



Montgomery County 2022 Candidate Questionnaire - Dana Gassaway

Personal Information:

Name Dana Gassaway

What Office Are You Seeking in the 2022 Election? County Council At-Large

Where Can Voters Learn More About Your Positions Or Contact Your Campaign?
gassawayforcouncil@gmail.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?

An important part of the county's potential to feed itself; it is a stronghold of resistance to development.

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

I would like to see the Ag Reserve increased and one of my core ideas is soil reclamation, and I have proposed a .2 of an acre reclamation in each district over a period of time to be decided by the voters.

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

As a descendant of slaves from this county the land holds a special sacredness for me and I feel the land has been abused. I almost cry daily when I look at the mounds of trash that cover my once lovely landscape.

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

Everything including taking random samples myself.

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

First, I would like the county to converting ten percent of it power needs to solar by 2032; next, I would invest in CO2 removal technology, and lastly, I would increase the number of trees.

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

I think our local farms should get first choice on any and all agricultural transaction with the county government. Additional, I propose that we create them festivals highlighting our local areas. These areas will be given seed funds or other aid to help with viability. These small loans can be paid back from proceeds made. The key is to highlight a region and pour attention to the vendors.

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?

No, I do not support any new roads in the area, but I do support the creation of a high speed in county train system that is supplemented by feeder trolley or bus systems into neighborhoods.

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

The county should, I feel, take an active role in insuring that all possible recyclable materials are recycled. It is not enough to simply place recyclables in a bin and have the hauled away; we must become active stewards of the environment.

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

I feel that it was created on the heels of the wedges and corridors program that took that from a lot of people.

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?

I will honestly have to deal with this issue first prior to a response to your question.