

#24

COMPLETE



Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name

spring Rita L. Ferrall

Email



Political Affiliation

Republican

Social media accounts

Facebook

Q2

Planning Board member

What are you applying for?

Page 2: Housing Production

Q3

Montgomery County needs 60,000 homes by 2040 according to the Planning Department. Where in the county do you think density should be increased to accommodate the construction of new housing? Select all of the options that apply. If you don't think density should be increased in Montgomery County, please select "I do not think density should be increased anywhere in Montgomery County."

New housing should be concentrated within a close distance of Metro and Purple Line stations.

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New housing should be built throughout existing residential neighborhoods in duplexes, triplexes, townhomes, and small apartment buildings.

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New housing should be built on the site of aging commercial properties, like shopping centers and office parks.

Q4

How many additional units (including the aforementioned 60,000) do you think should be built here by 2040?

I do not support another housing production goal for 2040.

Q5

Yes

The recently passed Thrive 2050 plan identifies main corridors in the county as “complete communities” where more housing and mixed-use development should occur, including changing single-family zoning to allow a variety of house types. Do you support this goal?

Q6

As a Planning Board member, your role is to advise the council on strategies for increasing housing production. Please rank the following policies that would increase housing production in the order you’d advise the council to undertake them:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| Legalizing two-unit buildings countywide | 3 |
| Legalizing four-unit buildings countywide | 2 |
| Increasing the percentage of affordable housing required in new development | 4 |
| Incentivizing the conversion of older office buildings, shopping centers, etc. to residential properties | 1 |
| Reducing parking requirements in new construction | 5 |
| Legalizing and incentivizing housing above public facilities, such as libraries, recreation centers, and fire stations | 6 |
-

Q7

Yes

In 2020, the County Council—under advice from the Planning Board—eliminated the housing moratorium, in which building permits could not be issued in areas where schools were over capacity. Do you agree with this policy change?

Q8

No

The Planning Department is currently working on Attainable Housing Strategies, a study of ways to expand housing options (such as duplexes, townhomes, and small apartment buildings) in Montgomery County. Planning staff have draft recommendations, which include: allowing up to three homes by-right on lots currently zoned for one house (R-40, R-60, R-90, and R-200) allowing up to four homes on lots closer to transit creating a new optional method of development to encourage construction of duplexes, cottage courts, townhomes, and small apartment buildings near transit, along the Growth Corridors identified in Thrive 2050, and near activity centers. If you were a Planning Board member, would you vote to advise that the County Council pursue these recommendations as written?

Q9

If you answered yes, why would you recommend the Council make these changes? If no, what would you change?

Density can negatively impact neighborhoods of choice particularly when consideration is not given to safe, decent and desirable housing. Proper zoning along with appropriate architectural design needs to be addressed initially in order to ensure that neighborhoods of choice and sustainability are created that attract both affordable and market rate buyers and renters.

Page 3: Affordable Housing

Q10

I consider affordable housing to be (check all that, in your opinion, apply):

**Means-tested or income-restricted,
Costing no more than 30 percent of one's household income**

Q11

I consider market-rate housing to be (check all that, in your opinion, apply):

**Not means-tested or income-restricted,
Unsubsidized,
Not rent-controlled,
Costing more than 30 percent of one's household income**

Q12

The Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) program requires that at least 12.5% of homes in a new residential development with at least 20 homes be set aside as affordable homes. The cost of doing so is paid by a project's developer. Because the number of MPDUs is tied to the number of total units, the larger a development is, the more MPDUs will be built. Conversely, if the initial density proposed by a developer is reduced during the approvals process, rather than maintained or increased, fewer MPDUs will be built. Planning Board commissioners are likely to hear from some constituents concerned by a project's potential impact—real or assumed—on traffic, parking, views, and property values and rents, and whether it fits the character of the neighborhood. If a development with MPDUs came before you, what would you do, given the likelihood of at least some pushback?

I would encourage developers to limit the height and density of the project.

Q13

Montgomery County spends an estimated \$180,000 of taxpayer dollars to educate a public school student from kindergarten through 12th grade. However, many children who grow up in Montgomery County cannot afford to live there as adults. Should it be a priority for the County to ensure that a child on whose education it has invested can afford to live here as an adult?

No

Page 4: Affordable Housing

Q14 **Respondent skipped this question**

If you selected yes, which policies to make housing more affordable do you think the county should pursue? Select all that apply.

Page 5: Affordable Housing

Q15
How will you ensure that the County produces housing for residents who make between 50% AMI and 80% AMI?

