



AIM County Council Candidate Questionnaire

Responses from Marilyn Balcombe 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 believe affordable housing is the most complex issue we face in Montgomery County and I will work with AIM to significantly increase the Housing Initiative Fund. I believe the most sustainable way to increase the budget is to expand our tax base through job growth. I am an accountant with 35 years experience in budget and finance and I am also the President & CEO of the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce. I work with businesses every day to help them grow and expand their workforce. I also have knowledge and experience in economic development and know how to bring jobs to the County.

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

In addition to my background in accounting and economic development, I have been involved in various master plans in various formal and informal capacities. I have a good understanding of residential development in the County, as well as a knowledge and experience in land use and zoning. I support an increase in the number of units of affordable housing.

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 would like to see an increase in Excel Beyond the Bell and other programs that help children earlier in their education. I am on the leadership team of Montgomery Moving Forward and one of my priorities is early education which will help provide a more equity to those children most in need. I can not make any promises to increase the budget for this program, as that decision would be made in the context of the entire budget process. However, know that I will favor programs like Excel Beyond the Bell that show a strong return on investment.

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 will support county funding for deportation defense and would see this as necessary for protecting individuals and their families. Potential private funding for these services is not one of my areas of expertise. However, I have a large network of colleagues in the County and have a strong reputation for partnership and coalition building and will do what I can to support your efforts to find additional funding.



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

Yes. One of the shared values of Montgomery County is that we are a welcoming community. I will do what I can to make sure we continue to support and welcome everyone coming to the County.

Transportation

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

I'm not aware of efforts to privatize transportation jobs in the County.

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

The State just approved significant dedicated funding for WMATA to provide for increased reliability and stability in their operations. The State should expect WMATA to maintain and improve the current level of service. It is up to the County Council and County Executive to partner with our State Delegation in holding WMATA accountable for services provided in Montgomery County.

Democracy with Accountability

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

Absolutely.