



## Montgomery County 2022 Candidate Questionnaire - Steve Solomon

### Personal Information:

**Name** Steve Solomon

**What Office Are You Seeking in the 2022 Election?** County Council - District 6

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

Website - [www.VoteSteveSolomon.com](http://www.VoteSteveSolomon.com)

Email - [VoteSteveSolomon@gmail.com](mailto:VoteSteveSolomon@gmail.com)

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 Ag Reserve is one of Montgomery County's treasures. It is a unique rural area in a county that most people only know of as urban or suburban. It is important because it produces so many products through its hundreds of farms, it protects rural life, and it's vital to the environment.

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

I hope the Ag Reserve can continue to preserve its land. We need to make sure farmers can flourish and not have to sell off land for non-agricultural use. Montgomery County government must provide assistance to maintain the Ag Reserve.

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

Preserving the county's natural resources is very important. We need to find ways to develop land that keeps the forests, parks, and open spaces intact. We have many incredible parks in this county that provide environmental benefits as well as community benefits.

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

A big part of the Ag Reserve's benefit is environmental protection including safeguarding our water.

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

Putting in more renewable energy sources is a priority for me. The Ag Reserve uses solar, and I believe more areas of the county need to use solar energy. New county construction (schools, offices, etc.) should have solar panels and have a goal of being net zero facilities.

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

The county government should do more to support farmers and try to prevent as many as possible from selling their land for non-agricultural uses. Maintaining a farm and profiting from it remains

difficult for many, so the county should help out when they can.

**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?**

I don't support those additional transportation projects. I believe we need more MARC trains running morning and evening. Infrastructure and fixing existing roads in Montgomery County is one of my priorities. The BRT line on Veirs Mill road will be a great addition to the county as well.

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

We need to plan for our future trash disposal either by additional landfills or hauling to external landfills. The county continues to promote recycling and composting. Curbside collection of metals/plastics, with a separate paper/cardboard bin, and yard trim pickup are all available in our county and it is a great service.

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

We do need an update to our General Plan since it has been almost 30 years since the last time it was updated. Thrive will protect the Ag Reserve and preserve it. But I have problems with other elements of the current draft of Thrive.

**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, we can always improve how the public interacts with various government branches and officials. I can only change how I would act as a councilmember. I would be available by email, phone, or in person to any constituent.