



2022 Endorsement Questionnaire – Maryland General Assembly
[All Responses Will be Made Public]

1. How do your life and work experience qualify you for this position?

I'm a son of Prince George's County and throughout my career as a Nonprofit Lobbyist, Legislative Staffer, and Community Advocate, I've brought people together to deliver results. As an elected official, I will represent all members of our community, fight economic and housing inequality, support green policies, and deliver results for our district. I'll bring that style of leadership to Annapolis.

2. Do you identify as a progressive candidate? If so, what specifically makes you a progressive candidate for this political office? Can you name three areas where enacting progressive legislation will make a large difference. Please elaborate.

I believe everyone has a place in the progressive movement because we should be a broad coalition. However, I know a lot of people have utilized the label without the commitment to progressive values. I have a proven track record of standing up for progressive political values. As a young, Afro-Latino, gay person, I pushed for greater connections between government and LGBTQ communities in high school. I continued to build inclusive, diverse spaces after high school. I've worked in CASA to empower people from underrepresented groups, I represented the LGBTQ community as co-chair of Prince George's County Pride hosting our first pride bike ride, and I've been at the forefront of police reform issues in our county through PG Changemakers. Ultimately, I believe a progressive is someone who wants to build an inclusive, diverse, and equitable society, and I will be at the forefront of those conversations in Annapolis.

3. Where are you getting money for your campaign?

My campaign is resourced by District 22 residents, friends, unions and family members.

a. Do you accept PAC money and if yes, which PACs have contributed to you?
Yes, I have accepted money from LiUNA and LGBTQ leadership PAC.

b. Do you accept money from developers, lobbyists or liquor store owners?
I have not accepted money from developers, lobbyists, or liquor store owners.

4. Twenty five states hold special elections to fill vacancies in their state legislatures. Maryland does not. Maryland's appointment process provides the advantage of incumbency to appointed members and has resulted in thirty percent of the current Senate and twenty-five percent of the current House having started their legislative careers as appointees. Will you support a constitutional amendment bill that eliminates the recommendation by the Central Committee and the appointment by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the General Assembly and replaces it with a special election? **Yes.**
5. Do you support a public financing system for delegates and senators? Can you offer a reason why bills in the General Assembly for this program have not moved? What can the community do and what can rank and file General Assembly members do to advance a public financing system? **Yes I support a public financing system for the general assembly. I believe these bills haven't moved in Annapolis because the status quo doesn't want to eliminate the barriers of entry to power. We need to organize and educate the community on why this is needed and give them the tools to contact Annapolis leadership to show this is a priority of the people.**
6. Do you support expanding the gubernatorial small-donor public financing system to the Comptroller and AG races? **Yes.**
7. State enabling legislation currently permits public financing to be implemented for county executive and council races in every county. Do you support expanding this enabling legislation to cover all local races? A bill to expand enabling legislation has been in the House for two years with no opposition and no movement. Please comment. **Yes, I'd support expanding the funds to all local races.**
8. Our Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) provides subsidies paid by Maryland rate payers to many dirty technologies – trash incineration, for example – under the guise that they are renewable. Environmental groups and activists have tried to clean up the RPS for the last decade and have still not succeeded largely due to the power of lobbyists and the leadership in the General Assembly and the fragmentation of environmental groups. What are your thoughts on how we cut through this quagmire and what hope do you think we have to creating the real changes we need to address global warming? Do you support the language in HB 11 introduced in 2022. **I support the language of HB 11 and would work to build a strong coalition of legislatures that are willing to push the bill regardless of leadership's desires. We get more done when we have legislators who don't concede power.**
9. Do you support single-payer health care? **Yes.**
If elected,
 - a. will you lobby our elected members in Congress to support single-payer healthcare bill? **Yes.**

- b. commit to ask for a legislative study or create an executive agency study of the feasibility of implementing single-payer health coverage in Maryland? **Yes.**
- c. Connecticut has shown that when a state administers Medicaid, administrative costs are slashed. Will you join us in asking the Governor to request a federal CMS waiver to remove MCOs from our Medicaid program and have the State administer the program? **Yes.**

10. In 2021, members of the public were able to submit written testimony on bills online and provide oral testimony on bills remotely. Prior to 2021, members of the public had to travel to Annapolis, sign up an hour or two before the hearing, submit 40 copies of written testimony and wait for hours to speak for a couple of minutes at a committee hearing. Obviously, most members of the working public never attempted this feat but the General Assembly was chock filled with paid lobbyists. After having established the technological feasibility of remote oral testimony, the General Assembly took it away in 2022 and permitted only in-person oral testimony despite the protests of over 100 organizations. Do you support this removal of public access? What does this say to you about how the General Assembly is run and how can it be changed? **Yes I support expanding how Marylanders can participate in the work in Annapolis. I believe the general assembly has been able to hide for decades because it lacked the technological updates that I think are necessary for a modern government. Technology has helped increase transparency and I will fight to ensure that transparency is expanded and protected.**