



*THE VOICE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY BUSINESS*

**CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE – DISTRICT 4 SPECIAL ELECTION**

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**1) WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE ROLE THAT MONTGOMERY COUNTY WILL PLAY IN OUR FUTURE GLOBAL ECONOMY?**

**a. WHAT WOULD YOU DO AS A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL TO REACH THIS VISION?**

**WE NEED TO BE BUSINESS FRIENDLY. IN THE PAST 18 MONTHS WE HAVE RAISED PROPERTY TAXES 13.5%, ENERGY TAXES 10%, SALES TAXES 20%, INCOME TAXES 52.6%, CAR TAXES 20%, CORPORATE TAXES 20%, IMPOSED NEW SPEED CAMERA TAXES, INCREASED WATER BILLS BY THE MOST IN 15 YEARS, INCREASED METRO FARES BY THE MOST IN 5 YEARS. I LIKE THE IDEA OF GIVING NEW HOMEBUYERS A TAX CREDIT TO JUMP START OUR ECONOMY.**

**MY FICKER AMENDMENT REQUIRING ALL 9 COUNCIL VOTES TO EXCEED THE CHARTER PROPERTY TAX LIMIT PASSED BY 5,060 VOTES COUNTY WIDE AND 2,000 VOTES IN DISTRICT 4 OVER THE OPPOSITION OF THE IDEOLOGICALLY UNANIMOUS COUNCIL AND DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR THIS 4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT SEAT. NOW ONE VOTE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. AS A REAL ESTATE BROKER WITH ROBIN REALTY, I SHALL BE THE CHAMPION OF HOMEOWNERS WHO HAVE BEEN USED AS AN ATM BY THE COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL IS PLANNING A LARGE PROPERTY TAX INCREASE NEXT YEAR, BUT I SHALL NOT BE ONE OF 9 VOTES NEEDED TO EXCEED THE CHARTER PROPERTY TAX LIMIT.**

**2) DO YOU BELIEVE THAT PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR COMPANIES TO LOCATE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY?**

**OF COURSE. WE BLEW A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LAND A JEWEL WHEN HILTON HOTELS DECIDED TO LOCATE ITS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN VIRGINIA. I WOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE FIRST PLANE TO SEE MR. HILTON AS SOON AS I HEARD HE WAS INTERESTED IN LOCATING IN THE WASHINGTON D.C. AREA. MEANTIME THE COUNTY WAS PAYING \$3.4 MILLION FOR AN APARTMENT BUILDING IN TAKOMA PARK THAT WAS ASSESSED AT \$1.4 MILLION! WE NEED A STANDING COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WASTE AND DUPLICATION. AS FAR AS HILTON IS CONCERNED, THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE HAND SHAKING AND LESS HAND WRINGING.**

**3) ECONOMIC DOWNTURN HAS RESULTED IN DECREASED REVENUES FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE BEST METHODS FOR BOOSTING COUNTY REVENUES? WHAT SHOULD BE TRIMMED FROM THE COUNTY'S BUDGET IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES?**

**DO NOT EXCEED THE CHARTER PROPERTY TAX LIMIT. END POLICE DISABILITYGATE. FORM A PERMANENT COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WASTE AND DUPLICATION 1400 CREDIT CARDS FOR 200 SCHOOLS IS TOO MANY. FOCUS ON CLASSROOM, NOT TOP-HEAVY ADMINISTRATION.**

- 4) GIVEN THAT MARYLAND'S INVESTMENT IN TRANSPORTATION CONTINUES TO DECLINE AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION REMAINS A HUGE CONCERN FOR VOTERS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, HOW DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHOULD ADDRESS OUR TRAFFIC RELIEF?**

**MAKE SURE THAT THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT GETS A FAIR SHARE OF MARYLAND'S FEDERAL DISABILITY FUNDS. BUILD PURPLE LINE AND ROUTE 29 MONORAIL. GIVE GREATER PRIORITY TO TRANSPORTATION.**

- 5) WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON SOME OF OUR KEY TRAFFIC RELIEF PROJECTS INCLUDING THE PURPLE LINE, CORRIDOR CITIES TRANSITWAY AND THE WIDENING OF I-270?**

**FOR PURPLE LINE, CCT, ROUTE 29 MONORAIL.**

- 6) PLEASE DISCUSS YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE MASTER PLANS THAT WILL COME BEFORE THE COUNTY COUNCIL IN 2008 INCLUDING: GAITHERSBURG WEST, GERMANTOWN AND WHITE FLINT, AS THESE AREAS ARE ALL OPPORTUNITES FOR IMPORTANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

**I AM FOCUSING ON THE MASTER PLANS IN THE FOURTH DISTRICT AND WILL GIVE THOSE PRIORITY. I FEEL THAT THE FOURTH DISTRICT HAS BEEN TREATED AS A STEPCHILD BY THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST AND THAT HAS TO END.**

- 7) WHY WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL AND WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH?**

**THE HOMEOWNERS NEED A CHAMPION ON A COUNCIL THAT HAS NOT BEEN HOMEOWNER FRIENDLY. I INTEND TO BE THAT CHAMPION. HOMEOWNERS HAVE BEEN USED AS AN ATM BY COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO ARE FOCUSED ONLY ON THOSE WHO HAVE VOTED IN THE LAST 3 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES---LESS THAN 10% OF THE VOTERS.**