

Our Revolution Maryland Questionnaire for U.S. Congressional Candidates, MD - District 6

All Our Revolution Maryland endorsements are based on the input from those that live in the community. An Our Revolution Maryland endorsement begins with a recommendation from one of the official Our Revolution Maryland local groups. All questions and candidate responses will be made available to the public.

Candidates: Please return your completed questionnaire to [Susannah Lapping \(susannahlapping@yahoo.com\)](mailto:susannahlapping@yahoo.com) no later than Friday, February 9, 2018.

1. Explain, based on life experiences and accomplishments, why you believe you are qualified to represent Maryland's 6th Congressional District in the House of Representatives.

I am a life-long public servant. I served in the U.S. Army for over 20 years, including serving three deployments to Bosnia, where we did things right, and one tour on the ground in Iraq, which was so frustrating that I returned home and submitted my retirement. I began my Army service as a Company Clerk, then became a Korean Linguist, then a Military Intelligence Officer. I worked my way up from Private First Class to an advisor in the Pentagon. The next logical step is to move up to Congress. I have dedicated my life to serving my country, and I want to continue to serve.

I have worked diligently to advance a progressive Democratic agenda. Since leaving the Army, I have been active in Democratic Politics. I was the co-founder of Frederick For Kerry, and based on that work I was encouraged to run for Congress against Congressman Roscoe Bartlett. I ran for Congress in the Sixth District when it was a Republican +14 district and none of the current candidates were willing to do so. I was the Democratic nominee in 2006 and 2010, and between those years my grassroots party-building efforts increased Democratic registration by 9%. This led to the redistricting which changed the Sixth District from a heavily Republican district to the current Democratic-leaning district. I have served as a member of the Frederick County Democratic Central Committee, and on the Executive Board of the United Democrats of Frederick County. In November 2016, I organized a Love Trumps Hate Rally in Frederick which has grown into Frederick Cares, a Social Justice organization. I helped to organized Our Revolution Western Maryland, participated in various other groups such as Indivisible, Frederick County Progressives and others.

I live in the Sixth District. I graduated from Frederick County Public Schools and my wife graduated from Montgomery County Public Schools. I grew up in Western Maryland, and have worked the past 14 years in DC, so I have a deep understanding of both the rural Western Maryland half of the district and the suburban Montgomery County half of the district. It is time for the 6th Congressional District to have a representative that can actually vote in the election for the 6th Congressional District.

2a. If you are elected, what ethical principles or values will guide your public service? Support your answer with examples of how such principles or values have guided you in the past.

My life has always been guided by a desire to serve my country. I have always **put the needs of my country first**, even to the point of putting my life at risk. My values say that we should always **“do the right thing”**, not take the easy way out. As a Democrat, I believe that public policy should **care about people, not money**. My public service will continue to demonstrate my commitment to those principles.

In 1995, more than 8,000 Bosniaks were slaughtered when a U.N. Safe Haven in Srebrenica was overrun. Around the world, people said somebody needed to do something to stop the violence in Bosnia. I was one of the people who did something. Two weeks before Christmas, I kissed my wife and kids goodbye, got on a plane, and we stopped the violence. The next December, I had to do that again. And later I did it a third time. Stopping the violence, serving my country, and protecting innocent civilians were more important than spending time with my family, even during the holiday season. I have put my life on the line for my country, and I am willing to continue to serve.

In 2003, I deployed to Iraq with the mission of removing the dictator, Saddam Hussein, who had killed over 100,000 innocent civilians, including gassing entire villages. But while serving there, I saw decisions that were made by the units on the ground were being over-ridden by the political appointees in Washington. I saw elections that were scheduled being cancelled. I saw the work to re-establish the Iraqi Regular Army stopped, dooming Iraq to a cycle of violence. I saw the contract to rebuild the Iraqi cell phone system, which had been awarded to an Iraqi firm who was the lowest bidder and had the experience of building the system before, cancelled and re-competed so that an American firm won. I became so frustrated that upon return from Iraq, I submitted my retirement. This was not what I had planned to do, and early retirement cost me severely financially. But I could not participate in a conflict which had become unjust. I had to **“do the right thing”** regardless of the cost.

