



Congressional District 5 Questionnaire

Please return this questionnaire to our.revolution.prince.georges@gmail.com by the end of the day on December 20th. Please note that your responses will be posted publicly.

1. Why are you running for Congress?

I am running for Congress because regular people deserve real representation. I am tired of career politicians working for the people at the top and leaving everyone else to fight just to survive. I am running because there are policy and priority changes we need to make for regular people to thrive: Medicare for All, the Green New Deal, affordable housing, union and labor rights, and criminal justice reform. My drive for such change stems from my personal experience with different structures of power. I understand the real-life costs of policies created by lawmakers who work for corporate and wealthy interests instead of regular people. I have seen my food assistance slip away just as I got a minimum-wage job. I have experienced the cruel and racist injustice of the criminal justice system. I am not only running to win the seat and represent my community, but also to energize those who have become politically inactive or disenfranchised in the district and around the country. I am running to change the way politics is conducted so that it works for the people rather than corporate donors.

2. Nearly 30 million people in the United States do not have health insurance. Of those with insurance, 30 percent are underinsured, which means they cannot afford co-pays or deductibles and therefore lack access to healthcare. Medical costs are the number one cause of bankruptcies in the US. Life expectancy for Americans is falling. Yet, the United States spends much more on healthcare per capita than any other nation on Earth.

- a) Question for the Incumbent: You have stated publicly that you do not support H.R. 1384 – Medicare for All Act of 2019 - and you believe that improving ACA and providing a public option for insurance is the better alternative. Please explain your position.
- b) Question for Challengers: Do you support Medicare for All? If elected to Congress will you co-sponsor the 2021 Medicare for All bill and advocate for its passage? Please explain your answer. **See below!**

If elected to Congress I will co-sponsor the 2021 Medicare for All bill and enthusiastically advocate for its passage. It's time to stop playing political games with the health of the American people. As establishment politicians propose tepid health reform plans, insurance companies and Big Pharma continue to run thousands of desperate American families into bankruptcy. I know just how harmful prioritizing profits over human lives can be. When I was pregnant with my second child, my insurance provider tried to deny me life saving medications. My doctor spent hours advocating over the phone for them to cover this necessary medicine and thankfully I was able to get the medication I needed. Unfortunately, not everyone can be so lucky. When elected, I will use my voice to advocate for others like me. Our best option forward is expanding public health insurance to everyone. We know that expanding public health insurance works, and we have seen that accommodating the greed of the health industry doesn't. A Medicare For All program would insure every single American, no matter their economic status, restore justice to health care delivery, and even save us money in the long run. If elected I will fight to ensure every citizen can go to the doctor and not have to worry about going into debt.

3. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change we now have 11 years left to make sweeping social and structural changes to avert the worst of the climate crisis.
 - a. How will you address this emergency? **See below!**

- b. Do you support (have you co-sponsored) the Green New Deal resolution as outlined in H.R.109? Will you advocate for the bills that arise from this resolution? **Yes**
- c. Will you co-sponsor House Concurrent Resolution 22 declaring a climate emergency and calling for a massive national mobilization? **Yes**

Climate change is an existential threat. It's no longer a problem for the future — it's a problem for the here and now. Wildfires consume much of the West Coast and hurricanes pummel America's coastal cities. Sea-level rise threatens population centers around the world, and states such as Maryland with long coastlines are particularly at risk. This is especially concerning to the 5th district in St. Mary's, Calvert and Charles Counties as they all include part of the Maryland coastline.

We have a dual obligation to respond proactively to this looming crisis. Climate efforts must include helping coastal areas in the United States prepare and respond to rising sea levels and intensified natural disasters. Additionally, there will be people around the globe whose homes, communities, and nations are destroyed by climate change. We must expand the legal definition of refugee to include those who have been displaced by climate change, and create a program to admit them. Finally, we must provide countries in the Global South with the climate aid necessary to help prevent and prepare for the catastrophes that will create climate refugees in the first place.

