



Montgomery County 2022 Candidate Questionnaire - Viet Doan

Personal Information:

Name Viet Doan

What Office Are You Seeking in the 2022 Election? County Council - District 6

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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?

The Ag Res is one of the premier highlights of our wonderful County! Clocking in at 93,000 acres of designated agricultural zone, this beautiful farmland offers a wealth of recreational activities, a safe habitat for animals, and hosts a great number of historical sites. Its importance is numerous and multifaceted, providing benefits at the consumer level with wonderful produce, and to our economy in both revenue and job creation, and to our ecosystem as the "green lung" of the greater DC area.

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

My vision for the Ag Reserve is to protect and support one of the greatest assets of our beloved County. The Ag Reserve metrics offer us insight into how to improve our County's economy while integrating and benefiting from a host of valuable byproducts. Supporting the Reserve is one of the fundamental ways we can improve our economy. Not through easy exploitation but through innovative investments. We need to identify potential threats, many of which are succinctly articulated on the Montgomery Countryside Alliance website. I want to listen to community leaders and farmers and strategize how best to defend the Ag Reserve.

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

We need in ensure that sustainable best practices are utilized with our management of land resources and water assets. Knowledge is power here, and we can enhance our county's overall skills and engagement level through training, and delivering high-quality planning that leads to effective action.

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

surface and groundwater?

I will champion the safeguarding our water supply, whose value is self-evident.

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

Education is my biggest priority here. We need to be climate change savvy as a County. We need to stop pushing "green" policies that trade in the future well-being of our planet for immediate clout and recognition. I don't want to appear green, I want to meaningfully and effectively protect our environment. To that end, the supporting of our Ag Reserve plays a fundamental role as a prime demonstration of how to effectively improve the environment.

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

Get the word out! I come from a consulting background, and my promise as a councilman to our farmers is the same promise I am making to MoCo District 6 as their candidate. I will be your neighbor with a mic, a commercial for our farmers and local communities every time I speak. Let's continue to push buying direct and in bulk. Let's encourage our businesses to have events out in our gorgeous farmland and make sure our urban neighbors are aware of the Ag Res as a resource. Let's push for affordable broadband access for those who need it.

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?

We need to be smart with how we plan and manage our regional transportation. Supporting effective transportation solutions will cut down on traffic and vehicle operations, which will cut down on greenhouse gas emissions. There are ways to achieve this and ensure the Reserve is protected and rural zones sustain minimal impact.

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

I come from a family of composting champions. Composting provides a host of benefits and integrating more high-quality composting County-wide could be a net positive. However, studies out of Australia predict that incineration is the most "green" approach over 30 years, followed by proper management of landfills that recapture gas for energy purposes. We need to conduct similar studies for MoCo based on the practices we employ in these areas, and let the data work for us.

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

MoCo's decision making regarding land use and housing have a profound affect on our most vulnerable. Unfortunately, our low income households and our communities of color were not brought to the table for the discussion about Thrive 2050, an issue that was compounded by the pandemic. It is tone-deaf to real world issues like traffic and parking, and stands to create more poverty in our County and opens the door to a future of corporate landlords. I'm excited about the Ag Res's agritourism study that was considered during the drafting of Thrive 2050, but don't think we should push the plan as currently drafted.

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?

I believe everything in any business or government entity can be improved. Communication is metrically the most crucial component to the success of any enterprise, and I will go through great lengths to make sure cross-communication efforts are maximized. I will push for transparency, not just between government agencies, but between the government and the public. Let's stop gate-keeping information and empower everyone with the ability to make intelligent decisions about issues that effect all of our futures.