

Citizens Coalition for a Council Slate Questionnaire

1. Goals. Why are you running for the County Council and what are your priorities?

2. Public Participation in Important County Issues. Many feel that there should be more resident participation, including more participation by people of color and low-income residents. One aspect is making opportunities available to residents with irregular working hours and to those with limited Internet access or computer skills. Another aspect is letting residents know of those opportunities, particularly residents who may not regularly use email.

How would you go about informing residents that an issue is being considered and how they can participate?

Would you make changes to the public participation process the Council now uses, and if so, what changes would you support?

3. Educate Residents. Often residents don't understand the various considerations related to a bill or issue before the council that may affect them. How would you educate residents on the various considerations in deciding an issue so there can be effective public input?

4. Thrive Process: Many civic and community groups (and residents) feel left out of the process that developed Thrive Montgomery 2050. The September 2020 working draft of Thrive contemplated implementation of Thrive through the Master Plan process (which prioritizes working with local residents and community groups in land use, zoning, and development matters), but that language is not in later drafts. Should Thrive as adopted include the requirement that the land use, zoning, and development matters recommended in Thrive are to be implemented through the Master Plan process? Please explain.

5. Economic Development. The number of jobs in Montgomery County is lower now than in 2008, and the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments projects an additional 200,000 residents over the next 25-30 years. The County's Affordable and Attainable housing draft says that by 2045 people of color are forecast to make up 73 percent of the county's population, with a significant percentage earning less than \$50,000 a year. What would you do to create more jobs and higher paying jobs and to train residents so they qualify for higher-paying jobs?

6. Cost-Benefit Analysis. The Planning Department proposes transportation and other infrastructure improvements in Master Plans, amendments, and the like, but generally without including a cost-benefit analysis or discussion of alternatives. DOT, MCPS, and the Council also fail to include cost-benefit analyses and alternatives.

When a proposed project is too costly, acceptable alternatives that are affordable typically are not offered to affected residents. How should better consideration be given to the cost and benefit of alternative approaches – initially and also when they are to be implemented?

7. Metrics. Currently there are discussions about having metrics to assess whether projects are achieving benchmarks on stated objectives.

Should such quantifiable objectives and evaluative metrics be required for major proposed policy decisions such as: General Plan updates (such as Thrive 2050), large-scale infrastructure initiatives, land use zoning changes, and other major policy changes? Please explain and, if yes, how would you effectively evaluate projects against these metrics, at the planning stage, budgeting stage, and after implementation?

8. Ethics. Ethics has been an issue of late, e.g., the deliberations of the Planning Board, failure of some county entities to follow ethics procedures. What specific changes would you suggest to ensure adherence to existing ethics rules and to increase transparency?