

2018 Maryland General Election Disability Questionnaire



Attached are the results of a disability-focused questionnaire sent to candidates for Maryland's 2018 General Election for Governor, Senator, and 8 Congressional Districts. We requested that each candidate share their opinions on a range of disability-related issues. The topics include: community integration, education, criminal justice and violence, employment of people with disabilities, direct support workforce, Medicaid providers, Medicaid, health care, behavioral health, housing, and transportation.



We received responses from 1 of the 4 candidates running for Governor and 13 of the 32 candidates for Congress. This survey was compiled by the 6 listed organizations. Replies from candidates are printed as received. The aforementioned organizations are non-partisan, non-profit organizations that do not endorse, support or oppose individual candidates or political parties. These organizations are not responsible for the content of the candidates' answers. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by contest.



**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**
EMPOWERMENT • OPPORTUNITY • INCLUSION



Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities
at Kennedy Krieger Institute
Building Partnerships. Changing Lives.



Maryland's general election is scheduled for November 6, 2018 with early voting from October 25, 2018 through November 1, 2018.



The results of the questionnaire are available here:

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Community Integration

Background: *Almost 20 years ago, the Supreme Court ruled that individuals with disabilities have the right to receive services while living in the community. Since then, Maryland has closed Rosewood and made significant progress in affording individuals with disabilities the access and services needed to live a full life in the community.*

Question #1: If elected, what steps would you take to ensure there is adequate funding to continue expanding the opportunities for inclusion and community integration for Marylanders with disabilities?

Candidate Responses:

Ian Schlakman Candidate for Governor (Green)	A: We support the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education which include increasing teacher pay, more collaboration time for teachers, and providing wraparound services by hiring more non-academic staff. We believe fulfilling these recommendations also means expanding opportunities for inclusion and community integration. We know that Maryland has the largest number of millionaires in the United States, and that \$95 trillion in wealth is being hoarded by millionaires and billionaires in the United States. We are calling for a millionaire's and billionaire's tax to fund a number of programs, including the fulfillment of the Kirwan Commission recommendations and other educational programs.
Tony Campbell Candidate for Senator (Republican)	As a person who worked for a community home provider, I know first-hand how empowering it is for individuals with disabilities to live full lives in the community. I would advocate for full funding for these programs.
Michael Puskar Candidate for Senator (Unaffiliated)	As I put children and veterans first, and many disabled persons are either of those, I would do my best whenever disability inclusion issues arise. I believe federal jobs first refusal rights would best be issued to veterans, and jobs are an important if not vital part of inclusion.

<p>Guy Mimoun District 2 (Green)</p>	<p>Funding requirements for federal programs vary year to year with the expectation for them to increase. The problem is that Democrats want to institute PayGo which forces legislators to find the money either by means of taxation or cuts to different programs while Republicans want to cut entitlement programs altogether. The truth of the matter is that are necessary. Federal spending is not predicated on Federal taxes so the only real restriction facing entitlement programs for the disabled is political will. I, on the other hand, have no problem servicing any demographic belonging to the community especially those who need the most resources and assistance. As a member of Congress I would stand vigilant for the rights and funding of programs for disabled individuals ensuring them of my commitment to their needs and ability to live a full, purposeful and productive life.</p>
<p>Dutch Ruppertsberger District 2 (Democrat)</p>	<p>As an Appropriator, I fight for funding for resources to expand opportunities for inclusion and community integration. I supported full funding for University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), which exist to provide a unique, expert state and community resource to facilitate the independence and full participation in the community of people living with developmental and other disabilities. I supported full funding for Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (PADD), which ensures that children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities are free from abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. I supported full funding for Development Disabilities Councils, which have increased access to inclusive education, housing, transportation, employment, and secondary transition services for persons with developmental disabilities and their families. I also fight efforts to limit enforcement of the ADA, a landmark bill that ensures everyone can access public accommodations and that those with disabilities are not segregated or excluded from mainstream American life. Earlier this year, I voted against legislation (HR620) that would make it harder, if not possible, for people with disabilities to sue businesses that violate the ADA. I am a proud cosponsor of The Disability Integration Act (HR 2472), which provides seniors and disabled people home and community-based services as an alternative to institutionalization.</p>

<p>William DeVine District 5 (Republican)</p>	<p>I feel that we need to greatly increase funding to those with disabilities especially with mental illness. One way is to add Sports Book gambling to our Casinos revenues.</p>
<p>Patrick Elder District 5 (Green)</p>	<p>There’s an 800-pound gorilla in the room and that is spending for the military, which consumes more than half of all discretionary spending. America has its priorities all wrong. Just one military program, the F-35, will cost \$1.5 trillion over its lifetime while the “modernization” of America’s nuclear forces will top \$1 trillion in the next ten years. I’d cut military spending by adhering to the guidelines published by the conservative Cato Institute and I would use some of these funds for crucially necessary disability services.</p> <p>My wife and I raised our son, Jackson with Prader-Willi Syndrome and our lives were victimized by a lack of federal and state funding to adequately address his needs. We were advised by Maryland mental health officials that if Jackson piled up an arrest record he might begin receiving residential services. It turned out they were right. It’s one hell of a way to go. I would bolster Medicare and Medicaid funding and I would eliminate the cap on social security contributions which are now set at \$128,400. This is all common-sense stuff in many European nations, but viewed as lunacy here.</p>
<p>Ted Athey District 6 (Unaffiliated)</p>	<p>I am an advocate of FDR's Economic Rights to the U.S. Citizens.....I am the biggest forerunner for #MedicareForAll; #FederalJobGuarantee #SocialSecurityFullBenefits</p>
<p>Amie Hoeber District 6 (Republican)</p>	<p>If elected I would support the existing grant and tax incentives that assist with ADA compliance. I would also support transportation and infrastructure funding that assists local communities seeking to make our communities more livable for those with disabilities. Additionally, I would fight to ensure the federal government fully funds the IDEA for our local schools.</p>
<p>David Trone District 6 (Democrat)</p>	<p>We have made significant steps in the last few decades when it comes to assuring individuals with disabilities are able to live integrated lives in their communities. Efforts by not only the federal government, but also by nonprofit and advocacy groups, have moved the needle forward on policies and accommodations for those with disabilities. To ensure that there is adequate funding for individuals with disabilities, I will focus on fully funding federal programs that are proven effective. Specifically, when it comes to healthcare, we must make sure that we continue to protect and expand coverage.</p>

	<p>Protecting pre-existing coverage and prohibiting annual and lifetime caps on insurance are important tenants of the Affordable Care Act that we must maintain. I would also support funding in other areas, including fully funding the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and working with the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, the Department of Social Security, and others to ensure funding for those with disabilities is fully realized.</p>
<p>Elijah Cummings District 7 (Democrat)</p>	<p>Since the mid-1970s, our movement to assure that individuals with disabilities can live full and integrated lives in their communities has included commitments by government at all levels, as well as by organizations and individuals. At the federal level, I will continue to push for expanded funding for proven, effective and supportive programs through appropriations to the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education, our Social Security Administration, and, where needed, our Department of Justice. In addition, as a Senior Member serving on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I will continue to work for expanded federal support for mobility services.</p>
<p>Jamie Raskin District 8 (Democrat)</p>	<p>I am pushing for the quick reauthorization of the Money Follows the Person program, which has provided federal support for transitional services and helped thousands of individuals transition out of institutions and into home and community-based services. Unfortunately, Congress allowed this critical program to expire at the end of 2016. To correct this lapse, I have cosponsored H.R. 5306, the EMPOWER Act, a bipartisan bill that would reauthorize the Money Follows the Program through 2022. I have also cosponsored essential civil rights legislation, H.R. 2472, the Disability Integration Act. This bill will ensure that any individual who is found eligible for institutional placement is also given the option to receive crucial services and support at home or in the setting of their choosing by requiring states and insurance providers to cover home and community-based services. During the annual appropriations process, I submitted programmatic requests in support of increased funding for the Independent Living Program under the Administration for Community Living. This program has been historically underfunded despite being demonstrably successful at providing core services, designed and operated by individuals with</p>

	disabilities, including independent living skills training and community transition support.
John Walsh District 8 (Republican)	I promise to meet with all the organizations involved with this questionnaire to determine what is needed and then to submit legislation.

Education

Background: *Exclusionary discipline practices, such as suspension and expulsion, have long had a disproportionate impact on students with disabilities. Approximately 12% of students in Maryland are enrolled in special education yet they make up 25% of the students suspended.*

Question #2: How will you support efforts for in-school, restorative behavior interventions in place of seclusion, restraint, and exclusionary discipline practices?

