

Name: **Marc King**
Address: Germantown
What office are you seeking?: House Delegate LD 15
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: Website (Under Construction)

2 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 a designated land use zone in Montgomery County, Maryland. The 93,000 acres zone was created in 1980 by the Montgomery County Council to preserve farm land and rural space in the northwestern part of the county. There are more than 90,000 acres (360 km²) of farmland to enjoy in upper Montgomery County

- Provides pick-your-own produce
- Serves as a "green lung" for the greater Washington, D.C. area, cooling and cleaning the air
- Employs over 10,000 people
- Contributes \$250 million to the economy
- Offers recreational activities
 - riding
 - cycling
 - hiking
 - longboarding
 - canoeing
 - fishing
 - hunting
- Habitats for animals
- Historical sites

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

I support fully Governor Larry Hogans efforts for the conservation and preservation of farmlands in Montgomery County. This includes full funding for transfer tax-funded land conservation programs, including the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, Program as well as the Open Space and Rural Legacy Program. Governor Hogan restored funding levels that were siphoned off by previous administrations. The enhanced funding which I will fully support, will help conserve and preserve more land to meet its watershed goals.

The State budget increased funding to the Maryland Park Service by \$3.9 million to assist with essential equipment and maintenance needs. Additional funding is dedicated to hiring more seasonal employees to support the record number of visitors to our public lands. I will continue to support these efforts

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 County's Agricultural Reserve is enshrined in the the tile itself... "Agricultural Reserve with "Reserve" being the operative word. There will be constant pressure to develop these lands as the opportunities become available. More development translates into more tax revenues for the political

professional who currently occupy the halls of our institutions. My vision would support the efforts of Gov. Hogan with a strong and determined effort to resist the siren's call of the "Developer Class" in the county and insure that the green spaces and agricultural lands that we have are not further traded off for the "tax man" to acquire. It is achievable if we give the governor the right people to support him in the State Legislature and if we provide a group that can be worked with at the county level to insure we work smarter and preserve the 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?

I think the top challenge to local agriculture is centered around two basic requirements 1) The environment and 2) Education

1) On the environment we have to deal with the realities of what will make the local agricultural system stronger. Careful consideration of the current regulations needs to be completely examined to insure that we have not regulated the efforts of local farmer out of existence. This can be achieved in a sound and rational manner without trampling on the concerns for general environmental safety and concerns.

2) The expansion of educational programs for the rural youth to increase awareness and the need for local farms. Support of 4-H and Future Farmers needs to be brought into the mainstream. It needs to cool to be a farmer.

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

Encourage restaurant businesses and grocery chains throughout the county to purchase locally produced vegetables and fruits. Improve the road systems so that the movement of good to the urban areas can be done more efficiently and safely.

Expand the availability and timeliness of Farmers Markets across the entire county; making seasonal vegetables and fruits available for county residents without having to schedule a time and location for acquiring the goods.

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

The current county system for the disposal of solid waste appears to be a workable solution that should be sustained. Incineration is driving additional electrical production which is helping county residents to lower their power bills. Composting on the individual land users level is a viable solution for management of yard waste. Recycling is here to stay and the current system of identification, collection and reprocessing seems to be meeting the counties needs. Sustainment of the current system will be supported. However, as the county continues to grow additional residential areas such as Clarksberg careful attention will need to be paid to advanced planning and funding for additional facilities.

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?

The early education of students in the importance of consuming fresh local produce and the importance that the small farm play in the process would be a great first step if not already being done. Highlighting the schools use of locally grown fruits and vegetables in school cafeterias will also draw attention to these opportunities as well.

I support a school policy that provides equity across all segments that the schools in the county serve. It is especially important that the schools that are located in the Reserve be recognized for their unique location and contribution.

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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?**

Commission a study to be done with the objective of creating actionable goals and objective to continue the expansion of wineries and micro-breweries on Reserve lands.

Increased awareness and advertising of community events:

Halloween -- pumpkin picking

Fall Harvest festival

Christmas - tree cutting

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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 support the governors program for the widening and improvement of I-270 through Montgomery county extending to Frederick County to the north. The reduction of traffic on this major highway can be a economic benefit to farmers in the Reserve areas allowing them easier access to markets across the county without wasting time money and energy sitting in long traffic backup.

While I believe that an outer crossing over the Potomac River would bring additional economic prosperity to the entire region, I also believe that we have available to us today the tools to site and build such a bridge without severely impacting the Reserve. This would be something that I believe would be worth additional study and an informed decision on the matter.