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## Andres Jimenez

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### HOUSING FOR ALL

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#### 1) Transit-Oriented Communities

*Providing homes in walkable, mixed-use, mixed income communities close to transit can provide more equitable access to opportunities, reduce reliance on driving, and improve environmental and social outcomes for residents. In fact, County plans call for inclusive, transit-oriented development near its transit stations and along its transit-rich corridors.*

1a) Do you agree with the Comprehensive Plan's inclusive, transit-oriented communities goals?

Yes     No     Partially

1b) How would you improve on or change the County's approach to inclusive, transit-oriented communities?

**We need to focus on promoting our transit-oriented communities by ensure we're better funding bike/ped. improvements, connecting missing links, building affordable housing, protecting our communities that are in place, and more. We also must continue to invest in transit and promote transit.**

#### 2) Housing Goals

*The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), which includes Fairfax County, has committed to providing 320,000 more homes in our region by 2030 with 75% near high-capacity transit and 75% qualifying as affordable. Yet Fairfax County has not committed to meeting a specific share of this need and is falling behind on its own previously set targets. This contrasts with an earlier time when then-Chairman Connolly committed the County to planning for 48,000 additional households to ensure people could live closer to their jobs and reduce the traffic commuting into and through the County.*

2a) Do you believe Fairfax County should be doing more to provide additional housing in the County?

Yes     No     Partially

2b) What housing and zoning policy steps would you take to fill the housing gap and construct more housing at all levels of affordability, including both committed affordable and market-rate homes? Would you support these changes County-wide or just in specific locations?

**The county set an ambitious goal of growing the number of affordable units in the county, but we need to well exceed that number. We can do this by looking to invest in more subsidized and mixed-income units as well as bring new housing online in vacant and under-utilized space, especially near mass transit and job hubs. We also have to be creative. This means building units on county land, co-locating units in county projects, and examining the reuse of vacant retail properties.**

### 3) Affordable Housing Funding

*Fairfax County has adopted a minimum affordable housing production goal of 10,000 units by 2034, but the annual funding is still below the amount needed to meet that goal.*

3a) If elected, would you support dedicated, sustainable funding to achieve the County's housing goals, particularly for those individuals and families at lower incomes?

Yes  No

3b) What policies and programs would you consider to strengthen or add to address housing affordability in the County? How much money would you ask for in the County budget to build new affordable housing? To preserve/renovate existing affordable housing?

**See previous answer, but there are absolutely more actions the Board can and should take to grow the number of new units (while also preserving those in place).**

### 4) Displacement Concerns

*The County has pledged no net-loss of affordable housing but as needed investments are made in revitalization areas and transit corridors, older market rate affordable housing is being lost to newer and more expensive homes. This can lead to current residents being displaced from their communities because affordable homes may no longer be available in their neighborhood. They may even need to leave Fairfax County altogether to find more affordable housing, with profound negative impacts on intergenerational communities.*

4a) Do you feel the County should do more to address displacement concerns and ensure more inclusive communities available to different income levels?

Yes  No

4b) What tools would you use to help provide more housing options for a mix of incomes in areas facing redevelopment as well as support residents facing possible displacement?

**We need to do everything we can to bring housing that is affordable to people with various income levels \*in all parts of Fairfax County\*. We also must ensure there is no net loss of units. I would not support any projects that would displace residents without a plan (or at least, a plan to offer) that would protect them.**

## 5) Zoning for More Housing

*Eighty two percent (82%) of Fairfax County land is zoned exclusively for single-family detached homes according to a [2019 Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance report](#). Expanding housing options in single family neighborhoods can make way for more housing, increase access to home ownership, reduce racial and economic segregation, and increase access to opportunity.*

5a) Would you support a planning process to consider changes to the zoning ordinance to expand housing types in the County?

**Yes**

No

5b) What are your thoughts on this issue in light of Arlington County's recent community study and vote to expand "Missing Middle Housing" options?

**I would support the conversation, yes, but I also think the county can and should be taking different steps (as I detailed above) before looking to drastically change zoning amongst single family neighborhoods. To me, this question can't be answered with a "simple" yes or no, but I will never vote "no" to cutting off a conversation with the public.**

## 6) Homeownership Opportunities

*Multiple studies have shown growing wealth and racial/ethnic homeownership gaps in the County. For Black families, this is due in part to the legacy of segregation through deed restrictions that prevented them from buying homes and building wealth.*

6a) Do you support County policies to provide more opportunities for home ownership?

**Yes**

No

Partially

6b) What types of policies or programs would you propose?

**Though we would no doubt be restricted by the Dillon Rule, I support a study to determine what factors are within the county's authority to promote home**

**ownership. One thing I know we must do is to diversify our revenue to decrease the reliance on the real estate tax.**

## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

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### 1) Improving Public Transit

*Public transit is the backbone of a sustainable, equitable transportation system and a thriving economy, and Fairfax County has admirable plans to expand its bus rapid transit (BRT) network to ensure fast, frequent, and reliable service for residents. While public transit ridership on some systems has been hit by the pandemic with reduced commute trips due to increased teleworking, transit remains key for essential workers, and for supporting compact, walkable communities.*

1a) Do you support increased funding for public transit to address budget shortfalls and make improvements to better serve riders?

