

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) 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.

Like so many Americans, my family had a tough time in the early years. My Dad was a carpenter. He had a 4th grade education, worked hard, but died of heart disease at 50 – because he couldn't afford health insurance. That economic injustice thrust my mom and I through some terrible times that left me living in the streets, and in a group home. That should never happen in America. I've spent the better part of my life working to right that economic injustice, fighting to make government work – so that no one has to ever go through what my family went through. That's why I'm running for Congress.

I worked my way through community college, then the city university, then law school. During college I was lucky to be chosen for a White House internship program, and during law school, performed a Legal Externship for then Ranking Member John Conyers (D-MI) on the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, under which I worked on 3 subcommittees: Constitution (Rep. Nadler, D-NY); Administrative Law (Nadler, D-NY); and Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property (Berman-CA). Thereafter, I served as Senior Counsel to Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), and as Legislative Director to Congressman Sanford Bishop (D-GA).

Working in Congress taught me exactly why families like mine endured an American nightmare; because the wealthy have purchased large swaths of our democracy rightfully reserved for the American people. I also learned that Congress is not an easy place, but with dedication you really can help people - even if it's just through righting wrongs for individuals, one person at a time. Helping people ignited my passion to give more. I joined my local civic association and progressive organizations before running to represent the folks who need advocating for in the Maryland House of Delegates. Since that time there has been no more passionate advocate for working men and women in Annapolis. In 2009, I was appointed by President Obama's Administration to serve on the White House Task Force of State Legislators for Health Reform, working specifically

on healthcare discrimination. In 2010, with the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, we finally banned insurance corporations from denying coverage to people based on preexisting conditions. Later that year I was elected to the State Senate where I have worked every day since to improve the lives of vulnerable Marylanders.

My career in the Maryland legislature has been dedicated to those values I learned growing up. I successfully authored the first bills guaranteeing retail employees paid rest breaks, ensuring the academic careers of pregnant students are not derailed by medical absences, and providing funds for security measures at schools and child care centers at risk of hate crimes. My lifetime rating of 100% from the League of Conservation Voters is the longest of any member of the Maryland legislature, and I successfully blocked regulations to allow hydraulic fracturing in Maryland. From picket lines to the floor of the State Senate, I have fought for the right of workers to collectively bargain and I have stood up against measures that benefit the wealthy at the expense of working families- including in 2014 when I opposed our State cutting the estate tax for the wealthiest 0.2%.

Admittedly, my career record has been unnuanced: I fight day and night to make sure government works for everyone – not just the wealthy and powerful.

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 guiding principle will always remain the same: do the most good for those in need. Whether it's walking picket lines, organizing workers, or taking a stand on the floor of the State Senate, time and time again I've demonstrated that I'm in public service to serve the people.

It is easy to stand up for our values and principles when they are threatened by the opposing party. What is harder is to continue to fight for what's right when we must stand up to our friends. I have been guided throughout my life by the belief that we must fight for what's right regardless of whether or not it is the popular thing to do. In 2014 when it came time to vote on cutting Maryland's estate tax for the wealthiest 0.2%, I stood up to leaders of my own party. We cannot call ourselves progressives if we vote for tax cuts for the wealthy, cutting off revenue to essential social programs. Time and again throughout my career I have proven that I will stand up for progressive policies and values regardless of whether it is politically expedient.

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

Yes

No

The consensus Democratic Party Unity Reform Commission recommendations were a

necessary step after the divisive 2016 election cycle and I will advocate for their adoption. I am a leading supporter of Universal Voter Registration in Maryland. In 2016, I introduced legislation in the State Senate to enfranchise tens of thousands of voters by instituting this important measure. I also support the reforms the Commission proposed with respect to Super Delegates- as long as such changes do not reduce the participation of minority voices. These critical voices must be heard in our nominee selection process.

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

Yes

No

The outsized control monied interests exert on our political system is one of the largest impediments to the positive social and economic progress our country so desperately needs. I fully support the implementation of small donor match campaign finance structures for all elected offices in Maryland. While it is a sad commentary on the current health of our democracy, the incentivizing of candidates to reach out to small donors is a positive step towards a better, more responsive system.

