



**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 WILL JAWANDO

Address PO Box 10598

City / County Silver Spring, Montgomery County ZIP 20914

Phone: (240) 258-7632 Mobile(202) 69602133 Email will@willjawando.com

Candidate for: Montgomery County Council At-Large

Campaign Committee Name and Address : Will Jawando for County Council
9922 Grayson Avenue
Silver Spring, Md., 20901

Campaign Committee Phone (240) 258-7632_ Email / Web www.willjawando.com

Campaign Manager: Cecily Thorne

Campaign Treasurer: Chris Thorne

Does your campaign accept PAC contributions? No. We are in public financing.

Previously elected / appointed office:

Office _____ Term _____ Office _____ Term _____

Have you ever received labor's endorsement? Yes, proudly. When? In this race and in 2014, when I ran for state Delegate in D20.

PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY YOU SEEK LABOR'S ENDORSEMENT:

Labor's agenda is my agenda. I have worked throughout my public life on behalf of the people who are part of the Labor Movement. I understand the importance of collective bargaining for improving both the workplace and the life of the worker. I know that as the percentage of the workforce in labor unions increases, so do wages and the overall well-being of that workforce. I also know that, conversely, as engagement with labor unions goes down, so do wages, rights and the economic power of working families and the middle class.

I'm asking for Labor's endorsement in my campaign for an At-Large seat on the Montgomery

County Council because I believe we are aligned in our goals. Here in our community, we have something that I call the Montgomery County Promise. It's the idea that people live in Montgomery County because there's economic opportunity for all, world-class public schools, diverse and safe neighborhoods, and a life that comes with both quality and purpose. But I also know that we are not keeping that Promise to everyone. Many families are being left out of the Promise. Maybe their local school isn't getting the resources it needs because of the Zip code it's in. Maybe a reasonable home is out of their range because housing costs are skyrocketing. Maybe they can't afford or can't get to decent child care for their kids. Maybe they are stuck using a public transportation system that's increasingly unreliable, slow and narrow in reach.

We can do better.

I'm asking for Labor's endorsement because I know we all want the same thing in public life that I want: better lives for our working families. We can do that by keeping the Montgomery County Promise, and that's my pledge to you. I will strive for an economy that offers opportunity to all, affordable and accessible child care and early childhood education, the best schools we can possibly provide (with the "wrap around" resources we need to keep our kids and healthy). I know that Montgomery County can be a great place to raise a family, build a career, and retire in our homes with respect and dignity -- and that's a promise that is becoming increasingly out of reach for too many people. I'm asking for Labor's endorsement so we can be partners in keeping the promise to everyone. That's my goal, and why I'm asking for your help, and your endorsement.

SIGNATURE:



DATE April 24, 2018

Please return your signed questionnaire by Wednesday, April 25, 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

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?

Assuming these questions above need answering: Yes, I would support that goal of improving the quality of patient care in Montgomery County hospitals. I would need to find out more information about Montgomery County’s level of care, and the nurse-to-patient ratio in acute-care hospitals. I support legislation that prevents warehousing of patients or unsafe, premature discharge of patients to sub-acute facilities. I supported efforts by nurses at Holy Cross hospital in Silver Spring to organize into a collective bargaining unit.

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?

X 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?

X 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?

X 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 **YES**

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?

X 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?

X 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 MONTGOMERY COUNTY CANDIDATES

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)

ents:

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

Yes No

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

Yes 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?

Yes No Other (explain below)

ents:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the candidate to provide their responses to the questionnaire. The box is positioned below the 'ents:' label and occupies a significant portion of the page's vertical space.

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)

ents:

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)

ents:

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)

ents:

I. Transportation: ANSWERS PROVIDED BELOW.

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

J. Bail Reform: ANSWERS PROVIDED BELOW.

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?

K. Confederate Monuments and Memorials: ANSWERS PROVIDED BELOW.

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): WILL JAWANDO

Signature:



Date: April 24, 2018

Thank you.

Transportation:

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 dedicated funding for WMATA. We have suffered in Montgomery County from a historic imbalance in how we invest in transportation infrastructure, and I believe we must invest significantly in public transit and mass transit projects, over widening roadways. Further, I believe effectiveness in public office is often determined by how well one can work with others. I believe in personal relationships, and I believe in the power of an evidence-backed argument, and I would use my relationships and my data to bring more lawmakers from other jurisdictions into alignment with a proposal for long-term, dedicated WMATA funding.

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

A seat on the Montgomery County Council brings with it the power, and obligation, of oversight. I would use that oversight authority often and with rigor, to raise the public awareness of WMATA management decisions around safety issues for workers and for riders. I would seek a more transparency from WMATA leadership, accountability from WMATA leadership, and renewed commitments to the safety of riders whether they are on an escalator, in an elevator, standing on a platform or on a train.

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?

I would propose meeting regularly with labor to identify those issues and collect information that would aid me in making a public case for establishing a better safety culture at WMATA. I would seek to re-examine the partnership between the Montgomery County Police Department and the Metro Transit Police Department on the concurrent jurisdiction and how trains, tunnels, stations and parking lots are patrolled. I also believe labor should be a trusted source of ideas and proposals to improve safety for riders at every level of the Metro ridership experience.

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?

Part of this answer must recognize the long fight that is required to change this narrative, but it is a fight to which we must absolutely commit. I know the data, and I know how to make a case, from my time working on the staff of U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, when he assigned me to be his counsel to the Senate Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions Committee. I'm deeply aware of the issues surrounding the effort to strip worker protections, and how important it is we stop those efforts. As part of my strategy, I would want to raise the public profile of the people involved, and connect their stories with people who should be supporters but are not directly connected to Labor -- people who could put pressure on other elected officials to demand support for Labor's positions.

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 would oppose any effort to eliminate legally binding labor contracts. I would voice my opposition to that, and would work to add a labor seat to the WMATA Board.

Bail Reform:

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.

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?

Yes, I support bail reform efforts.

Confederate Monuments and Memorials.

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.

What is your position on this matter? I support prohibition of taxpayer funds for creation, maintenance or display of any symbol honoring the Confederacy on federal property.

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