Upon my return to Maryland, I became politically active and was encouraged to run for Congress. At that time, the 6th Congressional District was heavily Republican (R+14) and unwinnable for a Democrat. When other candidates were unwilling to run, I remembered the words of Angela Davis who said *“There are times when we must accept that which we cannot change, and there are times we must change that which we cannot accept.”* I took the hard path, because it was the right thing to do. I knew that people needed to be put first, and Roscoe Bartlett was failing to do that. I was willing to run for this seat, because it needed to be done. My grass-roots campaigns increased registered Democrats by 9% in this district, and led to the redistricting in 2010 that made it a Democratic district. And this year, when Rep. Delaney was undecided about whether he would run again, I was the only candidate willing to file to run against him. I knew it would be hard, but we needed to put the needs of the country and the people first, and provide an opportunity to have a better Congressman.

I have always put my country first, been willing to do the right thing regardless of how hard, and cared about people more than money. I will continue to do that in the future.

2b. Will you support and work to adopt the Democratic Party Unity Reform Commission

recommendations?

Yes

No

Please elaborate.

We need to ensure that the Democratic Party selects the nominee who is supported by the voters, not the party establishment. The Democratic Party has been captured by big money donors, and their influence has corrupted the party at both the State and National levels. The changes recommended will make the Democratic Party more responsive to voters and more accurately reflect the will of the membership, instead of the donors. It is important to elect candidates who will bring change to the Party, not simply promote a member of the establishment.

2c. Do you support small donor campaign match legislation for all Maryland elections?

Yes

No

Please elaborate.

I support Campaign Finance Reform at both the state and national levels. I support public financing of elections at both levels. On the Federal level, I support Rep. Sarbanes bill for public financing of campaigns.

We need to overturn Citizens United to limit the influence of corporate money in politics. We also need to overturn an older Supreme Court ruling, Buckley v. Valeo, which says that money is a form of speech. I believe in "one person, one vote", not one dollar one vote.

CIVIL RIGHTS

3a. Will you support HR 2840 (Automatic Voter Registration)?

Yes

No

Please elaborate.

I support all legislation which will expand voter participation. We must defend and reinforce the Voting Rights Act, clarifying to the Supreme Court that states which have enacted voter suppression acts must be subject to federal review prior to any new voter access legislation

being enacted. In addition to supporting Automatic Voter Registration, I support same day registration changes to allow participation in the primary of choice and automatic restoration of voting rights upon completion of sentences.

3b. Describe any other federal legislation and policy changes that you support in order to address the ongoing effects of slavery, racism, colonialism, and discrimination on people of color in America today.

I will protect Equal Opportunity programs, including those for employment, housing, education and access to credit.

I support comprehensive criminal justice reform, as our criminal justice system is racially biased. We should eliminate for-profit prisons, treat drug addiction as a medical – not a criminal – problem, eliminate stop and frisk programs, and support Community Oriented Policing. We should monitor rates and outcomes at all steps in the criminal justice system and take corrective action if we observe racial disparities. I support establishing a minimum training standard for local law enforcement agencies, and providing federal funding to enable them to meet those standards. The purpose of our public safety organizations should be to “Protect and Serve”, not to harass and punish. Our public safety system should emphasize crime prevention and rehabilitation instead of punishment.

I support comprehensive immigration reform, which would maintain family reunification and ensure diversity. I am opposed to building a wall on the Mexican border. I am the only candidate who has publicly debated Frederick County Sheriff Chuck Jenkins on the 287g program. I support repealing the 287g program because it is racist. I support immediate renewal of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, preferably with a clean vote on that issue alone. I support increased acceptance of refugees, particularly those impacted by war and violence such as the conflict in Syria. We should continue to provide Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for those living in the U.S. from Haiti, El Salvador, and similar locations. Comprehensive immigration reform should include a path to citizenship for those who have lived in the U.S. and contributed to our communities.