Candidate Responses:

Ian Schlakman Candidate for Governor (Green)	In fulfilling the Kirwan Commission recommendations we will provide additional services for all students by hiring both more academic and non-academic support staff. We will focus on training and deploying new staff to work in small groups and individually with students experiencing disciplinary issues to resolve their issues in schools instead of turning to exclusionary practices.
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Tony Campbell Candidate for Senator (Republican)	It is important to have discipline in our schools but do it in a way which teaches mutual respect for every member of the school community. Cookie cutter approaches to school discipline are unproductive and narrow minded. I support life affirming techniques for school discipline.
Michael Puskar Candidate for Senator (Unaffiliated)	As stated in the previous answer, children come first, so this is an important issue for me. Moreover, I taught art to emotionally disturbed children ages 8-17 (and even an 18 and 21 year old), so I know all too well how adverse behavior comes with certain disabilities. I would like to have the US Dept of Education focus on broader issues, to educate all citizens on misunderstood topics, and while the actual processes are left to the state, on the federal level I would like to ensure adults are educated better as to the differences between truly "bad behavior" and that which is just misunderstood disability

<p>Guy Mimoun District 2 (Green)</p>	<p>As a parent who has a child with special needs, I can very much relate to this problem. One of the things I've discovered as a parent disabilities notwithstanding is that each and everyone of us has a particular talent or gift to share which requires nurturing an cultivation. As it takes a community to raise a child, that responsibility is shared between parents and the people who spend as much if not more time with their children; the Teachers. With regard to Teachers, much like in any profession you'll find the good and bad and although most go into the field with the best intentions, not all are ready for real time interplay with students who are disabled. In fact, much in the same way no two people share the same talents and gifts, the same is said for the disabled which can be hard if not frustrating for a teacher in trying to maintain order and keep the learning process on course. As much as I may sympathize with the challenges educators deal with on a day to day basis, the kids themselves cannot exclusively be the ones who bear the brunt of a system that is incapable of catering to their scholastic and psychological needs as seen in the rise of suspensions and expulsions. The stark difference in disciplinary action between disabled and mainstream children signify to me that the option to suspend or expel is probably being abused. Rather than take ownership of a child with particular issues it is easier simply to let them go by the wayside and wither. As a member of Congress I would work with both parents and educators to come up with a plan that would secure ample funding to ensure all stakeholders are incentivized and remunerated based on classroom attendance, progress and participation. I want every kid to be able to tap into their hidden potential be it music, theater, the sciences and more.</p>
<p>Dutch Ruppertsberger District 2 (Democrat)</p>	<p>While this is largely state and local jurisdiction, I worked hard to ensure that special needs students in our state received the support they needed to succeed in the classroom during my time in local elected office. At the federal level, I fight for full funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which is a law that makes free public education available to children with disabilities and ensures special education and related services to those children. I am also a proud co-sponsor of HR 2782, which aims to ease disabled students' transition into higher education. Under current</p>

	<p>policy, disabled students must obtain certification from their doctor for every accommodation they need, a costly process that frustrates and deters many qualified students. That’s why, unfortunately, only one third of disabled students pursuing a 4-year degree graduate within eight years, a rate almost 30 percent lower than that of able-bodied students.</p>
<p>Anthony Brown District 4 (Democrat)</p>	<p>I will fight to protect the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and ensure that my office is responsive to any and every constituent request for services to address inequities and disproportionality in the quality of education received by their students, particularly students with disabilities.</p>
<p>William DeVine District 5 (Republican)</p>	<p>I will work with each of the County School Superintends to review all school policies.</p>
<p>Patrick Elder District 5 (Green)</p>	<p>I was a professionally licensed middle and high school classroom teacher for 14 years and I raised a child with a host of behavioral issues including an insatiable appetite, obsessive-compulsive behavior, skin-picking and sudden outbursts of rage. I’ve looked at IEPs from both sides.</p> <p>I appreciate the term, “restorative behavior interventions” because it addresses the root causes of student misbehavior rather than hasty punitive reactions. I will use my office to educate the public and lawmakers and I will endeavor to provide funding to accomplish five general sets of policy initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowering the faculty to student ratio in special education settings; • Implementing professional development and training programs for teachers, para-educators, administrators, resource officers and other school personnel. • Developing curricula to supplement standard K-12 instruction to raise awareness of the disabled community and strategies to address various issues; • Establishing committees at the state and LEA levels to study alternatives to punitive and exclusionary discipline;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requiring, as much as practically possible, the use of restorative practices and positive behavioral interventions.
<p>Ted Athey District 6 (Unaffiliated)</p>	<p>Peer Mediation/Juries/Courts- student-centered programs that hear “cases” on rule breaking or offenses Restorative/Family Conferences-all stakeholders come together, including the one who committed the harm, to discuss the offense and the feelings of those involved, how to make things right and how to prevent a similar situation in the future. Depending on the severity of the offense, a trained facilitator may be required. Restitution Planning/Restorative Agreements-a plan of action to repair or “put right” the offense Reintegration Following Exclusion-holding a restorative meeting circle with all involved parties (parents, administrators, teachers, the party harmed and one who committed the harm) to reintegrate the offender back in to the school community. This also may require a trained facilitator.</p>
<p>Amie Hoerber District 6 (Republican)</p>	<p>These decisions are best made at the local level, by school boards and parents. As a Member of Congress, I would seek to assist by drawing attention to the issue and raising awareness.</p>
<p>David Trone District 6 (Democrat)</p>	<p>While this challenge is one that is tackled at the state level, I support efforts for restorative behavior interventions. I believe that we need strong federal programs that ensure people with disabilities can get a great education. We need to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It has never been fully funded, and that’s shameful. It’s wrong to be giving \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts to people who don’t need it, while we shortchange some of our most vulnerable students. I also support inclusive education and investing in teachers. This means supporting and encouraging effective implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and allowing states to use professional development funding for these trainings. We must look at all students and determine how best to meet their education needs. Exclusionary discipline practices do not advance us in this direction.</p>
	<p>Although you did not ask this question, I have been fighting for years to get anywhere near the 40% of average per pupil expenditures that local education agencies were promised when IDEA was first enacted. I will continue to support IDEA, but it is fair to conclude that support within</p>

<p>Elijah Cummings District 7 (Democrat)</p>	<p>the current Dept. of Ed. is ambivalent. On Education funding in general, if we keep up the pressure, K-12 funding programs like Title I for low-income students and grants to the states for students with disabilities (classes with a lot of overlap) will see small increases that almost keep up with inflation this year (about 1%). States will get \$15.9 billion for Title I and \$13.2 billion for IDEA implementation. However, if the control of the House does not change as a result of the Midterm Elections this November, we expect downward pressure on this funding next year.</p> <p>As to your discipline question, although meeting this challenge is primarily a state and local school board responsibility, I am acutely aware that disproportionate suspensions and expulsions are reoccurring, constituting challenging issues as we work together to assure the educational success of students with disabilities, as well as students of color.</p> <p>When the Congress amended the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in 1997 and 2004, we expressly recognized the benefit of positive behavioral supports and interventions (PBIS) to prevent exclusion and improve educational outcomes for students with disabilities. 20 U.S.C. § 1414; 34 C.F.R. § 300.324.</p> <p>To encourage wide and effective implementation of PBIS, we authorized states to use professional development funding to provide training in PBIS methods. 20 U.S.C. § 1454(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I).</p> <p>I continue to believe in the PBIS approach (and restorative justice, generally), and will continue to support it.</p>
<p>Jamie Raskin District 8 (Democrat)</p>	<p>I favor in-school restorative behavioral intervention over exclusionary discipline practices. Although this is largely a matter of state and local policy, I do believe that the federal government has an obligation to ensure that the intent and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act is fully realized. The Department of Education and Department of Justice must ensure that equal access to quality education is not undermined by discriminatory practices. I strongly support the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) program and during the annual appropriations process, submitted</p>

	<p>programmatic requests to provide strong funding levels for the IDEA program. I was alarmed by Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos’s June 2017 testimony before Congress, during which she appeared to be confused about her responsibility under federal law to ensure that states provide students with disabilities quality education. My colleagues and I wrote a letter to Secretary DeVos outlining our concerns and demanding that she confirm that the Department will continue to require schools receiving funding under IDEA to provide “free and appropriate education” to students with disabilities, as required by federal law. I will continue to do all that I can to ensure that federal agencies support the rights of all students to have equal access to education.</p>
<p>John Walsh District 8 (Republican)</p>	<p>I am not sure what are the best ways to support restorative behavior interventions. I promise to meet with all organizations participating in this survey to understand the options before deciding.</p>

[Criminal Justice and Violence](#)

Background: *People with disabilities – including emotional, physical, cognitive, or sensory disabilities-- are nearly 13% more likely to be arrested than those without disabilities*

Question #3: How will you ensure state law enforcement and first responders are trained to appropriately interact with people with disabilities?

Candidate Responses:

<p>Ian Schlakman Candidate for Governor (Green)</p>	<p>We have called for a "reset" of the Baltimore Police Department by ending the existing contracts of all officers and requiring every member of the BPD to reapply for their position, at which point we can make an honest assessment about each officer's ability to continue to serve the community. We will work with cities and towns throughout Maryland and with state agencies to perform similar procedures throughout the state, because we believe that police violence has reached an epidemic level. At the same time, we will take the chance to ensure that state and local law enforcement officials are trained appropriately to interact with people with disabilities.</p>
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<p>Tony Campbell Candidate for Senator (Republican)</p>	<p>Proper and effective training of law enforcement is critical to make sure they truly protect and serve. As the next US Senator for Maryland, I would look for avenues of making sure people with disabilities are included in any criminal justice reform legislation.</p>
<p>Michael Puskar Candidate for Senator (Unaffiliated)</p>	<p>As in my previous answer, I would like to have the US Dept of Education teach people better as to the differences between "bad behavior" and misunderstood disability, so law enforcement would fall under this umbrella. In general, though, while a great deal many officers have good-intentions, some need to learn to ask first not shoot first (literally and metaphorically).</p>

<p>Guy Mimoun District 2 (Green)</p>	<p>With all due respect to the Police, the requirements to join the force typically only requires a high school diploma. Without a more robust education including but not limited to psychology, social work and public health, it is to be expected that the lack of sufficient training and education will lead predictably to tragic results. Additionally, steroid use is prevalent on the force which has also been proven to be a causative factor in medical literature linked to aggressive behavior, sometimes even uncontrollable rage increasing the the likelihood of an incident occurring which could have been prevented. Better educated and trained officers armed with people skills coupled with compassion will probably make a remarkable difference in their professional lives and the lives they touch and interact with in their community. Lastly, for people with disabilities that Police cannot contain and control, there are ways subdue an individual that do not require the need of excessive force. Police in Japan use protection wraps to subdue and safely transport an individuals. These wraps have been in use for several decades but have recently been introduced to select police departments in America. The goal in any situation with police should be to de-escalate but with people who have disabilities even more so. I would work to fully fund training, education and equip the police to better deal with the public, especially people with disabilities.</p>
<p>Dutch Ruppertsberger District 2 (Democrat)</p>	<p>As an Appropriator, I fight for federal funding to help fill these types of gaps in training at the local and state level, such as the COPS grant program. In fact, the COPS program was my number one priority in this year's Criminal Justice and Science spending bill and we successfully rejected</p>

