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## Keith Elliott

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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?

**I have read some of this and also read that even in 2030 about 70% of residents would still be using their vehicles to get to work and run errands. If elected I would really need to look at each project one by one and vote if it is a best use for that area. I would agree that Some areas would be better suited as transit-oriented communities and those around a metro stop would be best suited. Those around a bus stop would work as well however there is a possibility that the bus routes change if there are few riders.**

#### 2) Housing Goals

*The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC), 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?

**I am in Sully District and as it is in many places in Fairfax County there was not any long-term plan to address mass transit and needs for families with lower to moderate incomes. I think the cost of land is so high due to property taxes being high which causes investors to charge higher rents to offset that high expense. There needs to be a full comprehensive look at ways to allow all individuals to enjoy home ownership or affordability in living in Fairfax County.**

### 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?

**With this question you really have to evaluate everything. For example, as a Realtor myself I assisted several families achieve the goal of home ownership. I helped them get downpayment assistance through city and state programs and special financing loans. Many people can afford a home, but the upfront expense hurts their ability. Other factors do affect their ability as well. I couldn't answer the question of how much money I would add without seeing the whole picture i.e., what is budgeted, what is forecasted to be needed and seek new ways to reduce county expenses to allow more money in their pockets to use for home ownership.**

#### 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?

**I would support this and all options to assist would need to be evaluated. Please keep in mind a landowner as their right to do what they would like to their home and the land on it. We also have to be mindful of homeowner associations and PUD Communities as those owners bought into an association because they wanted amenities, for homes to be maintained and services to not be overloaded.**

#### 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 think the zoning ordinances being approved at the County now will have a severe negative impact on PUD's and Association Communities. I would support possible Zoning Ordinances in certain locations that could be evaluated and should be considered but and overall new zoning ordinance that would stand for all of Fairfax County as a whole is not a good option.**

## 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?

**See above with some answers as well. Everyone should have equal opportunity for home ownership, some may need help with up front expenses, others may need help with qualifying. As a Realtor myself, I have seen the great joy and smiles on new homeowners' faces. There is a great sense of accomplishment in owning a home!**

## 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 would if only we find ways to reduce current expenses. Taxes in Fairfax County have risen faster than incomes. That makes residents have less money for affording homes, saving to buy a home or essential items for living. I have also heard that even in 2030 something like 70% of the residents will still want to use their vehicles for commuting. I have used the Metro when going to DC for events, sightseeing and sports.**

## 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?

**Again, I am not totally against this, As a Supervisor I would have to really analyze best use of revenues the County receives. Certain Cities like my District in Western Fairfax would not work well for mass transit and from what I have heard many would never use it due to delays and fears of getting sick or attacked. This question seems to not totally go along with 2A unless I am not understanding it correctly. I do jog and ride bikes for exercise.**

## 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?

**Based on the statement above, I think in pockets of the county and in certain areas these facilities would work well for those who wish to use a bike to commute. I do believe though we would only be talking about less than 30% of**

**the residents would use mass transit so even less would use a bike to commute. Again, more would use a bike to commute if homes were in a close location to work. Look at big cities where it works but in suburbs it would not work that 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?

**Who wouldn't support that? The County must work with the State entities to solve these issues and improve quality of life and safety for everyone on the roads and sidewalks. New technologies are coming out every day, look at the paints contained in the asphalt now vehicles have alarms and alerts if you go over lines. I'm certain more are there and each of these should be looked at.**

#### 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?

**It is not that I would not support it, it is just that I see most everyone driving their kids to school. If it requires more expenses to the budget then it would be hard for me to approve as I see most families have 2 working parents and others are single parent families so these parents are trying to get kids to school faster and also are not available to walk their kids to school. My wife and I have been blessed to be able to walk our kids to school.**

## 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 am not 100% familiar with all the details of this program and would need to get familiar with it. As a man of faith, we have to be good stewards of our planet. I, however, think this is a global issue and if other countries do not participate, we will still never achieve what we need to in order to be the best stewards of our planet. I also do not believe in creating more burdens on the people with more regulations which always come with higher expenses in services and goods that we would all have to absorb. I would have to really take a deep dive into this**

**program. As an FYI, I do drive a hybrid vehicle and I have heard there are some new mandates that only a certain number of gas vehicles could be sold each year. I would not agree with that. I believe with the new technologies with electric vehicles coming out then prices for electric vehicles would go down which would then give the option for everyone to purchase an electric vehicle. I believe over time this will be the case and the people would not need mandates or more regulations.**

## 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?

**I am not familiar with this program and would need to fully read this and understand all of it to be able to respond with a solid yes or no and give why. I can say we cannot keep putting more and more regulations and more stringent rules on homeowners. There can always be repairs and rebuilds of storm water systems and replacement of trees where they have died, and better types of trees used where they would flourish.**

## 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?

**I think there are a great number of technologies out there that can be utilized in our building new homes and making upgrades in regulations to allow these new technologies and building ideas to improve our resources and sustain us better. We have seen areas in big cities with use of new building ideas which may work for areas within the suburbs.**

#### 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 need trees to be able to breathe and reduce heat. In my district there should have been a better plan by the Board in regard to tree-save areas, keeping natural areas alone and in better designing of communities to keep natural resources and nature.**

## 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?

**This is a good question, I think as Americans have progressed, we have lost how we lived 200 years ago, and I think people now may not understand how to grow their own herbs, fruits and vegetables. I think some training would be beneficial, I think in new developments it can be a requirement or allow incentives for developers for it. There are roof systems that can be added to flat roof structures. This is something that should be discussed around the communities and get people to work together to help move this ability forward. It can't just come from the county or government. The people would need to want it and help make it more prevalent.**

## 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 do feel free more regulations cause harm to entrepreneurs. We can find ways to incentivize this and would need the residents to want to participate more in these programs and want to buy more of these products from these growers.**

## 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?

**As a man of faith, I do believe the Church and Non-Profits are best at handling this so I would look for ways to take this out of the County and give assistance**

**with these non-profits in supporting them not only with money but also in getting people to participate in helping the non-profits. There is power in community and volunteerism and we should try and get to a point where people are helping more and more!**

## OTHER COMMENTS

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

**First of all, no one person can be everything to everyone. You should shy away from someone like that. About me, I am a first-time candidate, I am not a career politician, I am a lifelong resident of Fairfax County and I just see too many things not prioritized as I feel they should be i.e. our kids, our neighborhoods and our police. It is a fact that the average citizen today has less money in their pockets and it needs to be addressed. All these questions are great, all the programs are needed but we need to be better at controlling expenses in order to make improvements and implement many of these items discussed. I am a man of faith and our creator God designed each of us with 2 ears and we need to use those better in order to hear other views and thoughts, then to better understand those views and thoughts and once that happens we can discuss the matters and work together to solve them. I think there is just not enough listening and understanding of others!**