

## Our Revolution Maryland

### Congressional District 7 Questionnaire

Please return this questionnaire to [hal@ourrevolutionmd.com](mailto:hal@ourrevolutionmd.com) by the end of the day on December 5.

Please note that your responses will be posted publicly.

1. Why are you running for Congress?

I have been able to do a great deal in my life because I had a chance. I had opportunity. My parents moved us to Columbia, MD when I was a little girl to give my sister and me a shot. They pushed us hard and stressed education and discipline. It was that drive that allowed me to go to Harvard. And when I graduated, I was one of only three black women to graduate with a degree in bioelectric engineering that year. Then I went on to Columbia for medical school and prestigious fellowships after that. I was able to move back home and build a business and practice medicine in the community I grew up in. But I never lost sight of the fact that my story is a story of promise getting matched up with opportunity – and the truth is that a lot of people never get that opportunity. So I decided to run for the legislature in 2014 – to get to work and create a Maryland where more people have a fair shot. I am running for Congress because I want to do more for more people.

2. Do you support H.R.1384 - Medicare for All Act of 2019? Please explain your answer.

*Yes, I support affordable accessible healthcare for all. Including automatic enrollment, coverage of services that are medically necessary or appropriate for health maintenance, or the diagnosis, treatment or rehabilitation of health condition. I support covering hospital services, prescription drugs, mental health, substance abuse treatments, dental, vision and long-term care services. This bill would ensure consistent costs for patients as it does away with deductibles, coinsurance and copayments and other out of pocket expenses. Limiting private health insurers and employers to supplemental but not duplicative benefits will create a level playing field for all patients.*

3. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change we now have less than 11 years left to make sweeping social and structural changes to avert the worst of the climate crisis. How will you address this emergency? Be specific and address the following
- Do you support a Green New Deal as outlined in H.Res.109?
  - Do you support holding fossil fuel companies accountable?
  - How will you provide for a just transition for fossil fuel workers?
  - Please discuss the importance of climate justice for frontline and vulnerable communities.

*Yes, as a scientist, I support the Green New Deal, which resolves to treat climate change as an emergency through efforts limiting fossil fuel consumption, and reducing emissions. I believe in holding fossil fuel companies accountable and I affirm that ensuring that a transition to green energy must be accompanied by an investment in new green jobs and an investment to train fossil fuel workers for new employment opportunities. These investments will help prepare us for a healthier more sustainable future. As a physician I am keenly aware of the connection between climate change and social injustice. The disproportionate impact on poor and urban communities has already resulted in higher rates of chronic health conditions including asthma and heat-related mortality. I am committed to ensuring that federal investments and funding are commensurate with the need, reflect a correction for the disproportionate burden borne by these communities over multiple generations, and are committed for the many years required to effect the needed changes and sustained results.*

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

*Campaign finance reform is necessary to ensure that every voter has an equal voice on every issue. But this is only one step towards addressing economic disparity. Increasing the minimum wage, investing in education, assisting moderate-income earners to build assets and wealth, expanding the Earned Income Tax, ensuring jobs that can sustain a decent standard of living, ending residential and educational segregation, are all critical steps that must be taken to advance economic justice.*

5. What are the three biggest challenges facing your district and how do you realistically believe that we can address each one successfully?

*Ensuring access to good affordable healthcare for all residents. As a physician, I see the barriers to good health care and understand the problems inherent in a move towards a comprehensive healthcare system. As an experienced legislator I've introduced successful legislation at the state level to help Maryland hold steady in the face of the rollback of the Affordable Care Act. As the first black physician congresswoman I will bring my experience to bear to ensure passage of a universal health care bill.*

*Creating a world-class public education system. At the state level, I worked to pass far-reaching education reform, to identify funding from the Maryland Stadium Authority revenues to restore our crumbling schools and build new schools where we have more students than seats. At the federal level we have a limited but important role to ensure equal access to a quality education regardless of race, income, gender, ethnicity, language and immigration status, to facilitate opportunity for high-need students, to support education research and generally support the excellence of our education systems.*

*Ensuring a rapid and science-based response to our climate emergency. At the state level, in the last year, I've introduced successful legislation to limit the use of plastic bags, improve public and jurisdictional notice of river contamination and unsuccessful legislation to limit energy consumption in state owned buildings and in October I filed a joint resolution to declare a climate emergency. At the Federal level we must not only resolve the tenants of the Green New Deal, but move quickly to reverse the Trump administration's rollback of environmental safeguards and*

*ensure the laws that protect clean air, clean water, public lands and wildlife are defended, enforced and adequately funded.*

6. How would you address racial justice? Be specific and 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 racial wealth gap
  - c. Systemic inequities such as education, healthcare or housing
  - d. Voter suppression