	<p>President Trump’s request to cut this account by more than \$126 million on the House side. I also strongly supported the inclusion of the treatment of disabled citizens in the Department of Justice’s investigation into the Baltimore City Police Department and the resulting Consent Decree.</p>
<p>Anthony Brown District 4 (Democrat)</p>	<p>I will continue to fight for federal grant dollars to support programs such as National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability sponsored by the Arc.</p>
<p>William DeVine District 5 (Republican)</p>	<p>Very important that our First Responders are adequately trained to deal with those with disabilities especially mental disabilities. I will work with every Police Chief and Fire Chief to ensure that training is being provided and acted on.</p>
<p>Patrick Elder District 5 (Green)</p>	<p>I would immediately co-sponsor H.R. 1870, the Police Training and Independent Review Act of 2017, introduced by Rep. Steve Cohen, (D-TN). This common-sense measure is not supported by the House Democratic leadership and is widely scorned by Republican lawmakers. Neither Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi nor Whip Steny Hoyer have gotten behind the bill.</p> <p>In short, the measure would require law enforcement officers of individual states to fulfill a training session on sensitivity each fiscal year, including training on ethnic and racial bias, cultural diversity, and police interaction with the disabled, mentally ill, and new immigrants. The bill calls for independent prosecution of law enforcement’s use of deadly force.</p> <p>Presumably, my opponent, Steny Hoyer, sees these incentives as unnecessary penalties to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. Police groups argue that the legislation would put independent prosecutors under a great deal of pressure to justify his or her work and that decisions to prosecute would be made based on politics. Nonsense! Where’s our indignation?</p>
<p>Ted Athey District 6 (Unaffiliated)</p>	<p>A new law in Florida that requires police departments to provide autism training for law enforcement officers took effect this week. Several programs are already in place to reduce the risk of interactions between law enforcement and people with disabilities escalating into traumatic incidents. One of the best is the National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability, run by the Arc, one of the oldest and largest disability-rights organizations in the United States.</p>

<p>Amie Hoeber District 6 (Republican)</p>	<p>As a member of Congress I would partner with community stakeholders to raise awareness of the issue and start an effective dialogue with local law enforcement. I would also support federal funding for law enforcement training. A component of that training could include this issue.</p>
<p>David Trone District 6 (Democrat)</p>	<p>I've been working with the ACLU for over two decades on criminal justice reform. The issues of racial profiling and unconscious bias have received a lot of attention in recent years and police departments have implemented trainings around these issues. We need to ensure that police interactions with people with disabilities are a major component of these trainings. We must make sure we do everything to adequately prepare local law enforcement for interacting with those who have disabilities. All levels of law enforcement – federal, state, and local – must be prepared for encountering many different types of situations, and this should include interactions for people with disabilities. There are instances when it is appropriate to supervise law enforcement to avoid tragedies. Appointing police liaison forces that act as an intervention in situations where an individual with a disability interacts with the police can be helpful and is something we must consider.</p>
<p>Elijah Cummings District 7 (Democrat)</p>	<p>Here in Maryland, we all recall a tragic incident in 2013 when a young man with disabilities (Downs Syndrome, as I recall) died while in the custody of sheriff's deputies working as private security in a Frederick movie theater. The deputies apparently failed to recognize his disability.</p> <p>Federal, state and local governments all have significant duties to fulfill in assuring that our law enforcement officers are appropriately trained and supervised to avoid these tragedies. I will continue to do everything within my power to support that training.</p>
<p>Jamie Raskin District 8 (Democrat)</p>	<p>Law enforcement officers must be properly trained to ensure that they live up to their oath to "serve and protect" all individuals—especially disabled Americans, who are more likely to be victims of a crime and whose interaction with law enforcement officers who are unaware of a person's disability can lead to unwarranted arrest, injury, or even death. I proudly cosponsored H.R. 4221, Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2017, and was pleased to see it included as part of the Fiscal Year 2018 omnibus spending package. This law reauthorized the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, expanded it to include children with developmental</p>

	<p>disabilities, and established a competitive grant program for state and local agencies to assist in planning, establishing or operating programs to prevent wandering and to locate missing individuals with forms of developmental disabilities. During the annual appropriations process, I requested funding for the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, which ensures our criminal justice and mental health systems have the funds they need to serve some of our nation’s most vulnerable individuals. State and local governments can use the grants for a broad range of activities, including establishing law enforcement and mental health collaborations and training for local law enforcement to help them identify and improve their responses to people experiencing a mental health crisis</p>
<p>John Walsh District 8 (Republican)</p>	<p>I promise to meet with the participating non profit agencies to understand what are the obstacles and then determine what steps should be taken.</p>

[Employment of People with Disabilities](#)

Background: *Despite the protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the gap between the employment rate of working-age people with and without disabilities was 40.3%.*

Question # 4:

A. What actions would you take to address this?

B. What are your plans for and supporting employment first initiatives?

C. How will you foster relationships between the business community and people with disabilities?

Candidate Responses:

<p>Ian Schlakman Candidate for Governor (Green)</p>	<p>A. One of our top priorities is establishing a basic income guarantee, which will provide every adult Marylander with a \$1,000 per month payment regardless of age, ability, or employment. One benefit of such a program will be to decrease the average person's work week and make many tens of thousands of new part-time and full-time jobs available. Another of our top priorities is to rapidly transition Maryland from our current coal, oil, and gas energy infrastructure to a clean, renewable wind, solar and water energy infrastructure. We anticipate this creating tens of thousands of new jobs for all Marylanders, including jobs at all skill levels for individuals with disabilities.</p>
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	<p>B. Our focus will be on empowered small and worker-owned businesses over large corporate interests, and in doing so we can will be in a unique position to promote Employment First initiatives. We focus on community wealth building, and focusing on community-based employers will help us integrate employment opportunities for individuals with significant disabilities.</p> <p>C. Because we focus on community wealth building, we will work hand-in-hand with small and worker-owned businesses to build their initiatives and provide them resources from all areas of their communities. After he was elected Governor Hogan declared Maryland "open for business," but what he really meant was that Maryland is open for big business. His priority is attracting large corporate headquarters like Amazon to Maryland. Large corporations are not interested in local or state government support except for tax incentives. We will work with businesses to help them build community wealth by doing things like finding employment opportunities for everyone in their community, including those with disabilities.</p>
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<p>Tony Campbell Candidate for Senator (Republican)</p>	<p>A. The first step is to find out why this disparity exists. Following that, I would engage with the community to see what actions can be accomplished at the national level through legislation.</p> <p>B. Employment First is a fantastic program and I would support it by working to ensure there is a seamless collaboration between the state and national levels of government.</p> <p>C. Part of leadership is speaking out on issues which are important. Letting the business community know their US Senator is concerned about the full employment of people with disabilities would send a clear message of inclusion.</p>
<p>Michael Puskar Candidate for Senator (Unaffiliated)</p>	<p>A. We would need to educate business owners/mgmt more on disability as well as how they can appropriate existing positions to the disabled</p> <p>B. As stated in my first answer, I believe veterans should have first refusal rights; so the disabled among them have a better shot at employment as well. For others who are disabled, education of the otherwise unknowledgable (as stated previously) is a good step in the direction needed.</p> <p>C. Give more governmental positions that interact publicly to</p>

	the disabled so businesses can experience first-hand what the disabled have to offer.
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<p>Guy Mimoun District 2 (Green)</p>	<p>A. My platform calls for a Federal Job Guarantee which would provide employment for anyone willing and able to work. This would also include people with disabilities.</p> <p>B. Maryland is one of nineteen States in the union that participate in the Employment First program which is reported to be a remarkable program demonstrating measurable success. I would like to see the remainder States step up and participate as well. Doing so would allow foster opportunity and access to job training leading to employment that would bring diversity and equality to the workplace. As a member of Congress, I would be compelled to ensure the program is fully funded in the event the State experiences any financial shortfalls that would prevent it from leading to it's conclusion.</p> <p>C. I would request meetings with major corporations, Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs along with any and all private and public oraganizations I could interarct with that would add value and facilitate the work of the Office of Disability Employment Policy or come up with a complimentary program that would create more employment opportunities for the disabled.</p>
<p>Dutch Ruppberger District 2 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. I will support any and all efforts to strengthen enforcement of the ADA among employers. I will help constituents who feel they have been discriminated against by an employer or potential employer. And I will personally support businesses who make a concerted effort to hire Americans with disabilities!</p> <p>B. I will encourage my colleagues to support legislation and policies that will make Employment First a priority and stop funding efforts to place disabled Americans in segregated day programs. Employment in the general workforce should always be the goal.</p> <p>C. I will visit and highlight businesses in my district that make a concerted effort to hire Americans with disabilities.</p>
<p>Anthony Brown District 4 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. I will continue to promote movements like Employment First and the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program Federal Briefings</p> <p>B. I will continue to promote movements like Employment First and the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program Federal Briefings</p>

