

Our Revolution Maryland 2022 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

Responses to Questions will be made Public

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ECOLOGICAL/CLIMATE CRISIS

We face multiple existential threats: a climate crisis with the unprecedented levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, an environmental pollution crisis caused by our extraction and consumption practices, and the limits to growth on a finite planet. There are so many crises in the world, but the threats to the environment and our climate are the most grave. So we begin here.

Our Revolution has endorsed the framework of the Green New Deal, with the twin goals of a transformation to renewable energy and promoting environmental justice and economic equity. Will you support the Green New Deal and any implementing legislation in the upcoming Congress? Describe your vision for moving to renewable energy and transitioning away from fossil fuels. What commitments can you make now to voters, to demand action in Congress where we have seen none for decades? *

I will support the Green New Deal. The same way FDR seen the world during the great depression I see the climate problem today. In the month of March here in Maryland we had 3 inches of snow and the next day we had 70 degree weather. Experts predict inside of this century sea levels will rise to the point small cities would be in danger of being wipe off the map. That being said my vision to slow down these changes is ramp up our production of electric vehicles. This not only helps with fossil fuels but economic as well with so many american's feeling the pain at the pump. We mandate the automobile industry to shift their production ration more to electric and provide oversight to ensure they do so.

In the face of a lack of Congressional action, and the Supreme Court now revisiting EPA authority, will you join Our Revolution in calling on President Biden to declare a climate emergency to take actions at the executive level? *

Yes I will hold the president accountable to declare a climate emergency

Are there policies you would favor to move to more sustainable levels of consumption and less environmentally devastating practices and products? *

I support the expansion of charging station all across the country, electric is the future lets get prepared now for that change. On a smaller level we seen local counties switch from plastic and Styrofoam containers and straws at food services for paper products. These little changes can be implemented nationally as well.

Besides anthropogenic global warming, what other environmental crises are we facing and how do you propose addressing them? *

Deforestation is still a big issue in this country, with lax laws alot of our tress are being cut down here in the country and it is still disruptive to major ecosystems. We need stricter laws to preserve more land for animals and expand ecosystems instead of destroying them to build homes that are not affordable to begin with

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Will you commit to voting for passage of an increase in the federal minimum wage to at least \$15/hour now (indexed to inflation)? *

Absolutely this is a focus of this campaign

What is your plan for addressing the homelessness crisis? What are your ideas for addressing the crisis in the cost of housing which has many Americans paying more than half their income for housing? *

First homelessness in the world's richest country is a oxymoron that needs to go. My idea is simple for this. Use resources we already have to house the homeless. Example, My elementary school I attended as a kid in district 4 is now an abandon building and been that way for over 10 years. Its a four-level abandon building that if we could put federal funding into that building, it could easily house hundreds if not thousands of homeless people for years to come. Our problem has been we have not been thinking outside of the box,the best way to change things is to look right in front of you. In this district we have plenty of vacant land and buildings that with federal help we can help reduce and hopefully eliminate homelessness. We then take this model an expend across the country.

To address your second point on affordable housing, I look at this two ways. One being are we providing the right oversight on these builders when it comes to raw materials. I can't understand how the same national builder can build a house here in District 4 for 500k and build the exact same house in Texas for 200k. I don't believe the raw material cost or overall cost in general calls for that significant of a price difference for the same house by the same builder. As congress members we sit on committee's and we get to talk directly to these CEO's and find out what's really going on in between the numbers. As an accountant by trade and education that's my expertise and i'll be sure to hold them accountable.

The second way to address affordable housing is to look at alternative methods of housing. In Detroit they have this mini house project were people can by homes of smaller size but fully equip for on average of 12k-25k and they work with the residents to fully own these homes in 5 years by using city funding. We can do this all over america, not every person may want the big house some people just want somewhere to call home and that they own and this could put a lot of people in homes who don't see that in their future, especially a lot of our lower income residents.

Do you agree that wealth and income inequality are among the most significant problems we face? If so, why do you believe this is happening, and what specific steps would you take to redress this? Would you support changes in tax laws or rate changes? What other policy changes would you advocate for? Please be specific as possible here. *

I do believe that wealth and income inequity is a problem in america. It still remains the top 1-2% own majority of the wealth while the rest of us don't come near. I believe the answer here is simple,lack of education and knowledge of finance as a whole. This means a lot to me and the reason I studied and obtain my Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Economics, and Finance because people in my family and community were not financially literate. I went to a unique high school were it was the only public military school on this side of the country Forestville Military Academy. At Forestville I had the chance to take classes that my peer's at other high school were not taken for example Accounting Class and Money and Banking. This put me in a whole new lane learning about these topics so young that I was able to under how to read stocks at a young age teach my family the same.

So how do we decrease the wealth gap, first we must educate about finances from top to bottom and teach the kids early about wealth building. So policy wise I would absolutely support requiring some sort of financial teaching in the classrooms. We think our kids aren't ready for this but honestly there already doing it on their own thru video games and social media. Let's put it in the classrooms.

What new or repealed laws or regulations would you impose or reinstate on the investment and commercial banking sectors? *

I support Dodd-Frank we don't need a repeat of the financial crisis under the Obama Administration

What steps would you take to protect workers who are trying to organize a union? Do you support the Pro Act? Does it go far enough in your view? If not, what else must we do? *

Severe sanctions on organizations who impede or block the formation of a union, also protect workers against any kind of retaliation for trying to organize. I do support the Pro Act. It has great intention but it can go further, from an enforcement perspective. We need to make sure we have websites,hotline, all resources available to workers so when a potential violation comes up its not a huge barrier to report or file a complaint.

