

**Metro DC DSA**  
**CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**  
(approved by the General Body, August 2021)

**Basic information**

1. Name: [Jason Fowler](#)
2. Current Occupation (if applicable): [Attorney](#)
3. Party Affiliation: [Democratic](#)
4. Have you been a public servant before? What positions and when? [I have not served in public office.](#)
5. How long have you lived in your jurisdiction? [I was born and raised in District 27 in Maryland.](#)
6. Which office are you seeking? [Maryland State Senate District 27](#)
7. Why are you seeking this office? [Fighting for working people and families to bring needed changes to environmental policy, workers rights, criminal justice reforms, among other policy initiatives.](#)
8. Why are you soliciting Metro DC DSA's endorsement for this office? [I believe in the collective mindset of DSA and what it represents. I believe it is important to live our values and unite working people of this country across the political spectrum for economic and social freedom. To note, there is no officially established chapter in my home county or in Charles County.](#)
9. Please list other significant endorsements you've received for this position or for prior races:  
[2018 House of Delegate Democratic Nominee 27C: Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, Utility Scale Solar Energy Coalition Friend of Solar, Run for Something, Mom's Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate, Local 10, Local 100, Local 5, Local 602, Maryland AFL-CIO, Calvert Education Association, Maryland State Education Association, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 26, American Federal State County Municipal Employees Local \(AFSCME\) 3, WOW Women of Maryland, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee.](#)

**DSA and democratic socialism**

1. Are you a member of DSA? If not, would you join? Why or why not?  
[I am not currently a member. I would join.](#)
2. How does the campaign you are planning and the office that you are considering relate to your theory of social change?  
[The Maryland Senate is the higher bicameral body in the Maryland legislative part of government. A body of 47 members it is an incredibly small and powerful group. This body controls much of the legislation and possible improvements within the State. Our campaign is running an unapologetically progressive campaign. We believe that Democrats must begin and continue to speak to our true values of universal health care, supporting equity derived policy, repairing our past, and investing in our future.](#)

3. Do you identify as a democratic socialist? Why? Democratic socialism is defined as using our taxpayer collected money to benefit its citizens and not corporate interests. Under this definition I would identify with this moniker. I tend to stick away from labels generally as I find they are used more to divide than they are to speak to values. But, I would argue that much of the democratic socialist agenda are items that I adhere to, believe in, and would support.
4. Are you willing to run publicly as a democratic socialist? **[Yes/No]** *It greatly depends on the future political makeup of the district after new districts are established. If the district keeps its democratic majority, I most certainly will run as a Democratic Socialist. If my competition is a Republican, I will keep the progressive values and policy agenda intact, but simply label it as a progressive platform versus a socialist one.*
5. Will you be willing to run with other DSA-endorsed candidates as a slate? **[Yes/No]**
6. Will you publicize DSA's endorsement? **[Yes/No]** *it will vary on the political makeup of the new district. If the competition remains to be the incumbent, I will.*
7. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions from for-profit corporations or for-profit corporate PACs? **[Yes/No]**
8. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions from real estate developers, corporate lobbyists, and landlords? **[Yes/No]**
9. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions or endorsements from organizations in the carceral system (such as law enforcement unions)? **[Yes/No]**
10. Are you open to working with DSA when developing your platform? **[Yes/No]**
11. Will you allow Metro DC DSA to create campaign materials to distribute during its work on your campaign? **[Yes/No]** *this will also depend on the politics of the new district. Our vision and field game will never change, however we may change our approach to introducing our agenda to voters to the right of us.*
12. DSA has a large and active volunteer base. Will you support DSA training our own volunteers, running our own canvases, and campaigning openly as DSA members? **[Yes/No]** *This is another question that will depend on the makeup of the district. Ideally, we can add your data to our software (VAN) to allow us to use the data as well.*
13. Will you allow DSA to collaborate with you on your field plan and program? **[Yes/No]**
14. Will you allow DSA to keep copies of all data we collect through voter contact, if legal in your jurisdiction? **[Yes/No]**, *I'd like this data to be shared and kept confidential between our campaign and your organization*

