

Name: **Craig Carozza-Caviness**
Address: Montgomery Village
What office are you seeking?: County Council At Large
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: www.ccc4moco.com

2 **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 90,000 plus acres zoned to preserve rural areas and farmland. It's important for many reasons but I believe it's also under utilized, especially given the rich agricultural history of our area. It provides important revenue for our economy and helps preserve the ecosystem and environmental integrity of the county.

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

I am extremely environmentally friendly and conscious. We should be doing more protect our natural resources and catchment areas. My priorities are clean water, clean air, clean energy, and continuing the ban on fracking. I'd also like to see more environmental education programs.

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

I'd like to zone a green district for only green and organic businesses that use local agriculture and is powered by renewables. We must invest in our agricultural infrastructure. I'd like to see the AG reserve grow and implement more urban agriculture initiatives.

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?**

I think one of the problems is that buying local tends to be more expensive and less accessible. We have to invest in the type of infrastructure that can double and triple our output. I believe residents would much rather buy local. I also believe, with the weather being so unpredictable, we should look into more urban farming initiative, building upward.

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

There needs to be more startup support and incentives for entrepreneurial individuals. We have to help drive more business toward farmers markets. Embrace and educate residents about biodiversity. Community supported agriculture which will deliver weekly or bi-weekly products to county residents for a fee.

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

Waste is a complex issue. Incineration waste-to-energy, composting, and recycling are all pivotal to our agriculture and the future of our planet. Our job, as County Council, is to promote safety, efficacy, and innovation. With that said, incineration, while it rendering positive results can emit harmful gases. In the name of forward thinking progress we should probably state looking at other waste-to-energy methods like thermal gasification etc.,.

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?

To expand the role of County schools we have to integrate local agriculture into their lifeline. Whether it's by local agriculture electives, or school lunches, ingratiation is the best method. I do support policies that provide favorable treatment for schools reserve cluster schools.

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?

We have to provide the opportunities and make prudent policies that support and promote agritourism in our county. Creatively, we need to put more government sustained assistance programs and initiatives in place to encourage our farm owner's entrepreneurial growth. I think the master plans are fantastic although I do not agree with everything in them. Nonetheless, we need to be flexible and open to building new ideas and the conception of better laid plans.

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?↔

My transportation priorities do not include M83. I am in support of CCT, purple light rail, and rapid bus. I also would like to see an HOV lane added in 270. I do not support any roadway through the reserve or adjacent rural zones which is why I am opposed to M83, as it goes through low income neighborhoods.