

Name: **Steve Solomon**
Address: Silver Spring
What office are you seeking?: County Council - At Large
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: www.VoteSteveSolomon.com

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

Most people think Montgomery County is all like Silver Spring, Bethesda, and Rockville. It's not! Go to the northern part of our county and see the wonderful Agricultural Reserve where we preserve a much needed rural area.

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

I've always been a big supporter of our hundreds of wonderful parks. I spent years at Wheaton Regional Park next to where I grew up. And as an adult at Seneca Creek park. I want to maintain our grasslands and open spaces. I'm neither pro nor anti development, I'm somewhere in between. We can keep a balance of down county urban population and up county rural areas.

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

I support the ideas first set forth in the 1980 master plan. Preventing urban sprawl, preserving open spaces and farmland. I would question developers who tried to infringe on Ag Reserve land.

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?**

With greater population around it comes the desire for more transit options, more highways, etc. Also, farmers who live in the Ag Reserve need to be able to compete with others in more rural areas with many acres of farmland, in terms of higher costs and advancements in technology.

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

We have made great strides over the years in the Ag Reserve. The TDR program seems to be working very well. That can supplement the incomes of land owners and farmers.

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

Obviously composting and recycling should be used to their full capabilities. I think the county does a great job with trash and recycling pickup, but I've always felt we could have more trash and recycling cans in public places - offices, mini malls, outside of stores. Also, more areas to take your own bulk trash or recycling, rather than arranging with the county to pick it up.

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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?**

How much of the food generated by the Ag Reserve is used in Montgomery County schools? Perhaps it should be used more!

I would need to know more information about the school policy.

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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?**

Yes, agricultural tourism works for so many parts of our country (ask the Napa Valley), so why not here in Montgomery County? We need more Down County advertising for the Ag Reserve. I bet most lower MoCo residents have no idea it even exists.

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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?**

Transportation is one of my top priorities (just check my website www.VoteSteveSolomon.com to see that) I favor toll lanes for 270 and 495 but much smaller tolls than we have on I-95 south. 25 or 50 cents rather than several dollars. Many more people would use them, and would not feel like they are being price gouged.

Yes, I support another bridge over the Potomac. As the population grows, traffic on 495 will just get worse and worse.

M83 has been talked about or studied for 50 years now! I doubt it will ever happen