



## Montgomery County 2022 Candidate Questionnaire - Andrew Einsmann

### Personal Information:

**Name** Andrew Einsmann

**What Office Are You Seeking in the 2022 Election?** District 7 County Council

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

www.andreweinsmann.com

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 parcel of land that is not to be developed on. It provides the county with land that will awhile be used for farming and preserving the wilderness. It is important because we do not want the county to be beautiful, preserve some open space, provide a habitat for animals, have space reserved for farming so we have locally grown produce, and help keep the air cleaner.

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

I hope that the only change we see is the hybrid of solar farms with agricultural farms underneath. There are plenty of crops that still can be grown with the solar panel affixed to the ground. I do not want to see any fixed, impermeable surface development occur.

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

Again we need to preserve and protect our natural resources. I would like to see more storm drain nets that will capture the larger human waste before it hits the streams. I would like to see more capture points where it will not have an adverse effect on wildlife further down as well to prevent as much waste as possible going into the Potomac, Anacostia, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

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

We need to increase our renewable energy sources and reduce our carbon footprints. We need to put solar panels up in as many places as possible. Promote the growth of electric vehicles with smart and effective technology. We need to recycle as much paper and plastic as possible and lastly, we need to promote composting at homes, schools, and businesses to reduce the waste we have going to the landfill.

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

Education and cooperation. I think the more people know how easy it is to farm the more they will be willing to do it. I also that people need to be educated that farming is a better use for land than just grass. The stigmatism that farming is something that only poor people do needs to be eliminated.

### 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?**

The only one of these I support is M83. We must find the most environmentally friendly way to build M83. It was promised to the residents of Clarksburg when they moved in almost 20 years ago. The White ferry debacle needs to be solved and maybe even have a second ferry, but I am not sure a road is necessary.

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

Our county should be able to educate its citizens to greatly reduce our waste through composting and recycling so that we can potentially minimize the waste that goes to the incineration and potentially shut it down. We currently do not do enough education for people on how to compost properly. People do not recycle as much as they should and can

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

I think that we need to find a steady balance of growth and development, environmental impact, and displacement of racial minorities and the poor. We can find places, where we are developing that, can still be green while we develop. We can put solar panels or green roofs on houses. So Thrive 2050 will always be a guideline to the individual master plans that are used around the county and for it to be a guideline and not necessarily formal zoning, I think it serves a useful purpose. But as we update our individual master plans it is not 100% that they will always follow the thrive guidelines.

### **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?**

Communication between the branches of government can always be improved. I think that there are always challenges when there are many stakeholders involved.