

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO
2018 CANDIDATE'S QUESTIONNAIRE

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Name Karen Elizabeth Porter

Address 4500 Forbes Boulevard Suite 200-
W17

City / County Lanham Zip 20706

Phone: (240) 714- 4255 Mobile (301) 547- 1440 Email voteforkarenporter@district
8.com

Candidate for: District 8

Campaign Committee Name and Address: Committee of Unity for Karen Porter

Campaign Committee Phone: (240) 714- 4255 Email / Web voteforkarenporter.com

Campaign Manager Yolanda Porter

Campaign Treasurer: Candace Wilson

Does your campaign accept PAC contributions? NO

Previously elected / appointed office:

Office N/A Term _____ Office _____ Term _____

Have you ever received labor's endorsement? No When? _____

PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY YOU SEEK LABOR'S ENDORSEMENT:

I am seeking Labor Endorsement because I am for equality for all employees and I know that if we have a collaborative partnership that we can have a greater impact in improving the lives of the community.

SIGNATURE: Karen Elizabeth Porter DATE: 3 May 2018

SIGNATURE: *Karen Elizabeth Porter* Karen Elizabeth Porter DATE: May 03,
2018 _____

Please return your signed questionnaire by Friday, May 4, 2018 to the below address:

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

Attn.: David Dzidzienyo

815 16th St NW, Washington, DC, 20006

Submissions can also be e-mail to ddzidzienyo@dclabor.org

2018 Candidate Questionnaire

A. Workplace Rights: (Please answer by checking the box)

There are certain basic workplace rights that the unions and members of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO believe are fundamental and absolutely essential. Collective bargaining elections and representation are permitted for private sector employees, whereas for public sector employees in Maryland, legislation is required in order to have those same rights. Over the past decade, these rights have been given to many state, higher education and K-12 public school education employees and some county employees. However, thousands of public sector employees are still denied these rights.

1. Would you support comprehensive collective bargaining legislation that would provide collective bargaining rights (including exclusivity, binding arbitration and an independent labor board) for all public employees-local, county, school boards and state?

Support

Oppose

Not sure

What is your position on each of these fundamental rights?

2. The right of workers to organize and have union representation

Support

Oppose

Not sure

3. The right to freely exercise workplace rights free from harassment, intimidation and/or delays

Support

Oppose

Not sure

4. The right to bargain collectively with a legal obligation on both sides to negotiate in good faith

Support

Oppose

Not sure

5. The right to resolve differences in a fair, impartial and timely manner, including binding arbitration

Support

Oppose

Not sure

The National Labor Relations Act grants private sector workers the right to organize themselves and be represented by a union in collective bargaining negotiations. From time to time, opponents of collective bargaining propose legislation to curtail workers' bargaining strength and effectiveness. Under the innocuous sounding name of "Right-to-Work," this legislation purports to protect the rights of workers and improve the state's economic development climate. But the net result in Right-to Work states is that workers earn less, have fewer health care benefits and have higher job fatality rates. Right to Work laws prohibit workers from negotiating a "union shop" or "union security" clause in their contracts. Such a clause obligates those in the bargaining unit to pay their fair share of the collective bargaining representation costs. By wiping out that protection, Right to Work actually weakens the rights of working people.

6. Would you support Right to Work in Maryland?

Yes

No

Not sure

Opponents of the labor movement have tried in recent years to stifle labor's political and legislative voice through a friendly sounding proposal called "paycheck protection." It proposes to give rank and file members more control over how their dues money is spent. It does so by requiring unions to spend an incalculable amount of time and money jumping through bureaucratic hoops. The net effect is that it would make it virtually impossible for unions to represent their members in the political and legislative arenas.

7. What is your position on the so-called paycheck protection idea?

Support

Oppose

Not sure

Maryland's community colleges were established by state law and receive part of their funding from the state. Yet, unlike K-12 public school employees in each county, community college workers do not have the right to organize and engage in collective bargaining.

