

Montgomery Countryside Alliance 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: George Leventhal

City: Takoma Park, Maryland

Office Sought: County Council, At-Large

More Info: www.georgeleventhal.com

If you were asked to describe the County's Agricultural Reserve to someone, what would you say?
approximately 90,000 acres of land set aside in 1980 for protection from development, maintained for agriculture.

What is your vision for the future of the County's Agricultural Reserve?

My vision is that it continue to be protected forever.

What more should the County be providing in terms of legislation and/or services to realize that vision?

We need to work with farmers to ensure their business model remains viable. We should promote Montgomery County agricultural products, develop farm-to-table programs and work with public schools to teach county students about agriculture and the benefits of eating fresh produce.

What challenges exist to ensuring that your vision for the Reserve is realized?

County schools are not especially interested in working with outside groups. Children of farm families often aren't interested in pursuing the family business. It is hard to make a living as a farmer.

What role do the County's schools play in the support of our local food system and success of local agriculture?

I would like them to play a much larger role.

The County has undertaken a comprehensive zoning code re-write. What are your thoughts about the County's zoning code enforcement? Does that division have adequate resources and is it properly functioning?

This question is confusing. There is no county agency with the title "division of zoning code enforcement." Enforcement of the zoning code falls to several agencies, including the Department of Permitting Services and M-NCPPC. To which agency is the question intended to refer?

Do you support an additional Potomac bridge and highway in the Reserve or adjacent rural zones?

No.