The housing to be developed must be supported by not only a working ProForma but but by zoning regulations and the county's housing and community development goals particularly if a developer plans to access federal dollars (HUD, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, CDFI funds, etc.) for their project. Also, the number of units targeted to this population must be identified up front along with sales prices and/or rental unit costs. Documentation is critical and must be a part of the total development package. Of course there has to be community meetings, full disclosure, open and balanced conversations, and then decisions have to be made. There will be wins and losses, but that is the business of planning, zoning and real estate development (both housing and commercial development).

Q16
How will you ensure the County produces housing for residents who make between 80% AMI and 120% AMI?

It is the same process as identified above in Question 14. The same analysis, documentation and requirements must be provided. The ProForma must reflect and support the targeted development costs and needs/interests of individuals in this income market. The process is the same; the only thing that changes is the size and type of project being proposed.

Page 6: Transportation

Q17 **No**

The County's Climate Action Plan includes a target of reducing trips made by private vehicle to 60 percent of total trips (from 75 percent in 2018). Do you agree that incenting residents and visitors to drive less should be an explicit policy goal of the County?

Q18 **Yes**

A 12-year study, published in 2019, found that protected bike lanes drastically lowered fatal crash rates *for all road users* in Seattle (-60.6%), San Francisco (-49.3%), Denver (-40.3%) and Chicago (-38.2%), among others. Would you, as a Planning Board member, support removing single-occupancy vehicle parking and travel lanes for protected bike lanes?

Page 7: Transportation

Q19 **They should prioritize repurposing existing travel lanes.**

If yes, how do you think the county and/or state of Maryland should prioritize repurposing street space to create protected bike lanes?

Q20 **Yes**

Do you think Montgomery Parks should expand its Open Parkways program, in which roads in County parks such as Sligo Creek Parkway, Beach Drive, and Little Falls Parkway are closed to cars?

Page 8: Transportation

Q21 **Yes**

The Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan, approved in 2013, recommends a network of bus lanes on major roads throughout the county. Today, buses are primarily delayed by sitting in single-occupancy vehicle traffic. Bus riders are more frequently Black and brown, and less affluent, than rail riders and drivers. Would you support removing single-occupancy vehicle parking and travel lanes for dedicated bus lanes, which make bus service faster and more reliable?

Q22

The county's climate action plan goal to be carbon-free by 2035 requires most of the reduction of its transportation emissions to come from residents turning existing single-occupancy vehicle trips into transit, walking, and biking trips. Please describe at least one trip you currently take by car (even if you, yourself, are not driving) that you can commit to taking on foot, by bus, by train, via a mobility device, or by bike instead.

Walking or biking to my local grocery store. If biking lanes or sidewalks were created in the County where only vehicular traffic currently exists, I can commit to that type of trip. Also, residents in my community would love to be able to bike or walk safely to their destinations.

Q23

Reducing traffic fatalities and injuries will not only require incentives for people to drive less and nudges to make them drive better. It will also require policies that actively reshape the County’s transportation systems and its landscape to decrease single-occupancy vehicle trips, and to slow down the speed of those trips when people do make them. Please rank the following policies in the order that you would advise the Council to pursue them. If you would not advise that the Council pursue a specific policy, please select N/A.

- Removing minimum parking requirements in new developments near transit **2**
- Implementing road diets on arterial streets **3**
- Making some streets, especially residential streets, car-free **N/A**
- Building more housing and affordable housing in the County near transit and job centers **1**

Q24

Keep both highways as they are

Governor Wes Moore’s administration will revisit plans to add four high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes to I-270 and I-495, including whether to move forward with the project and whether or not to institute tolls on part or all of the road. Please select which of the following configurations you would support. If you would not support a specific option, please select "none of the above."

Q25

The Planning Department has started to expand its toolbox of outreach methods in order to hear from a broader variety of community members, in addition to traditional outreach formats. The following is a list of potential sources of feedback for a hypothetical project coming before the board. Rank how important each of these sources would be to your decision-making process. If this source would not be important to you, please select N/A.

- Comments from residents at a Planning Department presentation to a civic association **2**
- Door-knocking in an apartment complex **6**
- Online survey of 500 residents **5**
- Pop-up event at a community festival **4**
- Booth at a farmer’s market **3**
- Letters, emails, and calls from neighbors adjacent to the site **1**

Q26

In your own words, could you describe what this data means for the Planning Board as it makes decisions in the future?

The data, as I interpret it, indicates that there is strong support for the development of various types of housing in the county. I would just caution that current market and population data be continuously examined to fully continue to support Data For Progress findings. Many factors can change these findings, such as taxes, public school education/curriculum, crime, etc.
