

Montgomery County 2026 Candidate Questionnaire



Personal Information:

Name

Matt Losak

What Office Are You Seeking in the 2026 Election?

County Council At-Large

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

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Please Answer the Following Questions- responses will posted in their entirety and will not be edited. There are no word limits but please try to be consise.

(pictured above: One Acre Farm)

Please share 3 sentences that help us to know you better:

Matt Losak is the co-founder and executive director of the Renters Alliance. He has more than three decades experience holding senior positions in federal, state and local government as well as a nonprofit leader. He chaired the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board and the Tenants Work Group, is a current board member of the Committee for Montgomery, is a lifelong union member and activist, served in the Peace Corps as a teacher in southern Africa and holds a BA in English and an MA in Political Science and Government.

When we recently surveyed residents throughout the County, they shared that their top priority was a lack of government transparency - How can Montgomery County ensure transparency in their legislative and land use decision making? How would you grade current public engagement? Do you support re-establishing the Office of the People's Counsel?

I support re-establishing the OPC and increasing government transparency, especially where it has been most opaque in planning and zoning, and budgeting. I also consider improving government efficiency and effectiveness a top priority.

Do you believe that the way that local government branches (executive, legislative and planning), and state entities currently interact can be improved? If so, what steps would you take to bring better collaboration?

Yes. We can no longer operate as if we are living in the 1960s. Montgomery is now a mixed urban/rural county of more than a million residents, but our government infrastructure does not adequately operate to address community needs. We must increase oversight of our Planning and Zoning and Montgomery Public Schools. I will lead an reinventing government task force to make improvements across government operations. I will also work to increase Council and Executive oversight of MPS operations to ensure that our tax dollars are more directly supporting student success.



Source water protection is a priority for County residents. Rural residents are served by wells drawn from a federally designated Sole Source Aquifer. What specific actions will you take to protect groundwater quality and ensure a sustainable supply of drinking water for residents, farms and businesses? And what do you propose with regard to protecting the Potomac River, a drinking water supply for more than 5 Million people in the Washington DC metropolitan area. Given increasing drought conditions, growing data center water consumption, and projections that the Potomac River may not meet future demand, how will you plan for a water-constrained future? What policies or investments would you prioritize during your term?

Water supply and quality are an increasing national challenge. Prohibiting contamination from all sources is an obvious step. To the extent possible, we are going to have to consider how to approach regional inter-connectivity of water supply and when necessary, limiting usage.

What role can the Ag Reserve play in helping our County address Climate Change? Do you have plans to bolster the county's funds to address climate change, i.e. expanded grant making, review of energy tax structure for high energy consumers such as data centers?

Farmers in the Ag Reserve could help supply down county regions by supplying green landscaping plants from trees to seasonal plantings. Unused or fallow land could be used for additional green growth. I oppose the migration of turning over agriculture land for industrial use in Montgomery County as our available natural land resources are shrinking at an alarming pace. I support increasing density around transit and urban centers in order to protect and preserve our green spaces, parks and agriculture land. And yes, if we build data centers--and that remains a subject of study and review--I support an energy tax structure that apportions taxes to those who disproportionately consume energy from the grid.

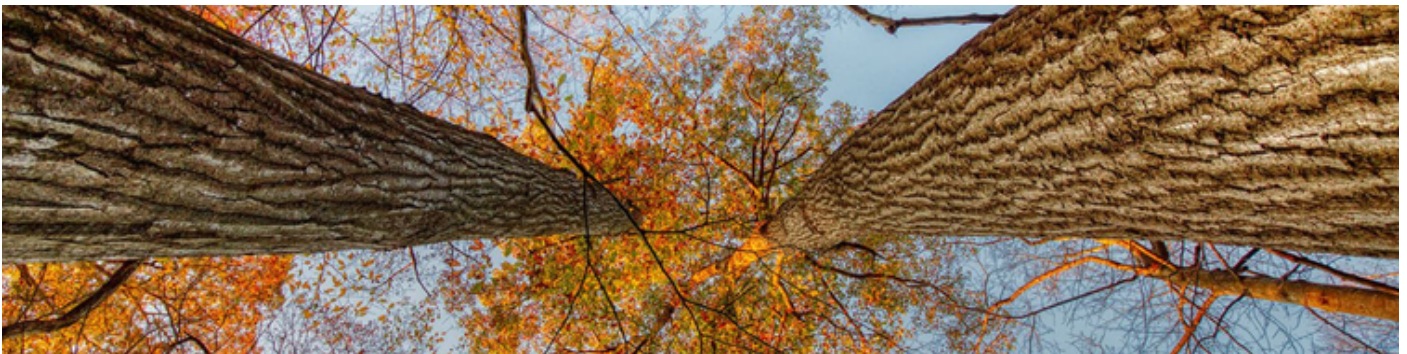


Do you support the long planned closure of the trash incinerator in Dickerson? Please provide some details as to why or why not. (pictured above: Shepherd's hey Farm)

I support all practical efforts to reduce pollution of our air, water and land. That said, all approaches require realistic alternatives. I am not sure they exist at this time. As a councilmember, I will review the state-of-play for that planned closure and weigh in heavily where I believe progress can be made.

Should Montgomery County host hyperscale Data Centers? If so, what zoning standards and regulations should be established? Have we gathered all the necessary information to make an informed decision at this time?

I do not believe we have gathered enough information to give these massive projects the green light to go forward. I support further study and review. If we do decide to approve data centers construction, I support extensive public outreach and education to insure public input. I also will support regulations to address zoning, environmental and energy impacts.



Forests are a key tool for climate protection and protecting public health. How would forest protection and control of non-native plant species factor into your administration's goals? (Picture above - Wib Middleton)

I support all efforts to make Montgomery County as green as possible. Tree removal should require reasonable regulation and the county should include encourage forestation in urban spaces and residential areas in our overall budgeting.

Where do you stand on synthetic turf playing fields for school and community use?

I played football on real grass. Let's stay real green and avoid use of artificial turf.



Challenges to current and future farmers are increasing. The average age of County producers is 59. The cost of leasing farm acreage (60% of farms are leasing) is skyrocketing while a diverse new crop of farmers struggle to afford farmland. Have you got any plans for how the County can help keep the industry healthy and promote expansion– with an understanding that resilience depends on local food and fiber production? (Pictured above: Afrithrive Farm)

I support connecting youth to farming, expanding farmers' markets and grants to improve farm produce marketing. I also support protecting agriculture land in way that keeps it affordable for those who intend to use the land for farming, but raises taxes on farm land sales for industrial use.