

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO

2018 CANDIDATE'S QUESTIONNAIRE

GENERAL INFORMATION:

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Candidate for: [Prince George's County Council, District 5](#)

Campaign Committee Name and Address: [Friends of Jolene Ivey, PO Box 85, Bladensburg, MD 20710](#)

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Campaign Manager: [Donnie Arrington](#)

Campaign Treasurer: [Barbara Solt](#)

Does your campaign accept PAC contributions? [Yes](#)

Previously elected / appointed office: [Maryland House of Delegates, District 47](#) Term: [2007 - 2015](#)

Have you ever received labor's endorsement? [Yes](#) When? [During this campaign I have been endorsed by UNITE HERE Local 25; LiUNA; Teamsters Joint Council 55 & 730; IAFF Local 1619; SEIU 32-BJ; and UCFW Local 400. I was endorsed by most unions for my reelection to the House of Delegates in 2010. In my first campaign \(2006\) I was endorsed by the FOP. The Gansler/Ivey ticket received labor endorsements in 2014.](#)

PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY YOU SEEK LABOR'S ENDORSEMENT:

[I'm seeking labor's endorsement because we share the values of putting the rights of workers at the forefront of our mission. I have a record of working with organized labor to achieve our mutual goals, so I seek your endorsement to have a formal acknowledgment of that relationship. We](#)

share the goal of making our county stronger, more prosperous, and just. Our shared goal of quality development, strong schools, secure retirements, and safe communities will be achieved by making sure we have strong unions, economic justice, and public officials who will protect working people and their families.

Whether it was being the lead sponsor on the Millionaires' Tax, publishing an op-ed in support of Paid Sick Leave, or sponsoring the bill to allow undocumented immigrants to get their driver's licenses, I've proven that I'm a fighter, and not a fence-sitter, no matter how difficult or controversial the issue.

With a population of over 910,000 people, Prince George's County is larger than five states and the District of Columbia, and the responsibility of shaping and approving a budget of over \$4.1 billion is a serious responsibility. Bringing what I've learned in my business, volunteer, and legislative career, I have the experience, knowledge, and temperament to be a progressive force on the County Council.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

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 X

Oppose

Not sure

All workers need to have the unfettered right to organize, including public employees. The right to organize and collectively bargain is a right initially guaranteed by the National Labor Relations Act for the private sector. The on-going intentional and steady erosion of collective bargaining and the systematic undermining of the NLRA is hurting everyone, and it is angering. This erosion hurts not only private sector union members, but public employees and non-union workers as well. This erosion has contributed to income stagnation and rising inequality. I support and will continue to work to see that the right to organize and collectively bargain is expanded and guaranteed to every worker, and is a right that is not questioned or obstructed.

What is your position on each of these fundamental rights?

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

Support X

Oppose

Not sure

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

Support X

Oppose

Not sure

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

Support X

Oppose

Not sure

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

Support X

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! X

Not sure

"Right-to-work" laws should be seen for what they are: an attempt to undermine and impair the rights of workers to effectively organize to collectively bargain. I will continue to work against any efforts to pass so-called "right-to-work" legislation in Maryland.

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 X

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 X

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 X

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

Sadly and frustratingly, instead of expanding health care availability the current Republican Congress and Trump administration are doing all in their power to restrict and reduce access to affordable health care, resulting in more people being uninsured. They are doing everything they can legislatively and administratively to undermine Obamacare. This is infuriating. I support

universal health care as a fundamental right, and will continue to work toward this goal. A few other states have experimented with state universal health care systems, with mixed results. I strongly support working to find a just and equitable way to make affordable health care available to *everyone* living in the country. I support a national single-payer, Medicare-for-all-type system, but I also support Maryland experimenting to find a way to expand to affordable universal coverage instead of waiting for the federal government to act.

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)

I support a national single-payer, Medicare-for-all-type system, but I also support Maryland experimenting to find a way to expand to affordable universal coverage instead of waiting for the federal government to act.

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

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

Yes No Not sure

I support returning to an elected school board, but focusing on whether or not school board members are elected or appointed is a distraction from the real challenges facing our schools. What's more important is to make sure we have accountability for the success of our students.

We have had several changes in the past in the constitution of our school board with little improvement to show for it. Accountability and continuity is where I want the focus to be. Our students' educational success is my priority, and no board structure that we've had thus far has had a major positive impact.

2. Would you support removing all authority of the County Executive from PGCPSS? 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

Strong and vibrant schools are the key to the county's future, and robust funding for them is absolutely necessary if the county is to thrive. It may be time to look beyond the current sources of revenue to fund our schools at the level they require. Full funding to ensure strong schools is a must, and it is time to explore additional sources of revenue. Just because it's been done one way in the past is not a good enough reason to be closed to exploring new ways of doing things in the future.

I have already led an important, successful effort that led to significant increases in funding for Prince George's schools. In 2013, when serving as Chair of the Prince George's County House Delegation, I led the fight that amended the net taxable income portion of the state's education funding formula, which has resulted in many tens of millions of additional state funds coming to Prince George's County Schools in the years since.

The Kirwan Commission's recommendations implementation would dramatically improve school funding, but should come with funding sources included. The biggest problem with Thornton has been the lack of a funding source.

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

Yes No Not sure

Collective bargaining is one of the core and fundamental building blocks of a strong, responsive, and successful school system. I am a strong supporter of organizing and collective bargaining rights for *all* teachers, and my voting record in the Maryland House of Delegates reflects that support. It is beneficial for all concerned that collectively bargained contracts determine teacher benefits, salaries, and working conditions.

In 2010, as a member of the Maryland General Assembly, I supported and voted for the successful Fairness in Negotiations Act, which created the Public School Labor Relations Board, which strengthened the bargaining position of teachers.

