

Montgomery Countryside Alliance 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Jim Kirkland

City: Bethesda

Office Sought: Montgomery County Council District 1

More Info: Stay tuned until the fall campaign

If you were asked to describe the County's Agricultural Reserve to someone, what would you say?

I would say that the Agricultural Reserve was established to preserve some semblance of the county's past. It is designed to limit unchecked housing development which could otherwise extend all the way to Sugarloaf Mountain.

What is your vision for the future of the County's Agricultural Reserve?

I feel that the Agricultural Reserve should continue to remind citizens of the County's rural past and to show people that not every part of Montgomery needs to be overplanned and sterile-looking.

What more should the County be providing in terms of legislation and/or services to realize that vision?

To a considerable extent, I feel that the County should leave the Agricultural Reserve alone. I would like to see businesses that service the agricultural economy remain. This includes gasoline stations. I would like to see older structures, such as old farmhouses and barns remain. I would also like to see old farm equipment sitting around, including old pickup trucks, registered or not. The state of Maryland, and Montgomery in particular, has lost most of its vehicular heritage by unwisely insisting that all old nonrunning vehicles must be tagged and insured. This has resulted in a county which appears to be a Sterile Nerd-Zone.

What challenges exist to ensuring that your vision for the Reserve is realized?

The biggest challenge to the Ag Reserve and blue-collar residents is the way Montgomery's Democratic Monopoly caters largely to a class of Intolerant Upscale Elitists who demand that everybody else act just like them. This means, in the case of the Ag Reserve, that the Intolerant Upscale Elitists will want to turn it into an upscale park with little resemblance to a working agricultural community. They will try to eliminate any vestige of commercial activity. They don't care about, or want to see, any working/historical equipment or vehicles. Stopping these people, the Intolerant Upscale Elitists, is a centerpiece of my campaign. Those who agree with me must vote November 4 for Jim Kirkland for County Council District 1.

What role do the County's schools play in the support of our local food system and success of local agriculture?

Obviously, the Montgomery County Schools should attempt to purchase locally-grown vegetables from the Agricultural Reserve if at all possible, barring major differences in costs. Major differences in costs might occur in the question of organic products. I do not believe that the school system should be Required to purchase organic products for all students.

The County has undertaken a comprehensive zoning code re-write. What are your thoughts about the County's zoning code enforcement? Does that division have adequate resources and is it properly functioning?

As I discussed in my response to Question 7, this issue is a centerpiece of my campaign. The current situation in Montgomery has developed over many years. The Democratic Party Monopoly in Rockville sides with a ruling class of Intolerant Upscale Elitists.

These people want Montgomery County to be an exclusive jurisdiction of white-collar professionals.

They have structured the zoning code to encourage upscale conformity at the expense of affordable living. The results are even worse when it comes to the Housing Code. It turns out that, apart from a limited number of new units in multi-family dwellings, the County is actually NOT interested in affordable housing. In fact, when it comes to detached homes, the County does everything possible to keep values, particularly in District 1, as high and unaffordable as possible. There is an unacknowledged and defacto policy to force lower-income and blue-collar residents out of the county.

Do you support an additional Potomac bridge and highway in the Reserve or adjacent rural zones?

It appears that a second crossing of the Potomac between the American Legion Bridge and Point of Rocks is going to become a necessity. The main reason is for the purposes of Homeland Security. Apart from being seriously overcrowded, the American Legion Bridge is essential for the economy of Montgomery County . Should anything happen to it, the entire regional economy would be at risk.

I feel that a second crossing would be possible south of the main portions of the Agricultural Reserve. The major opposition to such a crossing would come from the same people who want to turn the Ag Reserve into an exclusive upscale park, as opposed to a working agricultural area.

Since the second crossing is vital our regional security and economy, a new bridge and roadway should be open to all traffic, and not just serve as an exclusive parkway for automobiles alone.