A Green New Deal is a key piece of legislation that can tackle two pressing — and deeply intertwined — crises: an environmental crisis of rising global temperatures, and an economic crisis of gross inequality and stagnant wages. We need a ten-year national economic mobilization that would decarbonize the economy, put millions of Americans to work building the energy infrastructure of the future, and ensure equity and fairness. If elected I will work tirelessly to pass the Green New Deal outlined in HR 109 along with declaring the climate crisis a national emergency to allow for a massive national mobilization to address the crisis. The defining issue of our times demands transformational action.

More specifically, I support the following policies:

- *Mobilizing on a national scale to ensure that, in the next ten years, 100 percent of domestic electricity demand will be supplied by clean, renewable and zero-emission sources.*
- *Guaranteeing a job with livable wages and comprehensive protections for everyone in the United States.*
- *Upgrading every building in the United States with state-of-the-art green technology to maximize energy efficiency.*
- *Guaranteeing access to clean air, clean water, and other natural resources for all Americans.*
- *Ensuring that those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change — racial minorities, the poor, indigenous communities, the disabled — are intimately involved in the development and implementation of the Green New Deal.*
- *Centering Coastal Resiliency as a key provision of the Green New Deal through proactive investment to fight both the causes and effects of climate change on coastal communities.*
- *Expanding the legal definition of “refugee” to include those displaced by climate change.*
- *Creating a program to accept climate refugees with no cap on the number admitted.*
- *Ensuring that the Global North is meeting its commitment to provide \$100b in annual climate aid to countries in the Global South to fight both the causes and effects of climate change.*

4. How would you advance racial justice? Specifically, please address the following:

- a. Criminal justice reform, including justice for people currently or previously incarcerated as a result of the war on drugs;
- b. The abolition of private prisons;
- c. The racial wealth gap;
- d. Systemic inequities in healthcare and housing;

- e. Voter suppression and gerrymandering;
- f. Police reform to end violence against unarmed people of color

I am running for office because I know the various ways Black and Brown communities are left behind and exploited for the power and profit of others. There are people behind these policies and too many elected officials have forgotten the impact their policies have on everyday Americans. For me, the political is personal. I would be a member of Congress who actually knows what it is like to be a constituent. I know firsthand the impact the criminal justice system on the millions of young people who are criminalized rather than given the support and resources they need. I have seen my social assistance denied as soon as I found a minimum wage job. And, I have felt the stress of living within our inhumane and racist healthcare system. I am running because not enough people in office know how it feels to be the regular person on the other end of their voting history.

More specifically, I support the following policies:

Criminal Justice Reform:

- *Ending the federal prohibition on marijuana.*
- *Expunging the records of people convicted of federal marijuana crimes.*
- *Investing in treatment programs for individuals struggling with mental health and substance abuse issues.*
- *Prohibiting government contracts with private prison companies.*
- *Abolishing the federal death penalty.*
- *Ending the use of cash bail.*
- *Directing the FCC to prohibit the use of predatory prison phone rates, freeing individuals to call family members in prison without severe economic costs.*
- *Federally banning the box that requires job applicants to disclose criminal records.*
- *Ending the exploitation of prison work and modern-day slavery by expanding federal minimum wage laws to those who are incarcerated.*

- *Decriminalizing sex work so that sex workers are able to safely engage in sex work to provide for themselves and their families without fear of being persecuted.*
- *An end to the “War on Drugs” as it has existed for 40 years; the abolition of the death penalty, cash bail, and the private prison system, each of which disproportionately impacts Black men.*
- *Combating the school-to-prison pipeline by targeting increases in funding for public schooling toward underserved communities — particularly in counseling and mental health resources in order to address the disproportionate rate of suspension and expulsion for Black students.*
- *multi-billion dollar investment in public defenders programs around the country, to ensure the right to effective counsel is a practical reality for low-income defendants.*
- *Federal grants to state and local prison systems that radically reduce the percentage of their prison population in solitary confinement, and that enact a thorough plan to end the use of solitary altogether. Funds will go to treatment and rehabilitation programs — not increased incarceration.*

The racial wealth gap:

- *Reparations for the descendants of slaves. This starts with H.R. 40, Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act. Our government must officially address reconciliation for the violent legacy of chattel slavery, and H.R. 40 is a means to not only inform the public about congenital effects of slavery that affect the African-American community even today but also prescribe measures of restorative and rehabilitative justice.*
- *Ensuring that the Green New Deal achieves equal economic and environmental outcomes for Black communities.*
- *Spending \$2 billion to reduce tuition and fees at private institutions that educate historically marginalized groups. HBCUs and Minority Serving Institutions have long been pillars of our communities. HBCUs and MSIs whose student bodies are at least 35 percent low-income would be eligible for this funding.*

Systemic inequities in healthcare and housing:

- *Providing federal loans and grants to municipalities and counties for the construction of seven million new units of publicly owned social housing over the next decade. Municipal social housing would include both mid-range and affordable housing and be available to all city or county residents.*
- *Achieving improved health outcomes, including maternal health, for the African-American community through a Medicare-for-all single-payer scheme.*
- *Providing federal assistance, through the Housing Trust Fund and Capital Magnet Fund, for states to construct three million new units of housing for extremely low-income households.*
- *Expanding Fair Housing Act protections to better cover several marginalized groups, such as LGBT individuals, Native Americans, and Section 8 recipients.*
- *Targeted homeownership assistance for communities impacted by housing discrimination and unjust federal policies such as "redlining."*

Voter suppression and gerrymandering:

- *Strengthening voting rights in our community, especially through support of H.R. 1, For the People Act. This bill encapsulates automatic voter registration, the designation of Election Day as a federal holiday, redistricting reform, and expanding public financing of elections.*
- *Prohibiting states from requiring a physical street address as a prerequisite for voting*
- *Implementing an automatic voter registration system, in which any qualified individual who interacts with their state DMV is automatically added to the voter rolls and given the choice to opt out.*
- *Legislating to revive the Voting Rights Act following the disastrous Supreme Court decision in Shelby County v. Holder. Mckayla supports authorizing the Department of Justice to apply renewed scrutiny over states and districts with histories of voter disenfranchisement and suppression.*

- *Introducing a constitutional amendment to repeal the Citizens United decision, which allowed corporations to pour unlimited cash into political campaigns through highly secretive SuperPACs.*
- *Permitting currently incarcerated citizens to exercise their right to vote, as is government policy in numerous industrialized nations.*

Police reform to end violence against unarmed people of color

- *Requiring dash and body cameras to be recording the entirety of police shifts and that all footage be archived on an independent server and be made available to the public upon request.*
- *Demilitarizing and disarming police forces.*
- *Prohibiting the use of stop-and-frisk programs which disproportionately affect people of color.*
- *Prohibiting the use of quota-based tickets and arrests which lead to over-policing of neighborhoods.*
- *Restarting the collection of police shooting (injury and fatality) data by the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program.*
- *Having AUSAs, not local prosecutors and grand juries, handle police misconduct cases to promote transparent and independent investigations free of conflicts of interest.*
- *Creating civilian police review boards in more communities/states as oversight into police action.*
- *Prosecuting and trying police misconduct in the criminal justice system like any other act of harassment and/or violence (including trial by jury of peers).*
- *Removing police presence from schools and replacing existing officers with counselors, social workers, and therapists.*
- *Establishing federal oversight into police training and action, standardizing police training programs across states, increasing the number of mandatory hours of training, and requiring sensitivity and anti-bias (race/ethnicity, disability, and LGBTQIA) training.*

- *Requiring that police officers come from and/or live in the community that they are policing to reduce mistrust and encourage coalition building between precincts and community organizations.*
- *Requiring that police officers found guilty of misconduct, not the city government, pay the court-ordered settlements to the victim's family.*
- *Establishing independent reporting mechanisms for civilian complaints (including domestic abuse charges against police officers).*

