



## **ASSOCIATION OF BLACK DEMOCRATS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

Thank you for your interest in completing the Association of Black Democrats of Montgomery County's 2018 Primary Election questionnaire. Candidates who wish to be considered for endorsement must return the completed questionnaire to the Nominations Committee at **ABDNomComm@gmail.com** by **Wednesday, April 18 at midnight.**

### **Campaign Profile:**

Candidate (Name as it will appear on the ballot):

Marc Korman

Office Being Sought:

Delegate, District 16

Campaign Contributions & Cash on Hand:

Approx. \$150,000

Other Endorsements:

MCEA, Sierra Club, LCV, Casa in Action, Green Democrats

ABD membership status (Current/Expired/Never Joined):

I believe my membership has expired.

### **Questionnaire:**

1. What do you think are the top three priorities of the Black community in Montgomery County and across the state of MD? On what data are these impressions based?

Education: Of course, this is not only an issue for the Black community, but education is the great equalizer in our state and ensuring our Black students succeed and prosper in school will help them get a strong start in life. That is why I support strong funding for our schools. As one example, according to a Montgomery County Office of Legislative Oversight report the Black graduation

rate in 2013 was 83.9% compared to a white graduation rate of 94.7%.

**Criminal Justice Reform:** Sadly, this is an issue that disproportionately affects the Black community, which for too long has been unfairly harmed by regressive criminal justice policies. I have been proud to vote for the Justice Reinvestment Act, ban the box, and efforts to reform our cash bail system.

**Economic Opportunity:** As with all communities, the Black community would benefit from increased access to economic opportunity. That is particularly true of the Black community because of the wealth gap and income inequality. Increased opportunities for jobs and to start businesses are absolutely vital.

2. For the office that you're running for, what are your top three priorities for the **criminal justice system** as it relates to the Black community and why?

First, continue efforts to reform the cash bail system. I was one of the state legislators that originally wrote to the Attorney General regarding the constitutionality of cash bail. I helped champion the Court of Appeals rule reforming cash bail and fought off efforts to undermine it legislatively. Those efforts must continue.

Second, I believe we should legalize (and regulate and tax) recreational marijuana. I co-sponsored HB 1264, a constitutional amendment that would have put that issue on the ballot.

Third, mental health and substance abuse must be brought front and center into the criminal justice process. Many of those in and out of prison have such challenges, which need to be treated as health issues, not criminal justice issues.

3. What initiatives have you supported or would you propose to prevent housing discrimination and increase access to affordable **housing**?

In the 2017 legislative session, I voted for the Home Act (HB 172), to ensure that landlords cannot discriminate on the basis of source of income. I will also do what I can to support increasing the county's moderately priced dwelling unit requirements to ensure we have affordable housing dispersed throughout the county and not just concentrated in certain neighborhoods.

4. How will you dismantle the **school to prison pipeline**?

Many of the criminal justice policies described above would assist with this issue. In addition, continuing to expand state apprenticeship programs will help shift students directly into the workforce.



5. Recent studies have shown that a **wealth gap** between white and black households exists, and it will take approximately 200 years to close. How do you propose to close the gap?

One of the most startling news stories I have read was about the recent report that income disparities prevail along racial lines regardless of family income. That demonstrates that it is not enough to just increase the wealth of a few, but we must ensure equality of opportunity and really make a cultural change as to how we view people of different races and backgrounds. These are significant, societal challenges. In the short-term, Maryland can invest more in schools, continue to reform the criminal justice system, and create more economic opportunities.

6. How would you ensure greater participation of **Black-owned businesses** in the procurement process?

Maryland has a goal for 70 state agencies that 29% of the agencies' total annual expenditures through procurement go to minority owned businesses. But the state has not met the goal each year. The current estimate is that they will get 90% of the goal next year, but that may be overly optimistic as the last few years the achievement rate has been in the low 70s. As a first step, the state should work to achieve its existing goal to follow through on past promises.

7. Do you support a single-payer **healthcare** system? And if so, how do you propose to pay for it?

I co-sponsored two single-payer pieces of legislation during the current session (HB 1516 and HB 660) and support such proposals. The exact payment stream will depend on the cost, but I am happy to support revenue increases targeted to specific purposes such as this.

8. As an organization that represents and is comprised of members from across the African diaspora, your stance on the Trust Act is of importance to our organization. Do you support the **MD Trust Act**? (Yes/No)

I co-sponsored and voted for the Trust Act during the 2017 session and co-sponsored the 2018 version, which has not been voted on.

9. For every dollar we invest in **public transportation**, we get \$4 of economic activity. What will you do in the office you are seeking to invest in multi-modal public transportation?

I am a major advocate for public transportation and sponsored legislation to dramatically increase funding for both the Maryland DC-area suburbs transit system and the Baltimore City systems. Now those efforts must shift to ensuring the dollars are spent appropriately, as we also continue new public transit efforts such as Countywide Bus Rapid Transit, improved MARC service, and the

Corridor Cities Transitway.

10. **Education** is the great equalizer. Our organization has advocated for equitable access to quality educational opportunities from pre-K to post secondary.

a. Do you support universal Pre-K? (Yes/No)

Yes.

b. Do you support free community college/higher education opportunities? (Yes/No) If so, how will you pay for this?

Yes. As with single payer healthcare, I am happy to support targeted revenue increases for purposes such as this from any number of sources.

11. Please take an opportunity to share any additional information that may not have been captured above. (**Optional**)