*As a State Delegate, I have a successful legislative record addressing criminal justice system reform and the reform and economic disparity. I've been a vocal and engaged proponent of integrating our schools to reduce economic disparity and I've worked throughout my five years in office to improve low-income housing to ensure that it is livable and healthy for our residents. Voter suppression is the issue that compelled me to look beyond my service as a doctor to try to remedy systemic issues of racial inequality. At the federal level, I will pursue research into new, affordable and promising treatments for addiction, I will continue my work towards environmental justice, and I will seek to reestablish our civil rights protections that have been eroded, to ensure that no voter is disenfranchised, that every person is treated justly by our legal system and that our fundamental American values of equity, opportunity, fairness and respect for human dignity are upheld.*

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

*As a physician I stand with the American Medical Association in support of the equal rights, privileges and freedom of all individuals. I oppose discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, disability, ethnic origin, national origin or age. As a state legislator I introduced successful legislation to ensure that couples received equal treatment for fertility issues regardless of sexual orientation. As a congresswoman I will ensure reestablishment of the rights that have been that the eroded under the current administration including immigration and adoption discrimination.*

8. What is the most progressive legislation that you have sponsored or worked actively for, either as an elected official or as an activist?

*It is difficult to say what the "most" progressive legislation I have supported is, but I stand by my progressive record and am proud of the bills I have worked on.*

9. What legislation will you support or introduce to prevent and treat opioid abuse, as well as punish irresponsible pharmaceutical purveyors of opioid and other addictive painkillers?

*At the state level, I've filed innovative legislation this year to allow pharmacies to fill partial prescriptions of opioids to reduce the amount of unused opioids. At the federal level, I will continue my work to allow research on federally controlled, affordable, and promising addiction treatment drugs such as Ibogaine.*

10. What legislation or other policy changes do you support in order to make college and graduate school affordable for poor, working-class, and middle-class Americans and to alleviate the crushing loan debt that many students and alumni are facing?

*I support tuition relief for poor, working-class, and middleclass residents, as well as school loan relief to put new graduates on a better path towards economic sustainability.*

11. What is your position on guaranteeing the right to unionize for all workers, starting with important "card check" legislation?

*I support card check legislation. My legislative record reflects my strong union support and I've worked closely with unions to ensure the right to unionize for all workers.*

12. Will you continue the push to pass \$15-an-hour minimum wage?

*Yes. I support a \$15 minimum wage*

13. Identify changes to our foreign policy that you would support in Congress. Include your thoughts on (A) America's recent and continuing military actions in the Middle East, (B) the number and size of American military bases in foreign countries, (C) international trade deals, (D) providing humanitarian and development aid versus nation-building.

*The Trump administration is an unmitigated disaster both at home and abroad. We must reexamine our approach to the deployment of hard and soft powers around the globe, including the repeal of the 2001 AUMF that has served as the justification for endless global war. I'm very skeptical of any new international trade deals, including the proposed NAFTA 2.0 that is slated for introduction soon. I'm not opposed to trade, but these "deals" have made a handful of people rich, while doing significant harm and hollowing out cities like Baltimore.*

14. Over 11 million undocumented people live in the United States; many live in daily fear of deportation, of 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. What will you do to end the impasse on immigration reform? Specifically:

- a) What ideas do you have for facilitating legal status and ways to approach citizenship for undocumented persons already living in the US?

*Immigrants are vital to our country and our workforce. Undocumented people currently living in the shadows need protection. Just like in 1986, we have the ability to craft bipartisan legislation to give people a path to citizenship that do not qualify for any current relief. The vast majorities of undocumented people have committed no crime and are only in the country seeking a better life for themselves and their family. By bringing them out of the shadows, we help our first responders by providing a community willing to assist in investigations; we increase our tax base and revenue; and we reduce the overall exploitation of workers that create lower wages for every worker.*

- b) What policies would you put in place to support migrant workers and the US businesses who need seasonal workers?

*The current H2A and H2B programs are over prescribed as are other worker categories of visas. The numbers have not kept up with what our country and businesses need and should be adjusted to reflect those increased demands. Locally, this is felt particularly in our crab and fish industries and in our agricultural businesses. Similarly, the H1B category for skilled workers should also be adjusted upward to reflect the needs of our tech companies. An evaluation of current systems that prefer immigrants from certain areas of the world over other areas to provide a fair, non-discriminatory way to strengthen our economy and continue to welcome the diverse talent and skills of immigrants who wish to live and work in the United States.*

- c) Do you think ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) should be dismantled? Why or why not?

*It is abundantly clear that ICE is out of control, however I do not believe that it needs to be dismantled so much as it needs to be redirected. ICE has many different components, including HSI, one of the leading federal law enforcement agencies working to stop human trafficking, a critical law enforcement service. ICE needs a thorough review to assure accountability by recalling certain discriminatory and inhumane directives and removing certain agents who have not upheld the standards of professionalism. Oversight must be constant and corrections swift.*

15. Will you cosponsor and support H.J.Res.48, to propose a constitutional amendment providing that the rights protected by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only, and require federal, state, and local government to regulate, limit, or prohibit election contributions and expenditures?

*Corporations are not people. This isn't a close call. I support H.J Res. 48, and any other efforts to overturn the wrongly decided Citizens United case.*