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What office are you seeking?: State Senate  
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: <https://www.facebook.com/DavidJeangforDistrict19/>

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2 **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 the largest rural area in the DMV region, encompassing the northern and western parts of the county with over 90000 acres and more than 500 different farms. Protected from urbanization by county law through the implementation of Transferable development rights(TDR), the Ag Reserve is responsible for supplying the county and surrounding areas, which include the capital, for almost all the local produce and farm products.

There are quite a few reasons I can think of why the Ag Reserve is important to our county. Firstly, it's local. Locality or resources is an essential part of keeping a healthy economy. Second, it's green. Having forested land nearby serves as a natural filter for air and water for neighborhoods that need it. Third, it's cultural. Nothing enriches the quality of life better than community togetherness, and rural environment of the Ag Reserve is perfect for lots of outdoor recreation and events that are organized every year that bring in thousands.

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

Natural resources should be publicly owned and community managed as much as possible in my opinion. Local civic associations would know much better firsthand what resources can be spared to other communities that need it, what should be kept in reserve and how much, and what is needed for their own community right now than officials who do not even live in the area.

Therefore, it would be my priority to strengthen and localize civic associations in the county by raising awareness and involvement, in a way similar to union building. Our prime and biggest example would be the Montgomery county civic federation(MCCF). While at the same time building co-op initiatives and infrastructure programs that will give those associations the capital and go-ahead to build their own facilities to manage their resources with only limited supervision as necessary from local governance.

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

Preservation of the Agricultural Reserve for years to come is my overall goal for the area, and preservation often comes by bringing communities together in a positive manner. The instillation of public facilities co-operated by the populace through their municipal governments rather than commercial enterprises providing the services at prices they can set and change at will likely encourage involvement from all members of the community, even rural ones with sparse population densities.

And even if community itself does not own its own facilities, decentralization of them would make it so advancements in standards of living in the Reserve would require less commercial development.

For example, if the state could fund smart microgrid construction for localities that are located far from centralized, metropolitan areas, like farmlands, energy costs for those areas would lessen because the communities there could unplug from the main grid at times when power is not needed.

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**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?**

The biggest problem to the Ag Reserve I believe is the affordability of maintaining farming or other rural lifestyles these days. Quite a few farms in the Reserve wouldn't be able to stay afloat without subsidies from the state and county, and that's causing non-farmers in the county to complain. This results in pressure from both within and without for farmers in the reserve to sell their land to developers. Subsidies can't be the only fix, and farms will have to adapt to make living on the reserve more affordable. Studies in sustainable farming, or Agroecology are being made all around the world so that poorer countries with starving populations can make do with less. I would have the state fund such a study on Ag Reserve, and as that study progresses, implement those smart farming practices in the spots that would be most effective to make farming more affordable(soil mapping, animal integration, agroforestry, etc.).

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

Promoting more local markets to buy more local produce will help the farms in the Ag Reserve ensure none of the crops are left to spoil and lose money. Public awareness of the reserve is also important, perhaps critical as the need for subsidies may never fully go away even with improvements to affordable farming, therefore the state and county must have as many of their members see the reserve as a part of their community worth spending a few extra dollars on. Part of the agricultural studies program I suggest in question 5 can include on-site documentaries, tours, and reports that can be incorporated into public education curriculum. The end result, hopefully, would be a next generation of county residents that see the reserve not just as farmland, but a part of an ecosystem that includes their own homes.

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

Well maintained and environmentally friendly solid waste services are essential in keeping our county clean and ecosystem healthy. The best way to do so would be to reduce the amount our systems have to process, such as promoting reusable materials like washable straws and cloth napkins as opposed to paper ones, or banning plastic cutlery to replace them with compostable ones made from plant starch. I would also encourage the implementation of a deposit return system as other states have done so more recyclable material doesn't go to waste in landfills. Incineration should be kept at a bare minimum, like wood burning home furnaces/stoves for off-grid heating. My support of shutting down the Dickerson furnace should speak for itself in my views that the consequences of burning waste far outweigh the benefits.

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**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've often thought about encouraging schools to have an agricultural class and a garden for the students to practice with long before I even first visited the Ag Reserve. Growing your own food at an early age would certainly impress upon the youth the importance locality plays in a sustainable community. There can be no doubt rural schools are different than urban schools, as my mother has often told me

growing up as an Iowan farm girl. Children from miles away would come together in one place, and given the locale would need to acquire certain skills and knowledge sets in addition to the 'standardized system' we know today. Therefore, in order to function as well as the school systems I know in my neighborhood, I believe equity for cluster schools in the Reserve would be needed and I support it.

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- 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?**

Field trips and agricultural fairs for schools and communities provided through cooperation between the county and the farms would help make people aware of the new enterprises nearby. Promotional information about the reserve and any new features can also be added to tourist websites that highlight the county or local tourism agencies through the Office of Tourism Development of the State of Maryland, of which it's board include active members of the Maryland legislation. Should I be elected and then appointed to that board, I would strive to promote the Agricultural Reserve as much as possible.

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- 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?↔**

The Potomac bridge and highway is not necessary and especially not recommended in my opinion. A BRT and improved metro system would be much more effective and cheaper in addressing traffic congestion along the I-270 corridor and commutes in the DMV area, which will in effect eliminate the need for an extra road through the reserve in the first place. Furthermore, as I believe in the Strong Towns approach of walkable communities, bike trails and local public transportation would be much more convenient for people living and traveling within the confines of the reserve, and would support allocating funds for municipalities to develop them.