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):

Yes X 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.

Yes X 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

Yes X 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

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

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

Yes X 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 council member and member of the Democratic Party, please indicate which of the following you support.

Yes X Make it easier for workers to exercise their right to organize and join unions

Yes X Bring companies to the negotiating table

Yes X Support binding arbitration to help workers who have voted to join a union reach a first contract

Yes X Oppose so-called “right to work” laws

Yes X Vigorously oppose any efforts to roll-back prevailing wage standards

The current prevailing wage laws serve an important function, and should be protected, preserved, and enforced. Economic justice and common sense tells us that full-time work should pay a family-supportable living wage, and our laws should not encourage or allow a competitive race-to-the-bottom.

It is important that Prince George's County be competitive with the surrounding jurisdictions, and that the county government strengthen enforcement, and ensure that contractors or subcontractors do not skirt or evade their obligations, in both pay and conditions.

Yes X Defend the right of workers to collect their defined benefit pensions and ensure workers get priority and protection when pension plans fail

Yes X Make investments to spur the creation of jobs for our young people

Yes X Fight to ensure every American has access to quality, affordable health care

Yes X 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 X No Other (explain below)

PLAs make beneficial and important contributions, and should be utilized for major county projects. In addition, the county should learn from other jurisdictions and see how the most successful ones work with developers in their contracts. For example, the City of Los Angeles has a "responsible contractor policy" that requires city agencies to consider bidders' background, and look into and consider past violations pertaining to labor, employment, environmental, and workplace safety. By considering more than the stated up front amount of the bid, which can hide the *true* cost of the project, our county could get the greatest value for our residents and our workers, and avoid long-term costly problems.

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 believe that part of our county's success relies on having more of our residents be union members. Unions increase training, professionalism, and higher salaries for their workers, all of which strengthen our County.

I am a strong and enthusiastic supporter of apprenticeship programs. They are win-win for all involved. It is appropriate that contracts have requirements to include apprenticeships in construction projects wherever possible. Doing so benefits the individuals involved, builds a skilled workforce and union membership for the future, and strengthens Prince George's families and economy.

A complaint heard too often from employers is the lack of qualified and skilled people to hire. For Prince George's County to grow, prosper, and remain competitive within the region, it is important to support the successful programs that train and educate our current and future workers.

I support specific efforts to ensure that county contracts include guidelines that a certain (and significant) percentage of the jobs will go to residents of Prince George's County. I feel strongly that such agreements should make sure that local residents are hired as much as possible.

Prince George's County should at least match, if not exceed, the guarantees of other regional jurisdictions. For example, the PLA for the construction of Nationals Stadium guaranteed that

50% of all apprentice hours worked on the stadium would be by D.C. residents who were enrolled in formal, registered apprenticeship programs. We should also include and expand such 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)

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)

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 supported the recently approved dedicated, permanent, long-term funding agreement for Metro.

The front-line employees who do the actual work at Metro should not bear the burden of closing financial shortfalls. The workers are a critical part of our transportation solution and we must respect their contributions and not blame them for any financial problems.

A strong and safe Metro is important to and benefits the entire region, and *not* just those who use and ride the system. The economic prosperity of the entire region is intertwined with Metro, and the ability to attract and fully realize future regional growth depends on an efficient, safe, and dependable public transportation system.

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

This is one more example of why workers need the right to organize, and have strong unions and the protections they fight for.

3. 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?

The workers themselves must be asked about their concerns and ideas on how best to keep them safe, and their concerns should be heard and acted upon. Policies to implement necessary changes should be rooted in the workers' own experiences. No one knows the issues and solutions better than those on the front lines.

4. 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?

Labor costs aren't the source of WMATA's financial struggles, so should not be seen as the solution. By increasing accessibility, safety, and reliability the public will rely on public transit and be more willing to support it in every way. The way forward relies on those who work every day to keep the trains (and busses!) literally running on time. Devaluing these workers undercuts these efforts.

Privatization is a bad idea. The need for profit should not drive public transit decisions. As has been demonstrated in failed attempts in other public spheres, privatization results in fewer protections, reduced wages, reduced services, and lax or unenforced standards. I will continue to work to oppose any privatization proposals.

5. 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?

Putting labor at the table of the WMATA board is a start to needed reforms, and I think it is a good idea that I support. Allowing a takeover by a federal control board is totally unnecessary and would be devastating.

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?

Yes. Defendants should be released to await trial if they are not a danger to the community. Their ability to pay should not be a factor.

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.

1. What is your position on this matter?

There should be no place for memorials honoring the Confederacy, or for those who fought for or supported the Confederacy. I feel strongly about this. The effort to secede from the Union was done in defense of slavery (in spite of false denials after the war that it was about issues other than the attempt to maintain the system of human chattel), and it was an act of treason. After Reconstruction there was a successful effort to maintain white supremacy both de facto and de jure, and the abhorrent Jim Crow laws were imposed. Further, in the decades after the conclusion of the Civil War the monuments erected to honor and commemorate the “lost cause” was an attempt to rewrite history and to make clear that the former slaves and their descendents should not be granted the equal rights guaranteed by the Constitution. This should be seen for what it is, and for what it represents. The statues and memorials are physical manifestations honoring oppression and terror, and should be removed root and branch from every corner of the nation. They are an affront to decency, justice, and human rights, and need to be removed completely, and as quickly as possible.

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

I fought for a decade -- even after returning to private life -- to get the Roger Taney statue removed from its placement in front of our State House. I was present last August, in the middle of the night, to witness its removal. That was one of the proudest moments of my life. These symbols of hate and oppression should never be allowed a public place of honor, and I strongly support every effort to remove them from all public places.

Candidate (Please Print Legibly): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Thank you.