I support a wide range of programs to improve economic equality, which will reduce the gap based on the history cited in the question. I support the Fight for \$15 as the first step toward a living wage, MEDICARE For All to meet health care needs regardless of ability to pay, and improved education – including Universal Pre-K and tuition-free college – as steps toward improved economic equality.

In addition to improved government policies, we need to address these societal aspects of these issues. We need to speak openly about the issue of racism, and we must be willing to discuss these issues even when it is uncomfortable. We need to talk to everyone, even those who disagree with us, and inform those who are prejudiced that their actions are hurting others. I have helped to create Frederick Cares, an organization devoted to positive social change on the local level, which is an example of what will be needed to address the causes of the ongoing effects.

EDUCATION

4a. Will you support HR 1880 (College for All Act)?

Yes

No

Please elaborate.

I support the College for All Act to provide tuition-free access to public universities and community colleges.

4b. What other 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 expanding the College for All Act to also cover trade schools. I also support student loan forgiveness in exchange for public sector employment, to provide a way out of debt for students who have already incurred college debt. I support increasing the class size of the Uniformed Services University for Health Sciences (USUHS) to provide tuition-free attendance at medical school to increase the number of doctors and medical personnel.

HEALTH CARE

5a. Do you support a single-payer universal health care system?

Yes

No

Please elaborate.

I support House Bill 676, MEDICARE For All. I believe health care is a human right, and that everyone should have quality health care. The United States is the only developed country in the world that does not have universal health care. Our health care distribution system costs more per capita than any other country on earth, and we are not getting our money's worth. While most developed countries spend about 10% of GDP on health care, the U.S. spends 18%, but we still do not provide access to health care to all our residents. MEDICARE For All will provide quality health care for all residents at a lower cost than current costs.

I will fight to defend the Affordable Care Act until we can replace it with MEDICARE For All. Medicare for All is my goal. We cannot wait until the election to take action. We need to continue to keep the pressure on Congress to protect the ACA. That is why I have been activating voters and putting people in the street to bring attention to defending the ACA. I have spoken at Health Care rallies sponsored by Progressive Maryland, started Frederick Cares (a local social justice organization), and participated in multiple grass-roots political organizations that advocate protecting the ACA.

5b. Will you support HR 676 (Medicare for All)?

Yes

No

Please elaborate.

I support House Bill 676, MEDICARE For All. I believe health care is a human right, and that everyone should have quality health care. The United States is the only developed country in the world that does not have universal health care. Our health care distribution system costs more per capita than any other country on earth, and we are not getting our money's worth. While most developed countries spend about 10% of GDP on health care, the U.S. spends 18%, but we still do not provide access to health care to all our residents. MEDICARE For All will provide quality health care for all residents at a lower cost than current costs.

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If you answered no, what other legislation or other policy changes do you support in order to ensure that all Americans have access to quality affordable health care?

5c. 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?

Drug addiction should be regarded as a medical problem instead of a criminal problem. I support increased funding for drug treatment and harm reduction programs to deal with the current opioid epidemic. We need to ensure that adequate drug treatment is available, and is available when patients are ready to begin treatment. Placing patients on a six month waiting list will not be of assistance. We must also expect that patients will relapse, and require multiple iterations of drug treatment before it will be successful. A variety of drug treatment modalities should be provided; to include medicine based programs, talk therapy, and 12 step programs. Harm reduction programs should start with making life-saving treatments readily available without prescription, so that patients can be kept alive in case of an overdose. I have personally taken the training for use of NARCAN, so I can provide life-saving treatment if I find myself in that situation.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

6. Will you support HR 771 (Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance [EACH Woman] Act)?

Yes

No

Please elaborate.

