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What office are you seeking?: Maryland House of Delegates for District 19
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: www.voteforcharlotte.com

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

Welcome to Montgomery County and one of the country's best experiments in land preservation, over 93,000 acres of land has been set aside for protection for agriculture and farmland along the county's northern, western, and eastern borders.
It is important because it is an excellent example of land preservation through strong public policy. As a result of the policy goals, the County has been able to retain more than 500 farms that contribute millions of dollars to Montgomery County's annual economy.

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

I think it's important to create laws, regulations and policies on land use and natural resource management. This would require such laws, regulations and policies to allow for resource management to include but not limited to funding projects, research and development and creating programs to inform internal and external audiences about natural resource management.

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

I would endeavor to provide stronger support for the Farms within the Ag. Reserve. State funding to preserve open spaces and provide tax credits/incentives for the farmers. Support County legislation to expand and to protect agriculture and farmland.

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?**

a. Continuity of Farms within the Reserve
b. Density of subdivisions within close proximity of the Reserve.
c. A climate led by a Republican governor who does not believe this work is a priority.
Pass legislation to protect and to promote agriculture and farmland and to follow-up and insure that these laws are being rigorously enforced.

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

Create a commission to review and make recommendations. Teach the local farm businesses and rural communities how to advocate at the state and local levels. Get these “communities” to ban together in a show of force to accomplish the objectives that will insure their survival.

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

First, we need a comprehensive plan that evaluates the potential environmental impacts of various options. In putting together such a plan views/opinions from various organizations and groups must be considered. Then based upon that plan we should implement the best options. I do not favor incineration because that involves polluting people and the environment with mercury, dioxins, lead and other pollutants. I favor composting because it saves water by helping the soil hold moisture and reduce runoff. It also benefits the environment by recycling organic resources while conserving landfill space. I also favor recycling because it helps to reduce the pollution caused by waste. Recycling also reduces greenhouse emissions, which helps to tackle climate change.

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?

We can create more outdoor classrooms to provide education on growing food. We can do more with educating Montgomery County residents of the benefits of healthy foods. But we expand the role the school's plan when we all -County Council, School Board and County Legislators- work together to make this happen. I have worked with many of the people who can make this happen and I have their respect.

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?

9.
We should promote agritourism and new farming enterprises such as farm breweries and wineries. However, this should not be done at the expense of traditional farms and it should not be done at the expense of agriculture resources that will negatively impact the environment.

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?

My transportation priorities are linked to my economic and educational priorities. In Montgomery County we will solve a lot of our transportation problems by having the best schools, having the best job opportunities, a tax base that is fair to property owners, promoting small business, attracting great restaurants and paying a livable wage. If we do all of that then Montgomery County residents are not traveling to Virginia or the District of Columbia or other counties in Maryland for education, job and fun/leisure opportunities.

I do not support M83. I do not support an additional Potomac bridge. I do not support an outer beltway through the Reserve or adjacent rural zones. I do not favor environmentally-destructive highways.