

Our Revolution Baltimore City/County

Delegate and State Senate Endorsement Questionnaire

Name: Jennifer White

Desired political office: House of Delegates

District Number: 10

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1. How does your experience, along with your life experiences, qualify you for this position?

I am a social justice advocate and public health leader who has a heart for the people. After completing my graduate studies at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, I started my public health career in non-profit service at the NAACP National Office in the Health Department. There, I learned about grassroots advocacy and how to mobilize advocates within the context of civil rights and public health. This was the proving ground that launched me further into my public health career where I have consistently fought for racial equity and justice through policy systems change an institutional level change. I understand the importance of policy and how it has fueled inequities and believe policy and institutional level change is necessary to create equitable outcomes.

And as a Black woman, my lived experience navigating through white power structures and learning to speak truth to power about power position me well to serve in the Maryland General Assembly. I believe in working for and alongside community to create the solutions we need and deserve.

2. What will be the principles or values that guide your public service?

Community -Being grounded in community and being a voice for those most vulnerable in our community

Equity - Ensure that policies and practices are just, fair and yield consequences that do not exacerbate inequities

Humility - I am grateful for the opportunity to run for office and do not take it for granted

3. Do you identify as a progressive candidate? If so, what specifically makes you a progressive candidate for this political office?

Yes. Beyond the ideas that I support, I believe in a democratic process that brings community members together, especially those who are historically disenfranchised from decision making tables. I am a candidate that believes in making systemic change and upholding a decision-making process that includes community voices at the very beginning. Processes should be open, fair and transparent that will yield outcomes and consequences that do not fuel inequities, but reverse them.

Climate Change/Green New Deal

4. Do you acknowledge the existence of climate change and the sense of urgency to address this issue on state and local levels?

Yes, I believe that climate change is real, it is happening, and it is human caused. I think we must take bold action to ensure that we leave a safe, green and healthy environment to future generations. Maryland is a pretty progressive state but there is a lot more that we can be doing. In fact, there are jurisdictions within the state that have already set aggressive GHG emissions reduction targets, to reduce GHG emissions 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035 and I believe that Maryland should follow with something similar.

5. What is your position regarding a Green New Deal at the state level?

While the original Green New Deal was a federal level program, I do believe that states can do a lot to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to avoid the worst consequences of climate change while also trying to fix societal problems like economic inequality and racial injustice. I am in support and would work with grassroots advocates to advance and/or expedite these proposals.

6. In the previous legislative session, House Bill 33, known as the Climate Crisis and Education Act, was not passed. If this bill or a similar bill is introduced in the next legislative session, what is your position?

As stated previously, there are jurisdictions within the state that are already working toward more ambitious goals than even those laid out by the Climate Crisis and Education Act (establishing a greenhouse gas reduction target of 60% from 2006 levels by 2030 and net-zero by 2045) so I would be in favor of supporting a similar bill in the future.

7. What is your position regarding the electrification of renovated buildings as well as newly constructed buildings in Maryland?

Since heating, cooling, lighting, and powering buildings accounts for 40% of greenhouse gas emissions. I would support electrification of new and renovated buildings. Given the costs that renovation could yield for consumers, providing rebates or incentives may help incentivize customers to make the switch. While this is a promising solution, we must also make sure that our electric infrastructure is upgraded, weatherized, and maintained over time.

8. How would you vote on the Climate Solutions Act?

I would vote in support of anything that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to avoid the worst consequences of climate change while also trying to fix societal problems like economic inequality and racial injustice.

9. How would you vote on the Environment Human Rights Amendment?

I would vote in support of anything that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to avoid the worst consequences of climate change while also trying to fix societal problems like economic inequality and racial injustice.

Health Care

10. What is your position regarding a single-payer system (such as Medicare for All) at the state level?

I believe that health care is a right and would support a single-payer system that would provide health care for everyone.

11. Would you vote for paid sick leave?

Yes, I would vote in support of paid family and medical sick leave.

