

Montgomery County 2026 Candidate Questionnaire



Personal Information:

Name Evan Glass

What Office Are You Seeking in the 2026 Election? County Executive

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

Voters can go to evanglass.com or contact us at info@evanglass.com



Please Answer the Following Questions- responses will posted in their entirety and will not be edited. There are no word limits but please try to be concise.

(pictured above: One Acre Farm)

Please share 3 sentences that help us to know you better:

I grew up with a single mom who worked multiple jobs to care for our family, so we relied on my neighbors to help raise me. I came to the DC region to attend American University, the first in my family to attend college, received a degree in journalism, and then began a 12-year career at CNN, where I covered Congress and national politics. When I moved to Montgomery County 26 years ago, I discovered I could use my experience to improve my community – making our roads safer, enhancing our tree canopy and improving our overall quality of life – and I have never stopped working for a better Montgomery County for everyone.

When we recently surveyed residents throughout the County, they shared that their top priority was a lack of government transparency - How can Montgomery County ensure transparency in their legislative and land use decision making? How would you grade current public engagement? Do you support re-establishing the Office of the People's Counsel?

Government must be open, transparent and accountable to its residents. As a former CNN journalist, I am a firm believer that sunshine is the best policy – open processes for all to participate in. I have shared widely my frustration with the lack of communication in decision making. We have too many agencies and

departments that operate as if they are in ivory towers, not seeking input or engagement with the communities they serve. With respect to our land use decision making, I share many people's frustrations. The way our system is designed, with MNCPPC reporting to the Council and other departments reporting to the Executive, it creates a bifurcated system that is oftentimes misaligned. As a progressive reformer, I believe we need to improve this century-old system and modernize it so it works better for everyone. Additionally, I do support the Office of the People's Counsel.

Do you believe that the way that local government branches (executive, legislative and planning), and state entities currently interact can be improved? If so, what steps would you take to bring better collaboration?

The County Executive must work hand-in-hand with the other branches to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and true community partnership. Collaboration at the state level is crucial to receiving the funding we need for county projects, gaining support for the efforts most important to our county, and having influence on policy decisions that impact us. I will be a County Executive who is able to work with stakeholders across all jurisdictions. I am proud of my endorsements from municipal leaders – from Poolesville to Takoma Park – and from members of the State Senate and House of Delegates. These relationships will be critical to our future success. Additionally, my service as a board member of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG) has created relationships with regional leaders that is equally important to our regional success.



Source water protection is a priority for County residents. Rural residents are served by wells drawn from a federally designated Sole Source Aquifer. What specific actions will you take to protect groundwater quality and ensure a sustainable supply of drinking water for residents, farms and businesses? And what do you propose with regard to protecting the Potomac River, a drinking water supply for more than 5 Million people in the Washington DC metropolitan area. Given increasing drought conditions, growing data center water consumption, and projections that the Potomac River may not meet future demand, how will you plan for a water-constrained future? What policies or investments would you prioritize during your term?

Protecting our water resources is a top priority of mine, as it is the foundation of our health, agriculture, and economic stability. Protecting the Potomac River is one of the chief reasons I introduced a six-month pause on data center development in Montgomery County.

I will focus on rigorous oversight, regional collaboration, and proactive planning for a water-constrained future. I'll support strengthening Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and environmental overlay zones to limit impervious surfaces and ensure maximum groundwater recharge. I will also increase funding for the Department of Environmental Protection to expand groundwater monitoring and public education on maintaining private septic systems to prevent contamination. In addition, I will support programs like the Building Lot Termination (BLT) Program, so we can prevent fragmented development that would strain the aquifer.

I will strengthen our work with the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to coordinate drought monitoring and emergency spill responses.

What role can the Ag Reserve play in helping our County address Climate Change? Do you have plans to bolster the county's funds to address climate change, i.e. expanded grant making, review of energy tax structure for high energy consumers such as data centers?

The Agricultural Reserve is one of Montgomery County's most effective climate tools. It sequesters carbon, protects our watersheds, supports a local food system, and concentrates growth where it belongs. As County Executive, I will treat the Ag Reserve as core climate infrastructure.

I will also work to expand the resources our county can bring to climate work, including growing the Green Bank's grant and financing capacity, which will build upon the Climate Resiliency legislation I introduced. And I will take a close look at how high-energy users are treated under our tax and fee structure. Ratepayers should not be subsidizing facilities that strain our grid and threaten our climate goals.