## Goals of your campaign

1. What is your estimated number of votes needed to win? *That is proprietary information to the campaign that I would be happy to share once we agree to written confidentiality. We have calculated our Win number including additional metrics to leave extended buffers to reach our target. I hit 54% of our target universe in my last election. If we hit 50.1% of our target universe this time around, we will win.*
1. What are your plans, beyond what Metro DC DSA can bring to the table, for obtaining the number of votes needed to win? *We have a multi-faceted approach to reaching our Win number including door knocking, direct mail, phone banking, text banking, fundraising, and virtual town halls.*
1. What are the issues that will distinguish you from other candidates? How are those issues popular with the electorate?  
*We are talking about criminal justice reform, climate change initiatives, and educational reform policies. Most of our policies are inherently just, popular, and would gain much traction. By demonstrating intense policy focus, which our incumbent has not done and his positions on issues are generally unknown by voters, we can show to the electorate that we're paying attention to their desires and plan to deliver true substance to Annapolis, versus brand name politics.*

1. If you are challenging an incumbent, what distinguishes you from the incumbent?  
Why would you be an improvement over the incumbent?

The incumbent is a former sheriff and almost single handedly stripped police reform in Maryland that recodified the Law Officers Bill of Rights into the law while “removing” it from the public’s viewpoint. He is also not a strong environmental candidate as he takes nothing but corporate donations from fossil fuel companies and other developers. Quite frankly he takes any company's money that will send it. And yes, he is a Democrat! I have substantive policy proposals and a record of upholding progressive values, whereas our opponent is in the shadows compared to his other colleagues delivering results. The majority of his political career he has served to weaken legislation versus bringing forth legislation that benefits his home district. Not only would we be the more popular, responsive, and more progressive option in the race, we would also be the option for voters that won’t wait for party leadership to support our initiatives to improve the lives of every Marylander.

1. How much money will you need to successfully compete in this race and what is your plan to raise it? Bare bones budget is around \$40,000 and upwards to \$75,000. This includes in-kind and cash donations. Last time around we raised about this much money for Delegate and I believe we can do it again. We had large support for worker collectives and union workers candidate funds. Thus far we have raised about \$7000.00 and have been running for about 4 weeks. We will hit our targets. Because the majority of the work will be talking to voters one on one at the door while our opponent ignores our ground level plan, we can skate past his larger fundraising pools to victory.
1. What relationships do you have in your district that could form a base of support, through activism, organizing, work or personal networks? I am a lifetime member of the NAACP, local democratic organizations, local non-profits where I have served as counsel, and my name just as a local attorney. I grew up in this district and my family has lived in the area since the 1600s. So, there is a basis of support to build on. After my last race for Delegate, I was able to connect with progressives everywhere in Maryland that were willing to pitch in support against my Republican opponent, and plan to leverage their support again for canvassing and fundraising. I also plan to leverage my previous experience building coalitions with labor groups this year as well to show us as the outstanding candidate supporting working families.
1. What endorsements do you have from elected officials, political organizations, unions and community leaders? What other endorsements are you seeking and why? Currently, we are seeking endorsements and to date have yet to receive a final endorsement, but we are only in the infancy of our campaign. We’ve yet to receive questionnaires from various organizations, but expect to complete them soon in order to show our stance as the best and most progressive option on the ballot.
1. How will you use your campaign to build Metro DC DSA? Democratic socialism in DC/ Maryland/Virginia? I think the more mainstream our ideas become and the more people who are proud of their viewpoints, the more it will grow. We are in the dawn of a new era of politics and democratic socialism is the growing trend. I plan to work closely with DSA members in each chamber as well on how to craft policy that truly benefits working people. There is already an unofficial progressive caucus inside of the MDGA, and I hope to solidify a formally recognized block of Democrats that will ultimately determine the body’s agenda in each session, similar to how the US House Progressives are doing now with the Build Back Better Act.
1. How do you strike the balance between your positions as a socialist and your ability to appeal to the broader electorate? I think I have always not used terminology to talk about what I am vs. how my policy views help people. If I tell people that if we had universal healthcare and instead of paying 1000/month it would only be 750 and they wouldn’t pay for copays and their prescription bills would be capped at \$250/year, it doesn’t matter what you call it. Frankly, it is just, moral, and American to take care of one another. We need politicians who want to do good and I am someone trying to do just that. Instead of using

buzzwords, we're explaining the results of good policy. By recognizing the difficulties working families are going through and walking them through the political solution (minimum wage, carbon taxes, rezoning, etc.), they're able to see what true democratic power looks like in elections and leverage that at the ballot box.