5. What are some policies you would support to improve gender equity, including for transgender and non-binary people?

- *Passing the Equality Act which would include sexual orientation and gender identity under federal non-discrimination statutes.*
- *Including a third gender option on federal ID cards and documents and asking questions about sexual orientation and gender identity in the U.S. census.*
- *Requiring that (public) health insurance programs cover the costs of sex reassignment surgery.*
- *Reversing the Trump administration's ban on trans military service.*
- *Ending the CDC's ban on MSM blood donations.*
- *Banning the practice of conversion therapy.*
- *Requiring gender-neutral bathrooms in new buildings and retrofitting them for older buildings.*
- *Ending sex reassignment surgery on intersex newborns.*
- *Including information on LGBTQ+ identity in school sexual health education programs.*
- *Passing the Paycheck Fairness Act for Equal Pay for Equal Work.*
- *Passing the BE HEARD Act (Bringing an End to Harassment by Enhancing Accountability in the Workplace Act).*
- *Providing federally-funded, free birth control for all.*
- *Ensuring the NIH increases underrepresented women's participation in clinical trials.*

- *Making sanitary products free to all.*
- *Appropriating federal funding to clear the backlog of untested rape kits.*
- *Ensuring that the constitutional right to an abortion is accessible regardless of income or geography.*
- *Passing and funding the Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights at the federal level and reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act.*
- *Amending the constitution to include the Equal Rights Amendment.*
- *Repealing the Hyde Amendment and reversing the Trump administration's gag rule for the Title X program and the global gag rule.*
- *Making non-consensual distribution of pornography (revenge pornography) a federal crime.*
- *Addressing women's conditions in prison including sexual assault and denial of proper medical care.*

6. What steps do you propose to reduce the power and influence of large corporations and wealthy people over every aspect of life in America?

For far too long wealthy Americans have not paid their fair share in taxes. There is no reason middle class Americans should not be paying more in taxes than billion dollar corporations. The past several decades have seen tax cut after tax cut for the rich, accompanied by devastating cuts to benefits working families need. It's no wonder the fruits of economic growth have mostly flowed to the uber-wealthy, leaving everyone else with stagnant wages and economic instability. The Trump tax cut was an instrument of class warfare: a massive wealth transfer from the poor and middle class to the rich. I believe in creating an equitable tax regime that levels the playing field for everyday Americans. In addition, I am not taking any corporate PAC money because I want to fight for the people in my community un beholden to any corporate interests.

More specifically, I support the following policies:

- *Taxing the value of estates over \$1 billion at an 80 percent rate.*

- *A financial transactions tax of 0.1 percent on all trades of shares, bonds or derivatives.*
- *A wealth tax of 2 percent on assets greater than \$50 million and a wealth tax of 3 percent on assets greater than \$1 billion.*
- *Taxing all income over \$10 million at 70 percent.*
- *Debt-free public college. The federal government should provide matching funds for state higher education appropriations, directed toward ensuring all students can graduate without taking on debt. Unlike tuition-free public college, the debt-free college commitment would cover student spending on fees and room and board, in addition to tuition.*
- *Introducing a constitutional amendment to repeal the Citizens United decision, which allowed corporations to pour unlimited cash into political campaigns through highly secretive SuperPACs.*
- *Enacting a lifetime ban on members of Congress and the Cabinet becoming lobbyists.*

7. Every day, 130 Americans die after an opioid overdose.

- a. What legislation will you support or introduce to prevent and treat opioid abuse?
- b. What would you do to punish irresponsible pharmaceutical purveyors of opioids and other addictive painkillers?

The opioid epidemic has devastated countless communities across the United States. It is imperative that we not only fight to provide resources and support to those impacted by opioid addiction but that we also hold those who caused this devastation accountable.

More specifically, I support the following policies:

- *Passing the Opioid Crisis Accountability Act of 2018 to hold the people responsible for orchestrating this crisis criminally liable.*
- *Decriminalizing the possession of buprenorphine.*

- *Passing the CARE act to provide \$100 billion over a ten year period to fund programs that support the health and wellbeing of those impacted by the opioid epidemic at every level of government.*
- *Supervised consumption sites and needle exchanges.*
- *Passing Medicare for All.*
- *Require that first responders to carry naloxone.*

8. What legislation or other policy changes do you support in order to make trade schools, public college and graduate school affordable for poor, working-class, and middle-class Americans and to alleviate the crushing loan debt that many current and former students face?