Police Reform

12. Johns Hopkins University (JHU) is moving forward with establishing a private university-based police department. What is your

position regarding the establishment of a private university-based police department at JHU?

I oppose the poorly timed proposal of the private university-based police department at Johns Hopkins University. Yes, security should be provided and is needed. However, this proposal needed the appropriate inputs such as accountability, transparency and community engagement to yield a proposal that would have greater buy-in from students, faculty, staff and community members.

13. What proposed legislation or action will you take to address police reform on a state and local level?

I am supportive of the series of police reform bills passed most recently by the Maryland Legislative in the 2021 legislative session, that will provide a more wholistic approach to law enforcement. These bills will provide greater balance, transparency and accountability that will improve community policing.

14. Would you vote to end debtor prisoners?

Yes.

Drug Policy Reform/Legalization of Marijuana

15. What is your position regarding the decriminalization of marijuana possession and use in Maryland?

Marijuana use and possession should be decriminalized. The war on drugs has left a detrimental impact on communities of color while others are able to capitalize off of the marijuana industry. Decriminalizing possession and use will provide some relief to mass incarceration.

16. What is your position regarding the legalization of marijuana for recreational use in Maryland?

Marijuana use for personal or recreational use should be decriminalized.

17. What is your position regarding the decriminalization of psilocybin and legalization for therapeutic use in Maryland?

With additional research and evidence to demonstrate effectiveness and understand the long-term effects of psilocybin, I would support legalization for therapeutic use. I would also support decriminalization.

Immigrant Rights

18. In the previous legislative session, House Bill 0016, known as the Dignity Not Detention Act, was vetoed by Gov. Hogan. If this bill is reintroduced in the upcoming legislative session, what is your position?

I would vote in support of this bill.

19. According to the 2010 US Census, Asian-Americans make up 6.1% of Maryland's population. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in hate crimes nationwide and locally against Asian-Americans. What proposed legislation and action will you take to protect these individuals on a state and local level?

Hate crimes against any ground, should not be tolerated. I would support measures that would bolster state and local authority to enforce hate crime laws, prosecute those who commit hate crimes and improve our data mechanism to better capture and track data since they are often underreported.

20. In recent months, Maryland has become a 'welcome state' in supporting the transition of refugees arriving from Afghanistan. What proposed legislation and action will you take in meeting the immediate needs of Afghan refugees on a state and local level?

I would support additional funding that would support Afghan refugees to provide housing, job placement support, food assistance, legal services and other culturally specific assistance. The money will not only be helpful to provide these and other services directly, but would create the infrastructure to better meet their needs and the needs of our communities.

Public Transit

21. In 2018, Gov. Hogan canceled the Red Line. Being that Maryland will have a new governor in 2022, there may be an effort to revive legislation for the Red Line. What is your position regarding the Red Line as a viable transit project in Baltimore?

The intentional decision to cancel the Red Line project and shift investment to more affluent communities of Maryland is an example of systemic racism. I support the revival of this project that will better connect communities east and west that have been torn apart because of intentional transportation, planning and zoning policies.

22. In a 2021 study conducted by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition, it showed racial disparities in Baltimore's transit system. What proposed legislation and specific action will you take to address this issue?

I would support legislation such as HB 1204, sponsored by Delegate Sheila Ruth that would establish equity as a state level goal and provide the appropriate analyses to determine the impact on people of color and those with disabilities. The passage and veto override of the Transit Safety and Investment Act is a start to improve MTA capital needs, but we must do more to ensure we understand the impacts of our transportation decisions and plans to avoid creating inequities.

Housing

23. In August 2021, Maryland's moratorium on residential eviction expired. What proposed legislation or action will you take to address the issues related to tenants who have fallen behind in paying rent?

I would support providing additional legal supports and reducing barriers to access legal counsel to prevent evictions. In addition, I would support rental stabilization to address the increasing cost of rent.

Consumer Rights

24. How would you vote on auto insurance prices not being tied to zip codes?

Auto insurance should not be connected to your zip code. Everyone regardless of where they live or their neighborhood should be covered at a fair rate.