

Name: **Hans Riemer**  
Address: Montgomery County  
What office are you seeking?: County Council, At-Large  
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: [www.hansriemer.com](http://www.hansriemer.com)

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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?**

The Ag Reserve is a large part of Montgomery County, which has been reserved for farming through low density zoning and easements. The purpose of the reservation is to preserve the way of life that can be found in farming communities, to prevent sprawl development, and to allow for cultural or community life resources that can only be found in agricultural areas.

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

I work hard to support smart growth development as demonstrated by my years of work crafting visionary master plans to manage the future growth of our county. Smart growth is one of our strongest tools to clean up the Bay, the air, and reduce carbon emissions. Examples include my leading role in the Ten Mile Creek Master plan, on the one hand, and the Bethesda Master Plan, on the other hand.  
I support cleaning waterways with policies to reduce litter (e.g., the styrene ban I passed, the bag fee I protected).  
I work hard to support our parks with capital and operating budget investments, particularly including trails, bikeways, and athletic fields.

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

The Ag Reserve is a remarkable and unusual resource and its value will change and grow over time as our culture and community needs change.  
I support a strong overarching policy to preserve the Reserve. We must be mindful to support the business of farming as well as to advance the land use vision through purchase of BLTs.  
The reserve has unique attributes that must be guarded, such as rustic roads.  
I support investments in the viability of the reserve, such as broadband for farmers and residents.  
I believe there is room to bring new uses to the reserve, such as boutique hotels in historic homes, and wineries, breweries, and cideries.  
The Ag reserve is a resource to the community at large as well as those who live there, and the Council has a special responsibility to protect, manage, and invest in it.

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**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?**

A primary issue facing the ultimate viability of the reserve is the remaining land that can be turned into large estate properties and taken out of farming uses. The council must find ways to support purchase of

BLTs.

As agriculture becomes more technology driven, internet access will become a growing challenge. I believe we need a public private partnership that can bring high speed internet to all businesses and residents there.

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

We must increase the County's investment in purchase of easements. Today the County is funding operating expenses that are not related to purchase of easements, out of the easement fund. That must end.

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

We must reduce the amount of waste going to incineration. Our goal should be to make incineration unnecessary through success in waste diversion. I strongly support recycling and composting, and will support investment in a composting facility to enable the county to establish a curbside composting program.

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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?**

The County schools could purchase more locally grown produce. Achieving that goal would likely require significant incentives for farmers to change their equipment and business operations to grow produce rather than corn and soybeans, for example. Our County Food Council is developing plans to support the growth of local produce, and I look forward to seeing recommendations from the Food Council and any other organizations.

Regarding a schools policy, I recognize that if the County's commitment to the Ag Reserve is to have integrity, families living there need to have reasonable access to 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?**

I am excited about the future of local alcohol production and I have been the Council's leading champion for this industry. I have led the push to change restrictive zoning/laws and to create incentives for breweries and now I am turning my focus to wineries. I believe that our Ag Reserve can support a winery industry and that wineries are consistent with the vision of farming and agricultural use.

At the same time, it must be clear that businesses operating as wineries, breweries and cideries are actually alcohol producers, with locally sourced inputs and land under cultivation.

I look forward to addressing these issues this year.

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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?📍**

Strengthening WMATA is my top regional transportation priority. I also support making the Hogan plan for 270 a multimodal plan. I do not support building M83 or a new outer beltway.