



Montgomery County 2022 Candidate Questionnaire - Chao Wu

Personal Information:

Name Chao Wu

What Office Are You Seeking in the 2022 Election? Maryland State Delegate 9A

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

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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?

One-third of Montgomery County, or 93,000 acres, is designated as the Agricultural Reserve.

- 1) The zoning of the Agricultural Reserve (AR zone) limits development to one house per 25 acres;
- 2) 75% of the land area within the Ag Reserve, is further protected through permanent easements that restrict residential, industrial, and commercial development;
- 3) many farms are actively supporting the economy,
- 4) views of thousands of acres of rural landscape enjoyed by tourists, bicyclists, hikers, artists, and other visitors

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

We should continue to protect the current practice of preserving agricultural reserves, keeping tax low on those farms.

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

We need to make sure developments are managed properly and natural resources are protected properly and timely.

What role will you play with regard to ensure that we safeguard our drinking water supply both surface and groundwater?

I will be on the frontline to monitor the regulation which protects our drinking water to be properly implemented. If an enhancement is needed on the regulation side, I will lead such a change.

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

Generating more renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency and reducing energy consumption/carbon emission are the top priorities. Keeping Ag Reserve intact to maintain green

space and creating solar farms will two important roles.

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

Helping them with technology, and e-commerce and keeping the tax low are some key aspects.

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 support this bridge.

For transportation, in order to provide job opportunities and increase social mobility, we need to have fast, efficient and safe highways for commuters. Less traffic jams mean less air pollution, less fuel cost and less mental pressure for commuters.

We also need accessible, affordable and user-friendly public transportations for commuting. We need more bike-friendly local roads.

A well coordinated effort among Maryland, DC and Virginia should start as soon as possible to address both short-term needs and long-term needs, with consideration of autonomous driving.

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

Incineration, composting and recycling should play a key role to manage solid waste. Finding new technology and business model to address this problem is critical to success.

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

I really wished they took more public input and value those inputs. Traffic concerns are everywhere in the county and it seems we have not find a good solution. How to deal with changes in economy and demographics will be key to thrive 2050.

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?

Yes. Local government branches and state entities should be more responsive to residents' concerns. We should hold them accountable.