



Baltimore Offices
9 W. Mulberry Street, 4th Fl.
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
410.685.7004 phone
410.659.5008 fax

State Headquarters
8720 Georgia Avenue
Suite 500
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

301.495.7004 phone
301.495.9463 fax
ProgressiveMaryland.org
Contact@ProgressiveMaryland.org

2010 Questionnaire For Candidates Running for Local Government Office

Progressive Maryland is a grassroots advocacy organization that defends the interest of Maryland's working families. We have offices in Silver Spring and Baltimore; 15,000 individual members and supporters statewide; and 40 of the state's strongest labor, civil rights, faith, and other organizations are affiliates. Learn more at www.ProgressiveMaryland.org

We support candidates who favor a pro-working family agenda of family-sustaining wages, investments in public education, expansion of high-quality health care, and fair tax policies.

To be considered for Progressive Maryland's endorsement, please return the completed questionnaire to our Political Director Rion Dennis at rion@progressivemaryland.org (or if you absolutely must fax to 301.495.9463) **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 30, 2010**. Your responses will be available to the public at www.ProgressiveMaryland.org

Candidate Information

Candidate Last Name: _____

Candidate First Name: _____

Office Seeking: _____

District: _____

Party: _____

Campaign Contact Information

Committee Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____, MD

Zip Code: _____

Business Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Campaign Website: _____

Candidate Contact Information

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Treasurer Contact Information

Treasurer Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____, MD

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Candidate History

Previous Elected Offices:

Which Years Did You Serve:

Have you ever received an endorsement from Progressive Maryland?

YES OR NO

If Yes, when:

Have you ever assisted Progressive Maryland in achieving its goals?

YES OR NO

Describe:

Major Endorsements (Elected Officials/Organizations/Opinion Leaders):

Issue Questions

1. There is a serious concern that the economic development subsidies (i.e. direct grants, special tax districts, tax abatements, revenue bonds, etc.) go to companies which ultimately take more in 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?

YES OR NO

Comments:

2. Do you support extending collective bargaining rights to any company which receives economic development subsidies, allowing the workers their right to decide if they would like to join a union or not?

YES OR NO

Comments:	
3. Do you support legislation requiring appropriate County departments to submit unified annual public documents in both written and electronic format reporting the amount of subsidies to private firms, the number of new jobs created by these firms, the wages and fringe benefits, the length of time that these firms are committed to be in the County, along with appropriate compliance enforcement measures?	YES OR NO
Comments:	
4. Currently many local school boards, municipalities, community colleges and other public entities do not provide for collective bargaining rights by their employees. Do you support a public employee collective bargaining law covering all public employees, allowing the workers their right to decide if they want a union or not?	YES OR NO
Comments:	
5. 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?	YES OR NO
Comments:	
6. 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 2009 when they enacted the Fair Share Act. Do you support extending this same requirement to all public entities covered in a collective bargaining unit?	YES OR NO
Comments:	
7. Do you support binding arbitration as a means of enforcing collective bargaining contracts for public employees when the parties cannot achieve a resolution on their own?	YES OR NO

Comments:	
8. Will you support passage of a law that prohibits the use of public funds by county contractors for anti-union activities?	YES OR NO
Comments:	
9. 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 through 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?	YES OR NO
Comments:	
10. 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?	YES OR NO
Comments:	
11. 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?	YES OR NO
Comments:	
12. Do you support requiring 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?	YES OR NO

Comments:	
13. Often County money is used for construction work performed by out-of-state firms that bring in their own low-wage workers, rather than using trained and certified workers who are County residents. Would you support a local residency requirement that requires that 51% of new hires on County-financed construction projects go to County residents?	YES OR NO
Comments:	
14. 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?	YES OR NO
Comments:	
15. In 2006, Prince George's County passed a living wage law for its county contractors. But that law lacked a provision to ensure workers received benefits, forcing many to rely on public assistance for health insurance or go without. Do you support including a \$3.00/hr benefits provision in Prince George's County living wage law, similar to Montgomery and Howard County's living wage laws?	YES OR NO
Comments:	
16. Metrobus time to go from one end of the line to the other has increased along with traffic congestion. Many counties continue to measure road use by vehicles per hour, not taking into account the number of people moved per hour. Do you favor giving buses dedicated lanes, priority signals and other measures to speed their travel on major arteries where they are carrying a substantial proportion of "people per hour?"	YES OR NO
Comments:	

<p>17. Collective bargaining is a hallmark right of Prince George's public employees and facilitates the labor-management cooperation within the County. Unfortunately, Prince George's collective bargaining law has a major flaw with regard to third-party binding arbitration: it fails to set forth a clear process for settling disputes that arise during collective bargaining. This costs the County and its taxpayers valuable time and resources because it leaves the County and employee representatives to argue over procedures instead of productively bargaining for contracts, which keep county employees working to provide needed services for County residents. Given the problems with the current system and their costs to the County and its taxpayers, do you support a bill that streamlines the procedures for resolving bargaining disputes, defines when such disputes exist, assigns an arbitrator to resolve those disputes, and does so in concise, understandable language?</p>	<p>YES OR NO</p>
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Comments:

<p>18. All across the country, gay and lesbian employees face discrimination in workplace benefits, with many individuals unable to obtain health insurance for their partner through their employer, even though health insurance is in many cases offered to the spouses of employees. Do you support extending domestic partnership benefits to same-sex partners of county employees?</p>	<p>YES OR NO</p>
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Comments:

Assisting Progressive Maryland & Allies

<p>19. For the measures above that you have agreed to support would you be willing to:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-sponsor legislation? 	<p>YES OR NO</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with our lobbyists to pass the bill? 	<p>YES OR NO</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testify at a hearing in support of legislation? 	<p>YES OR NO</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak at public events in support of legislation? 	<p>YES OR NO</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a letter in support of legislation? 	<p>YES OR NO</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write an op-ed in support of legislation? 	<p>YES OR NO</p>	

<p>20. In order to build progressive grassroots organization, would you be willing to help by:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking at Progressive Maryland events? 	<p>YES OR NO</p>	

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|--|--------|----|
| • 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): | | |