

Online Forum Questions Submitted by the Public

Agricultural Preservation

Do you believe in the Agricultural Preservation program that the County has participated in for so long?

How much of a financial commitment can the County continue to make to this program and where in the County?

Describe your vision for growth in the County and how proposals for limiting residential growth can be balanced with agricultural preservation and protection of individual property rights.

How do you feel about more wineries/vineyards in our county as an agricultural economic development growth area? What specific measures would you take to support this industry?

Ag preservation is a “noted” character of Carroll County, at what time do you believe “enough is enough” ?

Would you support a zoning amendment that allows communication towers (i.e., cell towers) to become permitted use in Agricultural or Conservation Districts (they are currently zoned 'conditional' use) and included a 1,500 foot setback from all recorded residential subdivisions?

What do you believe are the strengths and weaknesses of the County’s Ag Preservation Programs? As Commissioner, will you maintain current funding levels or not? What do you like or dislike about the County’s new Installment Purchase Agreement Program?

Waste Management

Scientific data tell us that recycling can be achieved to a level of about 45 percent, leaving residue to be disposed of. What is your plan to deal with that?

It seems that Carroll County is poised to withdraw from the contract to build a Waste to Energy incinerator with Frederick County. If we do, what strategies would you propose to manage our solid waste in the future?

Beyond fiscal conservatism, what other principles apply to incineration relating to family health, conserving resources and recycling?

The local group Waste Not! Carroll recently provided recycling and composting for the Maryland Wine Festival. As a commissioner, how would you lead Carroll County to increase recycling and composting among our residents, businesses and public facilities?

Recently Dr. Paul Connett spoke in Frederick County about *nanoparticles* - the fine toxic particles

emitted by an incinerator that rain on the surrounding environment and are easily ingested. The potential effects cannot easily be measured at this time. Are you concerned?

An incinerator may burn tires, sewage sludge and potent toxins. If we contributed to a Frederick incinerator, do you have concerns about air pollution or toxic ash in our landfill?

Michelle Johnson: You indicated you would terminate the incinerator immediately after being elected; exactly how would you do that?

Michele Johnson: You have publicly stated you are opposed to the incinerator. I would like to know what specific action you would take if elected?

Economic Development

Do you understand the difference between Section 8 Housing and Workforce Housing? What is it?

Do you believe there is a need for affordable workforce housing in Carroll County? Why or why not?

Development

Do you believe in planning and zoning?

Do you support 66B, the law that covers plans and zoning?

Will you continue current environmental policies to protect the reservoirs and the bay?

If you do not support the Pathways plan, what would be your alternative?

If you do not support the airport runway plan, how would you continue to operate the airport in light of the need to repair or replace runways?

Michelle Johnson: How do you think comprehensive rezoning fits in with the constitution?

If the Commissioners are successful in stopping the expansion of the Carroll County Airport, how and from where would the monies be paid back to the Federal Government.

Whereas many citizens believe the county planning department behaved inappropriately during Pathways, in your judgment, what went wrong?

Budget

Do you or will you attempt to remove any existing staff to either replace or eliminate positions within the county?

You all say you are Fiscal Conservatives as compared to the current Board of Commissioners. We all know that the Board of Commissioners elected this November will have smaller revenues to enjoy than perhaps any Board in recent history.

Where would you differ with how they have spent money in the past and how would you do things differently in the future?

Will you eliminate Departments, programs, funding to the Board of Education, funding to senior programs, welfare programs, employee layoffs, the very way purchases are made, both small and large?

Do you support using state and federal grants, and if not, explain how refusing to use state and federal grants benefits local taxpayers and residents.

Would the Commissioners salary be your sole source of income and if not what other sources of income / jobs would you have while in office?

Do you believe as a candidate for commissioner in “deficit spending”? If so what “services” would you apply this funding to and how it effects the future of the county budget overall?

Do you believe “national politics/spending” effect your appropriations or the other way around “your appropriations effect national politics/spending”?

The rising cost of healthcare for county employees’ is destined to increase, how and what services will you reduce in order to maintain a balanced budget?

How will you address, [if] foreclosure tsunami in our county to protect the taxpayers value, barring the legislative restrictions placed upon you as a commissioner?

If you could address the pension cost to the county, would you advocate for individual/personal retirement fund made by the employee?

Education

What are your views on the Carroll County Public Schools?

Ethics

Do you support the Maryland Constitution?

Do you believe that the United Nations is engaged in conspiracies to undermine the United States of America?

Have you studied the history of pre-Nazi Europe, and what do you see now that concerns you about this country?

Do you believe that the County Office Building and other public buildings are an appropriate place for regularly held, by invitation, Christian-only prayer meetings in groups during hours the buildings are open for public business?

As a District 5 citizen, I am particularly wondering about Doug Howard, who is executive director of CATS and claims to have other businesses as well. Is he willing to commit to just the commissioner job?

Do you ever feel that tax evasion is ever justified? For example, would it be appropriate for a non-farm household to use diesel fuel or #2 heating oil in their automobiles without paying the highway use tax of 24 cents per gallon that supports our highway and road infrastructure?

General

Describe how you would lead—what is your personal leadership style?

Prioritize your top “three” main services of which a commissioner should fund.

Will you as a commissioner maintain a “day job” and fulfill your duty as commissioner?

Do you favor scheduling County public hearings for late afternoon or early evening times, in order to make these hearings easier for working citizens to attend and participate in?

What can the commissioners do to get property values to match property assessments? And how would that impact the county budget?

Why can't the law state that regardless of what is built on a property that is not sub dividable the property can no longer be sub divided and go back to allowing people to build detached dwelling units for in-laws or immediate family members since an attached dwelling unit is still permissible?

Where do the candidates stand personally on the issue of Social Equality and where do they stand as it is currently written in the master plan?

My question is how each candidate will balance the needs and wants of their district if they are in opposition of those of the county as a whole? And also what is the biggest issue of the district the candidate wishes to represent?