

## **SEIU Local 500**

1. What are the three top issues motivating you to run for the Maryland House of Delegates/State Senate that would impact our members and their communities?

Major cuts to New Deal and Great Society programs are expected to try to fill the funding deficit resulting from the Republican tax bill. I will be a leader in working to diminish the harm such cuts would have on Maryland residents – families, seniors, and children.

We must continue to expand our right to vote and to protect against voter suppression. I will be introducing legislation to protect against outsiders' hacking into our election system and to require disclosure of social media ads by foreign entities.

I was the House sponsor of Maryland's original hate crimes law. My legislation next session will expand the definition of a hate crime to include an attempt to commit those criminal acts within that definition.

2. Community College staff and faculty are among the only public employees in Maryland who don't have collective bargaining rights. Over the past five years faculty and staff have been organizing and fighting for their right to collectively bargaining for better wages, benefits, and working conditions through passing legislation. Thus far they have been stopped in the General Assembly. SEIU finds this to be unacceptable in a state like Maryland! If elected, do you pledge to NOT ONLY support legislation granting collective bargaining rights to community college staff and faculty but also be a champion to ensure its passage in both chambers?

Yes, I co-sponsored HB871 (2017) that would have granted collective bargaining rights to community college staff and faculty. I will work with the General Assembly leadership to urge that this become a priority for us.

3. If yes, what are you willing to do to challenge leadership to ensure legislation granting collective bargaining rights to community college staff and faculty gets passed?

As a member of leadership, I will be able to advocate for this legislation before a decision is made and announced to the caucus.

4. Continuing on community college collective bargaining: What else will you pledge to do if elected?

I will vigorously support the Democratic Party nominee for Governor next fall. A Republican in residence at Government House is the biggest obstacle to expanding the right to collective bargaining here in Maryland.

5. Economic inequality is one of the greatest threats facing our nation and our state. If elected, what steps would you take to address this critical issue? Many local jurisdictions are passing minimum wage increases. We applaud Montgomery County for leading the way in Maryland. However, SEIU believes the state should be doing more to make \$15 the minimum wage for all Marylanders. Do you support a \$15 minimum for Maryland? If passed and vetoed by the Governor, are you willing to cast a vote to override a veto of any \$15 minimum wage legislation?

I was a co-sponsor of HB1416 (2017) that would increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour. I support a \$15/hour minimum wage for Maryland, and I would cast my vote to override a veto of any legislation enacting a \$15/hour minimum wage.

6. The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education provides a unique opportunity to fund public education at the necessary level to ensure student success. However, it also presents a potential threat to state funding that MCPS has been awarded through the Thornton Formula. No matter what the Kirwan Commission recommends to the state legislature, will you pledge to support a school funding formula that fully fund the education budget that includes the GCEI?

Yes, I enthusiastically support a school funding formula that fully funds the education budget. Education is the most important investment we make as a State in our future. We cannot “afford” to not fully fund our education promises to our children.

7. The Kirwan Commission is also exploring Universal Pre-Kindergarten for Maryland. SEIU Local 500 applauds this effort and is encouraged that the state understands the importance of structured early childhood education. However, we believe one size does not fit all in terms of delivering 0-5 age education. Will you commit to ensuring that any Universal Pre-K includes a diverse delivery system that allows for Family Child Care and Child Care Centers to be a part of the program?

Yes, I am an advocate Universal Pre-K, and part of that is making Pre-K educational opportunities universally available through a diversity of delivery options. I've introduced legislation to support the advancement of Universal Pre-K. HB1069 (2015) required creation of a master plan to address the shortage of qualified professional teachers and child care providers in the early childhood education workforce. We cannot institute universal pre-k without the necessary qualified professionals. The bill was enacted but vetoed because the Governor signed the Senate crossfile.

HB668 (2016) required the Governor to budget matching state funds for any federal preschool development grant funds received. This bill was enacted without the Governor's signature.

8. Governor Hogan and charter school advocates have proposed legislation that would undermine local control of schools, lower standards and accountability, and circumvent collective bargaining rights. Do you support or oppose efforts to expand charter schools in Maryland?

Charter schools should continue to be held accountable for the student outcomes they have agreed to in their charters. Oversight of these schools should not be weakened. In addition, teachers and staff should be covered by the collective bargaining agreement between the teachers union and the school board. I remain open to working with KIPP and the BTU, if necessary, upon the expiration of their existing ten-year agreement.

9. Many of our members are faced with re-paying crippling amounts of student debt. If elected, what initiatives would you propose/support that would not only decrease the cost of higher education but also help people when tackling their current student debt?

I was the lead sponsor of the legislation creating three programs that provide grants or loan repayment assistance for students who pursue a career in public service. I also supported efforts to keep the costs of college reasonable and attainable for average working families. If the Republican tax bill eliminates certain tax benefits for repayment of academic debt, I will introduce legislation to counteract that burden on those aspiring to climb the economic ladder.

10. If elected, will you pledge to help form a progressive caucus in your respective chamber and to join it once it has been established?

A progressive agenda has been supported by the Democratic caucus. I would build on that success in the current House structure.

11. Will you pledge to only support, with your vote for the presiding officer of your chamber, the candidate who has the support of the majority of the members of your party's caucus?

Yes

12. The Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) in Maryland has been dramatically underfunded for many years. This has forced many of Maryland's most vulnerable families to remain on waitlists and many providers to leave the profession. This has a detrimental effect on families, children, and Maryland's economy. Will you commit to funding the CCSP at a level that allows Maryland's working families to be taken off the waitlist AND pay providers a professional wage?

Yes, I commit to funding the CCSP at a level that allows all of Maryland's families to have access to high quality and professional child care without onerous waitlists. Providers should be paid a professional wage.

13. Today's political climate places the future of unions in a precarious position. Public sector workers and unions are under attack from many angles. Every year we see so called "Right to Work" legislation being proposed at the federal and state level. Additionally, public sector unions are at risk judicially as per the Janus v. AFSCME decision to be made by the Supreme Court in spring 2018. If elected, how would you stand up for worker's right to collectively bargain and form unions? What innovative ways would you take to make it easier for workers to come together to improve their pay, working conditions, and benefits by forming a union?

Yes, I would support future efforts to protect the right to organize and engage in collective bargaining. I have an extensive history of supporting and sponsoring legislation protecting workers rights' to organize unions and engage in collective bargaining. Most recently, during the 2017 session I co-sponsored legislation establishing collective bargaining rights for community college employees. I am prepared to work with the labor community to draft legislation to protect worker rights should the Supreme Court overturn precedent in Janus v. AFSCME.

14. If asked to do so, would you provide a letter of support to workers for their efforts to form a union.

Yes, I would provide a letter of support to workers for their efforts to form a union. In addition, I would sponsor and/or vote for legislation that grants the right to form a union and engage in collective bargaining for groups that are struggling to do so on their own.