Do you support the long planned closure of the trash incinerator in Dickerson? Please provide some details as to why or why not. (pictured above: Shepherd's hey Farm)

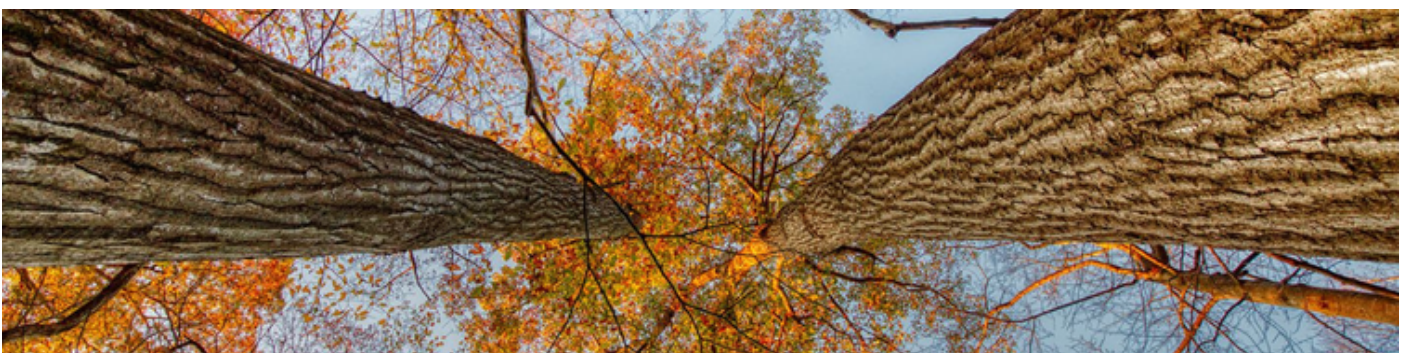
Yes, I support closing the Dickerson incinerator. As Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee, I have supported the closure and was the only Councilmember this year to vote for its closure. The Dickerson community has lived with the air quality consequences for too long, and the two recent hazardous dioxin and furan discharges only make the situation more dire.

Additionally, closure of the incinerator has to be paired with a serious zero waste strategy. That is why I led the zoning amendment allowing farms to accept more food waste for composting and mulching and worked to expand residential composting. As County Executive, I will continue working to reduce our waste stream and foster a more sustainable ecosystem.

Should Montgomery County host hyperscale Data Centers? If so, what zoning standards and regulations should be established? Have we gathered all the necessary information to make an informed decision at this time?

I have great concerns about hyperscale data centers opening in Montgomery County – which is why I have led the Council's efforts to slow down and hit pause. The legislation I introduced calling for a Data Center Task Force – which would have explored and answered all aspects of this policy debate – was not approved. I then introduced legislation calling for a six month pause on data center permit approval – so we have the time to get this right.

The biggest worry for me is that Montgomery County does not have a zoning definition for a data center. Before we make generational decisions about land use, water, energy, and air quality, we need real analysis and real community input. Any data center in Montgomery County should be consistent with our climate goals and should not impose costs on ratepayers, residents, or our natural resources.



Forests are a key tool for climate protection and protecting public health. How would forest protection and control of non-native plant species factor into your administration's goals? (Picture above - Wib Middleton)

Forest protection is climate protection. I am proud to have authored and passed the Native Plant Protection Act, which promotes native landscaping and prohibits the sale of invasive species like running bamboo, and my decades long work to increase the tree canopy across Montgomery County. As a founding board member of Conservation Montgomery, protecting our trees has been and remains one of my top issues. Trees give us shade, give us oxygen and create habitats for our wildlife. We must protect our trees.

Where do you stand on synthetic turf playing fields for school and community use?

I do not support the installation of synthetic turf. Synthetic turf has been sold as more less expensive and playable than natural grass, but the evidence tells us otherwise. Not only are the long-term costs more expensive than for a well-built natural grass field, but artificial turf comes with significant long-term environmental and public health concerns. Artificial turf increases surface temperatures dramatically during the summer months, creating unsafe conditions for children, athletes, and residents. The turf itself significantly increases the risk of infection via turf burns and skin abrasions. It also contributes to stormwater runoff and pollution because it does not absorb water naturally like grass and often contains plastics, rubber infill, untested ingredients pitched to be healthier – that have ended up being more problematic, and chemical compounds that can leach into local waterways. In addition, synthetic fields require expensive replacement every 8–10 years, creating ongoing maintenance and disposal costs while sending large amounts of non-biodegradable material to landfills. We should prioritize investments in well-built, sustainable natural grass fields and modern maintenance practices that protect public health, reduce environmental impacts, and provide safe recreational spaces for our community.



Challenges to current and future farmers are increasing. The average age of County producers is 59. The cost of leasing farm acreage (60% of farms are leasing) is skyrocketing while a diverse new crop of farmers struggle to afford farmland. Have you got any plans for how the County can help keep the industry healthy and promote expansion– with an understanding that resilience depends on local food and fiber production? (Pictured above: Afrithrive Farm)

Montgomery County's farmers deserve a County Executive who treats agriculture as a strategic economic priority. With the average producer at 59 and most farms leasing, we have to make it easier for the next generation of farmers, including BIPOC and immigrant producers like those Afrithrive supports, to access land and build viable operations.

I will work with the Office of Agriculture, MNCPPC, and state partners on land access, market opportunities, and regulatory hurdles that hamper farming activities. We need to create more markets for food distribution and sales, in addition to forging stronger partnerships with MCPS and other large institutions. A resilient local food system is good climate policy, public health policy, and economic development policy at once, and I will treat it that way.