Name:	**George Hernandez**
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What office are you seeking?:	Delegate for District 17
Where can voters learn more about your positions?:	george.hernandez3@gmail.com

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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 protected farmland in Montgomery County.
> It is crucial we protect this land from the increasing sprawl in order to maintain our agricultural and open-space considering that there will always be pressure to develop on this land.

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

> Stewarding the County's natural resources are of first importance. I do not believe we need to compromise on our natural resources and parks one inch in order to accomplish our other needs such as housing and transportation.

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 County's Agricultural Reserve is that in 50 years it will be very similar to how it is now. The Reserve will be the same size, the air will be clean, and it will be a paragon of agricultural preservation in an increasingly urbanized world.
> I will accomplish this by being a voice in the General Assembly against the development pressures the agricultural reserve will face.

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?**

> I do not know many of the Reserve's challenges regarding its agriculture, but I would like to learn and help in every way I can.

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

> We need to lower property taxes and review and remove any burdensome, ineffective regulations that increase the cost of doing business for our farm businesses.
> In order to preserve our rural communities we must continue to push back against development pressures on the Reserve.

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

> We must follow the waste priority of reduce, reuse, recycle. Households who produce less waste should be rewarded. We need to maximize our use composting and recycling in order to minimize the use of incineration for the sake of our environment and our future.

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?**

> I believe we should be teaching agriculture in all public schools. Even in urban schools, we should be teaching children about aero and hydroponics and vertical farming techniques, in that way preparing them for the future agro-economy.
> Some of our schools in the Reserve are overcrowded and I support fully funding these schools.

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 love this because it generates money for the farmers and also exposes many of the county's residents to the beauty of the Reserve. Over time I believe this will help Marylanders feel more appreciation for the Reserve and be willing to protect it.

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?**

> My regional priorities are to fund the Metro, BRT, the Purple Line, and existing highways, and roads.
> I do not support M83.
> I support an outer beltway, provided it meet environmental criteria and have minimal impact on the Reserve. If an outer beltway cannot meet that criteria, I would not support it.