



Montgomery County 2022 Candidate Questionnaire Frank Nice

Personal Information:

Name Frank Nice

What Office Are You Seeking in the 2022 Election? Legislative District 19 Delegate

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?

The rural areas of Montgomery County encompass 93,000 acres in its Agricultural Reserve. The Ag Reserve is important because it and its accompanying Master Plan and zoning elements were designed to protect farmland and agriculture. A sustained commitment to agriculture and the combination of tools helps retain more than 500 farms that contribute millions of dollars to Montgomery County's annual economy. Farmers by feeding us and clothing us allow us to be healthy and able to work to pay taxes on our wages. In many cases, agriculture is at the base of the economic pyramid, which allows it to sustain all of the economic growth up to the top.

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

We must allow the County's Agriculture Reserve to instruct us on what it sees is best for agriculture and its consumers. Political leaders must enable agriculture and not direct it. Farmers are truly the experts and know what is best to maintain the viability of farm businesses in Maryland. I will see that our constituents are always cognizant of that fact. Farmers are the first ones to be pushed around or forced off their land when politicians think they know what is best when it comes to agriculture. I will defend and educate the public on programs that agriculture deems necessary for land preservation, including reasonable taxation.

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

I, as a pharmacist, have been on the ground 24 times in the country of Haiti, where almost all natural resources have been destroyed. Water is contaminated, forests are deforested, open spaces are non-existent, and parkland is polluted. Haiti is a failed nation state because of this. In Haiti, I am working with agronomists and agronomy students to improve all of the above areas because we know natural resources are the undergirding of all societies. I would like to see the "Maryland Blueprint for Education" have as a top priority to prepare students for careers in all areas of agriculture. These students will be the hope for long term stewardship of our natural resources. As a Delegate, I will advocate for the preservation of resources by enabling individuals and organizations to do what is best for all citizens and not just throw money at the issue and tell others what must be done. This is the ideal situation to use good old common sense.

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

As a pharmacist and 30-year veteran of the US Public Health with Certification in Public Health Pharmacy (CPHP) and a former member of the prototype Public Health Service-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team, I know full well the consequences of unsafe surface and groundwater. It is always better to do whatever is necessary to provide clean water and not compromise it, rather than treat the nasty results. I personally witnessed the introduction of cholera into the water of Haiti that resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of people, including very close friends, and its presence in Haiti to be forever now. I will always play a preventative and prophylactic role.

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

Asking how the County should guide the climate change effort is a worthwhile, but difficult, question to answer because the government is not currently considering any other guidance other than what you already know, and the 2022 Assembly is not going beyond any assumption other than climate control is the only mitigating factor to consider in any deliberations, including agriculture. As I have intimated, government should guide climate change efforts based on all impacts, including the negative impacts in relation to climate change control impacts. In this scenario, the role of the Ag Reserve is to educate political leaders on all aspects of addressing climate change, including both the positive and the negative.

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

I believe that the most effective and most efficient government is the smallest organization possible. For Maryland farmers, that would certainly be organizations such as the Ag Reserve, which protects and grows Maryland agriculture and preserves rural life for all Maryland citizens. Farmers know what is best for themselves, the land they work, and Maryland's farm consumers, not bureaucracies and politicians far removed from ordinary farmers' lives and experiences. Farmers have made extensive accomplishments based on their own wisdom and knowledge and can be trusted to continue to do. Pharmacists, such as I, are the second most trusted profession in the United States. I know our citizens put at least that much trust in the farming profession. Over regulation, and even more new regulations on top of that, demeans the trust our country has in its 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?

Farmers in Montgomery County need a strong economy and commerce to prosper and contribute to society, Farmers rely upon transportation to get their goods to consumers. A strong economy is being threatened in Montgomery County by poor transportation venues in and out of the county. Just as with climate change and most other daily issues that citizens face, there are positive and negative aspects to any plans, including transportation and including farmers and citizens of rural zones. I believe that M83 can be a defining example of how an additional Potomac bridge and outer beltway can be handled to meet and balance the positives and negatives for all citizens affected by this transportation plan. Protecting agriculture and open land use is just as important to other citizens who need to get somewhere else to work and feed their families. Once again, I ask for a return to common sense.

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

I am a true believer in composting (come see my garden and compost) and recycling, of which I am driven. As a military observer, I have seen the disastrous effects of the burning of solid waste. The County should do all it can to return as much waste as possible back to reuse and to enable its citizens to do so. I am cognizant of the current global situation in waste control, especially recycling.

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

The process has not been transparent, especially concerning rezoning. Not being transparent on

rezoning leads to a lack of credence on everything else, for all citizens, no matter what type of land they are current living on. The idea of “intruding” on established neighborhoods is just as offensive as “intruding” on agricultural reserves.

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?

Yes; there is always room for improvement. That is why I am running for the Office of Delegate. If there were no need for improvement, there would be no need for me to run.

For my response to this question, I will lump together government branches and state entities because the public has to deal with the directives of both, which often work in tandem.

The “public” is individuals who have worked their way up in the world to positions of leadership, ownership, honor, respect, noble work ethics, and standings in our families and communities. It is time for government branches and state entities to recognize that the family, including farmer families, is the most important resource that Montgomery County possesses by giving the family the dignity and respect it deserves. Family and community leaders know what is best for their families and communities and need political leaders to support family-friendly policies. Family leaders do not need government branches and state entities dictating what is best for their families.

As a Delegate, I will work to promote and enable family-friendly and community-friendly and farmer-friendly policies.