



AIM County Council Candidate Questionnaire

Responses from Gabe Albornoz candidate for At-Large

Affordable Housing

How would you work with AIM to increase the Housing Initiative Fund to \$100M by the year 2022?

I would begin by focusing on growth of our economy to enhance revenue that will help fund safety net programs such as the housing initiative fund. Second, I will be a strong advocate for making this a high priority in the budget planning process to add funds every fiscal year.

How would you work with AIM to put 200 units of affordable housing on public land, in the development pipeline each year?

As a matter of policy, I would build off of current efforts to explore public/private partnerships with organizations such as HOC, AOBA, the Montgomery Housing Partnership, Victory Housing and others. Second, I would work with AIM to help build community driven support for these efforts and collaborate in tandem to communicate to our residents. We must look creatively at all current and future CIP projects to see how we can maximize their impact and value.

Equity in Schools

How will you work with AIM to expand the Excel Beyond the Bell Elementary program to four additional Title I elementary schools each year so that the program serves 2,400 students by the year 2022?

I have a great deal of respect for AIM and am proud to have worked with them to close our opportunity gap through the expansion of quantity, variety, and quality of after school programs in Title I schools. To enhance these programs I would begin by connecting to County residents that contribute much of their philanthropy outside of the County and redirect it to investments such as EBB. I would also explore a direct funding source of revenue that would help underwrite the cost of the entire program. I would also explore partnerships with the State to enhance after school transportation options for participants of programs, which remains a barrier to participation. Finally, I would enhance the parent training programs that increase civic activity and better connect families to their schools and outcomes.

Protecting Immigrants and Refugees

Many Montgomery County families are living in fear of one or more parent being separated from their children because of deportation. How will you work with AIM to include funding for deportation defense and family preparedness in the county budget, as well as work with AIM to find private funding for these efforts?

I strongly support funding deportation defense efforts. Not only is morally the right thing to do, but it makes sense economically. Our immigrant brothers and sisters are small business owners, parents, and active contributors to our community. It would be a wise investment to ensure that they remain in our community.



Will you commit to work with AIM and Montgomery County landlords to house refugees in Montgomery County?

YES!

Transportation

Will you work with AIM to protect good transportation jobs from privatization?

YES!

How will you hold WMATA accountable to prevent cutting bus service in the county, particularly to low-income areas?

I would begin by reviewing current marketing practices to ensure that residents are aware of the bus service available to them. If there is an opportunity to increase marketing and information, I would partner with WMATA on that effort. Third, our County and State are about to invest a great deal of money to stabilize and strengthen WAMATA, which will provide leverage that we can use to help ensure their policy practices are rooted in equity and fairness.

Democracy with Accountability

Do you commit to meeting with AIM within a month of taking office, and on a quarterly basis subsequently?

Yes, and hopefully more often than that!