8. What is your position on granting collective bargaining rights to community college employees?

Support

Oppose

Not sure

When workers choose an exclusive collective bargaining representative, that union is legally obligated to represent every worker in the unit. Even when some people choose to be non-members, the union must represent them fully and fairly. In other words, those who pay dues are obligated to subsidize those who don't.

9. In your opinion, should a union be permitted to collect a service fee from non-members for the cost of union representation as long as there are protections for those who object on religious grounds?

Yes

No

Not sure

B. Health Care: (Please answer by checking the box)

The financial imperatives transforming the health care industry increasingly undermine the ability of clinicians to make health care decisions based strictly on the needs of their patients. This includes a pervasive practice by hospital corporations not to have on shift at all times a sufficient number of registered nurses taking care of patients, a practice which is dangerous for patients and studies show increases morbidity and mortality rates among hospital patients. Another manifestation of this problem is that Maryland has the longest emergency room wait times in the country, according to the US federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; one clear cause of this is understaffing in the ERs and other units of the hospitals. What steps would you pursue to protect and improve the quality of patient care in county hospitals and clinics? Do you support mandatory, minimum nurse-to-patient ratios in acute-care hospitals? Do you support measures to limit unsafe, premature discharges of patients or transfers from acute care hospitals to nursing homes or other sub-acute facilities? Do you support legislation to enact new protections for hospital patients warehoused in “observation status” with fewer protections accorded other patients?

Currently 28 million Americans, including 389,000 Marylanders, have no health insurance and tens of millions more across the country have inadequate insurance with high co-pays and deductibles that prevent them from seeking care. While this is an improvement from the number of uninsured people in the state before the passage of the Affordable Care Act and the expansion of Medicaid in Maryland, it is still unacceptable to the state’s registered nurses. Over 10% of Maryland’s population (i.e., over 600,000 people) still cannot afford to see a doctor.[1] This situation will get worse if CareFirst, the state’s dominant health insurance carrier, obtains its requested 52% rate hike from the Maryland Insurance Administration. President Trump and Congressional Republicans have sought to make a bad situation much worse by attempting to pass (unsuccessfully thus far) new federal legislation that will deny care to an additional 22 million people, including those in Maryland dependent on Medicaid and the ACA exchanges. But even without these Republican proposed changes, the US still ranks poorly among industrial nations in a large number of health indicators, despite paying more per capita than most other OECD countries.

1. Do you believe that health care is a human right? Are you in favor of a publicly-administered, single-payer universal health care system? Will you champion legislation to implement such a plan in the State of Maryland?

Yes

No

Not sure

2. Nurses have some of the highest rates of work-related, musculoskeletal injuries of any occupation. Do you support legislation that would require that hospitals institute and utilize lift teams and lift equipment, and that also protects the rights of nurses to speak out regarding unsafe patient care practices?

Yes

No

Not sure

3. The rates of workplace violence in health care settings have risen to epidemic proportions. The Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that 48% of all non-fatal injuries from occupational assaults and violent acts occurred in healthcare and social service settings. Healthcare workers specifically are five times more likely, than all other major industries combined, to be the victim of assault. Thus far, California is the only state to have passed comprehensive workplace violence prevention legislation to protect registered nurses and other healthcare workers. In order to be effective, such a standard must mandate that every hospital develops a workplace violence prevention plan in conjunction with registered nurses that is unique to the needs of each unit, and is in effect at all times in every unit. It must include hazard identification and correction procedures, annual program evaluation, in-person training for all employees and sufficient staffing to respond to workplace violence incidents. Do you support the creation of a comprehensive workplace violence prevention standard for healthcare workers in Maryland?

Yes

No

Not sure

As health care costs continue to escalate, many Marylanders do not have access to affordable quality health care services.

