

*This questionnaire contains cross references (CRF) to questions presented in the 2018 Conservation Candidate Questionnaire of the Maryland LCV; Sierra Club-Maryland Chapter; and Clean Water Action*

Questions for State Candidates for Maryland offices  
(Governor, State Senate, and House of Delegates)  
from the Montgomery County Green Democrats

A. Environmental Toxins

1. What is your top priority in reducing impervious surfaces?

I support state efforts to reduce impervious surfaces—such as the stormwater management fee—but I also believe zoning authority at the local level should be used to encourage better development patterns and reduce the use of impervious surfaces.

2. Do you support

a. Banning tire waste from playground material? Regardless, what should be done with tire waste?

I support such a ban (see below). Safer disposal or recycling methods will need to be developed. One method is to remove metal and other materials from the rubber and re-use the rubber in manufacturing.

b. Use of real grass fields rather than synthetic turf? Does your answer depend on whether plant-based infill is required for synthetic turf?

I support real grass over artificial turf. I have co-sponsored several pieces of legislation to prioritize natural fields over artificial turf, including legislation by Delegate Aruna Miller to require certain notice provisions and ban the use of Program Open Space funding for artificial turf. Plant-based infill is preferable to crumb rubber, of course.

c. Health hazard evaluation of toxins and worker protection (CRF-13. See also CRF-19) wherever concerns are raised?

Yes. I also advocated to ensure that HB 211 in 2016 would not preempt Montgomery County's pesticide law, which should be expanded statewide.

3. Do you support reducing fertilizer and pesticide runoff from manicured lawns, golf courses, and farms? (CRF-6,8,19) If so, what steps do you recommend taking in order to accomplish this goal?

Yes, Maryland can lead the way on funding pilot programs, training workshops, and publishing best practices for farmers to adopt their practices for the 21st century. Similar efforts can be taken for lawns and golf courses. I supported efforts to avoid pre-empting Montgomery County's pesticide law and would like to see it expanded.

## B. Air Quality

### 4. Do you support closing the Dickerson coal power plant? (CRF-4)

Yes, Maryland should do as much as possible to remove itself from coal-fired power plants. However, this needs to be done in such a way that Maryland does not just shift its electricity generation to out-of-state plants. Because Maryland is part of the regional PJM grid, this requires careful planning and a transition period to avoid a simple shifting of sources.

### 5. What means would you support to encourage the use of public transportation? (CRF-17)

I have spent significant time in the General Assembly on issues related to public transportation. Funding from the state for public transportation can keep costs to the riders lower and service higher, encouraging more use. I have also supported legislation from my colleague Cory McCray to increase commuter benefits and have my own bill to require employers to offer such benefits. As co-chair of the WMATA-Metro Work Group and primary sponsor of legislation related to DC suburban Metro funding, I have worked extensively on this issue.

## C. Water Quality and the Chesapeake Bay

### 6. What programs do you propose to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed? (CRF-6,11)

I think all Marylanders share a desire for a clean, healthy, and thriving Bay even if they do not live alongside it. It is a source of pride for the state. Three areas that need to be further tackled over the next few years are regional solutions, the Conowingo Dam, and non-source pollution.

**Regional Solutions:** Maryland is an important part of Bay clean-up efforts, but the other states (and DC) in the Bay's watershed must continue to participate as well. Depending on the federal government's approach, this may become more difficult overtime and could require Maryland to step up to lead that regional effort more forcefully if the Environmental Protection Agency steps back.

**Conowingo Dam:** The sediment build-up behind the Conowingo Dam is not the reason the Bay needs clean-up and solving that does not solve every problem, as some have tried to argue. But

there is a legitimate issue there that must be addressed so the Dam can begin capturing sediment again and a release does not flood the Bay—by way of the Susquehanna—with more sediment.

Non-Source Pollution: Maryland's greatest progress has been with source pollution such as wastewater treatment plants. Much more needs to be done to limit non-source pollution in the Bay, such as basic run-off.

#### D. Solid Waste

7. Do you support a 5 cent fee on each plastic bag? (CRF-13,14)

I would support expanding Montgomery County's plastic bag fee statewide.

8. Do you support a 5 cent deposit on beverage containers?(CRF-13,14)

Yes.

#### E. Carbon Tax

9. Do you support a carbon tax? How do you propose to reduce energy use? (CRF-3).

Yes, I believe we can begin to expand carbon pricing to other sectors. While doing so, we should be mindful of the costs to Marylanders and, as much as possible, not pass significant costs on to them. As with RGGI, the goal should be to implement such programs regionally, which given Maryland's size is especially important. Programs should be set up to avoid leakage and arbitrage, as well as to prevent what amounts to a new financial derivatives market from developing. Massachusetts has looked at a state carbon tax and there could be useful information from that experience for Maryland to glean, as well as work that has been done in California and Europe. As for reducing energy use more broadly, the reauthorization of EmPOWER MD a few years ago, which I supported, is focused on precisely those issues and should be expanded so that consumers and businesses can be rewarded for reducing energy use.

#### F. Food Recovery

10. Do you support programs that would incentivize food recovery? (CRF-12)

Anything we can do to divert food from the waste stream and towards other uses should be considered. One example is a broad-scale curb-side composting program similar to the curb-side recycling program. We can also work with grocers and restaurants on diverting fresher foods towards low income and charitable uses, rather than the waste stream.

#### G. Candidate History

11. If an incumbent, what specific programs with substantial environmental consequences have you voted for or against? If not an incumbent, what such programs have you publicly favored or disfavored? (e.g. votes for and against pertinent legislation, participation in environmental conferences or litigation, etc.)

I am unaware of environmental legislation I have voted against. I have a 100% rating on the LCV Scorecard and am pleased to have been endorsed by LCV and the Sierra Club. In my short time in the legislature I have voted to increase the renewable portfolio standard and ban fracking. I have also passed my own legislation related to energy storage, which is critical for increasing the use of intermittent renewables. This year I have legislation related to maintaining our involvement in RGGI and requiring our state pension fund to assess climate risk.

Candidates please email your response to [greendemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:greendemocrats@gmail.com) by February 15, 2018