

Montgomery County 2026 Candidate Questionnaire



Personal Information:

Name Fitzgerald Mofor

What Office Are You Seeking in the 2026 Election? District 9A in the Maryland House of Delegates

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. There are no word limits but please try to be consise.

(pictured above: One Acre Farm)

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

I am a Montgomery County native and was born in Gaithersburg, Maryland. I went to get my master's in law from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law. Now I am working diligently to bring balance to the legislature and lower taxes, fees, and utility costs.

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?

The lack of government transparency is a significant concern, particularly regarding land use and legislative decisions that affect neighborhoods, traffic, schools, and the overall quality of life in Montgomery County. As a candidate for District 9A, I am dedicated to rebuilding trust through genuine accountability. I support initiatives that enhance accessibility and oversight of legislative decisions related to land use. I would advocate for the implementation of mandatory early and meaningful notifications for public hearings. Additionally, I support the re-establishment and full funding of the Office of the People's

Counsel (OPC) to provide residents and civic associations with expert, non-partisan legal and technical assistance in complex land use matters.

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?

Yes, the current interactions among Montgomery County's executive, legislative, and planning branches, as well as with state entities, need significant improvement. Siloed decision-making, overlapping authorities, and inconsistent communication frequently result in delays, conflicting priorities, and outcomes that inadequately protect our agricultural reserve, working farms, and rural character while managing growth. This is particularly evident in the land-use and permitting processes that affect agriculture. In Annapolis, I aim to enhance inter-agency coordination through state-enabled tools by advocating for legislation that mandates formal, enforceable memoranda of understanding (MOUs) between the county executive, county council, Montgomery County Planning Board/M-NCPPC, and state agencies such as the Maryland Department of Planning, SHA, and MDE. Better collaboration is not merely about increasing the size of government; it is about creating a smarter and more accountable government. Residents in District 9A, as well as those in Montgomery County's rural areas, deserve decisions that effectively balance growth with the long-term viability of farming and open spaces. If elected, I will work diligently to connect local and state efforts to achieve this goal.



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?

Source water protection is a crucial priority for residents of Montgomery County, especially in rural and agricultural reserve areas that rely on private wells sourced from the federally designated Piedmont Sole-Source Aquifer. As a state delegate, I will prioritize the protection of our groundwater and the Potomac River through targeted state-level actions, smarter growth policies, and accountability for high-impact users. I intend to strengthen wellhead and aquifer protections by supporting legislation that enhances Maryland's Source Water Protection Program. This will include implementing stricter setbacks and best management practices for development, agriculture, and infrastructure in proximity to the sole-source aquifer. This includes funding for well testing, monitoring, and homeowner assistance programs in rural District 9A and Up County areas. Furthermore, data centers represent a fast-growing, high-consumptive use that exacerbates drought risks. Recent studies show they already account for significant portions of Potomac watershed demand, with projections indicating potential shortages in extreme drought scenarios by 2030–2050. I will advocate for legislation that requires large data centers to cover the full costs associated with their operations. This includes funding necessary upgrades to water infrastructure, implementing advanced cooling and recycling technologies (or utilizing dry cooling where feasible), and publicly disclosing real-time water usage. They should not shift costs onto ratepayers or strain public supplies. Protecting our water is fundamental to preserving the Agricultural Reserve, supporting viable farms and businesses, and maintaining quality of life in District 9A. If elected, I will be a strong advocate in

the House for policies that put long-term sustainability ahead of short-term development pressures.

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?

As a delegate, focus on practical, locally led solutions that leverage the strengths of the Ag Reserve, acknowledge the outstanding stewardship provided by farmers, and promote innovation such as advanced nuclear energy, a variety of energy sources, and market-based tools rather than depending on top-down regulations. Protecting the integrity of the agricultural reserve is essential for an effective climate strategy in Montgomery County. I am eager to collaborate with the Montgomery Countryside Alliance to develop policies that ensure the viability of farming while fostering genuine climate resilience.



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 the long-planned closure of the Dickerson trash incinerator. The Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility is a 30 year-old industrial operation located in the heart of the Agricultural Reserve area. Its continued operation poses unnecessary risks to nearby farms, rural residents, air quality, and the environment, including operations like Shepherd's Hey Farm. It negatively affects air quality and poses health risks to agriculture, highlighting the need for a more effective long-term waste management strategy. As a Republican candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates (District 9A), I will advocate at the state level for a responsible, science-based transition that prioritizes public health, supports farmers, and prevents unnecessary costs or environmental risks for ratepayers. Closure must be accompanied by robust monitoring, equitable contracts for waste transport, and a renewed emphasis on minimizing the waste stream from the outset.

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?

No, Montgomery County should not actively pursue hosting hyperscale data centers, especially in areas near the Agricultural Reserve or the rural regions of District 9A. While data centers represent a form of economic development, the scale and intensity of hyper-scale facilities create disproportionate burdens on water resources, energy infrastructure, rural character, and taxpayers that outweigh the limited local benefits. The proposal in Dickerson for a hyperscale data center on the former power plant site, which is located near the Agricultural Reserve, clearly highlights the associated risks and underscores the need for caution. I am committed to advocating at the state level for enhanced oversight, ensuring developers are fully accountable, and implementing policies that safeguard the agricultural reserve, support working farms, protect rural communities, and promote long-term sustainability. Economic growth must not come at the expense of our water supply, energy reliability, or quality of life for residents and farmers.



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)

I strongly support voluntary, incentive-based programs such as Re-Leaf the Reserve, which assist landowners in planting and maintaining native forest buffers, streamside plantings, and wooded edges on farms at no cost to them. These initiatives enhance climate resilience and public health while allowing agricultural operations to continue without restrictions.

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

I strongly prefer natural grass playing fields for Montgomery County schools and community use, especially in rural and up-county areas like District 9A. While synthetic turf provides more consistent playability in wet weather, the long-term environmental, health, and fiscal costs make natural grass the better choice in most situations, particularly where fields are located atop the Piedmont Sole Source Aquifer or near the Agricultural Reserve.



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)

Yes, maintaining a healthy agricultural industry and fostering a new generation of farmers are critical challenges facing the agricultural preserve today. Local food and fiber production is vital for building resilience, ensuring food security, and supporting the long-term sustainability of rural Montgomery County. My approach will emphasize practical, incentive-based, and market-oriented solutions that honor private property rights and minimize heavy regulation by increasing access to affordable farmland. I will strengthen initiatives such as Montgomery County's New Farmer Program and Land Link Montgomery, which connect new farmers with landowners for long-term leases. At the state level, I will advocate for increased funding and the expansion of MARBIDCO's Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program and Small Acreage Next Generation (SANG) program to assist beginning farmers with down payments and property purchases while ensuring the preservation of land through easements. I also plan to reduce barriers and regulatory burdens by streamlining permitting for agritourism, on-farm value-added businesses, and small-scale infrastructure so new farmers can generate additional income. I will work to keep these activities compatible with the Agricultural Reserve's core purpose. Furthermore, I will provide tax and financial incentives for landowners by pushing for targeted property tax relief or credits for

landowners who lease to active farmers (especially young, beginning, or veteran farmers) for terms of 5 or more years. This encourages more long-term leasing without forcing sales. The Agricultural Reserve must remain a working landscape, not just open space. If elected, I will be a strong voice in Annapolis for policies that help retiring farmers transition their operations, make land more accessible to the next generation, and ensure local agriculture remains economically viable.