4. What should the next Administration and General Assembly do to solve this problem?

Leave it to the federal government to fix

Do nothing/monitor the situation

Adopt a state universal health care system

Provide coverage to the uninsured but leave private insurance plans in place

Other (please specify)

D. Education: (Please answer by checking the box)

1. Would you support returning to an all-elected Board of Education for PGCPS?

Yes

No

Not sure

2. Would you support removing all authority of the Country Executive from PGCPS? Including returning the CEO position to that of Superintendent as outlined by the State.

Yes

No

Not sure

3. Will you as an elected official commit to providing a budget that will fully support the Prince George's public school system and the necessary resources needed?

Yes No Not sure

4. Do you support collective bargaining for teachers in Charter Schools?

Yes No Not sure

Maryland continues to have one of the best public education systems in the country. Much progress has been made since 1999 and the establishment of the Thornton Commission and the passage of legislation based on the commission's recommendations.

5. Do you support Full Funding for Thornton?

Yes No Not sure

C. Accountability/Economic Development: (Please answer by checking the box)

Good Jobs First has developed model legislation aimed at improving government transparency and accountability for subsidized economic development projects. Many states and municipalities have adopted the model legislation.

As an elected County official, will you introduce and support legislation to (Please check all that apply):

Require company-specific reporting for each subsidy deal as originally granted, and annual reporting for each deal's actual outcomes with regard to jobs created, wages and benefits paid, capital invested, and other public benefits.

Establish job creation standards for economic development projects receiving County subsidies, such as the number of new full-time jobs that must be created for a specified level of financial assistance

Establish job quality standards for economic development projects receiving County subsidies, such as the number of hours that must be worked per week, provision of paid leave, provision of health insurance, apprenticeship participation, and wage standards

Recapture or rescind subsidies if a recipient fails to achieve its job creation, wage and healthcare requirements

Require annual reporting of companies receiving County property tax abatements and reductions

Require a publicly accessible unified economic development budget that provides a comprehensive accounting of economic development spending all in one place

E. Standing with the Democratic Party: (Please check all that apply)

Every four years, the Democratic Party establishes its party platform—the ideas and beliefs that govern the party as a whole. In 2016, the platform included the following tenets related to workers. As a Prince George’s County councilmember and member of the Democratic Party, please indicate which of the following you support.

- Make it easier for workers to exercise their right to organize and join unions
- Bring companies to the negotiating table
- Support binding arbitration to help workers who have voted to join a union reach a first contract
- Oppose so-called “right to work” laws
- Vigorously oppose any efforts to roll-back prevailing wage standards
- Defend the right of workers to collect their defined benefit pensions and ensure workers get priority and protection when pension plans fail
- Make investments to spur the creation of jobs for our young people
- Fight to ensure every American has access to quality, affordable health care
- Push for more educational benefits and job training for veterans

THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CANDIDATES

H. Strengthening Prince George's County's PLA Ordinance: (Please answer by checking the box)

Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) have been proven to bring in projects on time and on budget. They also have the added benefit of building community partnerships with contractors and unions to hire locally, provide family healthcare, pensions, and a career path for residents.

Across the DMV, LiUNA has been successful securing PLAs on a wide range of projects, including the DC United Soccer Stadium, the Wizards Practice Facility, the Northeast Boundary Tunnel, and the South Capitol Street Bridge in Washington, DC; the Purple Line in Maryland; and the 395 HOT Lanes in Virginia, among others. This pipeline of projects enables laborer apprentices to move from project to project as one ends and another begins, accumulating the hours they need to graduate and become journey workers earning family-supporting wages.

While the County Executive for Prince George's County has had the express authority since 2011 to execute PLAs on County-funded projects of \$1 million or more, only one project (the Brandywine Firehouse in 2012) was built with a PLA. There has been virtually no effort by the County Executive to utilize this authority since then.

1. As a Prince George's County elected official, will you introduce and support legislation to require PLAs on County construction projects valued at \$20 million or more unless the County Executive indicates in writing why a PLA on a particular project would not be in the best interest of residents?

Yes

No

Other (explain below)

Comments: I support this project because it will benefit the residents in Prince George's County and will build the community which will provide extensive services for the people.