## Goals in office

1. Would you be open to having DSA members as staff in policy positions and/or to collaborating with our working groups on policy? Yes. The more policy experts that can weigh in on how to improve our legislation. the better. I currently have socialist staff members now.
1. Will you agree to appear periodically at DSA meetings in your district? Yes, I would be happy to appear at meetings. We are active with YDSA at UMD and I love activating youth movements.
1. Will you endorse and campaign for other DSA endorsed candidates in the future? I typically only endorse people that I have personally vetted but am certainly open to endorsing candidates and helping them be successful through donations of my money or time. I generally want to focus on what my district needs, but offering kudos and shouting out good leaders is not a problem.
1. How will you use your office, if elected, to build socialism and working-class power? The first thing that should help is growing opportunities for workers to collectively bargain for better wages, benefits, and life balance. I am a grandson of a school bus driver and a union steamfitter so labor rights have always been an important issue to me. It is also important to look at wage gaps, create livable wages, eliminate tipped working pay structures, and create opportunities for growth of worker-owned businesses. We can eliminate class struggles by looking at how the government has *created* them by offering public employees or public sector contractors subpar earnings. Currently, school boards across SOMD are seeing bus drivers strike because of being paid less than a living wage. As someone who will be able to influence the budget, I will ensure all public servants are fairly compensated for their work.
1. If elected, what are your top 3 priorities? Reversing the effects of climate change and improving our environmental outlook, reforming criminal justice policies to create a more just society, and improving our educational opportunities for young people.
1. How will you implement those priorities, given that you will likely face opposition from other elected officials? I was once told by a Pakistani UN Diplomat who was my college professor, that shame is an incredible way to demonstrate a person's values. I believe that creating legislation and showing how it helps people and then calling out co-workers who claim they are there for the right reasons and are not. Progressives must stand for our values and be bold. The US Progressive Caucus just did that and are demonstrating the power of our movement. The same is true in our state government. So long as I maintain the support of voters, I can maintain credibility and power in my office to leverage change. I won't be the only progressive in the MDGA. By eliminating my opponent's ability to return to Annapolis as well, I will be removing a barrier to real justice being achieved. I will insert myself into the policymaking process and will twist the arms of bill sponsors the same way my opponent did on the topic of criminal justice reform, but this time, in the favor of average voters.

## Questions for incumbents

1. ~~Tell us about a success/political win you championed/led that created material wins/ improved conditions for the working class in your district?~~
2. ~~What obstacles did you face in office and how do you plan to address these obstacles if re-elected?~~

## **Metro DC DSA Priorities**

In February 2021, Metro DC DSA voted to approve four priority campaigns: Defund MPD, Stomp Out Slumlords (housing justice), Green New Deal and Labor. These priorities are subject to annual changes.

### ***Defunding MPD and abolition***

MDC DSA's Defund MPD Working Group is organizing in coalition with Black-led and racial justice organizations to defund the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, remove police from schools, and free our neighbors from occupation and incarceration as a path towards abolition — a world without cops and prisons. As part of our vision for racial and economic justice, we demand that the funding removed from police and prisons be reinvested in real public safety: housing, schools, jobs, healthcare and mental health services, community-based support programs, violence interruption, and other public goods and services. This aspiration is a core part of our vision of socialism.

