% state income tax. Combined reporting closes most of these loopholes and is law in 23 states. Do you support a bill that would require "Combined Reporting" of all related companies like HB584?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p>Comments:</p>	
<p>8. In contrast to tax loopholes invented by accountants, there are also intentional tax breaks for various special interests in the form of special exemptions to the income tax, sales tax, excise tax, franchise tax, etc. In 2004 the Progressive Maryland Education Fund identified dozens of such tax breaks that benefit polluters, monopolists, even country clubs and that drain \$162 million per year from General Revenue. Perhaps some of these intentional tax breaks served an economic development purpose at one time, but too many now are just General Revenue giveaways to special interests. Do you support abolishing as many of these tax giveaways as possible?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p>Comments:</p>	
<p>9. This year the General Assembly allowed the surcharge on income above \$1 million dollars to sunset while cutting funding for many vital programs for working families. Do you support reinstating the surcharge on income above \$1 million dollars and making it permanent like in HB1177?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p>Comments:</p> <p>I would consider supporting this. I supported and voted in favor of legislation to make income tax more progressive during the Special Session.</p>	
<p>10. Currently, eligibility for public pre-kindergarten in Maryland is set at 185% of federal poverty guidelines (\$33,874 for a family of three). Data demonstrate that pre-K is tremendously effective in closing the education achievement gap. Within your first two years in office, will you support raising the pre-K eligibility limit to 250% of federal poverty guidelines (\$45,775 for a family of three)?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>

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Comments:	
11. Currently many local school boards, municipalities, community colleges, local governments and other public entities do not provide for collective bargaining rights for their employees. Do you support a public employee collective bargaining law covering all public employees in the state of Maryland, such as in Oregon, allowing all public sector workers their right to decide if they want a union or not?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Comments:	
12. Do you support recognition of a union for employees of any public entity provided the union submits independently-verified authorization cards signed by a majority of eligible members?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Comments:	
13. When a recognized union negotiates a contract for better wages and benefits for its members, non-union members within that collective bargaining unit get to vote and enjoy all the benefits of the union's negotiation without contributing to the union. Lawmakers fixed this problem for state employees in 2000, when the legislature passed the Collective Bargaining Act. Do you support extending this same	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Comments:	
14. Currently the state of Maryland covers 100% of the pension costs for teachers and educational support staff for all localities across Maryland. The state Senate supported shifting some of the cost to county and city governments which are already facing daunting budget deficits and cannot afford this new expenditure. Do you oppose shifting some or all of the pension costs of teacher and educational support staff to the localities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Comments:	

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<p>15. The existing Maintenance of Effort law dealing with a minimum level of local funding for public education is intended to reinforce the shared responsibility between the state and counties for adequate funding of our public schools, which has helped Maryland's public schools achieve the top ranking in the country. Do you oppose efforts to reduce or weaken the minimum funding requirement?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<p>Comments:</p>	
<p>16. Any proposal that would drain public funds from public schools, for example, school vouchers or tuition tax credits would be deleterious to Maryland's top ranked public schools. The program known as <u>Building Opportunities for All Students and Teachers (BOAST)</u> is a tuition tax credit program that the General Assembly has considered in recent years. Do you oppose enacting a tax credit program like BOAST?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<p>Comments:</p>	
<p>17. WMATA has provided rail transportation in Maryland since the late 1970s. While the system has been stressed lately, it has generally provided well run service since its inception and its workers are paid decent wages with benefits. Some have suggested operating the proposed light rail "Purple Line" as a state or privately run line without integrating it into the WMATA system or ensuring its workers continue to enjoy decent wages and benefits. Do you support integrating the proposed light rail "Purple Line" into the WMATA system?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<p>Comments:</p>	
<p>18. In the 2010 General Assembly session, a bill would have extended basic collective bargaining rights to library employees in all counties who do not currently have these rights. Do you support a bill like <u>SB225/HB881</u> to extend collective bargaining rights to library employees in all counties, allowing the library employees their right to decide if they want a union or not?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<p>Comments:</p>	
<p>19. Project Labor Agreements have been proven time and time again to bring in projects on time and on budget but they also have the added benefit of building community partnerships with the contractors and unions to hire locally and provide family healthcare and a career path for residents. Would you support executive or legislative action putting PLA's on all contracts over \$500,000?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO

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Comments:	
20. Currently the low bid system of contracting is a race towards the bottom for the federal, state and local government. Would you support moving contracting towards best value contracting which will allow extra points for contractors who provide apprentice programs, hire locally, provide family healthcare and pensions making it more likely that the contractor that does more for his employee's and the community will get the contract?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Comments:	
21. Do you support requiring all contractors and subcontractors who bid for jobs on publicly-subsidized construction projects to participate in apprenticeship programs that provide employees with free training for life?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Comments:	
22. Do you support the requirement that a prevailing wage be paid to construction workers on all projects initiated by a public entity, whether or not that public entity has given hiring authority to private developers?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Comments:	
23. Electricity deregulation for residential ratepayers created de facto monopoly electricity providers gouging ratepayers in most parts of Maryland. Do you support re-regulating Maryland's residential electricity system with a carve-out for new merchant plants already slated for construction at Calvert Cliffs?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Comments:	

Del. Sumner Lee

<p>24. As you may know, electricity deregulation has been a disaster for Maryland ratepayers and financial deregulation facilitated the worse financial crisis in this country since the Great Depression. Earlier this year, the Maryland Public Service Commission approved a settlement offer from Verizon, deregulating basic telephone service in Maryland, even though Verizon readily admits deregulation will lead to higher prices for basic telephone service. Would you support legislation to strengthen the ability of the Public Service Commission to re-regulate the telecommunications industry?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<p>Comments:</p>	
<p>25. All across the country, Verizon has attempted to sell its rural basic telephone networks to undercapitalized companies, where perversely the more debt the buying company incurs, the larger the federal tax credit Verizon receives from the sale. In the four states where Verizon has been allowed to sell their rural lines, the buying company has gone bankrupt, leaving states and basic telephone customers scrambling to maintain service. Would you support legislation requiring the Public Service Commission to evaluate specific factors about the purchase when considering a telecommunications acquisition or merger like SB667/HB937?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<p>Comments:</p>	
<p>26. In an effort to keep and grow jobs in Maryland, would you support legislation requiring telecommunications companies to disclose the location of call centers, allow state agencies to give preference to companies that use local call centers when awarding state contracts and allow consumers to request their customer service calls be handled by a local call center?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<p>Comments:</p>	
<p>27. Would you support legislation providing consumer protections for cell phone users ensuring appropriate disclosure of fees and the ability to cancel a service contract or return a device within a certain time-frame like SB1008/HB1018?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<p>Comments:</p>	

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<p>28. Retail is one of the fastest growing sectors of Maryland's economy, yet retail jobs are some of the lowest paying jobs which usually do not offer benefits, forcing many of their workers to rely on some form of public assistance. Would you support a bill that would require large employers who build new stores in Maryland over 75,000 square feet to pay a "living wage" with benefits as well as be required to adhere to local hiring provisions?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<p>Comments:</p>	
<p>29. As you may know, Maryland's alcohol taxes have not been raised in over 40 years and are some of the lowest in the nation, though alcohol-related health concerns cost Marylanders millions of dollars every year. Would you support increasing the state alcohol taxes if the revenue is tied to expanding health coverage and access for Marylanders?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<p>Comments:</p>	
<p>30. Do you support increasing the gas tax to fund expansion of transportation projects, including mass transportation?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<p>Comments:</p>	
<p>31. Do you support extending collective bargaining rights to Adjunct Faculty and Graduate Student employees at all public institutions of higher education in Maryland, allowing these workers their right to decide to join a union or not?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<p>Comments:</p>	
<p>32. As you may know, the Maryland Attorney General recently released an opinion stating that Maryland permits the recognition of valid out-of-state marriages of same sex couples. Do you support legislation to ensure all gay and lesbian couples have access to full civil marriage equality in Maryland?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<p>Comments:</p>	

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Assisting Progressive Maryland & Allies

33. For the measures above that you have agreed to support would you be willing to:

- Co-sponsor legislation? YES OR NO
- Work with our lobbyists to pass the bill? YES OR NO
- Testify at a hearing in support of legislation? YES OR NO
- Speak at public events in support of legislation? YES OR NO
- Write a letter in support of legislation? YES OR NO
- Write an op-ed in support of legislation? YES OR NO

34. In order to build progressive grassroots organizations, would you be willing to help by:

- Speaking at Progressive Maryland events? YES OR NO
- Urging employers to respect their employees' right to form a union by remaining neutral during a union campaign? YES OR NO
- Urge employers to recognize a union voluntarily when the majority of their employees choose to form a union? YES OR NO
- Write a letter to unorganized workers endorsing an organizing drive by a labor union? YES OR NO
- Walk a picket line with a labor union? YES OR NO
- Other (Please specify):