

Questions for Candidates

Note: We look at the totality of the responses; we don't excommunicate people based on a single response.

Name: David Moon

State: Maryland

House/Assembly or Senate: House of Delegates

District #: 20

Economic

1. Would you vote for income tax increases for the wealthiest citizens in order to close budget gaps and pay for essential services?

Yes. Unfortunately, Maryland sunset its millionaires tax during the recession – at the same time President Obama was trying to increase the federal upper bracket income tax. It's time to restore progressive taxation in the state.

2. Would you vote for a bill that abolishes collective bargaining?

No. In contrast to GOP controlled states, Maryland should lead in promoting policies that expand access to collective bargaining. This is the best way to counter the so-called “right to work” movement in Red states.

3. Would you vote for a bill that explicitly protects the rights of immigrants in the workplace?

Yes. I worked for CASA de Maryland to mobilize thousands of immigrant-based voters when the state's Dream Act was subjected to a referendum in 2012. I was also a vocal opponent of Maryland's participation in the “Secure Communities” program and hope to see the state resist conscription of local police into immigration enforcement.

4. Would you vote for a living wage law?

Yes. Maryland recently passed a \$10.10 minimum wage, but removed an index and exempted tipped workers and youth employees. I plan to join lawmakers in fighting to restore these provisions that were amended out of the minimum wage law.

5. Would you vote for pay equity legislation?

Yes. Additionally, I am seeking ways to attack the problem of pay equity indirectly through universal child care, paid parental leave, and other economic justice initiatives.

6. Would you vote for a bill to abolish credit checks as a condition of employment when they are non-relevant to the actual job to be filled?

Yes. I am also a proponent of “ban the box” legislation that shields minor crimes from employers, so that we can begin to tackle obstacles to reducing recidivism.

7. Do you believe that Social Security should be privatized?

No. I fundamentally oppose privatization of most government services.

8. Would you vote for increased funding of education?

Yes. Montgomery County has the state's fastest enrollment growth in the state, and the new students are heavily lower income and ESL students. We are now witnessing a persistent racial achievement gap in student test scores, so this is a social and economic justice issue.

9. Do you support a “Tobin” tax on financial transactions (e.g. stock trades) as a way to make the tax code fairer to the middle class and generate revenue?

Yes. We've got to find ways to tackle the historic wealth gap at the state level.

Social

10. Would you vote for a bill that bans racial profiling?

Yes. I would also seek to end Maryland's participation in the failed war on drugs and begin to unravel the mass incarceration regime in our state.

11. Would you vote for hate crimes legislation?

Yes.

12. Would you vote for legalizing same sex marriage?

Yes. Maryland has already approved marriage equality, but we have a long ways to go in ensuring enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in the workplace and in public accommodations. I've also encountered numerous complaints about the state's adoption process from LGBT families and will seek to clarify this area of policy as we move forward with granting equal treatment to all.

13. Would you vote for a school voucher program?

No. Public funding for private and charter schools destabilizes political and financial support for public schools and often diverts the most active parents from schools that could benefit from their attention.

14. Would you vote for funding for comprehensive sex education programs?

Yes. I would also specify that such programs should be LGBT friendly.

15. Would you vote for legislation to allow your state to “opt-out” of the new health care reform law?

No, although I would be okay with an opt-out if the purpose were to implement single-payer, as Vermont is attempting.

16. Would you vote for laws protecting access to abortion for women?

Yes. As with other areas of the law, Democrats need to be equally aggressive as Republicans in this area – and Blue states like Maryland can help lead a movement to counter GOP efforts to whittle away at reproductive rights in Red states.

17. Would you vote against legislation that restricts access to contraception?

Yes.

18. Would you vote against legislation that imposed damage caps in civil actions?

Yes. I see the “tort reform” movement as an assault on consumer rights and civil

justice.

19. Do you support thorough background checks on applicants' criminal and mental health records before they can purchase guns?

Yes.

20. Would you vote for either the legalization or the decriminalization of marijuana?

Yes. I would support legalization of marijuana and a broader roll-back in the war on drugs.

Environmental

21. Would you vote for laws that require corporations to pay to clean up the pollution they create?

Yes. Additionally, Maryland currently subsidizes polluting energy sources like "black liquor," so we have to both stop these corporate welfare programs and also begin to make corporations pay for their pollution. The factory farm industry is a particularly troublesome opponent to these efforts in our state.

22. Would you vote for increased funding for public transportation?

Yes. I strongly prefer transit funding to highways and more sprawl.

23. Would you vote for legislation requiring developers to pay the cost of new infrastructure created for new suburban communities?

Yes. In fact, development district taxes are a useful way to fund transit projects in Maryland.

24. Would you vote for legislation partly replacing sales or income taxes with carbon taxes as a means of combating global warming?

Yes. Specifically, I would seek to make the tax code more progressive in implementing a carbon tax.

25. Would you vote for legislation implementing renewable energy portfolio standards?

Yes. Maryland has such standards, though polluting fuels are currently categorized as renewables. We need to correct this problem and expand the state's renewable portfolio as soon as possible.

26. Would you vote for the repeal of subsidies for oil, coal and gas?

Yes. I am also an opponent of regulating fracking into existence in Maryland.

Democracy

27. Would you vote for "voter ID" legislation?

No, in fact, Maryland should be moving in the opposite direction as Republican states and aggressively expand access to voting through reforms like election day registration.

28. Would you vote for legislation to abolish the Electoral College and replace it with a national popular vote for President?

Yes, I worked on this issue at FairVote and continue to do so at Demand Progress.

29. Do you support publicly financed elections for state offices?

Yes. Montgomery County will be using public financing in the 2018 cycle, and the effort should be spread to other counties and then throughout the state.

30. Would you vote for a constitutional amendment overturning the Citizens United Supreme Court decision and will you support legislation urging your state's members of Congress to introduce and vote for such legislation?

Yes, but in the meantime, I want to see Maryland ban direct corporate contributions to candidates.

31. Do you see yourself as part of a larger progressive movement, and if so, how?

Yes. My entire career has been focused on progressive advocacy by any means necessary. Over the years, this has included work at organizations focusing on voting rights, women's rights, civil liberties, criminal justice reform, immigrant rights, public transit, and much more. In addition to my issue advocacy work, I've managed numerous campaigns for progressive Democrats running in primaries against more centrist candidates. I also run a progressive state politics blog, which I launched for the specific purpose of countering the persistent misleading spin from industry lobbyists and the Chamber of Commerce in Maryland. In short, my life's work is focused centrally on the mission of progressive movement-building at the local level. But I also believe such endeavors should follow clear "theories of change," which is why I flip between grassroots organizing, C3 work, legal advocacy, political campaigns, and many other tactics. Right-wing activists make no distinctions between various tactics, and I'm determined to push progressive Democrats in the same strategic direction. Being progressive isn't just about casting the right vote; it's about leading on issues. This is precisely what I've tried to do, by predicting what the next set of winnable issues are and working with coalition partners to make their advocacy goals come alive.

32. Anything else you want to tell us about you or your campaign?

For an aggressively progressive campaign, we have an enormous amount of support from institutional players ranging from the teachers union and League of Conservation voters, to numerous elected officials in Maryland. In many ways, this speaks to the time and attention I have put into building meaningful relationships with the state's key political players. I have built this network intentionally, for the purpose of becoming a more effective issue advocate. With a strong chance of now being elected, I am confident my skills and relationships will afford me many opportunities to move the needle on progressive issues that are currently "stuck" in Annapolis. I plan to quietly lay the groundwork for a progressive legislative caucus to help move ambitious social and economic justice legislation. Let's get this done!