MDC DSA has endorsed the [demands](#) of the Defund MPD coalition, including reducing funding for MPD by 50% over the next three years. In Montgomery County, MD, Metro DC DSA participates in the Defund and Reinvest Coalition (see demands [here](#))

1. Do you support defunding the police in your jurisdiction? Why? [The 3<sup>rd</sup> largest army in the world is the United States' police departments. Yes, it's time to reallocate that money to services that actually prevent poverty, encourage investment, and produce healthier and happier citizens. Putting people in a system that perpetuates and exploits poverty obviously solves nothing. When there is crime, there is either poverty or greed. We need to legitimately shape our incarceration system into a system of rehabilitation and social mobility and shift our focus of 'cracking down on crime' on those who are exploiting economic and political weaknesses to their benefit and risking the financial stability of those who are most vulnerable. Once we reduce poverty and punish greed, we will see the alleviation of class conflict.](#)
2. What actions would you take in office to shift power away from the police? [We could give the police a much more limited scope of power. The police only operate within the confines of what our society deems necessary. I believe that stripping their function is the best way to start. Creating uniform standards for training, penalties for misconduct, and platforms for citizens to complain without retribution. As stated earlier, reallocating money away from a carceral state and shifting it into welfare initiatives will literally take power away from them, since money is power. If I am elected, I will work with the original sponsors of the criminal justice reform bills and undo the amendments my opponents added in committee to return power back to the people.](#)
3. What actions would you take in office to end mass incarceration? [Ending the war on drugs is a great start. Maryland is likely to see the full legalization of cannabis soon, and if it's not done in the 2022 session, I'll get it done in 2023. This includes comprehensive reparative policymaking such as offering business licenses to minority-owned](#)

dispensaries, using tax revenues to refund education in poor school districts of color, and fully expunging records of drug offenders while offering job training programs that will return them back into society without being financially burdened. I plan to defend immigrant rights and will support keeping MD as a sanctuary state while refusing to cooperate with ICE in any fashion while writing policy. Finally, once we reallocate money away from a carceral system into a rehabilitative system, we inevitably will reduce crimes of necessity and provide mental health services across the board.

4. Do you support removing school resource officers from schools? Yes, I do not agree with armed police officers in schools. I will back socialist Del. Acevero up on his bill to remove SROs the minute I'm in session.
5. Many local police departments participate in training with Israeli military and/or police in what opponents of such programs call the "Deadly Exchange," furthering practices of surveillance, militarization and racist violence and policing. Would you support ending these police exchanges? I am unfamiliar with the term deadly exchange, but I do not support US police forces training with foreign governments' militaries. Police aren't fighting wars, they should be fighting systemic injustices.
6. Which demands of the Defund MPD coalition do you support? Why? I support reallocation of resources to varying organizations to deal with aspects of current police responsibilities. For instance, a crisis response team to handle mental health episodes has been incredibly effective in many cities across the country.
7. Do you disagree with the ideas behind the demands of the Defund MPD coalition? Why? Since my district doesn't include areas near DC, I'm unaware of all the changes Defund MPD are supporting. Generally speaking, there's plenty we can agree on and can apply in MD as well.

### ***Stomp Out Slumlords and housing justice***

Stomp Out Slumlords (SOS) fights evictions and supports tenant organizing throughout the Washington metro area. The group began in 2017 as an effort to canvas tenants threatened with eviction to educate them about their rights and encourage them to defend themselves in court. Since then, SOS has gradually focused more and more on organizing tenant unions and going on the offensive to demand concessions from major landlords and developers.

During the pandemic, SOS committed to the movement to cancel rent and expanded their organizing efforts into more than 25 buildings in and around DC and supported rent strikes in most of them. Since the spring 2020, they have mobilized hundreds of people to protest politicians and landlords and stop illegal evictions through direct action.

SOS is now one of the largest and most militant tenant organizations in the region, and they have won rent forgiveness plans from big developers and played an important role in getting and defending some of the nation's strongest emergency tenant protections.

Metro DC DSA is also a member of the [Reclaim Rent Control coalition](#), which seeks to expand and strengthen current rent control laws in DC.

