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

Montgomery county's agricultural reserve protects about 25% of the county in a contiguous area that protects farm and open space. Why is it important? It is a tangible reminder of the county's agricultural history. As parts of the county become denser, it is imperative to preserve and even expand green spaces for both our physical and mental health. Physical health because it helps to keep our air and water clean. Mental health because it provides a nearby escape to a more tranquil and natural environment

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

Natural spaces are places to move through, not just observe. The county should plan to find ways to expand and connect existing green spaces  
Protecting our water resources is our top priority. Water that flows into our streams, flows into the Potomac. It becomes the water we drink, the water we fish in, boat in, or just look at. It is imperative we keep it clean. I was sitting along the Potomac in Georgetown and saw toilet paper bubble up from the ground. We need to aggressively adopt state of the art storm water management practices  
That includes preserving our forests to enhance storm water management and stream erosion control. Tree canopy dissipates highway noise. Developers who cut trees should replant and not be permitted to pay fees instead  
The county had the foresight to build a park network. These are opportunities for environmental education. Broadening understanding of the environmental impact of our modern life is critical to sustaining support for the environment

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

A genuine and diverse farm economy, not a tourist attraction. The Ag Reserve does need people to buy products and enjoy the natural environment. This is a delicate balancing act that necessitates a strong local voice to articulate and advocate for that vision.  
To sustain support for the Ag Reserve. First, a sustainable farm economy and second, the involvement of people from the eastern part of the county. Those interests intersect when east county residents and businesses buy products and services from the Ag Reserve and enjoy recreational opportunities  
Listen to those who are actively engaged in farming and farm related enterprises and be flexible in responding to the needs of the local stakeholders. The county should promote products from the area and programs to encourage young farmers to enter farming. Use the farm economy in the Ag Reserve as part of the Montgomery county educational curriculum

**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 have touched on some already. Sustaining a viable and diverse farm economy is one. Attracting new farmers to replace retiring farmers. That can involve special agricultural education specific to the region, programs to enable new farmers to buy old farms, student loan forgiveness programs for those who study farming and want to farm in Montgomery county.

But clearly the biggest threat is the threat of development. The Ag Reserve was created as a defense against development and those economic forces have only increased. And it is not just the threat of housing development, but also commercial and transportation development that might undermine the rural nature of the community. Listening to the voices of local stakeholders and judicious enforcement of existing laws and regulations. Staying true to the vision

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

Aside from the points described in answers to other questions, I think more could be done by the county to promote specific local businesses. That might be done through a public private marketing efforts. Creating special designations for restaurants to use that identified Montgomery county foodstuffs, might be an additional measure.

A collaborative effort with local stakeholders to continually refine what growth in that part of the county might look like

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

Zero waste must be a priority. This is no easy task as much of the waste is determined outside the county. For example, Starbucks produces 4 million coffee cups a year that are not recyclable. Many end up in the Dickerson incinerator.

Eliminating the incinerator without solving the waste problem only moves the problem, it does not solve it. Composting of food waste could substantially reduces the amount of waste burned at the incinerator.

Moving people away from garbage disposals would also reduce the costs of treating sewage.

The county has an excellent program for curbside pickup of recyclables. More could be done. More frequent recycling stations in public places, for example. More could be done to encourage business and churches to recycle. Businesses that sell products that end up in landfills, batteries, for example, should have some responsibility in their recycling

Explore incubating new businesses that develop new ways to use old, recycled products

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**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?**

I was involved with the effort to Save Nick's Farm which briefly had a policy with the Montgomery County Schools to teach school children about farming. Such a program is important from two perspectives. It teaches young children where their food comes from and the importance of good farming and soil practices. It also teaches them and their teachers about their local economy and their local history.

The schools could also commit to buying local farm products, maybe special 'eat local' school lunch days. I would support a rural schools' policy that provides equity for Reserve cluster schools

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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?**

In an answer to an earlier question, I stated that it might be difficult legislate a line between a tourist enterprise and an agriculture one and that was reason to have a strong local voice in that decision process rather than rely on legal regulations that could ultimately end in court.  
If I were to try to differentiate, I might argue that enabling crowds to buy local products, say a wine festival or a peach festival would be OK, but merely using the rural space as a backdrop, say for a wedding or a conference center, would be tourism and not agriculture.

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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?**

The immediate priority is a sustainable and dedicated funding source for METRO that includes a combination of sales tax and an added tax on land value close to transit hubs  
Longer term, there needs to be region wide effort to revision what METRO and DC area transit will look like on METRO's 100th anniversary. As METRO ages, shutdowns will be inevitable. The system needs redundancy so travelers have alternative routes to their destinations. The Purple Line is a small step in that direction. But it took 20 years to bring the Purple Line to reality. We need to begin now to expand on that. I would advocate for extending service on the Brunswick line to include all day, seven day, two way travel  
I do not support a Potomac bridge or outer beltway through the Ag Reserve. I generally do not see highways as a solution to congestion. The best long-term solution is to reduce demand for car trips by co-locating housing, shopping and work so that people will need to take fewer and shorter trips