CIVIL RIGHTS

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

Yes

No

Yes, in Congress I will support Rep. Cicilline's Automatic Voter Registration Act. However, I would prefer a more robust approach to automatic voter registration that pulls not just from motor vehicle agency data, but also from additional sources. For example, the Universal Voter Registration Act I introduced in the Maryland Senate included requirements for both the MVA and social service agencies to contribute voter information to local boards of election. This helps ensure all eligible voters are able to participate in elections.

Additionally, in the wake of the 2013 Supreme Court decision in Shelby County v. Holder, which struck down portions of the Voting Rights Act, we have seen increasing changes in voting laws that disproportionately affect minority and low-income individuals. Congress has not only the ability, but the responsibility to step up and fill the gap left by the Court's ruling. It is long overdue that Congress pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act.

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.

Where to start...The corrosive effects of slavery and institutionalized racism in this country are undeniable. Our country's history is rife with racial injustice; from its founding genocide of indigenous populations, to being built on the back of slave labor, to Jim Crow, to the red-lining of neighborhoods, to today's injustices in our criminal justice system and beyond, it is clear that there is so much work left to be done before we can consider ourselves to be a just society. This country has made great strides for civil rights thanks to the tireless work of advocates and organizers, some whose names we know well and others who are unsung heroes and sheroes. But we still have a long way to go. One piece of federal legislation that I support, which I believe has the potential to start us on a path that would help the nation grapple with its sordid past is John Conyers' HR 40 – Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act. Reparations have significant contemporary and historical precedent, both domestically and internationally. While this is a controversial subject, I believe that it is a conversation that we must have as a nation. Wealth and advantage are maintained and built over generations. To pretend that the racial inequalities that we see in our country today are not the result of historical injustices is absurd. Our country must come to terms with this fact and seek out solutions.

I've fought for civil rights my entire career, including introducing legislation in Maryland: making civil damage recoveries for claims of unlawful discrimination tax deductible, calling on the Japanese government to accept historical responsibility for the suffering of exploited women during World War II, increasing access to the ballot box through electronic registration, automatic registration and voting by mail, and providing grants to protect schools and child care centers at risk of hate crimes. If elected to Congress, I will continue to fight for civil rights so that our country can truly live up to its ideals and values.

EDUCATION

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

Yes

No

Across this country, prohibitively high tuition rates and student debt costs deny working families access to taxpayer funded public universities, including schools right here in Maryland. In the General Assembly I've introduced legislation to waive community college tuition for disabled students. In Congress, I will support Rep. Jayapal's College for All Act and work to make sure all families have the opportunity to attend the institutions they pay for with their tax dollars.

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 streamlining and simplifying the FAFSA process, broadening the eligibility criteria for Pell Grants, and the creation of a student debt forgiveness program that takes into account post-graduation careers in fields that include workplace/community organizing, rural medicine and education. I also support allowing those with existing federal student loans to refinance their loans at lower interest rates.

HEALTH CARE

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

Yes

No

Providing health care for every American by establishing health care as a legal right is and always has been my greatest motivation and passion. As such, the implementation of a single-payer universal health care system has been at the center of my campaign for Congress since day one. I support universal single-payer healthcare – specifically HR676, which I personally worked on in its initial development and roll-out early in my legal career in Congress. My advocacy also includes launching a HR676 organizing shop out of my House of Delegates office in order to unify state legislators from across the country in support of HR676. That work led to my being asked to serve on President Obama’s pre-ACA White House health reform working group. In that role, my specific contributions focused on ending preexisting condition exclusions and referencing that egregious practice as “healthcare discrimination.” As to improvements to the ACA, we should reinstate the individual mandate and allow for states and regions to aggregate Medicaid and Medicare dollars to form regional single-payer systems. As a related option, it may make sense to consider introducing legislation in Congress to develop a continental multi-national compact -- “The North American Health System” -- by expanding access to Canada’s Medicare system.

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

Yes

No

As referenced above, I’ve been a part of the movement to enact HR 676 since its inception. As a member of Congress, not a single day will pass without me advocating for the creation a universal single-payer healthcare system in this Country.

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?

