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What office are you seeking?: Montgomery County Council at-large
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: greenbergerforcouncil.com

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

I can easily answer this as someone who lives in Damascus, on the edge of the Ag Reserve, in a farm house that was built in the 1860s. The Agricultural Reserve is what makes living in Montgomery County so special compared to the neighboring communities that we consider our competitors, such as Fairfax and Arlington Counties and the District of Columbia. We have not only preserved our heritage, but by not paving over every inch of open space, like our neighbors have, we have a better environment, a natural barrier to some over development and a place that is a quick drive to a world very few people in our urban and suburban neighborhoods would otherwise be able to appreciate and enjoy. For those who still want to operate farms or live in homes with open space, we are still providing that option. The Ag Reserve, however, is not just a historic showplace. It adds another element to Montgomery County's economy and to its culture.

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

The Ag Reserve forces us to be very aware of our natural resources. We must do whatever is possible to preserve the natural resources provided by, and required, by the Ag Reserve. I am a bit worried about the spreading contamination of wells in the County. This is not an option, clean wells are a requirement for the people of the Ag Reserve, their animals and their crops. We cannot allow the pollution around the Ag Reserve to impact it. And this is the reason we cannot allow fracking in our County.

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

Our elected officials must resist the constant pressure to allow exceptions to the Ag Reserve policies and regulations--although we must be flexible to some conditions as the world changes. I do see the Ag Reserve evolving in the near future for economic reasons. I can see more wineries, breweries or distilleries emerging. The County has not been very open to businesses like this, but it needs to be. Businesses like wineries should also be able to hold events, which would help maximize the value of the Ag Reserve and give more people an opportunity to utilize this great County resource.

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?

My No. 1 priority in running for the County Council is to use the County law (approved by voters) to GUARANTEE that property taxes in the County would not increase above the County Charter Limit (basically the rate of inflation) for four years. The law allows one Councilmember to block a property tax

increase, and as a government employee for the past 11 years, I know that we do not need another increase like the one the Council approved last year for no good reason. If the County Executive or Council attempted to increase taxes, I would be the vote to block it and make sure work was done to have a balanced budget by promoting efficiency and eliminating waste in the county budget. Another challenge to people who live in the Ag Reserve, and the businesses in it, is the availability of broadband to schools and the Internet to private homes and businesses. Children who live in the Internet must have Internet access at home. Businesses cannot be competitive without better connectivity.

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

In addition to my answer above to work hard to get Internet connectivity expanded to the Ag Reserve, I also believe we need to allow businesses to sell their products in more ways. The County's annual one weekend Farm Tour is nice, but that packs little real economic power. I would like to see businesses, such as wineries and breweries, be allowed to hold more events. Our Council has been so tough on allowing this and has not supported needed state action in this regard. I also believe that the County should set up a program to encourage more farm markets to open throughout the County. Many of the current markets charge vendors high fees, which is discouraging to some vendors. The County may need a subsidy for community farm markets so that those who organize them will be assisted in their costs and vendors could be charged less, thereby making their willingness to participate more inviting.

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

The county needs to seriously look at reducing, and then eliminating, our dependence on the Dickerson incinerator. Shipping waste out of state to areas that are willing to accept it is not a good global environment solution, but is a better option for our county than the hazards presented by our incinerator. The county has set up a program to promote composting to those unfamiliar with its concepts, but it has moved along very slowly. I think we could make great strides in increasing participation in recycling by going to the single-stream method of recycling that allows all recyclable items to be placed in a single bin. Many people continue to avoid recycling because they find the separation rules too cumbersome. Even though I do not believe the rules are difficult, if single-stream would increase recycling, the county needs to implement this program (as the City of Gaithersburg and Howard County have already done).

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?

Our schools must expand their course loads to include more that show agriculture as a future business courses that will lead to students taking agricultural majors in college. I think the key in public schools is to try and entice students at younger ages courses beyond what they may learn in 4H and other extracurricular activities. For students throughout the county, we must devote some education to the setup of our county and explain why we have an Agricultural Reserve and why it so important to preserve.

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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?**

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?

The best way to promote new enterprises such as breweries and wineries in the Agricultural Reserve is to allow these production businesses to hold more social events. These events not only allow the businesses to become more profitable, they also lead to reasons for more people who would not ordinarily visit the Agricultural Reserve to come here and experience its value and necessity. County and State laws have loosened only slightly lately for Montgomery County in this regard and we need to keep pace with what so many other counties in Maryland have already moved toward agricultural economies have new ways to be relevant with today's generations.

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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 think building M83 needs to be a priority for Montgomery County. That 6-mile stretch simply is the much-needed connection of Mid-County Highway from Shady Grove Road to Route 355 in Clarksburg via Snowden Farm Parkway (most of which is already built). To address concerns of those concerned about the cost and others concerned about the route, I strongly believe that M83 should be a two-lane, reversible road built in parkway style. Reversible roads are already highly successful in places such as I-95 south of the Beltway and on the Cabin John Parkway. M83 would take an incredible amount of traffic off of I-270 and Route 355, giving more life to those roads. I also think we need to take a real study of building an outer beltway. The government cable station I once oversaw has done an outstanding video on the building of the Beltway, including all of the original opposition to that. I could not imagine life around Washington if that road had not been built.