**Yes** No

1b) What is your experience riding public transit? What ideas do you have to improve public transit in Fairfax County?

**I frequent public transit systems and fully support the funding of them. We need to be sure they take residents to where they need to go (jobs, home, etc.) and to all parts of the county.**

### 2) Active Transportation Funding

*The ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan - the County's most significant overhaul of its bicycle, pedestrian, and trails plans - is expected to be finalized this year. The plan's recommendations address critical safety needs for residents who already walk and bike and also make improvements to allow more residents to walk and bike conveniently and safely for daily needs. Realizing the Plan's vision will require substantial, dedicated, and consistent funding.*

2a) Would you support Fairfax committing dedicated annual funding to support the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan, even if that meant potentially delaying road expansion and interchange projects?

**Yes** No

2b) What is your personal experience dealing with or advocating for pedestrian or bicyclist safety issues?

**This is a must.**

### 3) Low-Stress Bike Network

Fairfax County has committed to reducing the amount people have to drive and associated transportation-related carbon emissions. The County's climate plan calls for meeting a goal of 30% non-auto commuting trips by 2030. To make this shift, the County will need robust, accessible alternatives and bicycling is an ideal, low-cost, carbon-free alternative. But that mode shift requires dedicated infrastructure including an expanded network of trails and comfortable, protected, low-stress bicycle facilities - not just painted bike lanes or sharrows - to make bicycling meaningfully safer, more appealing, and more accessible and often requires roadway redesign that reduces parking and/or vehicle lanes.

3a) Compared to the current prioritization, do you think greater priority should be given to the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians in the County's roadway designs?

Yes  No

3b) How would you ensure that people of all ages and abilities have robust active transportation access to and along the County's major and most important thoroughfares and connecting streets?

**By filling in missing links and increasing funding for bike/ped. projects. The answer is always to throw money at road widenings. We need to promote pedestrian amenities as well.**

### 4) Safe Streets for All

On May 10, 2022, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors unanimously endorsed the Safe Streets for All Program, a comprehensive initiative to address systemic transportation safety issues for people walking, biking, taking transit, and driving. Included in the recommendations is a call for roadway infrastructure changes to slow traffic on our community's streets. Unfortunately, the County has not yet dedicated staff or funding to begin executing the program. At the same time, Fairfax County experienced a troubling uptick in traffic-related pedestrian fatalities in 2022.

4a) Do you support the full implementation of the Safe Streets for All Program in Fairfax County, including changes to roadway design guidelines and an expanded automated speed enforcement program?

Yes  No

4b) What proven traffic safety improvement policies, programs, and/or technologies would you like to see implemented in your district and throughout the County?

Given the lack of clarity around who has the legal and budgetary authority to make roadway safety improvements stemming from state ownership of County roads, what

steps would you propose to ensure that these roadway safety improvements are implemented?

**I certainly think we need to complete missing sidewalk and bike links. I am also a fan of HAWK HAWK [High-Intensity Activated crossWalk] signals and other traffic calming mechanisms (even road diets, when appropriate) to help keep residents safe.**

## 5) Safe Routes to School

*Trips to and from schools are among the best opportunities to reduce car trips in Fairfax County. A robust Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program can play a critical role in encouraging more families to walk and bicycle to school, which has been shown to increase confidence and sense of independence among children while also reducing pickup/dropoff vehicle congestion and associated carbon emissions. Unfortunately, the County's SRTS program includes just one dedicated staff position for a public school system that serves 185,000 students.*

5a) Would you support expanding the Safe Routes to School program, including additional staff capacity, to get more kids to walk and bike to school?

**Yes**

No

5b) What other policies or budget items will you pursue to upgrade transportation infrastructure so kids can safely walk and bike to school?

**See previous answers. This entire section is critical to helping our students get to school safely.**

## CLIMATE MITIGATION, RESILIENCE, AND GREEN SPACES

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### 1) Reaching Carbon Neutrality by 2050

*The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report made clear that tackling the climate crisis is **the** challenge of this century, and will interact with all others, from ecological to economic to social. Leaders who boldly act to reduce and prepare for climate impacts have the opportunity to truly preserve and create a better world for ourselves and our children. This starts with reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. The Community-wide Climate & Energy Action Plan (CECAP) established a goal of carbon neutrality for Fairfax County by 2050, with interim goals of 50% greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2030 and 75% by 2040. To reach these goals, the County requires actionable implementation plans, effective management, robust accountability mechanisms, a clear communication strategy, consistent metrics and monitoring, and sufficient funding to address the current challenges. We have just seven years to reach the first 2030 goal.*

1a) Are you committed to ensuring that Fairfax County complies with and achieves its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by 2050?

Yes     No

1b) What specific policy actions and/or programs would you undertake as supervisor to accelerate and/or achieve the aggressive carbon reduction goals?