	<p>C. I will continue to promote organizations like Disability:IN a leading nonprofit resource for business disability inclusion worldwide, including a network of more than 160 corporations that expands opportunities for people with disabilities across many sectors</p>
<p>William DeVine District 5 (Republican)</p>	<p>A. Increase incentives for businesses to provide employment to those with disabilities. B. Employment workshops with local businesses. C. We need to Train and educate local businesses as with why and how people with disabilities can be an asset to their business.</p>
<p>Patrick Elder District 5 (Green)</p>	<p>A. What a sad state of affairs we find ourselves in. I would first restore funding to ODEP, the Office of Disability Employment Policy, which had its tiny budget of \$38 million slashed by nearly a quarter to \$29 million. Then, I would advocate for substantially increasing funding for ODEP, especially technical assistance grants. The changes at ODEP will eliminate crucial expertise which is helping states achieve excellent outcomes for a population that otherwise would be left unemployed. B. My state, Maryland, provides tax incentives to hire the disabled, but does not go far enough. I would introduce legislation modeled after Iowa which gives employers an income tax deduction for 65% of the wages paid in the first 12 months of employment with a maximum deduction of \$20,000 per employee. I'd extend this deduction indefinitely. C. Tax incentives would go a long way in "fostering relationships" between the business community and people with disabilities.</p>
<p>Ted Athey District 6 (Unaffiliated)</p>	<p>A. #FederalJobGuarantee program that would include people with disabilities; everyone deserves the Right to making a Living and supplying to their families. B. I fully support this kind of love towards others with Disabilities..... the Developmental Disabilities Administration's (DDA) engaged stakeholders in an intensive strategic planning process, including planning to improve employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland. The following position statement is in support of the DDA's broader values, mission and vision and is a product of that strategic planning process. "The DDA believes that all people with developmental disabilities CAN work, and contribute to their community, when given</p>

	<p>opportunity, training, and supports that build on their strengths. Employment will be the first option considered for all people of working age who receive DDA services.”</p> <p>C. I would be pro.active towards any ideas that fosters love towards others with disabilities.....great ideas</p>
<p>Amie Hoeber District 6 (Republican)</p>	<p>A. If elected, I would advocate for a more robust enforcement effort to ensure compliance with the ADA.</p> <p>B. I would also hold communication sessions with private-sector partners on this issue and find ways to support inclusive and law-abiding hiring practices.</p> <p>C. By holding open Town Halls and communication forums to facilitate discussions between the business community and people with disabilities or groups representing people with disabilities.</p>
<p>David Trone District 6 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. See below.</p> <p>B. See below.</p> <p>C. I’ve been deeply involved with the Madison House Autism Foundation, which focuses on providing support and opportunities to adults with autism. The work that they do is absolutely crucial because there are so few programs that focus on helping adults with disabilities live fulfilling and productive lives. The gap between the employment rate of working-age people with and without disabilities is staggering. I see this as a failure of both the federal government and the private sector in realizing and providing opportunities for those with disabilities to join the workforce in a more inclusive way. As a business owner myself, I know the importance of making sure your workforce reflects the customers you are serving. That’s why I support President Obama’s 2010 Executive Order 13548 that encouraged federal agencies to improve efforts to employ those with disabilities. As the nation’s largest workforce, it is the job of the federal government to set that example. For the private sector, I support enhancing tax credits to employers who hire individuals with disabilities. It is important that we provide opportunities for those with disabilities to flourish in their communities and being employed is one of the best ways to do this.</p>
<p>Elijah Cummings District 7 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. If your question is accurate in posing a 40.3% employment disparity for people with disabilities, I am surprised. I would estimate that disparity to be greater – closer to 45-49%.</p> <p>At the federal level, I supported President Obama’s 2010 Executive Order 13548 that encouraged federal agencies to improve their efforts to employ federal workers with</p>

	<p>disabilities, as well as stronger enforcement of Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act (federal contractors), and our 2014 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.</p> <p>I will continue to do so in my own work in the Congress and, to the extent appropriate under House Ethics Rules, in my interactions with the private sector.</p> <p>B. See, (a) above.</p> <p>C. See, (a) above.</p>
<p>Jamie Raskin District 8 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. I supported programmatic requests to the House Appropriations Committee urging strong funding levels for University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, to ensure that individuals with disabilities have the education and training to support meaningful employment. These Centers are a unique, expert state and community resource to facilitate the independence and full participation in the community of people living with developmental and other disabilities.</p> <p>B. Although this is a state issue, I would like to indicate my support for support employment first initiatives, which seek to advance policies to ensure that all individuals, especially those with physical or mental disabilities, have access to the dignity of work and full integrated employment that takes advantage of their skills and talent. In Congress, I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1377, the Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment (TIME) Act, which would prohibit employers from paying those with disabilities subminimum wages. Passage of this important legislation will ensure that Americans with disabilities can make a living that allows them to fully realize a more independent life.</p> <p>C. As a Member of Congress, I have frequent opportunities and a platform to advocate for persons with disabilities, particularly when it comes to correcting public misconceptions about individuals with disabilities, educating the business community about potential employment opportunities, and ensuring that persons with disabilities are recognized for their positive contributions to our communities.</p>
<p>John Walsh District 8 (Republican)</p>	<p>A. Enhance EEO efforts - education for applications through outreach and follow up as needed.</p> <p>B. Work with employers on developing Action Plans for hiring people with disabilities.</p> <p>C. I will encourage job fairs, job counseling, additional training, internships</p>

Employment of Direct Support Workforce

Background: *Direct Support Professionals are the backbone of the community services delivery system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This workforce is essential to enabling people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, such as autism, cerebral palsy and Down syndrome, to live and work in the community and avoid costly and unwanted institutional care. Though these are skilled, demanding and sensitive jobs, most are paid just above minimum wage. Medicaid funding for this workforce is set through a state rate-setting process, and has been historically low. Providers have no ability to impact these rates, nor are permitted to pass on costs to the people who receive supports. With historically low reimbursement rates, providers have been forced to compete against minimum wage employers and are facing a 45% turnover rate as a result. High turnover jeopardizes the ability of people with disabilities to access the professional supports that they need to live and work in their community.*

Question #5:

A. As the number of people with disabilities using community services increases, what will you do to ensure that community-based disability service providers can recruit and retain a stable, professional direct support workforce, and compensate them with livable wages?

B. Given that Maryland is in the final process of finalizing legislatively mandated rate-setting for home and community based services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, will you support the recommendations in the report for an adequately-funded rate system, and include funding in your FY 2020 budget for full implementation?

Candidate Responses:

Ian Schlakman Candidate for Governor (Green)	A. We support a National Improve Medicare for All plan, which would provide universal, single-payer health care to all Americans. We support establishing a regional single-payer plan including Maryland and other neighboring states pooling resources. Under a single-payer system, community-based disability service providers will receive reimbursement for services at a full rate. In addition, we support both an increase in the minimum wage to \$15/hour or more if a living wage is calculated to be higher than \$15/hour and a basic income guarantee, which would provide all disability service providers living in Maryland with a \$1,000/month payment
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	<p>to be used to provide a basic level of housing, food, and basic necessities.</p> <p>B. Yes, we could include funding in our FY 2020 budget for full implementation of of the recommendations.</p>
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<p>Tony Campbell Candidate for Senator (Republican)</p>	<p>A. In my 20s, I worked as Direct Support Professional in Maryland. It was one of the most rewarding positions I have held. I had to make a choice to move on because of low pay. As a US Senator, I will work with the State of Maryland to update the rate-setting process.</p> <p>B. Yes.</p>
<p>Michael Puskar Candidate for Senator (Unaffiliated)</p>	<p>A. More federal funding would help; but a universal healthcare program would help immensely as well.</p> <p>B. I will do whatever it takes on the federal level.</p>

<p>Guy Mimoun District 2 (Green)</p>	<p>A. If there is one thing I find disturbing at the Federal level is the reluctance of legislators to appropriate adequate funding for programs that need it most. There's never a shortage of funds made available toward corporate subsidies, tax breaks for the ultra wealthy and money for our perpetual and growing wars around the globe but money for those most in need is always difficult to procure. As a member of Congress I would work toward providing funding to drastically increase compensation for Direct Support Professionals through discretionary appropriations in order to prevent turnover. It is absolutely unconscionable to allow people to be institutionalized when with the right assistance could live independently productive lives. It is the duty of any publicly elected representative to make sure the entire constituency is served with emphasis on the disabled.</p> <p>B. Yes</p>
<p>Dutch Ruppertsberger District 2 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. I support raising the minimum wage generally to level income inequality in our country. The real value of today's minimum wage is less than it was in 1956, meaning a full-time minimum wage worker earns about \$15,000 a year - or 19 percent below the poverty line for a family of three. The legislation I like would increase the minimum wage gradually through 2020</p> <p>B. Yes</p>

