

Our Revolution Maryland

Harry Spikes

Congressional District 7 Questionnaire

Please return this questionnaire to 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? **For fifteen years, I worked for the late Congressman Elijah E. Cummings. As District Director, I worked on numerous policies, projects and various constituent cases that affected the nation and the 7th District of Maryland. I have the knowledge, determination, and skill to continue the Congressman's mission and also present my solutions to various challenges in our country and district.**
2. Do you support H.R.1384 - Medicare for All Act of 2019? Please explain your answer.
Yes. I am very passionate about health care and quality of life. Under the Jaypal plan, at birth, a child mother and father should not have to worry if their child has health insurance or not. Under the H.R. 1384, there is no cost sharing, no premiums. Also, the Secretary negotiates prices with drug manufactures for covered drugs. This takes into account comparative clinical effectiveness, alternative treatments, and budgetary impact which presents a more transparent system that monitors how Americans are receiving the best use out of there health care in the areas of affordability and proper health management.
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

- a. Do you support a Green New Deal as outlined in H.Res.109? **Yes. We need to secure clean air and water. We can achieve this goal by investing in infrastructure and industry related technology that reaches net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. This will also lead to high wage jobs for individuals and family.**
- b. Do you support holding fossil fuel companies accountable? **Yes. We need to make sure that companies use best practices and safe practices to extract fossil fuels. We also need to make sure that they invest in technology that supports clean energy practices.**
- c. How will you provide for a just transition for fossil fuel workers? **Solar, wind, and geothermal energy jobs together total more than 2.6 million more jobs than twice the 1.1 million jobs in fossil fuel extraction. To do these jobs, we need electricians, HVAC installers and construction workers. I plan to make sure that we place more money in apprenticeship programs that train for these positions and help those who wish to learn, who are fossil fuel workers, the opportunity to obtain those skills.**
- d. Please discuss the importance of climate justice for frontline and vulnerable communities. **Climate justice is important because it mostly affects the people who are not involved in the acts of destroying our environment. The best example that I can give you is the story of Erin Brockovich. The actual case was Anderson vs. Pacific Gas and Electric. The Hinkley Compressor Station discarded waste water into ponds at the site. The waste water affected the ground water which was almost a mile away from the station. As a result of the waste water, over 180 people in Hinkley, California had cancer and birth related illnesses. We need to make sure that all communities never endure something like this. I have learned from Ms. Brockovich how important it is to fight for climate justice.**

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? **All Americans need to study campaign finance reform and redlining. As an African American, I have learned through my history how we and poor communities were suppressed by way of voting, housing discrimination and jobs. When one looks at the origin of these challenges, you will find that wealthy people and establishments were the cause and root of the injustice. To counteract these influences we must first have universal and fair campaign, job and housing laws in place. Like any other crime, if violated or broken, the law will decide their fate.**

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

Health – support the war on opioid eradication and fight for affordable health care

Education – focus on college affordability, apprenticeship programs, and lower student loan debt. After obtaining your education, you are in a better position to get a job

Housing – focus on eradicating vacant housing and building homes that individuals and families can afford thru home buying education, closing cost and down payment assistance.

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 – **We must enforce the First Step Act for people currently incarcerated. We must make sure that there are educational programs that provide GED's, Soft Skills, and Drug detox. They also should get credit for good behavior. For those out of incarceration, therapy programs, uniting family members, and a network of educational and job opportunities that are only for ex-offenders.**

- b. The racial wealth gap – **Beside children, a home is a person’s largest investment. I would partner with HUD and housing counseling agencies to spread the history of redlining and to identify when discriminatory practices are in place. I would work with the FDIC and do the same for business owners and entrepreneurs.**
 - c. Systemic inequities such as education, healthcare or housing – **Give constituents the history behind these challenges and how they were practiced so that they can identify the systemic inequities. Also, see answer #5**
 - d. Voter suppression – **I really like Congressman Sarbanes Plan, HR-1. If we truly care about voter suppression and best practices moving forward, I invite people to read his legislation.**
7. What are some policies you would support to improve gender equity, including for trans and non-binary people? **I support The Equality Act and The Civil Rights Act of 1964**
8. What is the most progressive legislation that you have sponsored or worked actively for, either as an elected official or as an activist?

Over 180,000 men per year are affected by prostate cancer. Recently, I won a major victory with policy I created which helps men that are diagnosed with prostate cancer, in the metastatic stage.

Under this policy, men receive full disability benefits from the Social Security Administration thru a program called the Compassionate Allowance List. These benefits cover medications, medical procedures, and provide financial support for men who can no longer work and provide a living for themselves and their families.

The wait time has now been dramatically reduced from up to 2 ½ years to just 15 days in most cases. As of today, the policy has helped over 1,080,000 men in America.

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?

I will support H.R. 2569. This legislation was authored by my mentor, Elijah E.

Cummings and Senator Elizabeth Warren. I will also support and host public hearings to address irresponsible pharmaceutical purveyors of opioid and other addictive painkillers.

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 H.R. 4674, The College Affordability Act. This act is a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

11. What is your position on guaranteeing the right to unionize for all workers, starting with important "card check" legislation? **I am for it. I believe that people should be able to articulate who they want to represent them. Particularly if they have a large majority of people/employees who collectively want and believe they deserve union representation. This is also law thru the National Labor Relations Act.**

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

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. **I believe that we should provide countries with the means and skills to take care of themselves. If we are returning to assist the Middle East, that is a sign that they lack the internal capacity to manage their own country. We should work with their leadership by way of peace and not force to make change in the Middle East. If we have a United Nations, we should not have large military bases in foreign countries. We should have united bases in foreign countries. These bases should make up what we see at the United Nations. We should continue to regulate international trade. I am a strong believer in humanitarian aid. Last**

year, I traveled to Africa with Habitat for Humanity to build houses in Malawi for families. Humanitarian and development aid work builds community, it builds people, and it will build yourself. It also involves the input and activity of the people you are helping. It teaches them how to help themselves. This has long lasting results vs. nation building. When nation building fails, that nation comes back to you for help and it can be a continuing cycle if they lack the ability to sustain their nation. Plus, you can run the risk of imposing a eurocentric way of life that may deprive them of their culture and identity

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?

The institution of a clear process for documenting citizens is critical. I propose that we have immigration town hall clinics in communities that allow non-profits, attorneys, and USCIS to explain the citizenship process to communities without fear of deportation or removal from families.

- b. What policies would you put in place to support migrant workers and the US businesses who need seasonal workers? **I am a strong supporter of the Agricultural Worker Protection act and Florida's Migrant Workers. I would support safe supporting housing for the workers in addition to supporting businesses who employ them.**
- c. Do you think ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) should be dismantled? Why or why not?

Ice should not be dismantled but it should use better law enforcement practices that provide people with their dignity. ICE also needs continues oversight. We need

an immigration enforcement agency the same way we need local Police, FBI and CIA. However, every law enforcement agency has its challenges and needs to institute best practices to build community trust and faith. Separating families without a social service component to the process can destroy a family. We should make sure that we understand the social, economic, and family condition of the person or persons with whom ICE encounters.

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? **YES**