Discuss your stance on reproductive rights, including access to contraceptives and abortion services.

I will defend the right of women to control their health care choices. A woman should be able to control what happens to her body without interference from the government, either federal or state. Health insurance coverage should provide family planning, birth control and abortion services, as desired by the patient involved.

Women's health decisions should only be made by the woman involved. It should not be made by an elected official, a judge or any other government representative.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

7. Will you support HR 3227 (Justice is Not For Sale Act)?

Yes

No

Please elaborate.

I am opposed to private prisons and will vote to remove any federal funding for them. The area of corrections is an inherently governmental function, and should not be privatized. When corporations profit from incarceration, those profits provide incentives for increased incarceration, which is not in the best interest of society.

What other federal legislation do you support in order to make the American criminal justice system fairer, less costly, and more effective at rehabilitation?

I support comprehensive criminal justice reform, because our criminal justice system, as currently operated, is racially biased. We should eliminate for-profit prisons, treat drug addiction as a medical – not a criminal – problem, eliminate stop and frisk programs, and support Community Oriented Policing. We should monitor rates and outcomes at all steps in the criminal justice system and take corrective action if we observe racial disparities. I support establishing a minimum training standard for local law enforcement agencies, and providing federal funding to enable them to meet those standards. The purpose of our public safety organizations should be to “Protect and Serve”, not to harass and punish. Our public safety system should emphasize crime prevention and rehabilitation instead of punishment.

ENVIRONMENT

8. What federal legislation or other policy changes do you support in order (A) to reduce America's carbon footprint and (B) to protect and maintain America's remaining wilderness, parks, open spaces, and wetlands and (C) recognize, ameliorate, and reduce the sources of Climate Change?

I believe climate change is real, and I have been doing something about it. For the past four years I have served as the Director of Operations for a small green energy research company. Our company has been awarded two patents on conductive polymer technology which could be useful for solar panels and for energy storage. It is not enough to vote for legislation to require someone else to take action. We need to take action to find solutions ourselves. I have worked to create new materials, which did not exist 5 years ago, which can address the challenges of climate change.

(A) I support eliminating the existing subsidies for fossil fuels in the United States. We should put an expiration date on the leases for oil and gas exploration on federal lands, so any exploration rights not put into production expire, and cannot be held indefinitely. We should subsidize green energy research and implementation so that we transition to renewable fuels more quickly. As part of an infrastructure bill, we will need to redesign our electrical grid to support the distributed generation of electricity from renewable resources, with large-scale electrical storage built into the grid. This is needed to replace the current grid which is built on a model of centralized electrical production with distribution to users. I would support a carbon tax, but would not support transferrable carbon credits. I do not believe we should create a market for pollution, where pollution rights are bought and sold.

(B) I will vote to protect and expand our nation's parks, national monuments, and wilderness areas. I will support block grants to state and local governments to encourage zoning that protects open space and wetlands. I will carefully monitor the growth within the Sixth District to measure the impact on open space and wetlands, and attempt to provide federal assistance to protect open space and wetlands. I will vote to protect and strengthen water quality under the Clean Water Act to further protect wetlands. As part of an Infrastructure Bill, we should provide resources for improved water and sewer infrastructure to protect water quality by reducing water pollution. I will make the C&O Canal National Park a special project, and will hold or attend at least one event every year bringing attention to the C&O Canal Park.