1. Do you believe guaranteed housing is a human right? Yes, all people should have a place to live. We need to create a better Housing Department in MD that truly advocates for both homeowners AND renters, and allocates resources from the top down, versus relying on counties to connect with tenants. Unfortunately, some counties (especially Republican ones) are failing tenants and poorly provide them the education they need to combat landlord pressures and provide them the resources they need to stay housed.
2. What steps would you take to expand renter protections in your jurisdiction? Introducing rent thresholds increase caps, allow for tenant union memberships, introduce a vacancy tax on rental properties to incentivize landlords to keep rent prices low in order to find tenants that can afford the rent more easily.
3. What steps would you take to expand rent control in your jurisdiction? Maryland does not have limitations on annual rent increases so creating measures for this would be helpful. The vacancy tax idea will also naturally curb expensive rents.
4. What will do to increase affordable housing in your jurisdiction? Mandate percentages of newly built residences include a portion of affordable housing in each community or building.
5. Do you support ending exclusionary zoning? I would support zoning rules that would allow for a plethora of multi-use and mixed zoning rules to allow for varying communities to exist within our state. I would support legislation that would help ease the housing shortage and pressure counties to offer more affordable housing options using their zoning laws.

### ***Green New Deal***

Metro DC DSA's Green New Deal campaign organizes to fight the existential crisis of capitalist-driven climate change and environmental racism in the DMV area.

As a grassroots movement, they build and exercise power through labor and tenant unions, electoral campaigns, diverse coalition-building, political education, and policy change. Their vision is to decommodify and guarantee human needs, democratize and decarbonize the economy by 2030, and repair the generational effects of oppression and displacement of Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

Metro DC DSA is a member of the [We Power DC](#) (WPDC) coalition. WPDC's goal is to replace Pepco with a democratically-run municipal utility rooted in the principles of energy democracy. This coalition launched in October 2019 as the #NoPepcoPledge, which asked DC Council candidates to reject donations from Pepco and support a feasibility study on alternative utility models. The group's current demands include utility debt forgiveness, a permanent ban on utility shut offs and union wages for all Pepco contractors.

1. Do you support the municipalization of utilities in your jurisdiction? Why or why not? Yes, it would reduce costs overall and should be provided in our tax base. Currently, part of my district has an electric consumer owned cooperative, and it operates extremely efficiently and offers well-paying jobs to its employees. Conglomerates like Exelon are dominating the market and are destabilizing the energy sector because of their monopolization. Giving the power back to the people and the workers (all puns intended) reduces risk AND prices.
2. Do you support ending utility shut offs and forgiving utility debt in your jurisdiction? Why or why not? My view is if we collectively pay for power generation in our communities through our taxes then we would eliminate the need for power bills and utility debt going

forward. I support this. If we were able to have state run energy then a one time debt forgiveness would be just.

3. Will you accept donations from energy utilities? Hell no. This campaign is people powered only and will refuse direct donations from companies and reject corporate PACs.
4. What steps should your jurisdiction take to decarbonize the economy by 2030? How will you ensure that this happens? I have a couple pieces of legislation prepared to introduce to address decarbonization including carbon negative technological investment, reforestation, and investments in our waterways cleanup efforts.

## **Labor**

The Labor Working Group organizes with workers, including DSA members, from across the region to fight bad bosses, build new unions, and turn out for solidarity actions. Organizing the working class in their workplaces, whether through traditional collective bargaining and unions or other types of organizations, is central to socialist thought and practice. Especially here in the DMV, unions are diverse working-class organizations that build multi-racial solidarity through collective action for community transformation.

1. How will you support public sector unions in your jurisdiction? Pass legislation such as prevailing wage standards, eliminate union bans on teachers and professors, and offer overall support to a person's right to unionize in policy.
2. How will you expand union density in the DC area? Pass legislation to allow for workers to unionize.
3. How will you support collective bargaining and the right to strike in your jurisdiction? Encourage unions to engage in sectoral bargaining for best effects. I will always support strikers and stand with them at the picket line.
4. Do you support increasing the minimum wage in your jurisdiction? Yes, it should be at least \$17.50/hour in Maryland as we speak. If you can't pay a worker a living wage, you shouldn't be in business or hiring other people.

