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What office are you seeking?: House of Delegates
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: andyvanwye.com

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

A fixture of District 15, the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve is comprised of over 90 thousand acres of protected farmland and open rural space. The land includes over 500 farms that add millions of dollars to our economy annually. Also included are various recreational activities including historical sites. Lastly, the reserve is also critical to protecting our drinking water.

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

Protecting the Ag Reserve is of the utmost importance to District 15 residents, as well as to me personally. My other priorities include stopping the Potomac Pipeline, making sure there are recycling options in public spaces, and carbon pricing, which is important for the air quality and water temperature.

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

My main goal is to ensure the Reserve lives long into the future. Up-county areas are developing at a rapid pace and infrastructure needs have not been met. Take a place like Clarksburg as an example: traffic is unbearable and schools are overcrowded. Clarksburg High School is set to be at twice capacity in 10 years and Wilson Wims is a brand new elementary school that already has 10 portables. We must save the Reserve for both the aforementioned benefits stated earlier as well as to preserve the quality of life of up-county residents.

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 top challenge involves farmers who may be looking to retire and profit from the sale of their land. There's no doubt developers would love to assume control of Ag Reserve land in order to build and subsequently sell for a large profit. I believe the best solution is to offer potential new farmers job training, or supporting programs like the Land Link Program, so that the land has the greatest chance of staying in the hands of farmers.

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

Partial relief from sales taxes when buying local produce could help local farm businesses. Maryland should also be a more conducive workplace for craft breweries that could find success alongside wineries. Job training for farmers and sustainability training could also help local farm businesses.

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

This is another very sensitive topic in the 15th District as there is presently an incinerator in Dickerson. Recycling should certainly play as large a role as possible in managing solid waste. Maryland must make sure there are adequate recycling options in public places and in fast food and fast casual restaurants. Additionally, the state should increase the air quality standards for incinerators in the state.

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?

More broadly, school lunches need to offer healthier options. This is an ideal way to introduce local agricultural products into schools, helping area farmers and offering long-term advantages for students. Reserve cluster schools should be equitably funded. In short, this is a policy that will be of great assistance to my district's students.

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?

I am in favor of on farm breweries and wineries and believe we must support our local farmers and entrepreneurs that want to start a business in agritourism. I am also in favor of legalizing recreational marijuana, which could also help agritourism and farmers in the region.

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?

This is a county project, but I support the construction of M83. I understand that there are environmental concerns about the project, but I believe that the benefits to the commuters, as well as the reduced air pollution due to fewer vehicles sitting in traffic, outweigh the concerns. Talks of an additional Potomac bridge are older than I am; if it hasn't been built yet, there's good reason why this is.