Would you support or oppose the Congressional Progressive Caucus' plan to create fairer trade deals? (Read more here: https://progressives.house.gov/_cache/files/d/0/d06e29b1-a19e-48e5-8eba-7ca61b0bba94/D363B2756F3792BAEEC7A33B795604EA.cpc-fair-trade-agenda.pdf) *

Support

HEALTHCARE/RETIREMENT

What steps do you support to strengthen Social Security and Medicare? *

We have to expand our cooperate tax liability, we have to make the top companies pay their fair share. We do this, now we have a whole new pool of resources to sure up Social Security and Medicare which possible we could then lower the age for benefits to protect more Americans.

Will you join in support of Rep. Jayapal's petition effort to end the Trump/Biden program allowing Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to move Medicare enrollees to for-profit Direct Contracting Entities? *

yes

Do you support single-payer healthcare - Medicare For All? Please explain your answer. *

Yes again once we have our cooperation pay their fair-share in tax's we can have medicare for all and it's a no brainier to ensure our elders and low income citizens also have adequate healthcare in this country

LEGAL REFORM

Do you support legalizing marijuana? Why or why not? *

Yes, and take it step further and remove it from the Schedule 1 of controlled substance. Also erase all low level possession crimes. This one act can free up so many people from barriers in obtaining jobs and other economic opportunities

The United States has 5% of the world's population, but 25% of those incarcerated worldwide. Roughly 90% of those in prison have taken plea deals, and even those who get new evidence later are unable to get hearings or convictions overturned. Private prisons further incentivize arrests and incarceration. What steps do you support to reform our Criminal Justice system - police, prosecutors, courts, jails and prisons *

First let's get rid of all private prisons. Prison should not be a business but a place for rehab. We all know that hasn't been the case. We have seen where only people with high publicize cases have a shot of overturn convictions. The real way we help on this topic is thru prevention, we have to get into kids lives earlier and inspire them. Now i'm from this district and I know every city in it is not being properly funded so programs are scare and futures are deem for some of our residents. This is where government is suppose to step up, instead of just throwing away the key on our kids lets rehabilitate them and their parents too if that's necessary. It's easy to convict and forget, but we need more teaching and guidance early and often.

Our Revolution Maryland has advocated for justice for the human rights attorney Steven Donziger, who is being persecuted by oil and gas 'Goliath' Chevron through the federal court system. See this link for a discussion of the timeline of events in his case: <https://www.freedonziger.org/timeline-of-the-case>. What steps will you take to rebalance the scales of justice so that 'Davids' like Steven Donziger can bring suit against mega-corporations to seek redress for victims of corporate misconduct, without risking their own freedom? With respect to Donziger, in particular, do you support Congressional hearings and/or Justice Department investigation into possible corruption of process in the Southern District of New York? *

I support hearings and DOJ investigations to ensure no corruption is in the process.

The federal judiciary is largely composed of pro-corporate/anti-consumer and labor judges appointed by Presidents from both parties. We see this in recent bankruptcy decisions allowing profitable corporations to claw back pension funds from employees and retirees. There are also high-profile abuses of bankruptcy protections, such as the 'Texas Two-Step' to shield assets of billionaire owners and Fortune 500 companies from deserving plaintiffs and claimants. What reforms and court oversight would you support to prevent predatory corporations from abusing judicial process to evade responsibility for egregious conduct injuring thousands and even millions of Americans? *

The main law I would propose is that all corporations offering pensions have mandatory escrow accounts to cover all employees and retirees. The government provides oversight to ensure compliance and ensure that if the worst possible case happens and a company goes under, everybody's account is backed up fully. I'm for consumers and workers first and that's the way it should be since without workers there is none of these massive companies.

IMMIGRATION

If you support a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in our country today, please set forth your vision briefly. What other reforms to our immigration system would you advocate going forward? *

I support a pathway to citizenship for all, I believe we open the number of asylum applicants we take in. Also fully staff all border entry points. Treat each immigrant the same no matter what country they come from.

FOREIGN POLICY

The United States spends more on its military than the next 10 countries combined. That enormous expenditure incentivizes conflict over diplomacy and lobbying by our military-industrial complex to maintain the status quo. In Congress, would you work to reduce our annual military spending? *

Absolutely, and if we can't reduce it make sure for every dollar we spend on war we send economic checks to our citizens. At the end of the day it's our citizens paying for the military they deserve a return on their investment as well.

Do you support public financing for every election? Why or why not? *

Yes, transparency is key when electing a representative. It's important to see if they would take PAC or big pharma money or are they more focus on lower level donors.

Do you support or oppose ending the revolving door for elected officials and staffers becoming lobbyists? What will you do about the influence of fossil fuel executives and other industry front-groups on policy-making and elections? *

I support ending the revolving door that why we don't get new people in government because they see the same faces all over and don't believe they can make a difference.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Two decades into the 21st Century, intolerance and discrimination are still plaguing us, and now, incredibly to many of us, activists on the right are trying to purge our schools of any books or curriculum which would involve an honest accounting of our troubled history of social, racial and ethnic strife, prejudice and even exploitation and genocide. Can we address disparate treatment and intolerance without openly confronting our troubled history and persistent injustices? Looking at the 2021 election in Virginia, it seems that GOP's main electoral talking point this year will continue to be a refusal to even discuss racial inequities, as well as creating new forms of oppression of women and LGBTQ people. As a society and as progressives, how should we formulate a response to these political talking points, and going forward to ensure we can equip each generation to discuss difference and discrimination? *

Tell the truth the whole truth in school, our kids need to know where we come from as a country.

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