

2022 Election Candidate Questionnaire for Montgomery County Council

Dear Candidate,

We ask that you complete our questionnaire so we understand your views on the pressing transportation issues facing Montgomery County. Your answers will be given to our membership for strictly education purposes only. Answers will also be posted on our website, shared on social media, listservs, and with our members in Montgomery County.

The questions are yes or no as well as questions that require you to elaborate for your response. We ask that you return the questionnaire by COB 4/2/22. Please email the questionnaire responses to me at advocacy@waba.org. If you have any questions please email us. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to complete the questionnaire.

WABA **does not endorse** candidates for any political office.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Lowery
Advocacy Director, WABA

Bike Network

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association is proposing that the County fund the construction of bikeable/walkable networks in four Equity Focus Areas of the County, in Wheaton, White Oak, Langley Park and Downtown Silver Spring. Do you support this \$110 million proposal which will also help achieve the County's Climate and Vision Zero goals over six years?

Yes No

What else do you think the County Council can do in the next term to make walking and biking safer and to help increase the biking and walking and transit mode shares?

I want to congratulate WABA on its focus on equity and emphasis on regions of the County that are often left out when it comes to biking and walking accessibility. We need more public emphasis on areas in which residents don't have cars or don't have good access (yet) to mass transit. What the Council can do is to create more awareness of the plans you highlight for East County and other areas that are just as important, if not more so, than for other areas.

Police out of Traffic Enforcement

Do you support removing police from all or some traffic enforcement?

Yes No

How will you balance the need for traffic enforcement and equity while in office?

There are some areas in which police can be removed from traffic enforcement, such as enforcing speed limits. However, there are trade-offs. If the Vision Zero goal is to make roads safer for bikers, pedestrians and drivers, there would need to be a massive upgrade in the traffic camera system, with more cameras needed and perhaps the need to record the images the camera views, which they now don't do. We certainly should not prohibit police officers from enforcing traffic-safety regulations, such as driving while intoxicated or consistent unsafe driving, if they should see such activity in the course of their patrols. The problem I think you are addressing is pretextual stops. Unless an officer has a demonstrable reason for stopping a driver, a stop should not occur. We know many more drivers of color are stopped than are White drivers, but the reasons for that are unclear. For example, an officer stopping a car does so from behind the car being stopped, so the officer may not be able to determine any characteristics about the driver until approaching the driver. We need more study to determine the causes and to recommend remedies.

Trails - repaving

Do you support fully funding the budget request of the Parks Department to include monies for repaving the Sligo, Rock Creek and Capital Crescent Trails?

Yes No

Tunnel

Do you support funding the \$55m project for this important regional trail connection through downtown Bethesda?

Yes No

Do you support funding that will complete construction of the project within the current FY 23-28 CIP period or sooner/later?

Yes No

270 widening

Do you support or oppose the proposal to widen parts of I-495 and I-270 to add four express toll lanes?

Yes _____ No

Why or why not? And how would you show that support or opposition. Do you support other new highways or road expansions?

I would oppose the project through my votes and public statements, as a baseline, with additional activities as needed. Adding lanes to the Beltway and I-270 is a dubious idea from the start. The environmental damage the project would do is enough to oppose it. The toll lanes also are a bad idea from an equity standpoint. One project I would support is reconstructing the American Legion Bridge.

Vision Zero

Vision Zero - is it working and if not, what needs to be done by the County to achieve the goal of zero deaths due to traffic crashes? What would you do to work with the State Highway Administration to achieve true Vision Zero?

I admire the goals of Vision Zero, but doubt whether "true Vision Zero" is achievable. We will need constantly to address road construction and engineering, signage and enforcement (see above) to come close to the goal.

Transportation Equity Pledge

[Will you sign our transportation equity pledge?](#)

[Yes.](#)

Link to sign: <https://waba.org/blog/2022/01/transportation-equity-pledge-for-2022-candidates/>