(C) I will propose legislation to create an Advanced Research Projects Agency – Carbon (ARPA-C) to conduct basic science research on how to draw down the level of carbon in the atmosphere. It will not be enough to stop carbon pollution, we must clean up the mess we have already made and reduce carbon levels to historical norms. This agency would be based on the model of DARPA (for Defense) and ARPA-e (for Alternative Energy). It is clear that climate change is real and results from man-made causes. I support efforts to reduce and eliminate carbon pollution, and have worked to create new solutions for our energy needs. I will introduce legislation to encourage the federal government to lead by example, putting geo-thermal and solar on all federal buildings over 3,000 square feet. These efforts would pay for themselves over a 3-5 year period, resulting in more jobs, lower costs, and lower carbon pollution. I will support legislation to encourage energy-saving efforts, as energy conservation is the largest

area where progress can be made quickly. As part of that effort, I would support increased tax credits for energy conservation efforts in homes and businesses. I will support initiatives to require home builders to disclose the expected energy consumption of new homes and inform home buyers of the expected costs, and the costs of energy saving upgrades. For example, a new home buyer should know the cost of installing solar panels and the impact of that installation on energy costs. This will encourage the installation of solar and geothermal technology on new construction.

9. Do you support or oppose TransCanada's proposed pipeline under the C&O Canal and Potomac River at Hancock, Maryland?

Support

Oppose

Please elaborate.

I am the only candidate who has shown up to the Public Hearings in Hancock, MD to protest the pipeline. I have testified against the approval of the 401 Waterways Permit in person, and am on record as opposing the pipeline. I will make the C&O Canal National Park a special project, and will hold or attend at least one event every year bringing attention to the C&O Canal Park.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

10a. In order to reduce wealth and income inequality and poverty - including unemployment, homelessness, and food insecurity – (A) Do you support raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour or above? (B) What additional steps do you believe the federal government should take to reduce income and wealth inequality?

(A) Yes. I support a \$15 Federal minimum wage. I believe the Fight for \$15 is just the start of a fight for a living wage. \$15 per hour is not enough to put a roof over your head in Montgomery County or other high cost areas. I believe the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) standard, as developed by the United Way, should be used to determine poverty levels and set minimum wages that vary by locality.

(B) There are a large number of things we need to do to reduce income and wealth inequality. They include:

- Tax reform to make the tax system more progressive
 - > Tax Capital Gains at the same rate as earned income. We should reward work, not punish work with higher taxes.
 - > Repeal the Trump Tax cuts that gave over \$1 Trillion in tax breaks to corporations
 - > Increase the tax rate on the top level of earners. The marginal tax rate on persons earning over \$1 Million per year should be increased.

- > Increase Child Care Tax Credits
- > Tax Wall Street transactions
- > End Carried Interest
- Improve our education system and increase availability of Higher Education regardless of income
 - > Universal Pre-K, regardless of income
 - > Tuition-Free college
- Protect Consumer Financial Protection Board
 - > Take action against Payday Lenders and other lenders who take advantage of low-income borrowers by charging exorbitant rates
 - > Reduce machine trading on Wall Street by imposing a Transaction Tax
 - > Vigorously enforce trading regulations to prevent "Frontrunning" and other practices which provide unfair advantages to large investors
- Break up the Big Banks to provide more competition
 - > Too Big to Fail means too big to continue
- MEDICARE For All
 - > Affordable medical care for all regardless of income
- Criminal Justice Reform
 - > End corporate prisons
 - > Ban the Box, to improve hiring eligibility
 - > Monitor outcomes from interactions with the criminal justice systems to ensure fair results, and take action to correct when disparate outcomes based on race or other factors is noted.
- Create more jobs
 - > Repair our crumbling infrastructure, which will create jobs that cannot be exported
 - > Ensure any trade pacts are Fair Trade, and ensure a level playing field

10b. Will you support HR 15 (Raise the Wage Act)?

Yes

No

Please elaborate.

All employees should be paid the same minimum wage. There should be no exceptions for new employees, youth employees, or physically challenged persons. If we want to incentivize the hiring of youth and physically challenged persons, we should provide employers with tax incentives, not by penalizing the workers with lower pay. I support a minimum wage of \$15 per hour as a floor, with a living wage, based on the ALICE index, as the goal.

10c. Will you support HR 1144 (Inclusive Prosperity Act) tax on Wall Street?

