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What office are you seeking?: **County Council At-Large**
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: **www.evanglass.com**

2 Someone new to Montgomery County may ask, "What's the Ag Reserve and why is it important?" What's your answer?

Affectionately known as the county's "green lung," the Agricultural Reserve is an extremely important economic and geographic region within Montgomery County. Occupying one-third of the county's land area, the reserve protects the land from development rights or easement purchase initiatives. The Ag Reserve helps maintain a piece of our communities agriculture heritage, while also supporting innovative agro-businesses. Producing more than \$275 million in economic development, the area employs more than 10,000 residents. Approximately 540 farms operate on the reserve and 50% of the farmers work full time in farming. We need to protect the Ag Reserve for its residents, farmers and all in the region to enjoy.

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

As founding board member of Conservation Montgomery - a nonprofit dedicated to protecting our tree canopy and waterways - I have successfully led efforts to enact two important bills that protect or increase our urban tree canopy. I have also organized multiple tree plantings throughout Montgomery County and supported efforts to protect Ten Mile Creek. And as co-founder and president of the South Silver Spring Neighborhood Association (SSSNA), I led the efforts that resulted in Park & Planning's development of a green plan for our urban areas. Also in my capacity as SSSNA president, I also worked with Montgomery County to create the community garden program and led the efforts to open the first urban community garden in Montgomery County. My environmental stewardship and leadership is one reason I was endorsed by the Sierra Club of Montgomery County.

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

My vision for the Agriculture Reserve is to provide an environment where farmers and residents are eager to live and work on farms. As beer and wine culture continue to thrive throughout the DC region, the Agriculture Reserve can play an important and unique role in that sector. We must also ensure that students learn the skills and knowledge necessary to continue the agricultural tradition. Expansion of the programs is important to its continued success and longevity. The Land Link Montgomery program is another program that should be expanded, as these and other programs allow for a vibrant Ag Reserve.

5 Can you identify some of the top challenges to the Reserve's local agriculture and what actions you would take, if elected, to address them?

The main challenge to the Reserve, as I hear on the campaign trail, is a desire by some in other parts of the county to allow for more growth, development and a second bridge crossing. I have steadfastly proclaimed my support for the Reserve and its unique place in our local land use and economy. I also oppose a second bridge crossing. As the county gains more residents, we need elected officials willing to stand up and protect the Reserve. I have shown my commitment and will continue to be a staunch supporter.

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

In order to support our local farms businesses and rural communities, we need to ensure that development - roads, sewers, etc - are checked and that the intention is not to allow for more growth. Such allowances will dramatically change the quality of life and disrupt the businesses. I would also like the Montgomery County Economic Development Corp to devise a system to better support and promote the 504 farms and burgeoning businesses within the Reserve. From identifying potential clients or establishing networks, there is more the county's economic development corporation can do to assist this fragile industry.

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

Montgomery County needs to close the Dickerson Incinerator. It is an environmental problem and one that I will mitigate by shutting down. I would also like to create a composting collection network for Montgomery County, whereby residential compost would be provided to farms in the Ag Reserve, if desired. County residents currently recycle approximately 63% of solid waste. I want to increase this number, which will require added investments into public education campaigns and resources to the Department of Environmental Protection for more collection services. We can and must do better.

8 How can we expand the role the County's schools play in the support of a healthy local food system and the success of local agriculture? Do you support a rural schools' policy that provides equity for Reserve cluster schools acknowledging the unique nature of schools in region set aside for farmland and open space preservation?

I was in Poolesville on Saturday March 10 for a campaign event and spoke to many residents about the needs of Poolesville High School and other schools in the Ag Reserve. I am committed to bringing equity to the cluster. In this large county of 500 square miles, a one-size fits all approach does not work. We need thoughtful policies tailored to our unique communities. I would like to support a healthy food system by strengthening the collaboration between farmers, MCPS and area farmers markets. My campaign has been endorsed by MCPS Board of Education member Jeanette Dixon, and I am committed to working with her and other BOE members to improve the health food systems and equity issues.

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- 9 **Currently the County is exploring how best to support a strong agricultural economy through agritourism and new farming enterprises such as on farm breweries and wineries. What are your thoughts about how best to advance on farm activities within the context of the master plan?**

As noted in question 4, I believe that the Ag Reserve can play a unique role in supporting farm breweries and wineries.

I would support changes to Montgomery County's liquor laws that would be necessary to reach this vision. In 2014 I authored an Washington Post op-ed calling for reforms to the county's liquor monopoly. Here is the article: https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/time-to-end-montgomery-countys-alcohol-monopoly/2014/04/25/68beb01c-cb1f-11e3-a75e-463587891b57_story.html?utm_term=.400-963600568

But, we must ensure that new businesses established do not disrupt the current landscape - from a residential and environmental perspective. This will require oversight and careful guidance. As a former CNN journalist, I know how to provide a watchful eye to government and business policies.

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- 10 **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 do not support M83 or an additional Potomac bridge crossing. These projects are short sighted and would damage an already fragile ecosystem and quality of life.