In 2017, I am proud to have voted in support of a package of legislation passed in the Maryland legislature that has been described by the American Medical Association as the most comprehensive in the country. The Heroin & Opioid Prevention Effort (HOPE) and Treatment Act of 2017 (SB967), the Start Talking Maryland Act (SB1060), and Senate Bill 539 (stopping the distribution of deadly fentanyl) focus on education and prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and recovery and maintenance. While this is progress, much more must be done to address our opioid crisis, including action on the federal level.

I support a three-pronged strategy to address the opioid epidemic. First, we must provide grants to local first responders for the purchase of naloxone and for training in its use. Second, we must treat opioid addiction through the perspective of attacking a public health crisis and remove the criminal penalties and stigma currently attached to this disease. Addiction is a health condition, not a moral failing. It is time that our policies recognize this reality and we prioritize treatment over punishment. We must expand drug treatment and comprehensive community-based treatment programs as an alternative to incarceration. Additionally, many individuals in prison do not have access to adequate drug treatment programs. Fewer than 1% of prisons and jails allow access to medication-assisted treatment. Given the scale of this country's opioid epidemic, it is imperative that we do better and increase access to critically needed care. Lastly, we need true economic justice to finally arrive in the form of a modern-day Marshall Plan for these communities that have been ravaged by the greed of international corporations. By creating jobs and opportunities, we can restore the hope that was lost in towns across Maryland and all of America that today are ground zero for the opioid epidemic.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

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

Yes

No

The right of a woman to determine for herself if and when she will start or expand her family is fundamental. Today this essential right is under assault, with laws being passed in state legislatures across the country limiting a woman's right to decide her destiny. In today's Republican controlled federal government, those in power want to chip away at a woman's right to choose. We must fight back against these dangerous and callous attacks, all while still working to expand upon the progress that has been made through generations of activism. The fight for reproductive *justice* requires that we

not only defend the right to have an abortion, but also work to expand access to that right. In far too many homes across the country women are unable to exercise their constitutional right to an abortion because of their income level or geographic location. The EACH Woman Act is a first step towards righting this wrong. In Congress, I will support Rep. Lee's Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance legislation to safeguard abortion rights.

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

I am proud to be 100% Pro-Choice. I have worked closely with NARAL and Planned Parenthood to protect and advance women's rights. That's why in the Maryland House and Senate, I restored more than \$9 million in budget funding for women's reproductive health services, passed a new law banning genetic discrimination (HB29), and established attendance policies for pregnant and parenting students (SB232). This year, in the Maryland Senate, I am again partnering with NARAL to author legislation to make emergency contraception (EC) available on college campuses (SB969). I also authored the first legislation in the country to stand up to the deceptive practices of so-called "Crisis Pregnancy Centers" – requiring that they make specified disclaimers to clients and potential clients. In the General Assembly and throughout my entire career, I have fought to protect the rights of women to make their own health care decisions. In Congress, we will continue our efforts to protect and expand upon the progress that has been made. This begins with passing the EACH Woman Act and with repeal of the dangerous and discriminatory Hyde Amendment, which one of my opponents supported.¹

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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

Yes

No

In addition to being much more costly, for-profit prisons are more dangerous than government-operated facilities for both people who are incarcerated and staff members. For-profit prisons incentivize low pay and cutting corners, creating situations that often raise serious Eighth Amendment concerns. In the General Assembly, I've been the leading advocate for improving conditions in our prison facilities and will support this important legislation in Congress. I also fully support the provisions of Rep. Grijalva's Justice is Not for Sale Act that revamp the inhumane immigration detention system, and reconstitute the federal parole system. Since the time this legislation was introduced last year, the circumstances surrounding the detention of families by ICE and the quality of care detainees receive have only grown more egregious.