Yes

_____ No

Please elaborate.

I support a transaction tax on Wall Street securities, to include all U.S. based exchanges, regardless of location. This tax is needed to reduce the harmful effects of automated machine trading, which is causing excessive volatility and puts small investors at a disadvantage. Funds from this tax could go to other purposes, to include health care as part of MEDICARE for All, or could be used to fund the Consumer Financial Protection Board.

10d. Provide *specific* details of how you would attack the on-going economic and social disparities which continue to impact women, including the gender pay gap, inadequate Social Security benefits particularly for elderly women, the lack of paid family leave in many cases, the lack of adequate child care, and discrimination in all of its forms against Women of Color.

We need to ensure that persons of all genders are treated equally in the workplace. Currently legislation, to include the Equal Opportunity Act and the Lilly Ledbetter Act were significant steps in the right direction, but they have not been effective enough to close the pay gap. We need to go farther to extend equal treatment and equal pay to include the LGBTQ+ community as well. To address the pay gap, we need to support educational opportunities for women in traditionally male fields, to include computer science and STEM, and allow for more open information of pay rates. We should promote women-led companies with Small Business Administration loans, preference in government contracting and grants, and ensure that the Federal Government leads the way in hiring and promoting women.

I support expanding Social Security, to include ensuring that spouses, which are predominantly women, have sufficient income to meet basic needs. This expansion should be paid for by increasing the cap on FICA taxes.

We need to ensure that workers of any gender are entitled to appropriate maternity leave and sick leave, to include time off for care of family members, without damaging their career progression

I support increased subsidies for child care. I support Universal Pre-K, which is education rather than child care. We will need to coordinate support for child care which is synchronized with Universal Pre-K schooling.

As one step toward preventing discrimination against Women of Color, I will protect Equal Opportunity programs, including those for employment, housing, education and access to credit. I also will support expanded access to higher education, to include tuition-free college education. The answers to questions 3b and 13 provide additional examples of addressing discrimination against Women of Color.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE/CORPORATE INFLUENCE

11. Do you support a Constitutional Amendment to repeal the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United*?

X Yes

 No

Explain your answer above and include any other solutions that you propose for the problem of undue influence over legislators exercised by large corporations and the very wealthy.

I support over-turning Citizens United, which found that corporations were people and entitled to free speech. I do not believe that corporations are people.

Additionally, I support overturning Buckley v. Valeo, the 1976 case where the Supreme Court ruled that money was a form of speech. I believe in the principle of "one person, one vote", not in "one dollar, one vote." Buckley v. Valeo is discriminatory in that it allows persons with more money to have more speech than persons with less money.

I support campaign finance reform, to include public financing of Congressional races including the Government By the People Act sponsored by Rep. John Sarbanes.

12. To your knowledge, have any lobbyists, CEOs, or corporate lawyers contributed to your campaign? If so, please identify them and the steps you have taken to ensure that you will not vote on any matters in which they or any such donors have a financial interest.

To my knowledge, no lobbyists or corporate lawyers have contributed to my campaign. The only CEO who has contributed to my campaign is my brother, who is the founder and CEO of a green energy research company, Avertica, of which I am the Director of Operations. This company is a small startup, and has not attempted to influence any elected officials. His donation was based on our family relationship, and is not an attempt to influence any decisions.

I will recuse myself from any vote which would provide Avertica an advantage over other companies in the same business. However, I will continue to support a wide range of policies which will move our economy from dependence on fossil fuels to green energy. I believe climate change is an existential threat to human survival and I strongly support continued work in green energy research and actions to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. I have worked to find solutions to our dependence on fossil fuels not only through policy solutions, but by working in all possible ways to address the problem, to include working towards solutions in the private sector.

At no time will I allow any campaign contribution to influence my positions on issues.