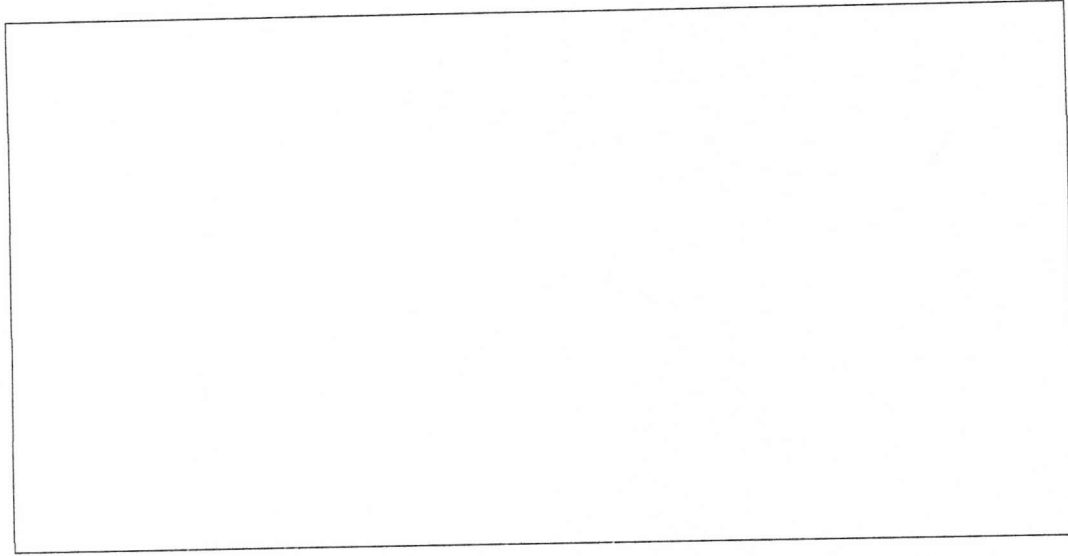
Prince George’s County has pockets of poverty and high unemployment. According to *The Workforce Landscape in Prince George’s County*, nearly 10 percent of residents live in poverty, and many of the communities that border the District of Columbia have unemployment rates in the double-digits, including Oxon Hill, Bladensburg, Capitol Heights, and Hyattsville.

Despite these dire statistics, the County’s local hiring ordinance only sets “best efforts,” aspirational goals for County contractors. In contrast, other jurisdictions that have adopted local hiring ordinances have established very specific requirements for their contractors, and levy fines when violations occur. Some of these jurisdictions include the District of Columbia, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Seattle, and Milwaukee.

2. As a Prince George’s County elected official, will you introduce and support legislation to amend the County’s local hiring and apprenticeship ordinances to set firm requirements rather than “best efforts” or aspirational goals for County contractors?

Yes No Other (explain below)

Comments: I will introduce and support legislation that will reduce poverty and high unemployment in Prince George’s County by requiring contractors to follow specific requirements because when the standards are set at a high limit then either the contractor will abide by the requirements and if not there will be consequences if they failed to meet the requirements.



3. Short-term rental companies like, Airbnb, have grown exponentially in the last few years. In order to protect our neighborhoods and communities against commercial operators who convert valuable housing to de facto hotels, do you support stronger regulations of short-term rentals that would track short-term rentals, limit them to primary residences, and put a reasonable cap on the amount of days a host can share their home while not present?

Yes

No

Other (explain below)

Comments: I believe that Airbnb need to be held to a higher standards and there needs to be stricter regulations to protect and preserve our communities from being de-valued.

4. During the past several years, real estate developers have taken advantage of Prince George's County by seeking financial subsidies for low-quality, sprawl developments with no protections to ensure high-quality jobs are created or that workers are treated fairly. This approach is exacerbating inequality in the County. Would you require developers to hold to

high standards for job quality, and work to ensure the right of their employees to join a union without fear or intimidation, whenever the County is involved in development projects?

