



Montgomery County 2022 Candidate Questionnaire John Zittrauer

Personal Information:

Name John Zittrauer

What Office Are You Seeking in the 2022 Election? Montgomery County Council, District 4

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

<https://www.friendsofjohnzittrauer.com/> <https://twitter.com/JohnZittrauer>
<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofjohnzittrauer> <https://www.instagram.com/johnzittrauer/>

Please Answer the Following Questions- responses will posted in their entirety and will not be edited.

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

The Agricultural Reserve is the best way we've found to conserve farmland and protect it from overdevelopment in rural areas. Without it, we run the risk of ecological damage as well as exacerbating food insecurity.

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

I would like to see sustainable farming remain a priority for the Ag Reserve. It will help mitigate supply chain issues that we've seen since COVID hit and aid in our battle against food insecurity. The county should be helping small farms start and develop on the Ag Reserve through grant programs and publicly funded projects.

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

Green infrastructure, rainwater preservation, more public transit and accessibility to public parks

What role will you play with regard to ensure that we safeguard our drinking water supply both surface and groundwater?

As someone who is not an expert in water treatment, I would lean on WSSC to thoroughly yet efficiently complete the Water System Master Plan so we can understand the estimated needs for the future and free up the necessary funding to protect our drinking water.

What are your top priorities to help the County address climate change? What role will the Ag Reserve play?

Population growth and density need to be paired with housing near public transit so we don't need many cars on the road; this can significantly impact our carbon output. The Ag Reserve helps us mitigate climate change because locally grown food doesn't need trucks hauling it across the country to get to us.

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

We think of small businesses as primarily retail and hospitality, but local farms deserve focus, as well.

The county can facilitate relationship building between local farms and restaurants to ensure sustainable and affordable sourcing. Reliable public transit also needs to be seen as a necessity outside of urban areas; it's easier to get and keep a job if you can travel to one.

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?

Reliable public transit is the top priority, with dedicated BRT lanes. Safe walking and biking is another big one; dedicated, protected bike lanes are a necessity and should be prioritized. I believe a reliable BRT system will help erase the need for M83 expansion and we won't need to disrupt our ecosystem for more roads.

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

Shut down the incinerator and help businesses that produce food waste with composting and redistribution through regular pickups. Increase the types of recycling we can take in and provide separate bins instead one of large comingled mess.

What are your views on the general plan update "Thrive 2050," both the process and the draft now before the Council?

The draft now before the council is good and deserves a vote; if they want to kick the can further down the line, I will vote yes. Feedback solicitation will always be an imperfect process and we should do more in the future to go to cultural hubs with town halls, but this document is ready for a vote.

Do you believe that the way that local government branches, state entities, and the public currently interact can be improved? If so, what steps would you take?

Obviously, yes. We rely heavily on feedback from people who work "normal" hours and don't always solicit feedback as much as we should. I will be out in the community talking to residents via regular town halls in community centers and looking to members of underrepresented and ignored populations for input.