SEXISM/SEXUAL HARASSMENT

13. What federal legislation or policy changes do you support in order (A) to address the disadvantages that women face due to the ongoing effects of sexism and (B) to stop sexual harassment in the workplace? Include in your answer actions that Congress should take to protect staffers, employees and interns.

(A) We need to ensure that persons of all genders are treated equally in the workplace. Currently legislation, to include the Equal Opportunity Act and the Lilly Ledbetter Act were

significant steps in the right direction, but they have not been effective enough to close the pay gap. We need to go farther to extend equal treatment and equal pay to include the LGBTQ+ community as well. To address the pay gap, we need to support educational opportunities for women in traditionally male fields, to include computer science and STEM, and allow for more open information of pay rates. We should promote women-led companies with Small Business Administration loans, preference in government contracting and grants, and ensure that the Federal Government leads the way in hiring and promoting women.

We need to ensure that workers of any gender are entitled to appropriate maternity leave and sick leave, to include time off for care of family members, without damaging their career progression.

(B) We need to vigorously address the problem of sexual harassment in the workplace. It is not enough for women to be able to report sexual harassment and be guaranteed protection from retaliation. Sexual harassment should be prosecuted when it occurs. Just as we have changed society to recognize that drunk driving is a crime, and cannot be accepted as misbehavior; addressing sexual harassment will require a persistent, multi-level effort to impact the problem. At the Federal level, we need vigorous oversight of sexual harassment within the government. Any military commander who tolerates sexual harassment within his or her unit should be relieved of command. Reform of Congressional sexual harassment policies is ongoing. Clearly, offenders should have to pay any sexual harassment settlements, not have their bad behavior subsidized by federal funds. Every workplace should be free of sexual harassment, and the federal government needs to lead the way in ensuring that is the case.

HOMOPHOBIA

14. Describe or identify federal legislation that you would support in order to address the discrimination faced by the LGBTQIA community.

I would sponsor the Equality Act, to confirm the extension of the protection of the Civil Rights Act to the LGBTQIA community. While I believe the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on gender, already covers gender identity discrimination there is enough resistance to justify the need for a specific, stated extension of protection.

I will also propose legislation to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to review discharges of veterans who were discharged on the basis of homosexuality and re-characterize their discharges to Honorable Discharges.

FOREIGN POLICY

15a. Identify changes to our foreign policy that you would support in Congress. Include in 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 emergency humanitarian aid versus nation-building.

I support a Diplomacy First foreign policy. We should only use military force to support diplomatic efforts, and then only when it is required to protect human life. I served three

deployments to Bosnia, and I believe our work there shows how U.S. military power can be used to bring peace to a troubled land and end the slaughter of innocent civilians. If we have the ability to prevent genocide, we have a responsibility to save lives. However, military force should only be used as a last resort.

As a trained Korean Linguist, I have studied the North Korean problem for over 25 years. There is no acceptable military solution to the North Korean nuclear threat. It must be resolved diplomatically. Military action against North Korea will result in an attack on Seoul, South Korea with conventional artillery that would result in millions of deaths. I would propose legislation that would prevent a preemptive attack on North Korea.

We know that Russia interfered in our elections and I believe that our current President has been compromised by the Russians. As the only candidate with experience in supervising counter-intelligence operations, I know we must fully investigate to determine exactly how it was done, so we can ensure they are not able to do so in the future.

(A) I support repeal of the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) which has been used since 9/11 to justify military action worldwide. I have lost friends in combat, and the price is too high. Military force should only be used as a component of a Diplomacy First foreign policy. Prior to any Congressional authorization of military force, the Administration should show how the military action will be used, in what geographic area, for how long, and what the desired endstate is.

(B) Overseas military bases should be reduced in size. We need to maintain a presence, so that we can respond quickly to humanitarian crises or emerging potential for violence, but our bases should be sized based on what is required to minimize violence, rather than based on history.