<p>Anthony Brown District 4 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. I will continue to fight to protect Medicaid at the federal level and encourage state lawmakers to establish reimbursement rates that support a livable wage B. I will encourage state lawmakers to support the recommendations and include funding in the FY20 budget</p>
<p>William DeVine District 5 (Republican)</p>	<p>A. Employees with disabilities should not be paid less for the same work provided by the average employee. I will work with the Wage and labor Board of Maryland to ensure equal rights and pay for every employee. B. YES</p>
<p>Patrick Elder District 5 (Green)</p>	<p>A. I know first-hand with my son, Jackson, who currently resides in a DDA-managed facility, the crucial role performed by direct support professionals, and their tendency to frequently turn over. In 2016 the federal share of Medicaid spending in Maryland was 61.1%. My charge in Congress would be to fight the Trump administration to assure full funding and eventual federal expansion of Medicaid. B. I am a candidate for federal office.</p>
<p>Ted Athey District 6 (Unaffiliated)</p>	<p>A. My approach is the best approach. The Federal Job Guarantee program would be the best way to make these Jobs viable and successful in every community. B. Yes, I would be fully supporting of such actions on the State level and would be pro.active in endeavors to Supplement the benefits on the Federal level too.</p>
<p>Amie Hoerber District 6 (Republican)</p>	<p>A. These services are vital to the community. As State Medicaid budgets have been cut, these services have often faced increasing budgetary pressure. As a Member of Congress, I would support increasing federal assistance to offset Medicaid reimbursement. B. This is not an issue that would come before Congress.</p>
<p>David Trone District 6 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. See below. B. The role of Direct Support Professionals, though often overlooked, is such a critical component of how those with intellectual and developmental disabilities integrate and thrive in our communities. It is a shame that those in this role – many of whom live in my community – do not receive the pay and recognition that aligns with the important nature of this role. In my business, the most important part of our success is our people. Our employees – or team members – are the heart of our company. With nearly 7,000 team members nationwide, I understand the importance of paying a living wage. This is why 75% of our workforce is full-time. For a retail store, this is almost unheard of. But the</p>

	<p>truth is, we want as many employees to be full-time because that means they get access to benefits including healthcare, paid family leave, and GED and undergraduate education programs. I believe that if you pay people well, they feel dignified, and they pass along that experience to the customer. We should look into paying many more people – especially those with such important jobs as Direct Support Professionals. While the process of rate-setting for home and community-based services will mainly be an issue for the Maryland State Legislature, if elected to Congress I will support our state in meeting these efforts.</p>
<p>Elijah Cummings District 7 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. See, Below.</p> <p>B. Responding to both of your questions, I recognize that the women and men who are serving as direct support professionals are performing an essential service. Many of them live and work in my community, and they deserve to be adequately paid.</p> <p>I also recognize that addressing this issue in the near term is primarily a challenge for the Maryland Legislature, although I will continue to support federal initiatives that help our State meet this challenge.</p> <p>The broader challenge, of course, is reforming the national “supply-side” economic policies that our nation has been pursuing since the 1970s. Not enough Americans are making enough money to both drive our economic growth and assure that all American workers are paid a living wage. I support “demand-side,” “bottom up – not top down” economic reforms that are better suited to both expanding our economy and assuring that all American workers can earn a living wage.</p>
<p>Jamie Raskin District 8 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. I have been a steadfast supporter of raising the minimum wage and am fighting to ensure that every American has a true living wage. As Chairman of the Montgomery County Senate Delegation in Annapolis, I worked to build unanimous support for an increase of Maryland’s minimum wage and in Congress, I’ve continued to fight for improved wages, benefits and labor standards for every person. We also need to make childcare affordable, ensure that women receive equal pay for equal work, and secure paid sick time so that workers don’t have to choose between getting healthy and getting paid. While our nation has experienced dramatic productivity growth over the last four decades, wages and benefits for working families have remained stagnant. The result is the greatest wealth and income inequality America</p>

	<p>has ever seen. It erodes the conditions for real democracy when CEOs are making hundreds of times what workers are making and simultaneously have the power to dominate our politics. We must strengthen workers' rights to organize and use all available laws to defend the position of working people.</p> <p>B. This is a state issue and does not apply to me as a federal elected official. However, as a State Senator, I always favored an adequately-funded rate system and funding for full implementation.</p>
<p>John Walsh District 8 (Republican)</p>	<p>A. I will encourage Maryland legislators and the Governor to increase the rates.</p> <p>B. I will support the recommendations but I do not have funding authority.</p>

Minimum Wage Medicaid Providers

Background: *In 2014, Maryland passed minimum wage legislation that provided for a graduated increase in the state's minimum wage over four years. In a provision that was the first of its kind in the country, the bill likewise provided for an increase in the community services rate for developmental disability services over the same period of time. Subsequently, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation to mandate an increase in funding for behavioral health services. This funding has been essential to preventing further destabilization of the direct support workforce.*

Question #6: If the state minimum wage were to increase, would you likewise support a corresponding statewide increase in the Medicaid community services rate in order to protect home and community based services?

Candidate Responses:

<p>Ian Schlakman Candidate for Governor (Green)</p>	<p>Yes, we would support a corresponding increase in the Medicaid community services rate.</p>
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<p>Tony Campbell Candidate for Senator (Republican)</p>	<p>Yes</p>
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Michael Puskar Candidate for Senator (Unaffiliated)	NO RESPONSE PROVIDED
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Guy Mimoun District 2 (Green)	Absolutely
Dutch Ruppertsberger District 2 (Democrat)	Yes
Anthony Brown District 4 (Democrat)	I supported the 2014 minimum wage legislation and will encourage state lawmakers to take the same approach should there be an increase in the state minimum wage
William DeVine District 5 (Republican)	YES
Patrick Elder District 5 (Green)	Yes; absolutely.
Ted Athey District 6 (Unaffiliated)	Yes, I would be very supportive of these fundings on the State levels ; and , on the Federal level... I would take the burden off the State taxpayers by making #FederalJobGuarantee program and #MedicareForAll that would be cheaper for everyone in every State, after everything is said and done.
Amie Hoeber District 6 (Republican)	This is not an issue that would come before Congress
David Trone District 6 (Democrat)	This issue is one that the Maryland State Legislature will face. While not a federal issue, I will still support this initiative as a citizen of the state of Maryland. I will stand up to protect Medicare and Medicaid funding.
Elijah Cummings District 7 (Democrat)	Although this is more appropriately a question for state-level candidates than for the Congress, as a citizen of Maryland, I would support this reform.
Jamie Raskin District 8 (Democrat)	This is a state issue and does not apply to me as a federal elected official. However, as a State Senator, I supported a corresponding statewide increase
John Walsh District 8 (Republican)	Yes

[Medicaid](#)

Background: *Medicaid provides health coverage to two in five individuals with disabilities in Maryland.*

Question #7:

A. How would you work to improve the Medicaid program, in order to expand access to healthcare services for Medicaid recipients with disabilities?

B. What is your position on a Medicaid buy-in or single-payer healthcare system?

C. Do you support proposals to block grants on per capita cap Medicaid spending in Maryland? If so, what Medicaid services, if any, would you eliminate under a block grant or per capita spending system?

Candidate Responses:

Ian Schlakman Candidate for Governor (Green)	A. We would end the Medicaid program and replace it with a regional single-payer health care program. We support a federal National Improved Medicare for All program. We believe that the current for-profit model of health care is irredeemably broken and must be replaced with a model of comprehensive care. Specific initiatives for low-income people are reliant on the availability of a patchwork of funds and are mean-tested, which means that people may fall in and out of eligibility for those programs, which means interruptions in their care. B. We will establish a regional single-payer healthcare program. We support a federal National Improved Medicare for All program.
Tony Campbell Candidate for Senator (Republican)	A. I would work to ensure Medicaid service are accessible to people with disabilities. B. Not in favor. C. I would have to research this question. I do not have an answer for you at this time.
Michael Puskar Candidate for Senator (Unaffiliated)	A. Again, I would work towards a universal healthcare system. B. Given my previous answers, you can see I support universal ("single-payer") healthcare. C. At the federal level, I would not have a direct say; but again, these would be nearly moot if we passed universal.

<p>Guy Mimoun District 2 (Green)</p>	<p>A. My policy position is in full support of Medicare For All which would replace both the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid but until America moves away from a for profit medical model, a model which sadly places Americans into medical debt making it the leading cause of bankruptcy, I'm afraid I will have to work within the confines of what we have now. One of the ways I would work to improve the program would be to subsidize deductibles and copays making the program essentially free and mandating no medical practitioner be permitted to refuse treating a Medicaid recipient. As it stands Doctors seem to have a choice whether or not they can see Medicaid patients but I will work with the AMA and members of Congress to stop this discriminatory practice.</p> <p>B. I am a staunch supporter of H.R. 676 The United States National Health Care Act and will work to see it ratified in Congress.</p> <p>C. There isn't a justified need to underfund a federal program so why any Medicaid services must be subjected to termination simply doesn't make any sense. Simply put, Taxes do not fund spending at the Federal level and as such there is no reason why financial restraints are being placed on Medicaid recipients unless the intent of the program is to underserve and do harm. So long as we have patients, we will need Doctors who will need facilities, equipment and medications to tend to the sick. Provided natural and human resources exist, as member of Congress I will provide funding for the general welfare of all Americans.</p>
<p>Dutch Ruppertsberger District 2 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. I support expanding Medicaid to cover more Americans and increase access to services for more citizens with disabilities. We need to protect the Affordable Care Act, which contains invaluable improvements to Medicaid and increased the federal share for home and community-based services.</p> <p>B. I support Medicaid buy-in.</p> <p>C. I oppose block granting and per capita spending.</p>
<p>Anthony Brown District 4 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. I will fight to protect Medicaid funding at the federal level</p> <p>B. I believe that a single-payer healthcare system is a goal that we should pursue and that there are many aspects of improving our current system that we should address in the absence of a single-payer system</p> <p>C. No</p>

