

QUESTIONNAIRES FOR COUNTY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Responses of Duchy Trachtenberg, At-Large Democratic Candidate

Budget & Tax

1. Do you support raising revenues through more progressive tax and fee structures to preserve County services and programs instead of focusing solely on making cuts?

Yes

How specifically would you do this without unduly adding to the burden of moderate and modest income County residents? Work with state legislators to explore tax restructuring, specifically tax breaks for low income earners.

2. Do you support, at the state level, imposition of a 'millionaire's tax,' requiring upper income residents to pay higher taxes? Yes

3. If you believe that some cutbacks are necessary, please explain how you would prioritize cuts to the County budget, including cuts to safety net programs, education cuts, and other human services. What specific programs and services would you cut?

My funding priorities remain: safety-net services; education; public safety. In this year's budget cycle, I advanced cuts in the areas of technology contracts and administrative support

Affordable Housing

1. What programs and policies do you support to preserve the existing stock of affordable rental housing in the County and stop its further decline?

I have strongly supported the initiatives through DHCA and increasing funds in the Housing Initiative Fund, although we have had to decrease funding the last two years because of tax shortfalls. I was the main sponsor of a growth policy measure (2007) dedicating a portion of recordation tax revenue to rental assistance.

2. Do you support mandatory reporting of rents and other increases by landlords with 4 or more units? Yes Do you support making the County's voluntary rent guidelines mandatory based on the cost-of-living, or some other method of rent stabilization with reasonable exceptions? I do not support rent control; however, I am open to some regulation and oversight of reasonable and affordable rents.

3. Have you read the March 2010 Tenants Work Group Report? Yes
(http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/EXEC/TWG/pdf/twg_report_3-2010.pdf)
Which, if any, of the recommendations contained in the Report do you support?

I support most of the recommendations, except for rent control.

4. Do you support State enabling legislation which would allow Montgomery County to pass county-level just cause eviction legislation to allow evictions only for specified reasons such as non-payment of rent or on-site criminal activity? Yes If the legislation is passed at the state level, would you support just cause eviction legislation in Montgomery County? Yes

Transportation & Infrastructure

1. Do you support the expansion of public transit, including building the Purple Line, CCT, and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)? Yes

2. What other ways would you expand the building and usage of public transportation in the County? I believe we need greater federal commitment/investment and would benefit from an innovative private/public partnership that could potentially fund BRT.

3. Do you support tax or other incentives to promote telework, vanpools, and carpools? Yes

Education

1. What measures do you support to maintain the high quality of education in Montgomery County Public Schools, given the current budget situation?

Frank conversations must occur with our county legislative delegation and state leadership on the need for MOE reform and adequate school construction funding. Additionally, a transparent and constructive conversation should occur with MCPS, the School Board and the Superintendent on the best way to prioritize county funding given current fiscal challenges.

New Development

1. Do you support the recent increases in school and transportation impact fees? Yes

2. Do you support assessments of infrastructure, service, health, environmental, human, and small business impacts prior to approval of new developments? Yes

3. What changes in the County Master Plan do you support to promote smart, sensible, environmentally sound, and managed growth?

I have focused my energies on the development of the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) tool in land use planning. I also feel that the environmental impact must be addressed on a more comprehensive basis.

4. How do you propose to prevent displacement in communities along the route of the Purple Line, such as Long Branch and Langley Park, if the Purple Line is built?

County government will need to work with the community in identifying alternative, stable housing in the area. This will require some commitment from the private sector and potentially county funding to offset expenses.

Elections

1. If State enabling legislation is passed, would you support campaign finance reform in Montgomery County, including publicly funded campaigns for County races? Yes

2. Do you support such State enabling legislation?

Yes-I ve testified in Annapolis supporting such legislation.

3. Do you support legislation making monthly reporting of campaign contributions mandatory for candidates for County office? Yes Whether such legislation is passed or not, will you pledge to make such monthly reports in this and future campaigns? Yes

4. Do you support issuing a publicly-financed voter guide, prepared by an independent body, with candidate statements and information that would go to all registered voters?

Yes

Immigration

1. Do you support equal access to education and other County services for all County residents regardless of immigration status? Yes

2. Do you support the policy of not asking or checking immigration status unless there is a felony charge arrest? Yes

3. Do you support free, readily available English language classes and other education programs to help immigrants become full participants in the civic life of our County? Yes

4. Do you support legislation making Montgomery County a sanctuary county? (In a sanctuary county, no agent, officer or employee of the county may assist the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the investigation or

arrest of any persons for violation of the U.S. immigration and nationality laws.) No

Agricultural Reserve

1. Do you support the protection of the County Agricultural Reserve including additional protections against development for the Reserve or do you think current restrictions are sufficient?

I support the preservation of the Agricultural Reserve as a high priority and would entertain additional protections if necessary.

Other

1. Why should an organization such as ours, which supports progressive policies and representatives, endorse you in this race?

I have a twenty year record of supporting progressive policies, specifically in the areas of women s rights and public health reform. As an elected Councilmember, I passed the first trans fat ban health regulation on a county level; I passed a civil rights measure for transgender individuals, offering protection in employment and housing; I passed a health board regulation requiring disclosure at crisis pregnancy centers; I led the effort in creating the Family Justice Center-a one-stop shop for domestic violence victims which has served over 1500 families in its first year; and passed a Drug Forfeiture Bill that allows seized assets to be utilized in the funding of drug prevention and treatment programming and the county s Drug Court.