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What office are you seeking?: County Council At Large
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: <http://www.timforcouncil.org/>

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 was the result of one of the important land use decisions in the county when the county set aside almost a third of its land to preserve rural and agricultural uses. Preserving our Ag Reserve was enormously foresightful.

The rural area can function as the "lungs" of the county, helping to provide clean air and water. It can provide the County with fresh, local food and it can be put to use to mitigate climate change by encouraging regenerative agriculture that would rebuild the soil and sequester carbon from the atmosphere.

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

I believe that poorly planned development is the greatest threat to our County's natural resources. We need to realize that "smart growth" can only serve its purpose if we realize that there are limits to growth.

I was active in the efforts to save Ten Mile Creek, pass a ban on cosmetic use of pesticides. I also worked with a group that lobbied the county to pass a strong International Green Construction Code which had numerous standards to help preserve air and water quality in new construction. Unfortunately, all of these requirements were moved to an appendix and made optional.

We need to limit construction in rural areas, and expand parklands to provide an adequate habitat for wildlife.

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

We should continue to support agriculture in the Reserve; community supported agriculture, agricultural tourism, wineries, as well as an recreational area. We should also encourage the use of restorative agriculture as a way to sequester CO2 from the atmosphere and fight global warming.

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?

Farmers face the problem of increasing land prices, making it difficult for aspiring farmers to purchase or lease land. County residents can help new farmers by buying locally produced food, and urging county schools to use local food. The County can encourage young farmers through its land link program. Small farmers often face burdensome federal regulations when trying to sell their products. The county can help by creating shared use kitchens that meet all federal regulations and be available for use by farmers. The County should provide funding and assistance to keep farming viable, and to protect the Reserve from any encroachment by developers.

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

Rural communities around the country have been struggling since 2008. Many have lost local banks resulting in less investment money. Local medical facilities have closed and rural schools have struggled for funding. The County needs to ensure that our rural areas are receiving all the services that they need.

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

The County should work toward a policy of zero waste. Ten cities, including San Francisco, Los Angeles and Dallas have pledged to move toward zero waste. Other cities have begun city wide composting efforts which is particularly important since food waste is the biggest single source of waste going to landfills. These are all examples we should be looking at closely. Incineration of waste is not a way to create clean energy and is very polluting. Incinerators such as the one at Dickerson should be shut down.

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?

County schools should embrace a policy of using locally grown food in their cafeterias. The school system should consider adding agricultural skills to its vocational education programs. Students should be taught the importance of maintaining the Ag Reserve.

Reserve cluster schools should be preserved. Down county schools are overcrowded because of poorly planned development policies. The Reserve cluster should not have to lose schools to compensate for this overcrowding and should be allowed lower enrollment levels at those schools than in other down county public schools. Otherwise the Reserve Cluster would face the same declining quality of education as other rural areas around the country.

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?

Most importantly we need sound development policies that will prevent the threat of encroachment on the Ag Reserve. Unless we plan for limits to growth the Ag Reserve will continue to be threatened by encroaching development.

The County needs to continue its support for farmers, promoting CSAs and other local food efforts, agricultural tourism, farming as a career. The County should look for ways to improve the ability of farmers to market their goods such as greater use of the internet to match buyers with sellers. The Agricultural Reserve should be treated as one of the County's most valuable assets

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?

We need new transit systems and we need creative new ways to meet our transit needs. We have outgrown the capacity of our existing roads and transit. Outer suburbs such as Clarksburg were promised transit service long ago that has still not been built.

BRT has potential to address some of these problems but building BRT systems in the crowded down county will be difficult. We should look at creative new transit strategies such as flexible transit and micro transit to fill the gaps that fixed transit leaves. These strategies have been used in other communities to serve less densely populated like the up county.

I oppose the M-83 project; it is very expensive and an environmental catastrophe. However, congestion around the county will require some road improvements such as improving Rt 355 to Clarksburg, and improving congested intersections. I oppose an outer beltway and a new bridge over the Potomac