## **Other issues**

### ***Palestine***

In 2017, the Democratic Socialists of America adopted a resolution at its national convention in support of Palestinian civil society's call for a global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement until Israel ends its illegal colonization of Palestinian lands, ensures equal rights for Palestinians living within Israel and guarantees the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes.

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan [issued](#) an executive order in 2017 prohibiting executive agencies from entering into procurement contracts with business entities that engage in boycotts of Israel or territories occupied by Israel. The Maryland General Assembly has also debated and passed bills declaring that it is the policy of the state to oppose public institutions' support for boycotts for Palestinian rights.

In 2016, Virginia lawmakers [passed](#) a non-binding resolution that officially condemns boycotts for Palestinian rights. Two other measures, which would have become binding laws, have failed.

These measures include a 2016 anti-boycott bill and a 2017 effort to redefine antisemitism under Virginia's antidiscrimination law to include advocacy for Palestinian rights.

Metro DC DSA expects that any endorsed candidates and public official would oppose anti-BDS legislation and vocally support Palestinian rights.

1. Do you support the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) to pressure Israel until it complies with international law by ending the occupation, instituting equal rights for its Palestinian citizens and respecting Palestinian refugees' right to return? [Yes/No]

Would you like to expand on your answer? I support the existence of this movement, however I personally do not feel that this movement is the one that will provide the full solution to the problem. I believe in the two-state solution and I agree that Palestinian citizens whom live in Israel have a right to be treated with dignity and respect. I want Palestinians to have a homeland where they are safe and can prosper. I support Palestinian people returning to that country once they get it organized and structured. However, BDS is not the route I believe is most politically practical best suited to achieve that goal. Resolution 242 which governs this boundary dispute is rife with ambiguity and directive. The main struggle with the crisis as a whole is the creation of a Palestinian state and how that occurs. I believe alternatively that international brokering of a Palestinian state must occur which includes land currently being used by Israel past the 1967 borders, which is out of my purview as a State Senator. Nonetheless, if pro-Palestinian activists would like to organize against the behaviors of the Israeli government, and choose to participate in boycotting, they have a right to do so, even if I disagree with the strategy.

1. Do you pledge to refrain from accepting any invitation from the Israeli government or participating in any event sponsored by it, until it fully complies with its obligations under international law? [Yes/No]

Would you like to expand on your answer? I would always accept the opportunity to learn more from any government even if I disagreed with them. In fairness, if this same standard applied to my own country I wouldn't be able to run for office because the US has done much worse in our history and even currently to many of our own citizens. I believe one can still be a civil rights advocate while still communicating with groups you disagree with.

1. Do you pledge to oppose any official adoption of a redefinition of antisemitism to include opposition to Israel's policies or legal system or support for non-violent measures meant to press for changes in Israeli policies or laws? [Yes/No]

Would you like to expand on your answer? To be antisemitic is to be prejudiced against Jewish people. Advocating for the civil liberties of Palestinians does not imply the bigoted belief that Jewish people are lesser than Palestinians. However, to singularly focus on the occupation of Palestinian lands, and not the oppression of other ethnic/religious groups, in your activism can be a sign of holding antisemitic bias or bigotry.

1. Do you oppose state legislative and executive efforts that penalize individuals, universities and entities that boycott Israel? **[Yes/No]**

Would you like to expand on your answer? I support any person's ability to speak their mind on issues. However, if individuals, universities, and entities are going to boycott Israel, I would encourage BDS for other nations as well. For example, China should be held responsible for concentration camps for its Muslim population, or the Philippines for executions for simple petty crimes, or other nations in the Middle East for their mercy killings of women or targeting and murder of LGBT+ people. I find that much of the hyperfocus on some problems and not others to be problematic. In fact, it is hyperfocused on Israel which has occurred since its inception and is a construct of anti-Semitic thought. I can't imagine us doing business with all of these other groups and shun one nation all the while our country is inherently racist, prejudicial, and acts similarly. Penalization of free expression is problematic and undemocratic. I am not a supporter of such behavior.

