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What office are you seeking?: State Delegate, District 17
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: www.juliepalakovichcarr.com

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

Montgomery County created the agricultural reserve in order to preserve farms and open space. Its creation was a response to the metropolitan area's population growth and ever expanding suburbs. Although the Ag Reserve was created decades ago, it still plays an important role local environmental protection and in preventing additional urban sprawl.

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

As a scientist, I believe that climate change is the most pressing environmental issues we're facing. Without action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, all other environmental goals will be much more difficult. Since the federal government is actively rolling back climate initiatives, states, counties, and cities must step up.

During my four-year tenure on the Rockville City Council, I've pushed for numerous climate actions. I'm leading the effort for the development of a new community climate action plan. I've pushed for transit-oriented development that prioritizes placing new housing near Metro. I led the effort for the city to adopt a requirement for commercial building owners to benchmark their property's energy use and to disclose it. One of my major environmental priorities is to adopt a new statewide renewable energy target of 50% by the year 2030. The City of Rockville has already adopted a resolution I championed in support of state action.

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

When Montgomery County created the Ag Reserve, it was a visionary decision. I hope that future County leaders maintain the current protections. Future development in Montgomery County should occur outside of the Ag Reserve, ideally in places that can accommodate transit oriented development. Although future decisions about the Ag Reserve are the purview of the County, I will personally oppose any weakening of the current system.

5 **Can you identify some of the top challenges to the Reserve's local agriculture and what actions you would take, if elected, to address them?**

Montgomery County is projected to gain an additional 183,000 people by the year 2040. These residents will require an additional 82,500 households to be created. That population growth will continue to put pressure on the protections for the Ag Reserve that limit new housing development. Although decisions about zoning and development standards are ultimately up to the County, I would

support a new state requirement for counties and applicable municipalities to include housing in their master plans. Housing is presently an optional element in a master plan. By making it a state requirement, county and local governments would have to determine their ability to meet their future housing needs and to formulate a plan to meet those needs. (For the record, I support transit-oriented development as a means to contain sprawl while meeting our population's housing needs.)

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

We are experiencing a local renaissance of family farms that are embracing sustainable practices. These farmers should continue to have access to local farmer's markets and stores in order to supply local produce and products to local customers.

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

It is unlikely that the County will move away from incineration of its solid waste in the near future. (I'll note that I support ending renewable energy credits for waste incineration.) But we can and should be working to reduce trash generation through increased recycling and composting. To reach those goals, I support a statewide ban on the use of polystyrene. Rockville has already banned it and I support Senator Kagan's bill that is being considered in the legislature. The state also needs to study why no industrial composting facilities are opening in Maryland since the new regulations were promulgated. The lack of large-scale composting facilities within the state has hampered efforts for Rockville to pursue zero waste. There are currently no facilities that could serve a community the size of Rockville (nearly 25,000 households). Consequently, we have not been able to pursue a residential food waste composting program.

8 How can we expand the role the County's schools play in the support of a healthy local food system and the success of local agriculture? Do you support a rural schools' policy that provides equity for Reserve cluster schools acknowledging the unique nature of schools in region set aside for farmland and open space preservation?

I believe that it's useful for students to know where their food comes from and to understand their local history. Students should be learning about Montgomery County's agrarian past and present.

9 Currently the County is exploring how best to support a strong agricultural economy through agritourism and new farming enterprises such as on farm breweries and wineries. What are your thoughts about how best to advance on farm activities within the context of the master plan?

This will be a decision for the County Executive and Council to make. As a state delegate, I will work with the County to make changes that are needed in state law, such as liquor production laws that govern farm breweries and wineries.

10 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?

Public transportation is key to addressing our region's traffic congestion. Maryland needs to invest more in new public transportation, including the Purple Line and Bus Rapid Transit in Montgomery County. These new lines will provide much needed options for people to commute, go to school, and run errands. I do not support M83, an additional bridge across the Potomac River, or an outer beltway.