

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 educational purposes only. Responses 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 on 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 proposes that the County fund the construction of bikeable/walkable networks in four Equity Focus Areas of the County, 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?

- Residents want multi-modal transportation solutions to navigate biking, walking safely, and transit nodes to efficiently live, work, play and enjoy our county's incredible amenities. As a county council member, I will lobby our state and federal elected leaders to make essential infrastructure improvements like expanding the county's sidewalk and bike facility network for residents of all mobile safely and efficiently navigate our county.
- The County Council can allocate funding to improve pedestrian safety by increasing traffic calming infrastructure around areas with high pedestrian casualties aligned with the Vision Zero priorities.

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?

- As a Gaithersburg City Councilmember, I pushed for progressive policy changes to our Police Department that included outfitting all police officers, including undercover officers, with body-worn cameras. Moreover, I will work with stakeholders to promote community policing, enhance public safety and rebuild trust between the police and the community, to prioritize enforcement actions against drivers who endanger pedestrians countywide, including:
 - Increasing investments in training, recruiting, and diversifying the skill set of armed officers. Some of the policies I believe would balance the need for traffic enforcement and equity include:
 - Increasing automated traffic enforcement reduces the need for law enforcement and decreases racial bias in policing.
 - Improving pedestrian safety by increasing traffic calming infrastructure around areas with high pedestrian casualties aligned with the Vision Zero priorities.
 - Shifting mental illness-related responses out of MCPD to Health and Human Services, which accounted for 19% of police use of force complaints in response to incidents in 2019. Cost savings should be redirected to HHS earmarked to improve training and staffing to facilitate a mental health crisis response (CAHOOTS)
 - Working with my County Council colleagues to improve MCPD data transparency on arrest patterns through a racial equity lens.
 - Developing robust recruitment and training programs to hire mental health providers for youth counseling and career development to address the rise in car thefts and other youth-related vehicular issues.

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 meaningful regional trail connection through downtown Bethesda?

Yes No

Do you support funding that will complete the project's construction 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?

- As a member of the County Council At-Large, I'll continue to be a vocal champion for transportation solutions. My SMART agenda calls for "Tackling climate change through multi-modal transportation infrastructure solutions," like prioritizing BRT, CCT, MARC expansion, and reversible lanes on I-270 and transitioning our county-owned fleets to renewable energy sources.

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 am glad that Montgomery County was one of the first county governments in the United States to initiate a Vision Zero plan to eliminate serious and fatal collisions for vehicle occupants, pedestrians, and bicyclists by the end of 2030. While the plan lays out ambitious actions updated biannually, the plan falls short of tracking the progress made since the Vision Zero programs' inception in 2017. Moreover, as a former member of the National League of Cities Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee, we successfully advocated for the Infrastructure bill that passed and promised to direct more resources to local governments to improve transportation infrastructure.
- For Montgomery County, updates to the current plan bring health, transportation, and community planners together to develop safe, convenient, and complete pedestrian and bicycle master plans and evaluate the three Es: education, enforcement, and engineering, to meet the Vision Zero goals by 2030. Moreover, I will work with the State

Highway Administration to increase investments in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and programming to improve the enforcement of traffic laws and education of the public related to the motor vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle safety.

Transportation Equity Pledge

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

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