American higher education is supposed to be transformative: exposing young people to the best scholarship the world has to offer while acting as an engine of economic mobility. In reality, it entrenches existing racial and class disparities. The uber-wealthy commit fraud to get their children into elite private schools, middle-class families are crushed under massive debt bills, and most low-income folks are kept out of higher education altogether.

The United States has some of the best colleges and universities in the world, but they close their gates to those who can't pay. I support a fundamental moral principle: Access to higher learning should not be contingent on the economic situation of one's family. Nobody should face decades of financial strain paying loans they took out when they were 18.

More specifically, I support the following policies:

- *Debt-free public college. The federal government should provide matching funds for state higher education appropriations, directed toward ensuring all students can graduate without taking on debt. Unlike tuition-free public college, the debt-*

free college commitment would cover student spending on fees and room and board, in addition to tuition.

- *Freeing millions of Americans from the burden of student debt. A one-time cancelation of all outstanding student debt is expected to increase GDP by between \$861 billion and \$1.083 trillion over the next ten years.*
- *Prohibiting the federal government from profiting off its student loan program.*
- *Spending \$2 billion to reduce tuition and fees at private institutions that educate historically marginalized groups. HBCUs and Minority Serving Institutions have long been pillars of our communities. HBCUs and MSIs whose student bodies are at least 35 percent low-income would be eligible for this funding.*

9. The United States spends more on its military than the next nine countries combined. Our expenditures enrich defense industries and empower private defense contractors, who in turn make large contributions to the campaigns of our elected officials. Our foreign wars cause untold human misery and exacerbate rather than ameliorate our national security vulnerabilities. Would you support changes to foreign policy aimed at significantly reducing military spending, closing military bases abroad, engaging in peace efforts through diplomacy, and meeting our significant domestic needs in health, education and housing? Explain why or why not.

America's aggressive military adventurism has been a complete failure. From the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to more recent interventions in Libya, the United States' military engagements have both failed to meet our stated geopolitical objectives and caused massive human misery. The victims of American militarism are always the same: the poor and marginalized. Abroad, families are forced to flee their homeland for fear of violence; at home, folks are deprived of needed benefits as the military swallows ever larger portions of the federal budget.

The United States needs an anti-imperialist foreign policy of peace and cooperation. Two decades after the end of the Cold War, we cannot continue to subsidize the military

industrial complex while starving the Department of State. American foreign policy must support trade arrangements and international institutions that work for everyone's benefit — not just multinational corporations. And the U.S. Congress must stand up to the Executive Branch when it funnels weapons to dictators in Saudi Arabia or orchestrates a coup in Venezuela.

More specifically, I support the following policies:

- *Invoking the War Powers Resolution to end American support for the Saudi Arabia-led military campaign in Yemen, which has cost the lives of tens of thousands of children and caused the largest cholera outbreak in history.*
- *Passing a new Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) that severely curtails the Executive's ability to start military engagements without congressional approval.*
- *Requiring American-based companies to pay livable wages and observe safety protections when operating abroad.*
- *Cutting at least \$200 billion in wasteful defense spending.*
- *Massively increasing funding for foreign aid programs, especially in regions victimized by unjust American military interventions.*

10. Free trade agreements undermine local interests both foreign and domestic and result in tremendous environmental problems for local communities.

- a. To the incumbent: You have voted for every free trade agreement in the House in the last two decades with Peru, Korea, Panama and Columbia, for example. What do you think have been the consequences of these agreements and do you continue to support such agreements?
- b. To the challengers: Do you support free trade agreements? Why or why not?

America's trade policies need to be re-written from the bottom-up. The 1% continuously gets richer, with corporations hoarding a lionshare of the wealth while shipping jobs overseas. Many of those jobs are exploitative and fail to meet human rights and

environmental standards. For all of Trump's posturing and trigger-happy tariffs, America is now facing an alarming trade deficit. This is unacceptable and we can not expect to thrive if this continues. We need new policies that create sustainable American jobs that pay a living wage and keep jobs on American soil.