Yes

No

Other (explain below)

Comments: I support developers being held to a higher standard to ensure that the quality of work is meeting the guidelines and that employees are being treated equally and fair despite if they choose not to join the union.

I. Transportation: (Please provide your response on a separate sheet).

Health Care:

What steps would you pursue to protect and improve the quality of patient care in County hospitals and clinics?

The first step is to increase the registered nurses and doctor ratio to patients so the patients can get the best care in a timely manner. The second step is to ensure that the patient's needs are being met by providing other medical professionals to assist with reducing the wait time and prevent fatalities. The final step is to train doctors and nurses to treat each patient with dignity and respect and providing the professionals with support from the administration of the hospital.

I do support mandatory, minimum nurse to patient ratio in acute care hospitals because these patients need immediate care in order to diagnose and treat the underlying condition. Yes, I support measures that will reduce unsafe, premature discharges of patients or transferring them to other facilities because these patients will receive the proper care in order for their medical needs to be met so they can receive a continual care at other facilities if deemed necessary.

I do support legislation that will protect patient's rights, and the proper services that they need in order to receive the proper treatment and reduce dehumanization.

Do you believe health care is a human right?

I believe that health care coverage is a human right and I am in favor of a universal health care system because every human need will be met and this system will be patient centered. I will advocate for a universal health care system which will provide uninsured individuals the right to receive services.

It is imperative that nurses are being taken care of so they can provide the patients with the best health care and prevent them from suffering injuries. By providing hospitals with lift equipment will reduce injuries for nurses and provide patients with the best care and reduce possible injuries for the patients. It is important that nurses be able to advocate for their patients without any repercussions of speaking out in regards to unsafe patient care practices.

Transportation:

1).I am in favor of proposing to provide WMATA dedicated funding because this will provide a safer and more reliable transportation for the people. Once the WMATA 2019 budget is approved, I would like to implement a policy that will allow each jurisdiction to receive the proper funding to enable this project to be effective and sufficient.

2).I will set up quarterly meetings where employees could come and express how they feel and be heard about their concerns and support them with providing them with the support that is needed and solutions to their concerns.

Candace Kaur Elizabeth Potter

Transportation contin...

- 3). I will set up mandatory meetings where we will address the safety issues and implement regulations to protect employees.
- 4). I will implement a policy with companies that will focus on providing employees with a pension and not focus on labor cost but on the well being and protection of workers and meeting their needs.
- 5). I believe that the federal control board to run WMATA would not be beneficial for the workers and those that are using the transit services. In my professional opinion, I believe the federal government would provide more funding; however the concerns of the people that work for the transit system and the consumer needs will not be met and would complicate the current local structure.

Bail Reform:

- 1). I believe based on the nature of the offense and if they are a high flight risk then defendants should not be giving a bond but if they are poor that should not be a deferring factor of why the individual is not eligible for a bond.

Confederate Monuments and Memorials:

- 1). I agree that the tax payers funds should not be created, maintained, or displayed on any federal property. I am a Veteran of the United States and I believe what the flag represents. 2). I am in favor of removing "Confederate symbols" from libraries, parks, streets, and public buildings, even though these symbols represent history it also support and defame and oppress people based on their ethnicity in order to promote their own political or personal stance.

Metropolitan Washington Council: AFL-CIO 2018 PG/Montgomery Counties Primary Election Candidate
Questionnaire

At the federal level, legislation is being proposed that would prohibit the use of taxpayer funds for the creation, maintenance, or display of any Confederate symbols on Federal property. The Federal proposal defines "Confederate symbol" as a Confederate battle flag, any symbol or other signage that honors the Confederacy, any monument or statue that honors a Confederate leader or soldier or the Confederate States of America. Localities across the nation are having this debate.

2. What is your position on this matter?
3. Should there be legislation removing Confederate symbols from libraries, parks, streets, and public buildings?

Candidate (Please Print Legibly): Karen Elizabeth Porter

Signature: Karen Elizabeth Porter

Date: 3 May 2018

Thank you.