Metropolitan Washington Council
AFL-CIO

2018 Prince Georges/Montgomery Counties
PRIMARY ELECTIONS

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Overview:

The Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO, is comprised of 180 local unions representing working people in all public industry sectors. The Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO's priorities are outlined below:

- creating family sustaining jobs for all;
- investing in education, infrastructure, healthcare and transportation;
- improving the lives of workers through education, quality job training, career
- advancement and livable wages with good benefits;
- ensuring fair, progressive tax policies;
- making high-quality, affordable healthcare available to everyone;
- holding corporations and government more accountable to ensure that the public good
- is served by taxpayer dollars; and
- ensuring that a worker's universal right to organize and to bargain collectively for
- wages, hours and conditions of work are maintained and enforced.

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO

2018 CANDIDATE'S QUESTIONNAIRE

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Name _____Sara Love_____

Address ____P.O. Box 367_____

City / County ____Cabin John/Montgomery_____ Zip _____20818___

Phone: _____ Mobile _301.768.4308_ Email ____Sara@SaraLove2018.com____

Candidate for: ____District 16 Delegate_____

Campaign Committee Name and Address: ____Friends of Sara Love, P.O. Box 367, Cabin John, MD 20817_____

_____

Campaign Committee Phone: _301.768.4308_ Email / Web __www.SaraLove2018.com___

Campaign Manager: ___Daniel Allen_____

Campaign Treasurer: ___Elizabeth Ellis_____

Does your campaign accept PAC contributions? _____Yes_____

Previously elected / appointed office:

Office _____ Term _____ Office _____ Term _____

Have you ever received labor's endorsement? _____ When? _____

PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY YOU SEEK LABOR'S ENDORSEMENT:

I believe in and support the efforts of labor to improve the lives of workers and would be have your endorsement.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: __4/1/18____

Please return your signed questionnaire by Thursday, November 30, 2017 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 q Oppose q Not sure

What is your position on each of these fundamental rights?

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

   ✓ Support q Oppose q Not sure

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

   ✓ Support q Oppose q Not sure

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

   ✓ Support q Oppose q Not sure

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

   ✓ Support q Oppose q 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?

qYes ✓q No q 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?

q Support ✓q Oppose q 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?

✓q Support q Oppose q 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?

✓q Yes q No q Not sure

except I don't believe in refusal clauses (e.g. religious exemptions)

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?

   q Yes ✓ q No q 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?

   q Yes ✓ q No qNot 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 q No q 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?
   - q Leave it to the federal government to fix
   - q Do nothing/monitor the situation
   - q Adopt a state universal health care system
   - q Provide coverage to the uninsured but leave private insurance plans in place
   - ✓ Other (please specify) While universal coverage is desirable, it is complicated, so in the process of working out those details we need to support and improve employer-sponsored, publicly-financed and individual-purchased plans.

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

Not applicable - I'm in Montgomery County

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

   qYes q No q 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.

   qYes q No q 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?

   qYes q No q Not sure

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

qYes q No q 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?

qYes q No q Not sure

and Kirwan

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):

Not Applicable - I am running for the General Assembly

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.

Not Applicable

- ☐ 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 MONTGOMERY COUNTY CANDIDATES

NOT APPLICABLE - I am a state candidate

F. Extending Montgomery County's Prevailing Wage Law to Include School Construction:
(Please answer by checking the box)

Prevailing wage laws assure that workers on public works projects are paid a wage that is most common or "prevailing" for a specific job in a specific geographic location. They prevent contractors from undermining local employment by low bidding or bringing in workers at lower wages.

MCPS is budgeting its school construction projects to avoid paying prevailing wages—seeking to achieve cost savings by paying construction workers as little as possible in a county with a high cost of living.

Maryland enacted its prevailing wage legislation in 1945. Montgomery County enacted its prevailing wage law in 2008, but excluded school construction projects. Consequently, MCPS construction is governed solely by the State's prevailing wage law. The threshold for applying the State's prevailing wage law occurs when the state funds 75% or more of total project costs.

According to OLO Report 2017-4, "New School Construction Costs," by Stephanie Bryant, to avoid paying prevailing wages on its school construction projects, MCPS does not request more than 24.9 percent of state funding for any school projects.

1. As a Montgomery County elected official, will you introduce and support legislation to close the loophole and extend the County's prevailing wage law to cover County school construction projects?

