

Name: **richard gottfried**
Address: Rockville
What office are you seeking?: Montgomery County Council At-Large
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: www.votegettfried.com

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

The Agricultural Reserve is a nationally acclaimed land-use plan that was established in 1980 in response to the rapid disappearance of Montgomery County farms.

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

Goal

To acquire and maintain a system of natural areas, open spaces, and recreation facilities developed in harmony with the County's natural resources to perpetuate an environment fit for life and fit for living.

Objective

Acquisition of Parkland

The objectives of the program for parkland acquisition shall be:

Acquisition of land for a balanced park system in the region in order to:

Provide citizens with a wide choice of both active and passive recreation opportunities as major factors in enhancing the quality of Life

Provide adequate parklands to accommodate conservation and preservation needs

Acquisition of parkland based on the following considerations:

Local and regional demand for public park and recreation facilities based on current need and projected population changes

Protection and preservation of natural areas

Protection and preservation of watersheds

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

Transform the existing Agricultural History Farm Park into a regional attraction consistent with the Planning Board-approved 2005 vision, which would involve additional staff, live animal demonstrations, and expansion of the existing activity center (e.g., additional office space, interpretive displays, public meeting space, and a large auditorium, and expansion of parking areas - Agricultural Land Preservation contains recommendations that help to keep the highly successful agricultural preservation programs in Montgomery County moving forward into the next decade:

Explore alternative sources to fund agricultural easement programs, including new public funding mechanisms and tools to incentivize private sector purchase of easements.

Implement the New Farmer Project to promote the creation of new sustainable-practice farm businesses using mentoring, business training, and an innovative approach to pairing start-ups with landowners to speed the start-up process.

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?**

1. Selling the land for development to obtain more property tax revenue.
2. Building a bridge thru the ag-reserve to have another access to commuting to work in VA.
 - 1a. Protect the land in the ag-reserve.
 - 2a. Find another solution to the commuting issue.

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

Continue supporting existing events, for example,
*Buy Local Challenge
and
*Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Tour
*Educating the public on the benefits from our local farms and rural communities.
*Support the local outdoor markets from farmers.

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

Burning waste also pollutes people and the environment. Mercury, dioxins, lead, and other pollutants come from burning waste. In terms of climate impacts, incinerators emit more carbon dioxide (CO₂) per unit of electricity than coal-fired power plants, Energy from incinerators is not renewable.
Composting is the process where biodegradable organic wastes (food and garden waste) are converted into compost in a natural biological process. Composting can be done by individual householders and community groups or on a commercial scale.
Recycling waste means that the material is reprocessed before being used to make new products. The reprocessing activities can have an impact on people's health and the environment, but these impacts are usually lower than those from making the product from new, raw materials. Recycling means treating the materials as valuable resources rather than as waste.

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?**

Regarding the role of our County's schools part on the topic of healthy local food system and success of local agriculture, I would defer this decision to the Board of Education.
I would also talk with the Montgomery County Food Council to obtain their thoughts on this topic as well as the Rural Maryland Council.

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?**

Currently there is a committee on this topic in the FY2018 budget. Let's see what the committee comes up with.

Agri-tourism Study: Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve is a national model for creating sustainable and economically viable farms and open space. The growing economy of agri-tourism in the rural parts of the county, including breweries, micro-distilleries, culinary destinations and farm-to-table movement, will be analyzed. The study will examine land use and zoning strategies for developing a comprehensive, countywide approach to this issue.

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 in the short-term are

1. Utilize the inner service lanes on I-270 during rush hour for traffic use.
2. Develop a database by city, village and town for all locations where congestion takes place and as a community come up with a solution on how to solve the intersections that are backed up by providing better traffic timing signals, a new traffic light with a green arrow, a stop sign, or a yellow yield sign, etc to allow us to move around faster in and out of our neighborhoods.

As far as all of the other projects like M83, Potomac Bridge, outer beltway or adjacent rural zones, of course, these are and have been all hot buttons in the County. I would like to hear from all sides on each of these proposed projects to see if we can find another solution to these projects.