



Montgomery County 2022 Candidate Questionnaire - Evan Glass

Personal Information:

Name Evan Glass

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?

www.evanglass.com

social media: @evanmglass

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 93,000 acres of agricultural diversity and tradition. It is a space that is home to over 500 farms, large and small, and emblematic of Montgomery County's agricultural roots. The Reserve is a source of nutrition for thousands of residents and a partner to the county on both our economic development and environmental protection goals.

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

The Agricultural Reserve is a beautiful gem – one that has been shaped and polished over the decades. The potential held by the Ag Reserve, by harvesting the power of the 500 farms, expanding farm to table programs and CSAs, starting cooperatives for new farmers, and becoming a destination for the growing wineries, breweries and cideries, are all part of the Ag Reserve's exciting future.

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

I remain committed to protecting our forests and tree canopies, ensuring that our drinking water remains clean, and leveraging our natural resources to defend ourselves against the changing climate. We know that fewer trees often leads to greater stormwater runoff, which is not healthy for our local ecosystem. As we continue to move further and further away from the pandemic, the preservation of open park space is also critical for residents to enjoy for our mental and physical health.

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

As a member of the Transportation and Environment Committee, I am in regular consultation with WSSC and other state and federal agencies to ensure that our water systems are producing clean drinking water and that our infrastructure is prepared for the climate change we are experiencing. Flooding is also a problem that I am closely monitoring, given that excessive rainfall is one of the biggest impacts of climate change in our region.

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

My top priority is to reduce the rate of carbon emissions in our community by transforming our building and transportation sectors. The county must fulfill our pledge to reduce 80% of greenhouse gases by 2027 and achieve 100% reductions by 2035. The Agricultural reserve can serve a powerful role by helping us sequester some of our carbon emissions and producing renewable energy.

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

It is critical that we continue supporting organizations like MARBIDCO, which provides technical and financial support to farmers. Knowing that many farmers in Montgomery sell their products at farmers markets, I want to continue reducing barriers to entry and make it more affordable to utilize agricultural land.. There are also innovative policies that we should explore to support community farming opportunities for Black, Indigenous, Latino and others residents..

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?

Montgomery County has ambitious greenhouse gas reductions goals. I do not support M83 or a second Potomac crossing. We must continue to advocate for more robust mass transit options that take people where they want to go, when they want to go there. I support strengthening regional transportation models like an extension of the Red Line Metro beyond Shady Grove, expansion of the MARC train and innovative transportation strategies like Bus Rapid Transit.

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

Montgomery County has ambitious greenhouse gas reductions goals. I do not support the burning of our trash and will continue to work with the county executive on strategies that reduce our waste and allows us to manage our waste in a more sustainable manner. I passed a ZTA that allows farmers in Montgomery County to take in more of our food waste and turn it into compost, thereby supporting economic opportunity and reducing waste. The more waste we can divert from the incinerator, either by compost or recycling, the better our environment will be.

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

Thrive 2050 is a visionary document for the type of community we want Montgomery County to be in the coming decades. I am reviewing this proposal with one central question in mind: does Thrive 2050 help make Montgomery County a place where residents -- current and future -- can afford to live? This is the most pressing debate of our time and I am committed to enacting policies that help us achieve this goal. The Council President, who sets the Council's agenda, has requested a thorough review of Thrive 2050, and I look forward to the full Council discussion, as it has not yet had complete work sessions to discuss the document. During those upcoming work sessions, I will ask questions about Thrive's vision related to housing, the economy, the environment, the arts and transportation to ensure that it helps make Montgomery County a more affordable place to live, work and raise a family.

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 believe that government operations, just like all systems, can be improved upon. As a former CNN journalist, we need to ensure that our processes are open and transparent in order to maintain the public's trust. If residents are losing faith in our institutions, I would like to engage with them to learn more about their concerns and what steps need to be taken to regain their confidence.