¹ <http://www.cdow.org/MCC.voter.pdf>

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

In the General Assembly I've been a leading proponent of reforming misguided drug laws by decriminalizing marijuana and eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for CDS felonies. In Congress, I will continue this work through smarter sentencing legislation along the lines of what has been introduced in the past by Senator Durbin to reduce the prison population by retroactively lowering mandatory minimum sentences and allowing non-violent offenders to have their sentences shortened. I strongly support improved public education programs, a range of treatment and recovery support services, diversion programs that include comprehensive community wrap-around services, and workforce development and skills training for inmates and ex-offenders. With regard to specific scheduling, I continue to support legalization of marijuana, parity between crack and powder cocaine, and strong penalties for drug "kingpins" who distribute Fentanyl. With regard to the Opioid Epidemic, which is personal to me and my community, I support relaxed and expedited access to Naloxone and other life-saving and recovery drugs. As a related issue, I support public health measures, like clean kits and needle exchanges. Lastly, I support renegotiating existing international treaties that have inhibited our efforts to reform drug policies domestically. These are all necessary steps we must take to reduce the disproportionate representation of minorities in our criminal justice system, save taxpayer resources, and allow for victims of unjust drug laws to reclaim their lives.

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?

In Congress, I will continue to champion the protection of Maryland's natural resources. As Senate Chair of the AELR Committee I put a hold on Governor Hogan's regulations permitting hydraulic fracturing in Maryland, leading to the withdraw of the regulations and ultimately the banning of fracking in Maryland. At the federal level, in addition to advocating for the U.S. rejoining the Paris Accords, I will continue to build off our work here in Maryland, including the co-sponsoring of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act and my introduction of legislation:

- Requiring government facilities to achieve high performance energy efficiency standards
- Prohibiting the use of Canadian tar sands produced fuel in government vehicles
- Creating an organic transition investment pilot program
- Prohibiting the sale of high pollutant dishwashing detergents
- Requiring the inclusion of environmental stakeholders in the energy transmission

- planning process
- Prohibiting the use of plastic bags for yard waste
- Establishing a Pesticide Reporting and Information Workgroup with the goal of creating a pesticide use database
- Incentivizing the use of hydrokinetic turbines as part of the State Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard
- Increasing the value of the electric vehicle tax credit and extending the termination date of the program
- Increasing the value of the oyster shell recycling tax credit
- Expanding the coverage of the clean energy incentive tax credit and extending the termination date
- Mandating scientific analysis form the basis of the oyster management strategies used by the Department of Natural Resources
- Mandating environmental impact assessments in transportation planning

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

_____ Support

_____ Oppose

Given my position of Chair of the AELR Committee, I am unable to weigh in on this issue. This is a federal FERC / state MDE administrative permitting approval process, and state ethics laws clearly prohibit members of the legislature from directly intervening in a judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative decision. If this becomes a *regulatory issue*, as fracking did, it will inevitably come before the committee that I chair – the AELR Committee – during which I will have direct jurisdiction. Please note that when Governor Hogan’s fracking regulations came before my committee, I used the full authority of my chairmanship to unilaterally stop those regulations. Had I not done so (long before we banned fracking), the Governor’s regulations would have allowed fracking in Maryland on October 1st, 2017.

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?

I wholeheartedly support raising the minimum wage to *at least* \$15 an hour and tying the minimum wage to inflation so that we do not end up with the same problem in the future. Everybody deserves the opportunity to earn a living wage to support themselves

and their families. I also support a fairer tax code and a repeal of the Republican tax law, which is nothing more than a massive transfer of wealth from the middle class to the wealthy.

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

Yes

No

Creating a level playing field for working families and fighting to secure the equality of opportunity for all Americans is at the core of our campaign. I fully support Rep. Scott's Raise the Wage Act legislation, and believe the seven-year phase-in provides more than a reasonable amount of time to give struggling Americans across this country something closer to resembling a living wage. I'm proud to be the only candidate for the Sixth Congressional District that in 2017 co-sponsored legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour in Maryland.

To reduce wealth inequality the first critical step is to reverse the recent Trump GOP tax plan, which raises taxes on the middle class to pay for part of the cost of massive tax breaks for the wealthy. Among the most egregious provisions of the recently enacted tax reform is the raising of the estate tax exemption- a change which benefits only the wealthiest .02% of Americans. Again, I'm proud to be the only candidate running for the Sixth Congressional District to vote *against* legislation in 2014 that cut the estate tax for the wealthiest of the wealthy in Maryland.

In 2012, I successfully introduced the most progressive reform of the Maryland tax code in decades. Our work supported critical government services during the Great Recession by ensuring the wealthy paid their fair share. I've seen firsthand what it means to struggle from pay check to pay check; the economic insecurity millions of Americans grapple with today is a direct result of the rampant wealth inequality the GOP has enabled. In Congress, there will be no more tenacious advocate for rolling back the unjust Trump GOP tax cuts and making sure that our social safety net is stronger than ever.