### ***Racial justice***

1. How would you use your office to combat racism in the educational system? We need to identify teachers that are behaving in a racially biased manner in their instruction and discipline and require sensitivity/DEI training. We need to hire more teachers of color, especially nonwhite men since white women dominate the career field. We also should analyze the psychological impacts of disciplinary action on children to ensure that children are not being traumatized and instead are being reinforced with good behaviors. Too often we see black children provided with harsher punishments and are disproportionately targeted by police for juvenile crimes. By removing SROs, providing DEI/sensitivity training, and hiring more teachers of color alone, we can and will see better results for all children. However, we cannot resort to using status quo action plans for discipline. As someone who plans to vote on the next BOE Secretary appointment, I will make sure that the candidate proposed by our next governor will have a set plan for combatting inequitable outcomes by recruiting psychologists and statisticians who can best evaluate the status of our education system now and provide a comprehensive plan for our children in the future. Lastly, with the Kirwan commission finally being set up and beginning to roll out the funding for better education, we need to ensure that dollars are best spent in the school districts struggling the most. Using state dollars, we need to supplement the lack of property tax revenues for low income districts so the outcomes are more equal compared to higher income districts. We should incentivize girls of color to occupy job sectors in STEM by catering to them a curriculum that breaks down racial and gender stigmas and also uplifts their brightness to prepare for a 21st century economy. How would you address racism in access to employment and the racial wealth gap? Wealth cannot be generated for families of color when the public resources provided to them are inadequately funded and revenues are sourced from already-poor taxpayers. Maryland truly needs to re-evaluate its tax revenue system and transform our sourcing methods to be more redistributive. Relieving the tax burdens of low income Marylanders alone would obviously serve as a benefit. Additionally, I support expanding educational outcomes before Kindergarten and after school with universal childcare and free community college that isn't limited based on your income or speed of application for a scholarship. The pandemic has shown that people of color are more often found in economically vulnerable job sectors compared to their white counterparts. You can't build intergenerational wealth when you're constantly job surfing or subject to frequent

furloughs. As a working mom, you might not be able to afford returning to work after delivering a child because of the outrageous cost of childcare in our state. By providing the services we need in order to work and work efficiently as a guaranteed public good, we can and will see better results for families of color in Maryland.

### ***Health justice***

1. Do you believe that healthcare is a human right? What actions would you take to support universal healthcare? Yes, I support Medicare for all and have collaborated with activists in the state to explore a single payer option. Preferably, I'd like to see single payer insurance tackled at the federal level.
2. How would you support ending medical debt? Medical debt like other forms of debt that would not exist if we had socialized governmental support could be forgiven upon passing of future socialized programming.
3. How would you support expanding abortion rights? I believe anyone who wants one should have one. I look forward to working with partners at NARAL Pro-Choice and WOW Maryland to implement their agenda. I also want to push for state cooperation with Planned Parenthood to open an office that also performs abortions in Prince Frederick so SOMDers don't have to drive to Annapolis or further for abortion services.

### ***Migrant justice***

1. Do you support classifying and publicly announcing your jurisdiction as a sanctuary for undocumented immigrants? All of Maryland should be considered a sanctuary for immigrants seeking a transition into full citizenship or legal residency.
2. Do you support the unconditional abolition of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE)? ICE has not existed for that long, and therefore doesn't need to exist going forward. While I have no jurisdiction over the management of ICE, I support policies that decriminalize immigration and that actually support the American Dream.
3. Do you support prohibiting local law enforcement from cooperating with ICE or participating in deportation activities? It is not the job of state law enforcement to be handling immigration policy, nor should a body that is tasked with managing criminal penalties be in charge of also managing civil infractions.
4. Will you oppose the operation of any migrant detention facility in your jurisdiction (whether run by ICE, another government agency, or privately run), and oppose the transfer of any migrants in your jurisdiction to such facilities? Del. Vaughn Stewart's legislation banning state and local cooperation with ICE and accepting ICE subsidies for detention facilities are great examples of supporting real immigration reform. I plan to support policies like this, and more.