



## Montgomery County 2022 Candidate Questionnaire Amy Ginsburg

### Personal Information:

**Name** Amy Ginsburg

**What Office Are You Seeking in the 2022 Election?** District 4 County Council

### Where Can Voters Learn More About Your Positions Or Contact Your Campaign?

www.AmyGinsburg.com  
amy@amyginsburg.com  
301-818-6605

Please Answer the Following Questions- responses will posted in their entirety and will not be edited.

### 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 a remarkable Montgomery County achievement where 93,000 acres or 1/3 of the entire county is set aside for agriculture. Not only does it honor Montgomery County's roots as an agricultural area but it also solidifies our future, enabling more than 500 farms and millions of dollars of revenue. It helps mitigate climate change and ensures our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy this beautiful and productive reserve.

This is unquestionably one of our nation's best examples of land conservation policies.

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

Generally, I believe the current vision should be the future vision of the Ag Reserve, enabling a limited bit of small-density zoning but using most of the land for farming, horses, and other agricultural pursuits.

I also believe that we should open appropriate parts of the Ag Reserve for solar and/or wind farms to diminish our dependence on fossil fuels, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigate climate change.

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

Green space is essential for our well-being, and we must prioritize parkland and open recreation spaces, especially as our county becomes more densely populated and smart growth communities grow more dense.

We are fortunate to have many treasures, including large parks and lakes like Seneca Lake Park, Lake Needwood, Wheaton Regional, Cabin John Regional, among others, that we must maintain and nurture. We must also ensure smaller spaces, including pocket parks, playgrounds, and ball fields are preserved, maintained, and enhanced.

### What role will you play with regard to ensure that we safeguard our drinking water supply both

## **surface and groundwater?**

Stormwater management grows every more important as climate change increases the intensity and duration of rainfall and storms. Smart growth development helps with stormwater management because the new development often replaces older development with no stormwater management.

We must fund the backlog of projects to refurbish and maintain our streams and lakes.

## **What are your top priorities to help the County address climate change? What role will the Ag Reserve play?**

The US EPA says that one of the most important action for local governments to take to mitigate climate change is to create and support smart growth, 15-minute communities, and I believe Montgomery County should do just that.

We also need to make sure we build, not just study, multi-modal transit projects so that walking, biking, busses, and trains are reliable and the easiest possible option, motivating people to get out of the cars.

The public and private sector should partner to install more EV charging stations, especially in lower-income neighborhoods and in multi-family communities to encourage the switch to electric vehicles.

Finally, I'd like to create an all-county composting collection program so that we can remove 1/3 of our waste stream while creating compost to nurture our green spaces, farms, and gardens.

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

Farm to table programs, farmers markets, and farm tours are terrific programs that enable Montgomery County farmers to sell their produce to local residents and nonprofits that feed food insecure families. We should support such programs.

Providing support to entrepreneurial farmers and new farmers, helping them to understand and succeed at navigating the myriad of regulations, is something I would like our county government to implement.

## **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?**

I do not support M83 nor an additional Potomac bridge and outer beltway.

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

I'd like to create an all-county composting collection program so that we can remove 1/3 of our waste stream while creating compost to nurture our green spaces, farms, and gardens. One should not have to live in a single-family home to compost.

We should close the incineration plant, especially if we are able to reduce our waste stream by one-third through composting.

## **What are your views on the general plan update "Thrive 2050," both the process and the draft now before the Council?**

Thrive 2050 is good for our environment and good for our quality of life. I truly believe that adding duplexes, or even triplexes, to our single-family communities will enhance our neighborhoods and enable our children and empty nesters find homes they can afford and love. Emphasizing multi-modal transit and smart growth communities is also good for both our environment and quality of life.

## **Do you believe that the way that local government branches, state entities, and the public currently interact can be improved? If so, what steps would you take?**

The county council/executive and the state delegate/senators should work more closely on setting policy goals and achieving those goals. Too often they are not coordinated or even worse, at cross

purposes.

Our government needs to become the government of "yes." We need to tell residents and businesses, "yes, I've got your back and we will work through this together" rather than "here are two regulations that prevent you from doing what you want." Too often, our government treats its residents and businesses as a source of funds rather than the customers that they truly are. Local government exists to make our lives safer and better by providing essential services, educating our children, regulating land use, building multi-modal transit, and supporting our residents, businesses, and nonprofit organizations.