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

Yes

No

Yes, I support Rep. Ellison's legislation to reimpose a modest security transfer tax. The revenues generated by this proposal could fund the rebirth of the construction trades industry in this country. Far too many highly skilled blue-collar workers are sitting on the sidelines today, while critical infrastructure falls into disrepair. I fully support the Inclusive Prosperity Act and other progressive tax reforms that can provide the resources necessary to build a 21st century economy that works for everyone.

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've made great strides in advancing the fundamental rights of women in the workplace, the home and in the doctor's office - but we still have a long way to go. I've walked the halls of Congress to push for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, and I will continue that advocacy in the House of Representatives. I also support the Paycheck Fairness Act to provide plaintiffs the ability to recover punitive and compensatory damages for violations of the Equal Pay Act.

As I have throughout my tenure in both the Maryland House of Delegates and the Maryland senate, I continue to support progressive tax reforms (like repealing Estate Tax exemptions for the top .2 percent, multi-millionaire super brackets, repatriating offshore earnings, and closing corporate loopholes like combined reporting) that enable the expansion of social security, Medicare, expanded childcare, and implementation of universal pre-K starting at 3 years of age.

In addition, I support *at least* 12 weeks of paid family leave, and a range of workplace protections and benefits that empower women and working families. Lastly, I support comprehensive procurement reforms that expand affirmative action programs throughout state and federal contracting, including expanded access and set-asides for women and minorities who are both Sub and Prime contractors. (See also Question 13, below)

CAMPAIGN FINANCE/CORPORATE INFLUENCE

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

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 strongly oppose the damaging impact of big money on the political system, and I support a range of reforms. We must overturn the Citizens United v. FEC decision by any possible means, including constitutional amendment. I also support public financing of elections and ending corporate funding loopholes. In Congress, I will support Representative John Sarbanes' Government by the People Act to encourage small

dollar donations.

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.

I've never compromised my values or allowed any consideration other than the best interests of my constituents to dictate how I vote. My legislative record is proof of this.

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.

In the General Assembly I successfully introduced and passed the Civil Rights Tax Relief Act (which has failed on the federal level), which now addresses the disparity between personal injury and employment discrimination lawsuits, including sexual harassment and gender discrimination. This important reform encompassed challenging issues under federal laws including Title VII, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and ERISA. I hope to continue this fight at the federal level in Congress. I have also been a staunch advocate for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), and I personally walked the halls of Congress to procure a U.S. Senate sponsor, which we found in Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) some 8 years ago. In Congress, I will continue this important work, including legislation extending statutes of limitations for harassment claims, personal liability for supervisors of harassing employees, stronger penalties, and other remedies to redress harassment claims under the law. In Annapolis, I have been a leading proponent of expanded sexual harassment protections, including a new policy for enhanced reporting opportunities and mandatory anti-sexual harassment training for all staff including, and perhaps most importantly, removal of the highest-ranking state officials. I hope to continue this advocacy at the federal level in Congress.

HOMOPHOBIA

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

"If you love people and want to see that spark ignite, you have to love everyone." - Roger Manno, Washington Blade, 2.22.12

It shouldn't matter who you love, how you're born, who you are, or who you choose to be, everyone deserves respect, dignity, and equal protection under the law.

Maryland began our legislative battle for full Marriage Equality in 2007, during my first

year in the Legislature. In those days, those of us who sponsored the Marriage Equality legislation were either called “marriage ambassadors” or heretics. While other candidates in this race for the 6th Congressional District campaigned in 2008 on the position that our LGBTQ neighbors should settle for civil unions rather than “try to change the definition of marriage,”² I spent those years fighting for true equality. In 2012, after years of work, the legislature finally passed **The Civil Marriage Protection Act** (marriage equality), which I proudly co-sponsored, and which was approved by the voters of Maryland on referendum later that year.

