



## Montgomery County 2022 Candidate Questionnaire Anne Kaiser

### Personal Information:

**Name** Anne Kaiser

**What Office Are You Seeking in the 2022 Election?** Maryland House of Delegates, District 14

### Where Can Voters Learn More About Your Positions Or Contact Your Campaign?

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Please Answer the Following Questions- responses will posted in their entirety and will not be edited.

### Someone new to Montgomery County may ask, "What's the Ag Reserve and why is it important?" What's your answer?

Great question. Generations ago, the county decided to dedicate a large portion of our community to agriculture and limited development. Today, our county has since grown exponentially, but the ag reserve has not, allowing for continued agriculture, environmental protection, historic preservation as well as beautiful outdoor spaces for the rest of us. It is a national model of land preservation.

### What is your vision for the future of the County's Agricultural Reserve? Briefly, how would you achieve that vision?

I think we should essentially maintain the agricultural reserve. This is mostly the purview of the county council, but the legislature does have a role. Our team in District 14 always advocates for our local farmers, especially with regard to beer farms and wineries.

### What are your priorities regarding stewardship of the County's natural resources (water, forests, open spaces) and parkland?

I value our natural resources and have a voting record that reflects this.

### What role will you play with regard to ensure that we safeguard our drinking water supply both surface and groundwater?

I will continue to vote for strong environmental legislation and prioritize maintaining our basic needs, such as clean water.

### What are your top priorities to help the County address climate change? What role will the Ag Reserve play?

The county needs to support renewable energy as much as it has the power to do so. As such, two small things would be to provide more spaces for electrical vehicles and invest in more electric or hybrid buses. The agricultural reserve helps with water runoff and helps clean the air.

### What more can be done to support our local farm businesses and rural communities?

Farmers need to have streamlined regulations with less paperwork. We need to make it easier for

people to inherit farms, without large tax bills. In our district, we have focused on supporting our farmers.

**What are your regional transportation priorities? Do you support M83 and an additional Potomac bridge and outer beltway through the Reserve or adjacent rural zones?**

First, we need better transit options for people in the county. But, I do believe some two lane roads need to be expanded.

**How should our County manage its solid waste? What role should incineration, composting and recycling play?**

The county could do an even better job of educating people about composting and recycling. Maybe the county should provide us all with a composting bin, since it's not really practical (and physically possible) for all people to compost for themselves. Less incineration, more recycling.

**What are your views on the general plan update "Thrive 2050," both the process and the draft now before the Council?**

Thrive 2050 is the purview of the Council and not the legislature, but I do believe the process has driven an imperfect plan. To do things well, all public bodies need greater openness and transparency. And what's the rush – let's do it right.

**Do you believe that the way that local government branches, state entities, and the public currently interact can be improved? If so, what steps would you take?**

I think public bodies can do a better job of educating the public. Also, I think the "public comment" stage often comes after a decision has already been made. As a legislator, I have always taken my educational role seriously, believing it's best that citizens understand what we do. We can pass more state laws about open meetings.