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What office are you seeking?: House of Delegates  
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: [www.andyhoverman.com](http://www.andyhoverman.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 Ag Reserve is a significant section of the county that has been set aside, or protected, as an area designated for agricultural use. It is important because having local produce and agriculture is very important for the farmers who work, for people who care about the environment, and nutrition. Montgomery County differs from other suburban/urban areas, even in the Washington DC metro area, where there has been an emphasis on preservation and commitment to the environment and agriculture.

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

I hope we can continue to address climate change, and increase open spaces and parkland. Perhaps even reclaim some areas that have been paved or built over in sprawl. Moreover, we need to maintain clean water and air quality.

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

I think the Ag Reserve should be protected as it is good for the environment and provides a nice quality of life feature for Montgomery County residents. I think the State should work with the County to have a smart growth policy that discourages sprawl which could impinge upon the Ag Reserve.

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**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?**

Climate change would have to be a top issue in regards to the Ag Reserve. I am committed to addressing climate change and its root causes. From emphasizing a clean, renewable energy plan, to ensuring transportation related pollutants remain as low as we can, and an adherence to smart land use.

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

On the state level, I know there are things the state does to promote different tours (like Ice Cream maps). I think that is very helpful, and should be further funded and encouraged. I also think that elected leaders should maintain close contact with farm businesses and rural communities to ensure a vibrant "Main Street" economy. For instance, I hear from brewers in the state how other states are encouraging their brewing economy and how Maryland is lagging behind.

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

I am a big believer that recycling should be emphasized and encouraged statewide more than it is now. Composting is also an area where I believe other countries take a more pro-active approach than we do here in the U.S. Incineration, I think is a net negative and should be discouraged. The impacts on air quality alone make it suspect in my opinion.

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**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 think we could do more to encourage students to realize how they could grow their own food, or educate in the context of proper nutrition and how local farmers are vital to a healthy lifestyle. I do think as high schools have academies, that rural communities should have a nod to the location they are located within. They should encourage understanding and education regarding their local area.

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**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?**

From a state level perspective, I likely wouldn't have much input like the County Council members would, but as a member of the state delegation, I would do what would be in the best interest of the Ag Reserve.

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**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 do not support M83. I recognize there is a traffic congestion issue with upcounty, but I think there are better ways to address the issue. Options including Bus Rapid Transit, addressing I-270 congestion bottlenecks, and more emphasis on MARC rail should be placed ahead of M83. I do not think, at least at this time, a persuasive case has been made for an outer beltway that would negatively impact the Ag Reserve. I would prefer, if an additional bridge were to be built, that it would emphasize transit options like true BRT connecting the cities along the beltway (i.e. Fairfax, Tysons Corner, Rockville, Gaithersburg, etc.).