<p>William DeVine District 5 (Republican)</p>	<p>A. By educating people and businesses about the services provided and increasing funding.</p> <p>B. I think the a Medicaid buy-in is a great idea because it would bring the cost down across the board especially for the poor and disabled.</p> <p>C. I want to greatly expand and increase Medicaid.</p>
<p>Patrick Elder District 5 (Green)</p>	<p>A. We must institute a publicly funded health system. People in the United States are entitled to comprehensive lifetime benefits, including dental, vision, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, medication coverage, and hospice and long-term care. We must expand and improve Medicaid and Medicare.</p> <p>B. Everyone should receive lifetime benefits. It's overdue. Where's our indignation? Under improved Medicare for all, people will be able to choose from any healthcare provider in the United States, greatly increasing their choices and put decision-making into the hands of patients with their providers. Portability of coverage will be guaranteed regardless of geographical location or employment. There will be a much greater emphasis on providing free, universal, first-rate mental health services. The system will safeguard human dignity, respect individual autonomy, and protect informed consent. Fair and full reimbursement will be guaranteed to providers for their services. Because of these measures, the market will largely disappear for health insurance companies. Programs must be implemented to provide transitional services and retraining of their choice for employees in the health insurance industry.</p> <p>C. I do not support proposals to cap Medicaid spending and I would not eliminate any services.</p>
<p>Ted Athey District 6 (Unaffiliated)</p>	<p>A. I sold Medicare Supplements to Seniors in Maryland and understand thoroughly how it works along with Medicaid and Social Security. I am a Specialist on these topics. Medicaid is State and Federal funded. STATE Taxpayers get hit hard by this funded of Medicaid. Also, Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D with Medicare Supplements can be made cheaper and more efficient by making an ALL INCLUSIVE system that includes YOUNGER and HEALTHIER clients. By doing this, a #MedicareForAll system will help make an EVEN MORE EFFICIENT and COST EFFECTIVE system for all U.S. Citizens.</p> <p>B. My comment above explains why ...#MedicareForAll system is the best way.</p>

	<p>C. Yes, I would support anything that helps U.S. Citizens in any manner. I am a Candidate for the People. I am NOT for Vulture Capitalists at all.</p>
<p>Amie Hoeber District 6 (Republican)</p>	<p>A. I do not support single payer healthcare. Independent studies have shown it would cost over \$32 trillion, and require every American's tax bill to double. Our healthcare system including Medicaid is propped-up private insurance. Providers take a significant loss on Medicaid patients because they are profitable in the private market. A Medicaid or Medicare-for-all model would immediately collapse and lead to devastating cuts for individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>B. see above.</p> <p>C. I do NOT support block grant proposals pushed by national republicans. These proposals achieve Medicaid savings by capping the overall amount while passing unfunded costs on to states. This is unacceptable. I do support making significant reforms to our healthcare markets by (1) enacting real malpractice reform, (2) introducing price transparency, (3) reforming our prescription drug market, (4) expanding health savings accounts, and (5) fully funding research initiatives that address high cost illnesses such as Alzheimer's.</p>
<p>David Trone District 6 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. See below.</p> <p>B. See below.</p> <p>C. In response to your three questions, I believe strongly in fighting for healthcare for all. Healthcare is a right, and we must strive to reach universal coverage. I also believe in opening our federal healthcare programs for buy-in to those that are not otherwise qualified. I recognize that Medicaid coverage for those with disabilities is crucial for those living in Maryland's 6th District – especially for programs like long-term services and support that Medicaid provides. These services allow those with disabilities to function and integration into society, and we cannot let this coverage lapse. We also need to prohibit annual and lifetime caps on insurance and cover all essential health benefits. When it comes to improving the services of Maryland's Medicaid system, I will defer to my state legislative colleagues, but will continue to offer my support to those with disabilities. I will also fight to ensure we never balance our budget on the backs of cuts to Medicare or Medicaid.</p>

<p>Elijah Cummings District 7 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. Answering all three of your questions about Medicaid, I have been an original co-sponsor of a national, universal, single-payer, “Medicare for All” system of funding our healthcare for more than a decade. [Ref.: H.R.676 - Expanded & Improved Medicare For All Act].</p> <p>I am convinced that this is the only way that we can achieve universal access to world-class health care while moderating skyrocketing and unsustainable increases in the cost of care.</p> <p>At the same time, however, I recognize that thousands of individuals living in Maryland’s 7th Congressional District are depending upon the services funded by the Federal-Maryland Medicaid partnership, especially for community-based, long-term services, and that, even in the context of moving to a national, single-payer health financing system, Medicaid may need to continue this role.</p> <p>Appropriately, I must defer to my colleagues in the Maryland State Legislature re: expanding and improving those services under Maryland’s Medicaid system, but I will continue to offer those legislators and advocates for people with disabilities my support.</p> <p>B. See, (a) Above.</p> <p>C. See, also, (a) above</p>
<p>Jamie Raskin District 8 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. I have worked to defend Medicaid against Republican attacks that would undermine funding for this critical lifeline. I strongly oppose efforts by the Trump Administration to allow states to add work requirements to the Medicaid program, a short-sighted and unprecedented attack on otherwise eligible Medicaid beneficiaries that would have a disproportionate effect on people with disabilities. I have urged the Trump Administration and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to rescind this unhelpful guidance.</p> <p>B. It is clear to me that, beyond the ethical and public health imperative of making sure all Americans are covered by health insurance, a universal single-payer system is the kind of health care system that is working best in advanced industrial nations all over the world. We are today wasting around 30 cents on every dollar on insurance bureaucracy, a cost that nearly vanishes in single-payer nations. That is why I am a proud and passionate cosponsor of H.R. 676, the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act. I am a proud founding member of the Medicare for All Caucus, which aims</p>

	<p>to push for guaranteed health care for every person living in the United States. As I continue to push for initiatives to ensure that every American has access to affordable, high quality health care, I will continue to work closely with my constituents with disabilities to ensure that their needs are fully met under any universal single-payer system.</p> <p>C. Absolutely not. We must protect Medicaid against underhanded GOP proposals to limit funding by converting the program to block grants. Medicaid supports home and community-based services, including personal and attendant care services that help people with disabilities live in their homes and communities, and specialized equipment, like wheelchairs, that is often unavailable through private insurance and too costly for all but the wealthiest people to fund out-of-pocket.</p>
<p>John Walsh District 8 (Republican)</p>	<p>A. I will need to meet with representatives of your non-profit organizations and Medicaid before I can determine what steps I can take to assist.</p> <p>B. I support Medicaid buy-in programs; I am undecided on a single payer healthcare system but interested in a vigorous national debate to understand affects on service, costs, etc.</p> <p>C. I am not in support of block grants</p>

[Health Care](#)

Question #8: How would you expand access to healthcare for adult patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities?

Candidate Responses:

<p>Ian Schlakman Candidate for Governor (Green)</p>	<p>We will establish a regional universal single-payer healthcare program. We will establish a millionaire's and billionaire's tax to fund comprehensive access to all treatments deemed necessary by a Maryland resident and their physician.</p>
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<p>Tony Campbell Candidate for Senator (Republican)</p>	<p>As a US Senator, I would work with the State of Maryland to see where and when access can be expanded.</p>
<p>Michael Puskar Candidate for Senator (Unaffiliated)</p>	<p>Again, universal would help on this matter.</p>

<p>Guy Mimoun District 2 (Green)</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Dutch Ruppertsberger District 2 (Democrat)</p>	<p>We need to fight for the Affordable Care Act. If the individual mandate and penalty go away, so do the invaluable patient protections, including guaranteed coverage for patients with preexisting conditions like intellectual and developmental disabilities and eliminating annual and lifetime caps. We can make improvements to the ACA – like adding a public option or allowing Americans to buy into Medicare at a younger age – without repealing. I also support including intellectual and developmental disabilities in the minimum covered benefits package.</p>
<p>Anthony Brown District 4 (Democrat)</p>	<p>Some ways to expand access to healthcare for adult patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities should include training healthcare providers about the needs of people with IDD, establishing systems of care that integrate acute healthcare with long-term services and support, developing IDD medicine as a specialty, and building health promotion and wellness resources to provide people with IDD a set of preventative health supports</p>
<p>William DeVine District 5 (Republican)</p>	<p>By adding more funding to educate and make accessible services.</p>
<p>Patrick Elder District 5 (Green)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicaid expansion; • Providing increased employment and income opportunities which would increase health care options available for each individual. This might be accomplished through employer income tax deductions. • A universal method of data collection would streamline access to services. • A stronger tracking and surveillance system would ensure that the needs of this population are being met. • Higher wages for patient care professionals and resource coordinators would diminish the atrocious turnover rates in these positions. • Providing reliable transportation systems will help to expand access to healthcare. • Requiring the Community First Choice Option is made available.

Ted Athey District 6 (Unaffiliated)	#MedicareForAll will cover all these patients and the professionals that administer treatment to the patients..... Please read H.R. 676 GOOGLE : H.R. 676 what all is covered.
Amie Hoeber District 6 (Republican)	I support creating and fully funding high risk pools for individuals who are unable to obtain private insurance or exchange based insurance.
David Trone District 6 (Democrat)	Question 7 encompasses these issues.
Elijah Cummings District 7 (Democrat)	Please see my answer to Question 7.
Jamie Raskin District 8 (Democrat)	Expanding access to health care means ensuring that health care is affordable for every person. That is why I support universal health care and various other proposals to improve upon the progress made under the Affordable Care Act, including H.R. 1307, the Public Option Deficit Reduction Act, which would establish a public health insurance option to compete with private insurance plans on the Marketplace Exchange website. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that this would reduce premiums by at least eight percent nationwide.
John Walsh District 8 (Republican)	I look forward to recommendations from your non profit organizations on the best ways to expand access

Behavioral Health

Background: A variety of strategies have been offered to address the public need for greater access to mental health and substance use disorder services. These include, among others, better enforcement of behavioral health insurance parity laws; greater investment in community behavioral health provider capacity, telehealth, peers and other workforce development strategies; expansion of school-based behavioral health services; increased development of mobile and walk-in crisis services; etc.

Question #9:

A. What strategies would you employ to ensure that individuals with mental health and substance use disorder have access to services that meet their needs?

B. IF elected, what concrete steps will you take to address the increasing need for more mental health and substance use disorder services for Marylanders of all ages?