While we have made incredible progress on the issue of marriage equality, there are so many more challenges facing the LGBTQ community. Discrimination in housing, employment, parental rights, and other areas of life based on gender identity and sexual orientation is still legal in many parts of this country. We can and must do better. That is why I am proud to have been one of two Senate *lead cosponsors* of the landmark gender identity bill, the **Fairness for All Marylanders Act**, along with (now) Congressman Jamie Raskin and lead sponsor Senator Rich Madaleno. I'm proud of my work in the Maryland House and Senate towards providing equality for all Marylanders - from marriage equality, to gender identity birth certificates, to adoption rights for same-sex couples as co-parents, to transgender equality -- but there's still so much more work to do on the federal level in Congress. In particular, if elected to Congress I will support the Equality Act and the Every Child Deserves a Family Act.

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.

The biggest foreign policy threat facing this country right now is our president. His bellicose language and actions on the world stage not only harm the standing of the United States around the world, but also put us at greater risk for armed confrontation. It is critical that we continue the investigation into Russian election meddling to hold all those involved accountable and to increase our security for future elections.

In the Middle East, it is past time for the Gulf States to take responsibility for the future of the region. Now that ISIS is close to military defeat, it’s time for the major regional powers to provide economic and diplomatic assistance to stabilize Iraq and Syria and end the ongoing atrocities. Furthermore, as we close the sad chapter of American history that began with the Bush Administration’s illegal wartime actions, now is an optimal time to reevaluate our global military footprint and ensure that when our taxpayer dollars are spent in foreign counties, including permanent military installations, they are used to support American interests - including helping those in need - and not the interests of corporations.

² <http://www.gazette.net/votersguide08/candidates/duck.shtml>

Internationally, I support the use of diplomatic and appropriations funding to address the many humanitarian and refugee crises in Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Yemen, and many others. As the moral power center on the international stage, the U.S. must use that stature and opportunity to advance human rights, civil rights, peace and security at home and throughout the globe. That's an awesome responsibility, but one that I believe we are up to.

In 2015, I introduced legislation to protect Maryland from the negative impacts of international trade agreements (SB893, Commission on Free Trade, Currency Manipulation, and State Sovereignty). In Congress, I will work to ensure trade deals are not manipulated for the benefit of international corporations at the expense of local businesses, domestic job markets, and human rights.

Lastly, any discussion of the safety of this country must take into consideration those who put their lives on the line every day to protect our democracy. We must ensure that when our troops come home they have access to the resources they need to transition back into civilian life. That's why I am so proud to have been honored by the United States Department of Defense for legislation I passed in the Maryland Senate (SB245) to expand the hiring of veterans and their spouses, consistent with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission. In Congress, I will continue that leadership.

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

There are two questions and issues here. I don't think I'm alone in my belief that President Trump's announcement simply restates what has been U.S. law since 1995 (Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995), lacks any discernable details as to timing of the embassy relocation, and unnecessarily antagonizes and frustrates an already stressed and fragile peace process.

While every State, including Israel, has the right to determine its own capital, the U.S. formally recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in 1995, decades after Israel choose Jerusalem as its capital.

At this issue's core is the framework for a two-state agreement, encompassing a partition of Jerusalem serving as both Israel's capital, and East Jerusalem serving as the capital of a future Palestinian State. That arrangement must be made through direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, towards a necessary two-state solution, which I very much support. To that end, Trump's "order" to relocate the Embassy recklessly and unnecessarily ends two decades of presidential delays (based on security concerns), and is ultimately unconstructive in advancing any peace process that is necessary for a two-state solution.

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

The most important action needed to reduce our reliance on military force is to prevent to re-election of Donald Trump so that the hollowing out of the State Department can be reversed. Our diplomatic corps must be restored and ultimately built back up into a respected, well-functioning organization. Furthermore, I will fight to restore the U.S. Congress as the only branch of government authorized to declare war.

CONCLUSION

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

I'm the only candidate in the race to:

- vote against the \$1.1 BILLION Estate Tax cut for the richest .2 percent of Americans.
- vote against allowing garbage burners to receive "clean energy" tax credits.
- vote against Governor Hogan's #1 priority: a multi-million corporate tax cut that gives nothing to hard-working blue-collar factory workers.
- co-sponsor legislation to increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

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

Sign:



Print your name:

Roger Manno

Date:

2.11.18