



Montgomery County 2022 Candidate Questionnaire - Scott Goldberg

Personal Information:

Name Scott Goldberg

What Office Are You Seeking in the 2022 Election? County Council At-Large

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

Voters can learn more about my positions by emailing or calling me directly at Scott@VoteScott.org or (301) 237-4950 and by visiting our website: www.VoteScott.org

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?

For someone new to Montgomery County, the Agricultural Reserve, or Ag Reserve as we call it, is a bold, forward thinking protection of land to permanently protect over 90,000 acres, or 1/3 of the County's land mass, to forever have open space and a dedicated place devoted to farmland and agriculture.

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

My vision for the future of the Ag Reserve is to continue and improve upon the work done by all of our predecessors and highlight how important it is not only to all the residents of Montgomery County but to the entire region. By prioritizing the Reserve as the top source for local food, making it an agritourism destination for breweries, and continuously improving outdoor amenities, we can keep it a vibrant community while preserving its rural character.

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

The Ag Reserve doesn't exist in a vacuum. If we want to preserve open space and forests within it, we have to make tough decisions other places. This includes housing and development. We can and must reasonably locate construction, population growth, and non-agricultural jobs outside of the Reserve and as close to transit as possible. It's this reasonableness and balance that will maintain the Ag Reserve in perpetuity.

Re-forestation, or Re-Leaf the Reserve.

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

One of the County Council's main functions is to regulate land use. To protect surface groundwater, we can't permit overdevelopment in the watershed. This of course includes Ten Mile Creek. With respect to groundwater, the county and state can continue to educate, oversee, and inspect well and septic systems.

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

My top priority for the County to address climate change is to enlist everyone in the fight. No one can do everything but everyone can do something. That extends from reducing how much waste we produce, putting solar panels on our homes and outbuildings, driving an electric vehicle, using public transportation, installing rain barrels, recycling everything that's recyclable, planting more trees, and dozens of other small behaviors that over the course of 1.1 million people can have a real impact. The Ag Reserve are the lungs of the region. By protecting the tree canopy, the water supply, and preserving land that will one day need to be arable when the temperature becomes too hot in other places, we'll have a clean air and food safety net in times of emergency.

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

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) can be much more robust than it is now. Having such abundant wealth in the county, residents want to support our neighbors if we can, including spending more money to buy county grown products. We can support more restaurants and mainstream grocery stores buying and selling Ag Reserved farmed produce.

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?

There's no single solution to our enormous transportation challenges. Until we make a concerted effort to reduce traffic through public transportation, such as the Corridor Cities Transitway, fully built Bus Rapid Transit network, replacement of the American Legion Bridge, design improvements on existing highways, and making Ride On a viable upcounty option, roads should be a secondary alternative.

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

In the fight against climate change, our county has an opportunity to enlist all 1.1 million residents in the fight and confronting solid waste is a terrific starting point. About 1/3 of the waste sent to the incinerator is compostable. Composting in one's backyard or on the property of multi-family homes is easy and a gateway to growing food and plants on land everywhere. We should also financially incentivize throwing away less garbage. Education on recycling is also critical. For example, red solo cups (and all #6 plastics) can't be recycled in Montgomery County and cans are much more economical to recycle than bottles so we should be gravitating toward aluminum instead of glass.

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

In a perfect world, we could teleport ourselves back to the beginning of Thrive 2050 and done a massive outreach effort touting something along the lines of "We're updating our General Plan to decide what the next 30 years of Montgomery County looks like" that elicits input and feedback from all who want to participate, then have a draft product that could be improved and enacted. That being said, I do support our decision-making for how we grow should be through a lens of racial equity, protecting the environment, and factoring in economic development. However Thrive 2050 turns out, the real work and impact is going to be in all the Master and Sector Plans that come after as well as Zoning Text Amendments that will affect people on the local level.

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?

Without question the government on all levels can improve how it interacts and engages with the public. Residents and businesses must be heard and understood to have a healthy democracy. There's no one-size-fits-all solutions because every entity and every proposal is different. If we've learned anything from the last 2 years it's that we should never assume what is thought to be a good idea is actually a good idea and the process and education is just as important as the result.