**I think the CECAP [Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan] and both Fairfax Green Initiative plans put together an ambitious set of goals/plans to help us achieve this. I know we should solarize County buildings, help residents do the same, and decrease our reliance on gas vehicles (while growing EV [electric vehicle] stations).**

## 2) Climate Resilience

*In 2022, Fairfax County adopted Resilient Fairfax, a roadmap to help residents and infrastructure adapt to an increasingly warmer and wetter climate. Ensuring our County is implementing the necessary measures (such as providing emergency relief hubs, planting trees, and improving stormwater management) in the face of a changing climate is important, particularly for disadvantaged communities who are identified as the most vulnerable.*

2a) Will you support the plan recommendations of Resilient Fairfax?

Yes     No     Partially

2b) How would you further fund and support equitable resilience investments to implement the Resilient Fairfax plan in communities most affected by climate impacts?

**As a lifelong environmental advocate and employee, I have dedicated my life to being a watchdog for inequality in the environmental sector. My organization, Green 2.0, believes that in the 21st century, the success of environmental causes will be based on our ability to transform them into more just, inclusive, and relevant organizations and movements. I encourage you to read more about my platform and Green 2.0.**

## 3) Climate Impacts of Land Use and Development

*Every land use decision is an environmental decision. To meet both our climate and resilience goals, the County can take actions through the development process such as prioritizing compact development and land use patterns, which have a positive impact on reducing carbon emissions and on protecting current natural resources. To do this, we must ensure the implementation of energy efficient buildings (such as green buildings and the use of solar and other renewable energies), eliminate any building or development in Resource Protection*

Areas, reduce the amount of impermeable surfaces, and increase native tree canopy and natural landscaping.

3a) Are you committed to utilizing the development process to reduce carbon emissions and minimize environmental impacts on our natural resources?

Yes  No

3b) How would you utilize the development process to achieve CECAP and Resilient Fairfax goals?

**We must ensure growth in Fairfax County is done smartly and environmentally friendly.**

#### 4) Tree Canopy and Forest Management

*Trees help mitigate climate impacts by sequestering carbon, mitigating heat island effects, and improving stream valley integrity, thus improving drinking water quality and minimizing flooding. The result is a healthier, more friendly, and more resilient urban habitat. CECAP calls for a minimum of 50% tree canopy coverage in every census block by 2050, prioritizing areas of highest socioeconomic need first. Data from 2015 to 2018 shows that the County lost 2.6% of our tree canopy, which will make reaching these goals even more challenging. Relatedly, the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) owns nearly 10% of land in Fairfax County, including stream valleys and forested areas, yet faces significant budget challenges that impact its ability to manage and protect its natural resources.*

4a) Are you committed to protecting and increasing Fairfax County's tree canopy?

Yes  No

4b) Which actions would you take to protect and grow the County's tree canopy, particularly in areas with the lowest tree canopy coverage?

**We must utilize the proffer system as well as other options available to local governments.**

## FOOD SECURITY

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### 1) Inclusive and Accessible Community Gardens

*The Fairfax County Park Authority has 10 community gardens, but only one is near communities where the residents struggle to get enough to eat. Additionally, almost all of the gardens require a car to get to and have multi-year waiting lists.*



1a) What County actions would you advocate for in order to increase residents' ability to grow their own food, particularly food-insecure residents?

**We must grow the number of community gardens. No question. I know these are some of the most popular amenities the Park Authority offers and we must expand them drastically in each park master plan, at certain new developments, at county facilities, and beyond.**

## 2) Urban Agriculture

*The pandemic showed how fragile local food supply systems are. However, County zoning rules can severely limit entrepreneurs who want to start commercial agricultural operations that would help build a more robust food production system locally. Fairfax County also lags behind its neighbors in providing incentives for would-be commercial food growers, who may be unable to finance the upfront technology and equipment needs or support an agricultural operation for the length of time it takes to become sustainable.*

2a) What regulation changes or incentives would you endorse to facilitate innovative urban agriculture in Fairfax County?

**I would certainly be open to a conversation with entrepreneurs to learn more about the challenges they're facing in an attempt to help change some of the policies that may be holding them back. This certainly sounds like a case-by-case basis question because of its broad nature, but I would love to partner with you to learn more.**

## 3) Food Insecurity

*The demand at local food distribution sites has not yet fallen back to pre-pandemic levels, likely due to inflation and employment insecurity in low-income neighborhoods. Yet federal programs for extra food as well as rent relief have ended, leaving many residents worse off than they were before the pandemic.*

3a) Do you support additional County funding for food assistance to meet the current needs?

**Yes**

No

3b) What policies or programs would you support to make sure the lowest income families have access to food?

**I think the county's CSP [Coordinated Services Planning] did a tremendous job during the height of the pandemic to get food and resources out to the county's**

**most vulnerable residents. Between this and better funding the CCFP [Consolidated Community Funding Pool], I think much work can be done to help our nonprofit community reach even more residents.**

## OTHER COMMENTS

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Are there any other comments you would like to provide? (optional)

**Thanks for your time! Please visit <http://www.andresformason.com> to learn more about my campaign.**