

Name: **Nancy Floreen**
Address: **Garrett Park**
What office are you seeking?: **County Executive**
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: www.NancyFloreen.com

2 Someone new to Montgomery County may ask, "What's the Ag Reserve and why is it important?" What's your answer?

The Agricultural Reserve is a precious resource for future generations and one of the things that makes Montgomery County such a special place. Not only does it preserve and protect our proud rural heritage, it is a valuable part of our local economy that provides more than 10,000 jobs. For these reasons, we need to continue to promote and protect the Ag Reserve and I will do so as County Executive.

3 What are your priorities regarding stewardship of the County's natural resources (water, forests, open spaces) and parkland?

As a cyclist who enjoys the outdoors, I believe protecting our natural resources must remain a top priority. I've worked hard to improve the quality of our air and water, and protect forests, open space and the environment throughout my career, and we've made great progress, which I'll continue as County Executive. We preserve more than 90,000 acres of parks and open space, and air quality is improving, in part due to actions I've supported to curb greenhouse emissions, boost recycling and clean energy, and encourage conservation. As a member of the Planning Board and the County Council, I helped create our Green Business Certification program, preserve our Agricultural Reserve, expand parks and open space, and supported regulations on forest preservation and stormwater runoff that are among the strictest in the nation. I will continue to advance these priorities and promote Smart Growth that protects rural communities and focuses job growth where we need it--around transit stations.

4 What is your vision for the future of the County's Agricultural Reserve? Briefly, how would you achieve that vision?

To me, protecting the Ag reserve is personal, both as a precious natural resource and as an important part of our rural economy. I have many friends whose families have farmed the land in Montgomery County for generations and they are supporting me in this race because they know I understand the needs of our rural communities and share their vision on how to make it more sustainable, attractive as a tourism destination, and to promote and expand agricultural businesses. I am the one who advanced the building lot termination program to transfer density from the agricultural reserve to more urban locations while preserving land value and will continue to work on creative ways to support long-term preservation of farming.

5 Can you identify some of the top challenges to the Reserve's local agriculture and what actions you would take, if elected, to address them?

The real issue is how we encourage the continuation of large farming enterprises and keep them viable. As stated above, I will continue to work with the community to make this happen.

6 What more can be done to support our local farm businesses and rural communities?

We need to continue to consider the market forces that pressure the farming community and support long term solutions that keep the land in families and agricultural use.

7 How should our County manage its solid waste? What role should incineration, composting and recycling play?

We certainly need to reduce waste to the greatest extent possible. As you are aware, composting programs are under review, as are ways to improve recycling and deal with the Dickerson Incinerator.

8 How can we expand the role the County's schools play in the support of a healthy local food system and the success of local agriculture? Do you support a rural schools' policy that provides equity for Reserve cluster schools acknowledging the unique nature of schools in region set aside for farmland and open space preservation?

Where practicable, we should maximize the use of local produce in our schools. Schools in the agricultural reserve should be treated equitably, certainly.

9 Currently the County is exploring how best to support a strong agricultural economy through agritourism and new farming enterprises such as on farm breweries and wineries. What are your thoughts about how best to advance on farm activities within the context of the master plan?

We need to continue to work to support innovative enterprises that keep families on the farmland in perpetuity.

10 What are your regional transportation priorities? Do you support M83 and an additional Potomac bridge and outer beltway through the Reserve or adjacent rural zones?

I believe when infrastructure improvements are promised in our master-plans we need to deliver, or traffic just gets worse, as we've seen. That's why I strongly support M83/Midcounty Highway, the Purple Line, Montrose Parkway and other transit, road, pedestrian and bike improvements, many of which we require developers to pay for. When we fail to deliver on the transportation capacity we need to support development that is already approved, the obvious outcome will always be more traffic congestion and that doesn't help anyone. Another priority is to extend BRT service to Frederick and Howard Counties. I have always been a champion of the Agricultural Reserve and continue to believe it is a precious resource that must be protected, so I do not support any additional bridge crossings or other new highways that would touch the Agricultural Reserve. Transportation investments should focus on where we have the most people, jobs and homes, not in rural zones that we need to protect.