

# Our Revolution Baltimore City/ County

## *Delegate and State Senate Endorsement Questionnaire*

Name: Jill P. Carter

Desired political office: Senator

District Number: 41

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

Human rights and justice are my life's passion. My father, Walter P. Carter, was an activist who served as Chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality among other things. His advocacy inspired me to attend law school and practice criminal law as a defense attorney through which I've fought for the wrongfully accused and protected due process. As a graduate of Western High School, and daughter of a public school teacher, I understand the importance of quality public education in advancing human dignity. I have represented Northwest Baltimore since 2003 (with the exception of 2016-2018) first in the House of Delegates and currently in the Senate of Maryland

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

My entire career has been defined by one word: justice. From pushing for police reform to greater investments in public schools, I have been consistent in advancing equity, fairness, and accountability in our communities.

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

Yes. I've always place the interest of the people above the will of the political establishment and often had to challenge establishment democrats on issues such as: lead poison - a major form of environmental injustice, racial justice, criminal and juvenile justice, economic justice, and frankly, on my very right to legislate on behalf of these matters.

**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. Science is clear: without an immediate radical change in policy, our planet will no longer exist. But we don't need to be scientists to see the clear evidence of climate change affecting us every day. From rising sea levels to sporadic temperatures, our communities are suffering from the pollution of greedy corporate interests and corrupt politicians. If our national government refuses to act, then our state must.

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

I am in full support of implementing a Green New Deal here in Maryland. The GND will bring new clean-jobs, investments into communities devastated by disasters, and urban farming opportunities. All of these programs will have a resounding impact on the Port of Baltimore, Baltimore City, and the State at-large.

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?

I would vote in favor of that bill and will continue to advocate for it to reach the Senate floor.

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

Renewable energy is the future of our society. In every facet of our lives we should be seeking to be stewards of environmental resources. On top of electricity powered by solar and wind, we should be moving towards electric cars and buses. Not only will these efforts preserve our depleting assets and reduce our carbon footprint, they will also save money.

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

We need to cut the rhetoric and finally vote to approve the Climate Solutions Act. The fact that the conference committee on this bill never met last session, goes to show the abrasive lack of will in Annapolis.

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

This common sense provision should have been passed years ago. I would vote in favor of this constitutional amendment but also recognize that without immediate investments, such as the ones mentioned above, it amounts to legal jargon.

## **Health Care**

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

I am in full support of implementing Medicare for All. We need to get on par with every other industrialized country and ensure every person has access to quality, single payer, healthcare. When people are crowdfunding cancer treatment on GoFundMe, you know the government is failing.

11. Would you vote for paid sick leave?

Yes! We should expand the legislation passed to protect workers during the pandemic (HB581) and guarantee every worker paid 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 was one of two senate votes in opposition to the bill. Last session, I unsuccessfully sponsored legislation to repeal it. Policing is a public function. The privatization of policing is wrong & increases corruption, secrecy, and systemic racism.

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

I have been dedicated to weeding out police corruption my entire career. In 2021 the MGA passed a comprehensive package increasing accountability, most of which I sponsored over the past decade in one form or another. I am proud of Anton's Law which increases transparency and accountability and some of the other bills. But, while these measures are steps in the right direction, we have much more that needs to be done. Over the next session, we will work to build on the legislation.

14. Would you vote to end debtor prisoners?

Yes. We should not be criminalizing poverty. As a lawyer, I have stood up to predatory loans, voracious credit companies, vile landlords and sought to protect the public interest. I've voted to prohibit body attachments for debt.

### **Drug Policy Reform/Legalization of Marijuana**

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

Marijuana should be legalized with equitable and restorative justice provisions.

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

Marijuana should be fully legalized.

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

Mushrooms should be legalized for therapeutic use in Maryland. Countless studies have proven its effectiveness in healing depression and other psychiatric illnesses. One researcher said, "For some people who have not found relief from traditional therapies that are out there, this could be lifesaving. The effects of the medication are usually evident pretty quickly, much more quickly than antidepressants." (<https://www.wbalv.com/article/magic-mushrooms-depression-treatment/38188470#>)

### **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 was a staunch supporter of Dignity Not Detention last session and am pleased that the MGA overrode Hogan's veto in the December Special Session.

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?

I believe the most impactful thing we, as legislators, can do is to listen. Hate has no place in Maryland. I have made a pointed effort to reach out to my Asian neighbors throughout this troubling time. I am in full support of the recommendations of the Asian American Hate Crimes Workgroup, which included expanded inherent bias training for school personnel and law enforcement, diversity in recruiting, and empowering community organizations.

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?

We must embrace our new Marylanders and not forget the ones we left behind. Some immediate actions we can take include funding resettlement programs, increasing support for community food banks, and investing in community organizations such as the International Rescue Committee. I will continue to partner with the Office for Refugees and Asylees to ensure that the legislator is doing everything it can to support our neighbors.

### **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?

I fully support the Red Line, as I have for many years. Improved public transportation brings opportunity to impoverished communities and boosts the economy. While building new projects, we must keep environmental stewardship and community equity as our foremost priorities.

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?

Red lining has divided communities for generations. Transportation is the leading economic engine in society. If people cannot reach employment, entire communities are adversely affected. Access is particularly inequitable in the intersection between race and economic status. I am pleased that our federal allies have recognized this issue and made restoring communities a key part of their infrastructure investments. At the state level, I have prefiled the Equity in Transportation bill, along with Delegate Sheila Ruth, which will extend Title VI protections in public transportation.

### **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 believe there should be a moratorium on evictions during the winter months and that inability to pay rent should not impact your other assets such as commercial lease during a State of Emergency (addressed in HB719). I support the work of the Fair Housing Action Center and firmly believe that housing is a human right.

## **Consumer Rights**

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

I've sponsored legislation in the past to fix this injustice. I would vote that zipcodes be shielded from insurance companies until the finalization of the contract. Drivers should be assessed on their ability to drive, not their neighborhood.