

March 5, 2018

## 2018 Howard County Candidate Questionnaire MD General Assembly

Thank you for taking the time to fill out The People’s Voice (TPV) / Ethics Ballot 2018 Candidate Questionnaire which will be used in the TPV endorsement process.

**Publication:** Your answers are considered “on the record.” They will be circulated to all members of the TPV Board and may be published on the [TPV website](#).

**Endorsement Process:** TPV will endorse in several local races for the Primary Election in 2018, and will likely add more races to The Ethics Ballot for the General Election. Click on the “PAC – Ethics Ballot” tab at [www.ethicsballot.com](http://www.ethicsballot.com), and Star Logo info, for further details on endorsement criteria.

Please return questionnaires via email to [ethicsballot@gmail.com](mailto:ethicsballot@gmail.com) by **Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 1:00PM**. Please email any questions you have about this questionnaire. A Board Member will respond.

### Candidate Information

<b>Name</b>	Jennifer R. Terrasa
<b>Phone</b>	(410)446-5846
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.teamterrassa.com">www.teamterrassa.com</a> (in progress)
<b>Campaign Account Name</b>	Friends of Jennifer Terrasa
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Hendrix
<b>Chairman</b>	Alice Pham
<b>Campaign Manager</b>	n/a
<b>Funds Balance</b>	\$25,000

### 2018 Questionnaire Howard County – MD Delegate and Senator Candidates

1. Why are you running for this office? What qualifications do you uniquely bring to hold this office?

I am running for delegate because I want to continue serving our community and improving life for everyone in Howard County. These uncertain times on the national political scene call for state and local representatives to play an even greater role in addressing the problems that were once addressed at the national level, and, as a delegate, I know I will be part of the solution.

As a legislator, I have experience being a voice for the people,, standing up for our shared values, and solving problems to address community concerns. As a resident of Howard County for more than 40 years, I am passionate about serving the community where I grew up and where I have chosen to raise my three children. I've had the honor of serving Howard County's District 3 for over a decade, and during this time, I have consistently spoken out on issues that impact my community, from healthcare to transportation to education to making sure we are doing what needs to be done to ensure that members of our disability community are able to fully participate. Now, I look forward to using my experience and passion make a difference for the County on the State level.

My education and training as a lawyer and mediator, my experience as an activist, my nearly 12 years serving as a member of the Howard County Council, and my deep roots in this community combine to make me highly and uniquely qualified to represent our community at the State level. Prior to serving as a County Councilmember, I served on the Howard County Planning Board, on the Kings Contrivance Village Board, and as my HOA president which gave me hand-on experience addressing local issues. During my time on the Council, I have also served as the Council's representative to the Legislative committee of MACo (Maryland Association of Counties) which gave me a strong background in state issues and legislative solutions.

2. Describe why you feel you have a viable campaign.

I have represented Council District 3, which is a large portion of Legislative District 13, for the past 11 ½ years, and many in my district know my record of advocacy for our community. I have worked hard to listen, be responsive, and stand up for what I believe in, and I hope the people I have represented for years would agree. In addition, I have joined Team 13 - all of whom have served of community well for between 4 and 25 years, and because of that have also enjoyed strong community support.

3. How do you believe one eliminates the appearance of conflicts regarding campaign contributions?

The best way to do this is through campaign finance reform! The reality is that it takes money to run a campaign and people who are interested influencing the council are the most interested in investing greater amounts in local elections. The Citizens' Election Fund system that I co-sponsored, elevates the voice of small donors by matching small donations, thereby leveling the playing field.

4. If you are elected, or reelected, what are your top priorities for 2019?

Universal health care, improving our public transportation system and making sure it is fully integrated with other forms of transportation, disability issues, campaign finance reform, racial and economic justice, education.

5. Do you believe that local Boards of Education in MD should have the right to terminate their Superintendents for cause?

Absolutely. Without this ability, the BOE's ability to supervise the superintendent is severely limited, which leads to problems like the one we just finally came through this past year, culminating in the previous superintendent finally leaving. The lack of authority to terminate the superintendent had a high cost to Howard County taxpayers and wreaked havoc on our school system. It is important to make this change in order to prevent something like this from ever happening again.

6. Would you be willing to sponsor a Bill that elects the Howard County Board of Education members by district, and voted on by district? What districts do you believe are best to use? Why?

Yes. Although the current law that passed is a start (having members run by district but voted for by the entire county), I support expanding on this, by creating a system where board members are elected by district. I am open to other ideas but my current thinking is that these should be done by councilmanic district because these are appropriately sized, and because it will save the taxpayer money not to have to draw up all new districts.

7. Do you believe that local Boards of Education should control their calendars without mandated dates to start or end the school year?

Yes. And this is proving to be really complicated this year.

8. Would you be willing to sponsor a Bill that shifts the burden of proof in Special Education litigation from parents/guardians to the County School System?

Yes. As the parent of two HCPSS students with IEPs, I am very familiar with the IEP process and can speak to the difficulty of navigating the special education system in Howard County.

9. Do you believe that development fees should be increased in Howard County? Would you be willing to sponsor or vote for a Bill that allows Howard County to increase those fees? Would you be willing to enable Howard County that right in perpetuity? For all, why or why not?