Yes No Other (explain below)

Comments:

G. Establishing a Montgomery County 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 area, 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 suburban 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.

Other jurisdictions have also adopted PLA ordinances. For example, in Prince George's County, the County Executive has had express authority since 2011 to execute PLAs on County-funded projects of $1 million or more. In the District of Columbia, a law was passed in 2016 requiring PLAs on city-funded construction projects valued at $75 million or more, unless the Mayor indicates in writing that such an agreement is not in the best interest of the District.

1. As a Montgomery 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?

qYes q No q Other (explain below)

Comments:

2. Will you sign PLA's per Current county law?

qYes q No

3. Will you adopt apprenticeship readiness programs with RFP's on County projects?

qYes q No

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?

qYes q No q Other (explain below)

Comments:

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?

qYes q No q Other (explain below)

Comments:

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?

qYes q No q Other (explain below)

Comments:

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?

qYes q No q Other (explain below)

Comments:

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

1. Going into WMATA's FY2019 budget season, politicians, community groups, labor, and business groups have weighed in on the dedicated funding debate. If you are elected, what would you propose to provide WMATA dedicated funding, and how would you navigate the politics of the situation and unite the jurisdictions around your proposal?

I support the legislation sponsored by Sen. Feldman and Del. Korman creating a dedicated source of funding, as well as how they have united the 3 jurisdictions around dedicated funding.

2. In the last few months, there have been several major safety concerns that have been raised publicly?

Sorry, I don't understand the question.

3. ATU Local 689 leadership and members. From operator assaults to issues with the 7000 series trains, the public has seen that WMATA management doesn't seem to be able to create a true safety culture at WMATA. How would you work with and support employees who raise safety concerns and are ignored?

One of the things I am most proud of during my time as the Policy Director of the ACLU of Maryland was bringing groups together to solve problems. If elected, I would do the same with employees and employers to resolve safety concerns.

4. In addition, how would you work with labor to help tackle the larger issue of establishing a safety culture at WMATA and solving some of the recent safety issues, like operator assault, that have been brought to the forefront?

In the same manner: bringing groups together, listening to their concerns and working together to come up with solutions.

5. With the recent revelation that WMATA and ATU Local 689 have reached an impasse in negotiations due to their inability to agree regarding the employee's defined benefit pension, many politicians and advocates for privatization have tried to make a case for lowering "labor costs" by eliminating hard earned, very basic worker protections. How would you champion worker protections and change the narrative surrounding "labor costs" and defined benefit pension costs?

It is unfair to workers that instead of higher wages they negotiate pension benefits, only to see those benefits taken away. If elected, I would work with unions, advocates and colleagues to protect workers and the benefits they have been promised.

6. In the last six months, there has been a lot of discussion surrounding the possibility of the establishment of a federal control board to run WMATA. If that happened, the possibility of eliminating legally binding labor contracts would become a reality, endangering thousands of workers. What are your thoughts regarding the takeover of a federal control board and would you be open to adding a labor seat to the WMATA Board?

I need to learn more about this issue. Adding a labor seat to the Board sounds reasonable.

J. Bail Reform: (Please provide your response on a separate sheet).

Under the current money bail system, judges in Maryland typically set financial conditions of release, with little consideration as to whether the defendant can meet them. Defendants must then either pay the court or a commercial bail bondsman to get out of jail. Those who can't afford bond often remain incarcerated until their cases go to trial, sometimes for periods of weeks or longer.

1. Maryland's highest court approved key changes to the state's bail system, setting into motion a reform designed to keep defendants from languishing in jail before trial simply because they're poor, do you support Bail Reform Efforts?

I have supported bail reform efforts for years, both as the Policy Director for the ACLU of Maryland and as a candidate.

K. Confederate Monuments and Memorials: (Please provide your response on a separate sheet).

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?

I believe we should neither celebrate the Confederate racist history, nor whitewash history so that no one understands what the Civil War was about or what the Confederacy was about. I don't think we should erect monuments to the Confederacy, and where ones exist, they should either be moved to a museum; replaced with a different monument; or have one to an African American placed next to it, with plaques added giving more historical context.

3. Should there be legislation removing Confederate symbols from libraries, parks, streets, and public buildings?

See above.

Candidate (Please Print Legibly): Sara Love

Signature: Sara Love

Date: 4/1/18

Thank you.