

Name: **Peter Fosselman**
Address: Kensington
What office are you seeking?: County Council, District 1
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: www.PeteFosselman.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 the largest treasure we have in Montgomery County. It was created as part of the 1964 Wedges & Corridors General Plan. In return, land development would be concentrated to the south of the Reserve, primarily near Metro Stations (not been built at the time, but were coming). The Reserve is over 90,000 acres of primarily farmland; many are working farms and contribute to the local economy while protecting the County's largest open space. The ag reserve is important because of the historic preservation it provides, the improved quality of life, the fresh produce it provides, and the environmental protections it encourages.

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

While working for City of Gaithersburg as their Zoning Inspector, I oversaw site plan compliance, historic preservation and tree preservation. I also assisted in crafting the City's 1992 Tree Ordinance. Trees must continue to be saved and reforestation is just as critical. Storm Water Management and its mitigation is a problem in the County as well. The State has set new standards that must be met in 3 years by reducing our runoff. If feasible, pervious surfaces should be the standard in all construction projects. The White Oak Recreation Center is a great example of a pervious parking lot operated by the County. When I was the Mayor of Kensington, I commissioned and helped design the County's first bio-retention parking facility. Open space/green space are essential to every community. The CR Zone requires higher standards of open space/green space than prior zones. That was a priority for me in Kensington as I chaperoned our Sector Plan through the approval process.

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

My vision for the Ag Reserve is simple: Leave it alone. Protect it and keep it as it is with working farms and general open space.

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?**

One of the top challenges to the Agricultural Reserve's local agriculture is land preservation. We should be helping farmers to eventually own their own land rather than leasing long term. This should secure more acres of land for agricultural use. Along with this we need to incentivize more sustainable agricultural practices.

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

The Montgomery County office of tourism should closely collaborate with local farm businesses and rural communities. I'm a fan of the Land Link program to support emerging farmers and assist them to purchase or lease land to encourage farming to those who may not have the means to start farming. Additionally, we should help expand broadband internet to rural communities that may not have easy access to it.

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

The County should implement a 'Zero Waste' plan to manage our solid waste in an environmentally responsible way. Incineration of trash should not be one of the choices for solid waste management. Composting and recycling should play key roles in creating sustainable solutions to managing solid waste.

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?

The Board of Education is in charge of nutrition decisions within our numerous public schools in Montgomery County. I agree that ensuring a healthy local food system to increase the success of local agriculture is good all around.
The current agricultural reserve zoning mandates low density, however communities and schools should not be penalized for the zoning they live in. The Board of Education has recently made some progress towards supporting rural school policies.

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?

I support agritourism such as farm breweries and wineries as accessory uses to farming. Farmers are finding it harder to make a living. In order to help farmers, we must support agritourism.

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?

In the short term, I would like to see the American Legion/Cabin John Bridge expanded to incorporate a dedicated transit lane (most likely BRT). This transit should connect directly to the Red Line in Bethesda and the Silver Line in Tysons Corner. I support a second bridge crossing over the Potomac, north of the American Legion/Cabin John Bridge if the impact was not detrimental to Ag Reserve. A new bridge would save commuters an estimated 67,000 hours per day and would divert 105,000 vehicles away from the existing Bridge.
Yes, I support M83. This road was promised to citizens in Clarksburg, the fastest growing part of the County, for many years. There is a 5.7 mile gap in the road which destroys the concept of the 'ladder'

Eastern and Western (Great Seneca Highway) arterials on either side of I-270, which were developed to reduce traffic congestion and pressure on I-270 many years ago.