Yes. Howard County developer fees are low in relation to what development costs the County and also in comparison fees in other similar jurisdictions. The state legislature must give the County authority to charge more. However, I do not believe those higher fees should allow for development to move forward in schools with up to 120% of school utilization capacity. Schools should not be allowed to get this crowded because that type of crowding can negatively impact education. I think it makes sense for the State to enable Howard County to set fees as appropriate. There is no legitimate need for the County to have to go the state first before raising fees as it deems appropriate.

10. Do you support or oppose the Potomac Pipeline? Would you allow the transportation of natural gas through Maryland by pipelines?

Oppose. No.

11. Do you support the ban on styrofoam in carryout packaging? Would you sponsor or support a ban or a fee on plastic grocery bags?

Yes. Yes.

12. What is your position on increased gun control? How would you go about increasing safety for our schools and/or other public venues?

I support comprehensive gun control including banning bump stocks and assault rifles, increased criminal backgrounds checks and eliminating loopholes, and removing guns automatically from people with protective order. I believe reducing access to guns is the number one way to make our schools and other public venues safer. We should also increase mental health services and teach people to recognize warning signs, however, our work on those other things should not detract from the bottom line need for comprehensive gun control.

13. Describe positions you have taken, or votes you have made, or causes you have championed, which you feel are the most important. Include information on any position or vote you regret, or about which you feel differently.

With over a decade of experience on the County Council and experience before that on the village board, there are many votes I have taken and causes I have championed over the years. A few that I am most proud of include: CB9, campaign finance reform, standing up to Howard Hughes including championing affordable housing and opposing the use of TIFs and holding firm on having them pay for their fair share. I'm proud of working with the autism society and other disability advocates to move forward, design, and obtain funding for an autism/sensory needs playground which is coming soon at Blaindair Park. I'm also proud of my work on power reliability with the Allview community, and supporting efforts to oust the superintendent and co-sponsoring legislation to hold the last BOE and prior superintendent accountable. These efforts included evaluation of mold and setting up a budget review committee, and relentlessly insisting on getting copies of the elusive DMC report. Prior to that I helped disclose the "Cradlerock Report," an evaluation of the combined K-8 model at Cradlerock School which deemed the project a failure and strongly recommended ending the combined model. This led to re-separating Cradlerock ES and Lake Elkhorn Middle School. Prior to being on the Council, I championed safety measures at Lake Elkhorn playground following the drowning death of a young child who had been playing at the playground.

The number one vote i regret is voting for the Downtown Columbia Plan in 2010. I always believed that the plan was far too intense but, knowing that plan would pass, I worked relentlessly both behind the scenes and publically to improve the plan before it could moved forward. Another vote I regret is the creation of R-H-ED during the last comprehensive zoning in a way that apparently did not ensure the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas.

The concept was good and did achieve one of the goals which was to keep the density from increasing to more than 70 units. However, over time, as the project for which this zone was moves forward through the planning and zoning process, it has become clear that the way DPZ views this zone, the density (i.e. presumed right to build a certain amount of units) has been seen as outweighing protecting environmentally sensitive areas.

14. Choose from topics below on women's rights and describe your positions, especially regarding any MD law you believe needs changing.

Employment (wage disparities, family leave) - I support paid family leave which is finally going into effect this year. We must expand on this so people do not have choose between taking care of a family member and losing their jobs. In addition, I support increasing minimum wage to \$15/hr, and SB377/HB512-2018 which would prohibit an employer from using salary history to determine salary for employees. This practice has a disproportionately negative impact on women and people of color. This legislation would also require employers to provide pay scale for a position upon request.

Safety (human trafficking, domestic abuse) - both of these are very important to me. Human trafficking is horrific and inhumane anywhere, and we should eradicate it wherever it exists. That it occurs but its existence locally is particularly shocking. I have been lobbying state legislators since at least 2013 because we must put an end to this abhorrent practice and make sure that those who trafficking in human being are severely punished. I support sensible gun control including closing loopholes that allow domestic abusers to keep their firearms. I also support HB191, Delegate Atterbeary's third attempt to remove provisions in the law allowing for child marriage.

Reproductive health - A woman's right to choose is fundamental and must be protected. We must protect against erosion of these rights.

15. How would you improve community living opportunities for people with disabilities?

Among the things I would work on are better public transportation so that people with disabilities that prevent them from being able to drive can get to work, the doctor, HCC, access other services, and socialize with peers. We also have a great need for accessible, affordable housing. This is something I would work on as well. in addition to increasing affordable housing, we need to look toward bringing creative, \*integrated\* living communities to our state specifically for adults with disabilities. Rather than segregated living, we should further incentivize developers and builders to include housing specifically for people with disabilities in their plans.

16. How much time do you believe should pass before it is allowed, in Ethics Regulations, before a prior elected official can be compensated by a private company that could have benefited from the decisions of that official?

I am open to a discussion on this but my initial thought would be 5-10 years. However, I definitely think there are some cases where the answer should be never.

17. Have you ever testified before the MD General Assembly? If so, describe positions you have taken.

Yes several times. Many years ago, I testified before the House Economic Matters Committee in support of on HB933-2001 (Unemployment Insurance – Eligibility for Benefits – Birth or Adoption). As a council member of I have testifies on many bills before the Howard County delegation, and worked directly with state legislators on legislation.

By Authority, The People's Voice PAC, Lisa Markovitz, Treasurer