Candidate Responses:

<p>Ian Schlakman Candidate for Governor (Green)</p>	<p>A. We will ensure through statute that services for mental health and substance use disorders are covered by a regional universal single-payer healthcare system.</p> <p>B. We believe that two of our major proposals - a regional single-payer health care plan and a universal basic income - will dramatically alter the availability of health care providers in Maryland. We will initiate a millionaire's and billionaire's tax to fund these programs, which will make millions of new dollars available to fund new health care programs and positions and ensure full funding of existing programs. Current providers will now be supplements with a \$1,000 per month basic income guarantee, which will either help them continue to do their work mental health and addiction providers with increased stability of a supplemental income, or allow them to work part-time while they pursue other interests, opening up their positions to new providers who can develop their skills.</p>
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<p>Tony Campbell Candidate for Senator (Republican)</p>	<p>A. We need to study which strategies are the most effective and then make the policy decision to make sure these services get to the people who need them.</p> <p>B. I would bring together state and national levels of government to maximize the effectiveness of their programs for the people of Maryland.</p>
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<p>Michael Puskar Candidate for Senator (Unaffiliated)</p>	<p>A. Again, educating the public universal healthcare would help.</p> <p>B. Aside from pushing the aforementioned, I would have at least one aide dedicated to the issues and would myself visit centers/institutions that provide such services for direct input.</p>
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<p>Guy Mimoun District 2 (Green)</p>	<p>A. I see no reason why parity in terms of reimbursement and access shouldn't exist between medical and mental health but combating mental health and substance abuse disorders must absolutely be expanded to meet the growing demand and increased prevalence. Taking this subject a step further, I would want to have Congress appropriate substantial funding to the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute on Drug Abuse to conduct state of the art research on brain disorders on the genomic level to decode and deconstruct the compromised mind. We live in a time of</p>
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	<p>medical transformation where people suffering from Mental Disability, Traumatic Brain Injury and drug induced neurotoxicity may one day be remedied by means of regenerative medicine. As a member of Congress I will do whatever I can to help this neglected segment of the population as people tend to sweep this problem under the rug rather than face the issue head on and deal with it.</p> <p>B. Work with public and private institutions with the intent of getting a firm understanding of staffing, training and budgetary shortfalls, examine what programs are currently yielding the best results and provide subsidies that would further expand access to all Marylanders suffering from mental health issues.</p>
<p>Dutch Ruppertsberger District 2 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. This is a major issue that I am actively pursuing, especially amid our nation’s opioid epidemic. In fact, I recently visited a substance abuse treatment facility in my district to learn more about how we can expand access. I support allowing Medicaid to pay for substance abuse treatment at inpatient facilities with more than 16 beds. I recently supported an amendment to create a Medicare pilot program to increase access to outpatient treatment. I have supported legislation (HR6) to help Americans avoid addiction in the first place by emphasizing opioid education and offering alternative pain management. The bill included funding for a federal grant program to help people in treatment and recovery live independently and participate in the workforce as well as a student loan repayment program for health professionals who agree to take a job treating substance use disorders in under-served areas.</p> <p>B. This is a major issue that I am actively pursuing, especially amid our nation’s opioid epidemic. In fact, I recently visited a substance abuse treatment facility in my district to learn more about how we can expand access. I support allowing Medicaid to pay for substance abuse treatment at inpatient facilities with more than 16 beds. I recently supported an amendment to create a Medicare pilot program to increase access to outpatient treatment. I have supported legislation (HR6) to help Americans avoid addiction in the first place by emphasizing opioid education and offering alternative pain management. The bill included funding for a federal grant program to help people in treatment and recovery live independently and participate in the workforce as well as a student loan repayment program for health professionals</p>

	<p>who agree to take a job treating substance use disorders in under-served areas.</p>
<p>Anthony Brown District 4 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. I support a number of strategies to ensure that individuals with mental health and substance use disorders have access to services that meet their needs, including better enforcement of behavioral health insurance parity laws; greater investment in community behavioral health provider capacity, telehealth, peers and other workforce development strategies; expansion of school-based behavioral health services; and increased development of mobile and walk-in crisis services</p> <p>B. One concrete step will be to fully fund the effort to address the opioid crisis</p>
<p>William DeVine District 5 (Republican)</p>	<p>A. Education with the right communication to all those that would be beneficial to the help that is provided by the State and Federal agencies.</p> <p>B. Education with the right communication to all those that would be beneficial to the help that is provided by the State and Federal agencies.</p>
<p>Patrick Elder District 5 (Green)</p>	<p>A. I applaud the Trump administration’s substantial increase in funding to combat the opioid epidemic, including the \$185 million additional for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, (SAMHSA). I will work to safeguard this funding.</p> <p>B. I support the legalization of safe injection sites throughout the state to provide a place for the consumption of pre-obtained drugs, to provide sterile needles, and to administer first aid as needed. Many courts still fail to understand that addiction is foremost a disease. Judges continue to send these pathetic souls to county detention facilities. They are caught in an atrocious revolving door of arrest, incarceration, release, and re-arrest. They desperately need mental health counseling, intensive drug therapy and job training. We must institute universal healthcare that includes addiction therapy and counseling. There is a clinical aspect to the crisis that calls for increased non-threatening contact between addicts and health and law enforcement officials. Drug therapies like Suboxone should be made available as free prescriptions to addicts. Twelve-step programs are a proven mechanism to aid in the recovery process, although patients must be willing to work the first step: “We admitted we were powerless over opioids — that our lives had become unmanageable.” This is the tough part. Recovery requires love, family, and a nurturing community — things in short supply.</p>

<p>Ted Athey District 6 (Unaffiliated)</p>	<p>A. This is all covered by the H.R. 676 #MedicareForAll billall mental disorders and addiction prevention..... The Federal Job Guarantee program would allow for needed occupations associated with the mentioned impairments.</p> <p>B. This is all covered by the H.R. 676 #MedicareForAll billall mental disorders and addiction prevention..... The Federal Job Guarantee program would allow for needed occupations associated with the mentioned impairments.....</p> <p>FURTHERMORE, These bills have already been in the system ; READY FOR USE by proper officials ready to use these BILLS the correct and most efficient ways.</p> <p>We need a MAJORITY of advocates and Co.Sponsors in the House of Representatives and Senate to make it a "GO"it's up to you now ; BALLS IN YOUR COURT</p> <p>Ted Athey for Congressman in the 6th District of Maryland, Independent, Representative for all my Constituents....</p>
<p>Amie Hoerber District 6 (Republican)</p>	<p>A. All of the proposals listed above are important. Last year, Congress passed the first comprehensive mental health bill to increase access to care. I think this was a good starting point. There are several follow-up legislative efforts including the The Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act and the Mental Health Improvement Act. I would be a strong supporter of bills such as these, drafted by the mental health caucus, and I would advocate for increasing access to mental health treatment, particularly for pediatric mental health.</p> <p>B. see above.</p>
<p>David Trone District 6 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. See below.</p> <p>B. This is an issue that is very personal for me. My nephew, Ian, died in 2016 from an overdose. My family worked with him to help get him treatment, but unfortunately it wasn't enough. Because of this, I have spent a lot of my time and energy working with doctors and community advocates on how we can best address the opioid crisis. One of the major ways we can begin to combat this is through different strategies to increase access to mental health and substance use disorder services. In my plan, 12 Action Steps To Combat The Opioid Epidemic, I list out some of the ways to approach this. One of the steps centers specifically on focusing on mental health from an early age. Specifically, I believe we need to focus on mental health from an early age, providing mental health resources in schools and helping children who suffer from mental illness. The Mental Health in Schools Act</p>

	<p>of 2017 provides a good model for what should be done – providing \$200 million in additional funding for school mental health grants to be distributed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.</p>
<p>Elijah Cummings District 7 (Democrat)</p>	<p>A. I am convinced that our mental health professionals know how to effectively help people with mental health and substance abuse disorders. The professionals simply lack adequate funding to adequately treat these dual (and multiple) diagnoses.</p> <p>To address this funding problem, last April, along with Senator Elizabeth Warren [D-MA], I introduced our proposed Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act (H.R. 5545 / S.2700) that would provide \$100 billion over the next ten years, targeting a major share of these new resources directly to our nation’s hardest hit communities as they mobilize to provide the medically-assisted treatment that has been shown to work.</p> <p>Maryland would receive more than \$98 million each year from federal formula grants. In addition, based upon the extent of documented need, \$48 million annually would be directed to our Maryland state government, \$14 million annually to Baltimore City, and just over \$10 million to Baltimore County. Competitive grants could increase that federal funding.</p> <p>To more effectively and humanely combat the disease of addiction and save lives, the CARE Act also would provide funds for research, train health professionals to better diagnose and treat substance use disorders and provide \$500 million annually to purchase naloxone at discounted prices and provide it to first responders and public health agencies. Our proposed legislation currently has 79 House co-sponsors, but, tragically, the Republican majority has resisted giving our proposal a hearing or up-or-down vote on the floor of the House.</p> <p>B. See, (a) above</p>
	<p>A. Despite provisions under federal law requiring parity for mental health coverage equal to coverage of other health conditions, access to mental health care remains limited for many, with such care being covered at lower levels, leading to higher out of pocket costs, or limited provider options, leading to long wait times. Congress should play a role in</p>

<p>Jamie Raskin District 8 (Democrat)</p>	<p>ensuring that insurance providers live up to the spirit of these laws. Additionally, during the annual appropriations process, I have supported funding requests for critical programs under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).</p> <p>B. As a member of the Mental Health Caucus, I believe we have a responsibility to ensure fair and equal access to mental health and substance abuse disorder services. I have cosponsored H.R. 2913, the Mental Health in Schools Act which would provide more comprehensive school based mental health services for students by expanding and retooling certain SAMHSA grants. Additionally, I have submitted programmatic requests to the House Appropriations Committee to encourage them to provide strong funding levels for the Mental Health First Aid Act, which provides funding for community mental health education programs to assist individuals who work with youth in understanding and responding to the signs of mental illness and substance abuse.</p>
<p>John Walsh District 8 (Republican)</p>	<p>A. Again, I need information and recommendations from your non-profit organizations</p> <p>B. I look forward to meeting with representatives of your non-profit organizations to identify the most effective steps to be taken</p>

[Housing](#)

Background: *Landlords often reject rental subsidies, such as Section 8 and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) that many people with disabilities rely on to live independently in the community. This discrimination against voucher holders and recipients of other subsidies unfairly narrows the housing choice available to low-income families, senior citizens, and people with disabilities, which leads to high rates of homelessness and housing vulnerability in our community.*

Question #10: Would you support the passage of Maryland legislation forbidding landlords from denying tenant applications solely based on the source of a tenant’s income?

