

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COUNTY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

### Responses of Nancy Floreen, 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, this is more desirable than what we have had to do with the energy and cell phone taxes.

**How specifically would you do this without unduly adding to the burden of moderate and modest income County residents?**

I believe we will continue to focus on user fees and targeted taxes where possible.

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

No. I believe it has driven away a portion of Montgomery County's wealth, and contributed to our current budget crises driven by a 21% drop in income tax revenue.

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?**

Our Structure Reform Study currently underway will identify the major cost drivers and offer credible solution for addressing them. I will continue my commitment to funding education and safety net services.

#### 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?**

We have to encourage housing production and preserve the affordable units we have. Rent subsidies and building incentives should help.

**Do you have a plan for increasing the number of affordable housing units in the County? If yes, please explain.**

Tax incentives and contributions through the Housing Initiative fund are productive.

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?**

Some sort of rent stabilization program is certainly worth looking into.

- 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](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 held a preliminary briefing before the council and we will take it up in more detail in the fall.**

There is much to recommend it.

- 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? If the legislation is passed at the state level, would you support just cause eviction legislation in Montgomery County?**

Possibly.

#### **Transportation & Infrastructure**

- 1. Do you support the expansion of public transit, including building the Purple Line, CCT, and Bus Rapid Transit? Yes**
- 2. What other ways would you expand the building and usage of public transportation in the County? Stop requiring vehicular mobility as a test of transportation capacity.**
- 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?**

I would hope that MCPS starts a top to bottom review of efficiency, effectiveness and organizational structural issues, such as is currently underway in the county, in order to identify cost savings, so we can continue to provide a high quality education to everyone.

#### **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?**

The growth policy and our master plans provide for this.

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

It is time to re-evaluate eastern county areas and Glenmont to identify locations for appropriate uses and rebalance the county to minimize regional congestion and economic disparity.

**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?**

We will need to continue to focus on the preservation of neighborhoods through the housing initiative fund.

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

This is difficult to do given the nature of volunteer efforts and the stringency of reporting requirements. It is important to have one consistent standard for campaign reporting throughout the state and for all candidates.

**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?**

That's a fine idea – the League of Women Voters has historically done this.

**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.)**

I have some concerns about the costs of such an effort in this economically challenging time.

### **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?**

We have pretty strict restrictions right now.

### **Other**

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

I ask for your support because I have always been committed to worrying about representation of the underserved and the underrepresented, and believe you do as well.