(C) I support Fair Trade, rather than Free Trade or no trade. I oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership because it places too much power in corporate boards instead of in the sovereign nations which agree to the partnership. Trade agreements must include provisions to improve working conditions in our trading partners in order to establish a fair trading relationship. We cannot have trade which encourages exploitation of workers, as long as they are not Americans. With regard to NAFTA, many of the provisions of NAFTA which provided for training for displaced workers and other actions to prevent the negative effects were never implemented. This unilateral decision by the U.S. Government was wrong and programs for Americans who were displaced by NAFTA should be funded immediately.

(D) I support a Diplomacy First foreign policy, which includes Humanitarian Aid to intervene during crisis to prevent conflicts which can result in violence. We should increase funding to the State Department and USAID, so that we can prevent the need for military intervention. I support foreign aid to stabilize nations with democratic governments that respect human rights, but we must recognize that any government must be representative of the people within that nation to remain stable. We cannot impose a government that is not wanted on a nation in the guise of nation-building.

15b. Do you support or oppose President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital

and his order that the U.S. Embassy be relocated to Jerusalem?

Support

Oppose

Please elaborate.

The relocation of the U.S. Embassy would have been better dealt with as part of a peace negotiation. I support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which should be resolved through negotiation. I support the security and protection of Israel, and that can only be achieved if the Palestinian people are afforded security and protection also.

15c. Discuss actions and positions you would take which would be designed to reduce or eliminate the United States' reliance on military force.

I support a Diplomacy First foreign policy. I will vote to repeal of the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) which has been used since 9/11 to justify military action worldwide. I have lost friends in combat, and the price is too high. Military force should only be used as a component of a Diplomacy First foreign policy, and only as a last resort. Prior to any Congressional authorization of military force, the Administration should show how the military action will be used, in what geographic area, for how long, and what the desired endstate is. We should increase funding to the State Department and USAID, so that we can prevent the need for military intervention. I support foreign aid to stabilize nations with democratic governments that respect human rights. We must also recognize that any government must be representative of the people within that nation to remain stable. We cannot impose a government that is not wanted on a nation in the guise of nation-building.

I support reducing spending on Defense, and I would work to reform Department of Defense acquisition processes to reduce costs. Current acquisition policies take a minimum of 7 years from the time a requirement is identified until the equipment is received by the force. This process is excessively costly and inefficient.

CONCLUSION

16. What additional information would you like Our Revolution Maryland to consider when we are making our endorsements decisions?

Maryland's Sixth District deserves a Congressperson who lives in our district to represent us. For the past six years, our Congressman has not been a resident of this district. It is time for this to change.

I believe Our Revolution is about bringing change to government. We need to support candidates who are not part of the Party political establishment. If we simply promote someone from Annapolis, we can only expect more of the same Party leadership which has given us Governor Hogan and President Trump. It is time for a Revolution, not a promotion to a dedicated member of the establishment.

The Sixth District is a Democratic district because of the work I have done. I have worked diligently to advance a progressive agenda in the Sixth Congressional District since I returned home from service in the Army. My work running against Roscoe Bartlett was the basis for increased progressive activism in the Sixth Congressional District. My work, and the work of the hundreds of volunteers that supported me, increased Democratic registration enough that it resulted in a change to the district boundaries to make this a Democratic district, instead of a throw-away district that was gerrymandered to pack it with Republicans. This district is a viable district for a progressive because I fought to make it so.

The Sixth District is an open seat because I was willing to act. Congressman Delaney failed to support a progressive agenda, and I was the only candidate willing to file to run against him. While Congressman Delaney was trying to decide if he was going to run for Governor or re-election, the other Democrats said they intended to wait for "their friend John Delaney" to decide what he wanted to do. I was the only person willing to file to run against him. Once I filed, Congressman Delaney decided not to run for re-election. Only after that did the other candidates decide to run.

Please certify by signing below that the above or attached answers reflect your policy views at the time of signature.

Sign:



Print your name:

ANDREW DALK

Date:

9 FEBRUARY 2018