More specifically, I support the following policies:

- *Uplifting the small businesses that are supporting and creating jobs in America, rather than continue to give federal tax breaks, loans, grants, and contracts to corporations that continue to exploit the American worker and outsource jobs.*
- *Uplifting American farmers by reconciling the damage our current trade agreements have caused.*
- *Uplifting the communities of color that have always been disproportionately affected by our unfair deals.*
- *Promoting policies that create American jobs and create incentives to buy locally.*
- *Including binding and enforceable language into any trade agreements that protects the worker, protects the environment, and abides by human rights standards.*
- *Including protections and enforceable language to penalize countries who are dumping their products here and making America's exports more expensive.*
- *Eliminating the language in our tax codes and trade agreements that incentives outsourcing.*
- *Eliminating any and all rules that do or would make medicine more expensive.*

11. Workers in the US frequently experience threats, exploitation, and humiliation on the job. What will you do in Congress to aid workers in advancing their rights, wages, material conditions, and dignity at work? Specifically:

- a. Will you support the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act? **yes**
- b. Will you support the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act to ensure that public sector workers have equal rights on the job? **yes**

- c. What will you do to help workers overcome any fear they have about exercising their rights at work, organizing a union, and bargaining collectively?

American workers are under attack — from wealthy corporate owners, from the politicians they bankroll, and from reactionary judges. So-called "Right to Work" laws sweep the country and the Supreme Court methodically dismantles what remains of New Deal-era labor protections. Workers have seen decades of stagnant wages and declining union density. Companies use the vast majority of profits on stock buybacks instead of wage increases. Today, it's far too common for a primary breadwinner to take several jobs just to meet their family's basic needs. The gig economy has been a failure. We need an economy of humane, well-paying union jobs with extensive benefits. Building worker power requires electing bold fighters like me to Congress.

More specifically, I support the following policies:

- *Increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 for all workers, including tipped employees.*
- *Repealing so-called "Right to Work" laws through federal legislation.*
- *Creating a worker co-determination regime that would require boards of companies making over \$1 billion in revenue to set aside 40 percent of its seats for workers or elected worker representatives.*
- *Mandating that publicly-traded companies using profits for stock buybacks direct a commensurate sum toward wage increases.*
- *Writing legislation to encourage sectoral bargaining mechanisms like wage boards, which bring together employees and employers to set wages and benefits for an entire industry. New York's fast-food wage board, created in response to the "Fight for \$15" movement, secured significant benefits for the state's fast food workers.*

12. Over 11 million undocumented people live in the United States; many live in daily fear of deportation and being separated from family members who are US citizens. Meanwhile, immigrants pay billions of dollars in taxes, yet many are unable to access the public services that they help fund.:

- a. What ideas do you have for establishing a path to citizenship for undocumented persons already living in the US?
- b. What policies would you put in place to support migrant workers and the US businesses who need seasonal workers?
- c. Do you think ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) should be dismantled? Why or why not?

Immigrant communities should be able to live, work, and attend school free of fear. That reality is impossible so long as ICE roams our communities tearing families apart, border officials put young children in cages, and millions of undocumented Americans are forced to live in the shadows. The Trump administration's immigration enforcement policies have rightly been derided as cruel and inhumane. But callousness toward immigrants has been a matter of bipartisan consensus long before Trump took office. That consensus must end. We need to dismantle institutions like Immigration and Customs Enforcement that terrorize immigrant communities and work to bring our undocumented neighbors out from the shadows. Not only will I fight to end the inhuman practices carried out by DHS, but I will also work to implement comprehensive policy that provides a clear and humane pathway to citizenship free of any unnecessary financial burden.

More specifically, I support the following policies:

- *Abolishing ICE.*
- *A path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States.*
- *A path to citizenship for holders of Temporary Protected Status.*
- *Legislation to expand acceptable justifications for seeking asylum to include gang and domestic violence.*

- *Increasing funding for legal services for undocumented individuals and individuals seeking asylum in the United States.*
- *Repealing the 1996 immigration laws*