Candidate Responses:

<p>Ian Schlakman Candidate for Governor (Green)</p>	<p>Yes. We believe housing is a human right. Our proposal for a basic income guarantee will ensure that all Marylanders will have be able to afford basic housing, food, and other necessities.</p>
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Tony Campbell Candidate for Senator (Republican)	There are anti-discrimination laws in housing for these groups of citizens under federal law. I would not support any changes in federal law.
Michael Puskar Candidate for Senator (Unaffiliated)	I would support it. Given I am a working class man for the working class, I know the struggles and have had friends with such struggles; though again at the federal level would have no direct hand in the state legislation.

Guy Mimoun District 2 (Green)	YES
Dutch Ruppertsberger District 2 (Democrat)	Yes
Anthony Brown District 4 (Democrat)	As a member of the General Assembly, I consistently voted in support of Maryland legislation forbidding landlords from denying tenant applications solely based on the source of a tenant's income
William DeVine District 5 (Republican)	YES
Patrick Elder District 5 (Green)	I would support legislation forbidding landlords from denying tenant applications solely based on the source of a tenant's income. I would add a provision to the legislation that would create a mitigation fund that landlords renting to tenants using Section 8 or SSI could tap to make required property improvements or to reimburse landlords up to a certain limit to repair property damaged by tenants.
Ted Athey District 6 (Unaffiliated)	Yes, you will have my undivided attention on these matters of discrimination against any disadvantage person.
Amie Hoerber District 6 (Republican)	Yes, although this is unlikely to come before Congress.
David Trone District 6 (Democrat)	Yes.
Elijah Cummings District 7 (Democrat)	YES.
Jamie Raskin District 8 (Democrat)	This is a state issue and does not apply to me as a federal elected official. As a State Senator, however, I championed this legislation and was the Senate floor leader for it.
John Walsh District 8 (Republican)	Yes

Transportation

Background: *In the 2005 National Council on Disability report, lack of public transportation was reported as one of the most serious, persistent problems faced by people with disabilities who live in rural America today. Some 40 years after the Urban Mass Transportation Act and 28 years after the Americans with Disabilities Act, minimal or nonexistent transit services in most rural areas still create serious, ongoing barriers to employment, accessible health care, and full participation in society for people with disabilities.*

Question #11: What would you do to expand access to affordable and accessible transportation for people with disabilities?

Candidate Responses:

Ian Schlakman Candidate for Governor (Green)	We will deprioritize state spending on highways and private transportation infrastructure and reallocate spending to public transit projects including the Baltimore light rail, the Red Line project, expansion of the DC Metro system and connection with Baltimore public transit, expansion of commuter train and bus lines in and out of Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore, and investment in MTA mobility services and other public access to reliable transportation.
Tony Campbell Candidate for Senator (Republican)	I would work with the counties to see how my office can help with paratransit accommodations.
Michael Puskar Candidate for Senator (Unaffiliated)	This is likely one of the tougher solutions to develop; geography can be an inherent obstacle for so many things, though it is not fair to the disabled (or anyone else adversely affected). To be honest, this is one issue of which I had not thought, so at this moment I have no possible remedies in mind, though I would surely do what I could.
Guy Mimoun District 2 (Green)	There seems to be a gross disconnect between Federal funding that has been allocated for programs and their fulfillment. Decades old with little or nothing to show for it is indicative of poor appointments to key management positions and/or a lack of funding which to me signifies the deliberate sabotage of a program. Appropriating funding is a part of what Congress does but what isn't often seen is follow up to make sure a program is meeting it's benchmarks and milestones. I would make sure that this program receives all

	<p>the support it is due, that it's leadership is seasoned and able to fulfill program demands and monitor progress with an eagle eye.</p>
<p>Dutch Ruppertsberger District 2 (Democrat)</p>	<p>I support making sure the ADA applies to all existing and future mass transit services. We need to help provide federal funding to address any gaps in non-compliance in our transportation systems, especially in our bus systems and rail lines.</p>
<p>Anthony Brown District 4 (Democrat)</p>	<p>To expand access to affordable and accessible transportation for people with disabilities, I will fight to ensure that transportation equity is a key component of all federal transportation funding authorizations and appropriations</p>
<p>William DeVine District 5 (Republican)</p>	<p>Increase the Metro Access Buses to ALL locations in the State.</p>
<p>Patrick Elder District 5 (Green)</p>	<p>It's not just a question of expanding access to affordable and accessible transportation for people with disabilities. Instead, we must expand access to everyone. I live in rural St. Mary's County and it is impossible to take public transportation from certain areas of the county to others. It is also extraordinarily difficult to find transportation to and from Washington and Baltimore.</p> <p>The Federal Transit Administration's Bus & Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program makes federal resources available to states and direct recipients to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment. The program, however, is tiny and currently offers just \$366.3 million in competitive grant funding for transit bus projects nationwide. Last year, a total of just 139 projects across the country received funding from this program. It ought to be greatly expanded.</p> <p>Funding flows from the Highway Trust Fund - which relies on the federal gas tax -which has been stuck at 18.4 cents-per-gallon since 1993. Additionally, the gas tax is not indexed to inflation which has risen nearly 70% since then. The rate is no longer sufficient for maintaining the trust fund's solvency.</p> <p>I will advocate for increases in the federal gas and diesel taxes to help fund bus transportation for everyone</p>
<p>Ted Athey District 6 (Unaffiliated)</p>	<p>With me as your Congressman, those problems WILL BE REMEDIED without recourse. We have energy efficient solutions to mass transportation. We need to start putting</p>

	<p>these SOLUTIONS to work for the greater GOOD of all the people. #FederalJobGuarantee program can help get WORKERS working on these MASS TRANSIT PROJECTS TOO.....</p>
<p>Amie Hoeber District 6 (Republican)</p>	<p>I would support transportation and infrastructure funding that assists local communities seeking to make our communities more livable for those with disabilities.</p>
<p>David Trone District 6 (Democrat)</p>	<p>I grew up in a rural area on a struggling family farm. Much of Maryland’s 6th District today is in a very rural area – and these issues are ones that people in the district face often. In Congress, I will focus on funding key infrastructure projects, including fixing I-270 with new express lanes from the American Legion Bridge all the way through Frederick that will have regional express-bus service lanes. We must fully fund and complete long-planned improvements to I-81, I-70, MARC rail, and other key transportation projects in Western Maryland to better connect our communities, improve safety, and provide more jobs. As we make these improvements, we need to ensure that we focus on mobility and accessibility. For rural areas in particular, things we should focus on include making sure that we replace or upgrade buses to ensure they are accessible and complete street provisions, which ensure that roadways are safe and accessible for all people, including people with disabilities.</p>
<p>Elijah Cummings District 7 (Democrat)</p>	<p>When I was young, my family and I traveled by mass transit every day, so I am acutely aware of its importance in people’s lives. This is as true in metropolitan Baltimore as it is the more rural areas of Maryland’s 7th Congressional District, whether people are depending upon a bus to get them where they need to go or are relying upon our “Mobility” services.</p> <p>Today, I am a Senior Member of the House Transportation Committee. In 2015, after years of temporary measures, we finally were able to enact a five-year, bipartisan surface transportation funding bill. The \$305 Billion “Fixing America’s Surface Infrastructure Act allocated \$60.9 billion for mass transit through fiscal 2020.</p> <p>Unfortunately, we could not achieve consensus about doing what needs to be done in terms of fixing the highway trust fund that pays for the federal share of both roads and mass transit. The Federal gas tax, 18.4 cents per gallon, has not</p>

	<p>been raised since 1993 and is no longer sufficient to meet all of our nation’s transportation needs.</p> <p>I will continue to support funding for “Mobility,” but this is the “big picture” issue that the Congress must resolve</p>
<p>Jamie Raskin District 8 (Democrat)</p>	<p>Our metro system (WMATA) is an important resource for many of my constituents and people throughout our region, offering affordable transportation options. Unfortunately, elevator outages, long wait times, and other logistical challenges make it an unreliable or stressful transportation option for people with disabilities. I will continue to push WMATA for technical improvements and to ensure that any infrastructure updates or investments do not impede access for persons with disabilities. I also recognize that WMATA is not a viable transportation option for people living in more rural areas of our district, and that our state’s transportation infrastructure must include a network of connected bus systems that operate throughout our region. To that end, I have requested full funding levels for the Federal Transit Administration and other transportation initiatives during the annual appropriations process.</p>
<p>John Walsh District 8 (Republican)</p>	<p>Increase volunteers, add county services, develop innovative public-private relationship with ride sharing companies</p>