Baltimore City Primary Election, April 26, 2016
Candidate Questionnaire

Please respond to the following 16 questions and submit your responses to Dan Lucas (DLucas@maliuna.org) on or before Friday, January 22, 2016.

1) Candidate: Mary Pat Clarke
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4) Campaign Committee Name: Friends of Mary Pat Clarke

5) Campaign Tax ID: FEIN number 74-3088267

6) How many votes do you believe you need to win? Please explain your answer.
   Not sure, since this is the first time in which Baltimore City Municipal elections are scheduled on the same date as the Presidential election, and the turnout numbers for that combination are unpredictable. In addition, having no incumbent running for Mayor and so many candidates for that office means a plethora of GOTV operations whose effects are unknown. I am wary, because I lost two elections by miscalculating turnout.

   Finally, I hesitate to predict votes I will need, because I will not know the number of Democrats competing for this City Council position until after the filing deadline of February 3, 2016.

7) What is your strategy for getting those votes? Please explain your answer.
   Visibility, door-to-door in early Spring, mailings to Democratic households.

8) How much money do you plan to raise? Please explain your answer.
   $60,000 would meet the requirements of the campaign plan.

9) Have you ever previously sought public office? If yes, which office(s)?
Yes. Have run in the past
-for City Council in 1975, 1979, 2003/04, 2007, 2011;
-for President of City Council in 1983 (lost), 1987, 1991; and,
-for Mayor in 1995 (lost).

10) Have you ever previously received an endorsement from LiUNA? If yes, when?
I do not recall specific previous opportunities to apply for LiUNA!'s endorsement unless part of the Baltimore AFL-CIO Metropolitan Council application.

11) Collective Bargaining provides the foundation for an educated, skilled, upwardly-mobile working class. Please describe your experience and understanding of Collective Bargaining, including any actions you've taken to support or increase the power of working families in their pursuit of family sustaining wages and benefits.

I was the lead sponsor of Baltimore City's Living Wage bill, the first in the nation, in 1994 as President of the Baltimore City Council. I have traditionally marched and picketed and lobbied with disenfranchised workers in diverse efforts to win collective bargaining rights, for example, at the Hyatt.

My understanding of collective bargaining is that, without such rights, workers lack the influence to require fair wages and benefits, safety and health protections, and job security.

12) The minimum wage in Baltimore City has not kept pace with inflation and needs to be raised. If elected, would you introduce and/or support legislation to increase the minimum wage to $15 by 2020? Please explain your answer.
Yes. That is my plan and commitment.

13) Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) ensure a highly qualified workforce, labor peace, and training and apprenticeship opportunities for Baltimore City residents. PLAs have proven that they are the key to completing construction projects on time and on budget, while simultaneously creating high quality, family supporting jobs with healthcare, pensions, and a clear, upward career path for Baltimore City residents. If elected, would you introduce and/or support legislation in favor of the use of PLAs on pubic works projects? Please explain your answer.
Yes.

14) Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) ensure Baltimore City residents are working on Baltimore City projects, and that Baltimore City residents earn fair, family sustaining wages. CBAs on public works projects include requirements for local hiring of Baltimore City residents, the application of prevailing wage, and the referral of LiUNA members and apprentices to contractors and subcontractors. If elected, would you introduce and/or support legislation in support of the application of CBAs on any project receiving public subsidies (tax abatement, TIF, PILOT, land swap or grant or other public sector capital investment) from the City of Baltimore, the Baltimore Development Corporation or their affiliates? Please explain your answer.

Yes.

15) Residents of Baltimore City need jobs. Unions such as LiUNA help Baltimore City residents get good jobs at fair, family sustaining wages that lead to careers and lifetime employment opportunities. If elected, what would you do to support Baltimore residents in their need for employment?

I have made commitments to support $15 by 2020, PLAs, and CBAs (questions 12, 13, 14 above). My voting record throughout my years in the City Council will indicate my consistent support for such organized approaches to raising the earning power of Baltimore City workers.

I am also a strong defender of fair benefits for Baltimore City government's active and retired personnel. I single out City workers in this regard, because City Council must vote on some of their basic benefit changes, and, in this and prior terms, I have voted against reductions, for example, of the unfairly retroactive disenfranchisement of 15-year and-under Fire & Police from the 20-and-Out benefits they were promiosed upon hiring.

I understand that legislation generally involves negotiation to get enough votes for enactment. My pledge in that regard is to include LiUNA! and fellow advocate representatives in negotiations affecting City Council legislation in which they are involved and in which I serve as a lead sponsor.

16) Will you sponsor and support legislation to strengthen local hiring for Baltimore City residents?

I have and I will continue to support improvements to the City Council local hiring law which I co-sponsored and is already in place.

Thanks, LiUNA!, for this opportunity to respond to your questions and to be considered for endorsement. Thanks as well for your advocacy on behalf of workers and their families in Baltimore City. Mary Pat Clarke