



# AIM County Council Candidate Questionnaire

Responses from Bill Cook candidate for District 1

## **Affordable Housing**

How would you work with AIM to increase the Housing Initiative Fund to \$100M by the year 2022?  
The HIF is one of the first line items to suffer when our county's budget has shortfalls. Much of those shortfalls are caused by Real Estate Developers not paying their fare share and corporate tax giveaways to companies like Marriott, Discovery, and soon Amazon. I will put an end to these abusive practices that burden our residents with increased property taxes to ensure that we have a budget which serves the needs of our residents.

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

We have a housing crisis and I will take every opportunity to increase affordable housing. I will work to increase the new construction minimum requirement from 12.5% affordable housing to 15% and adopt a policy of 'net zero loss on affordable housing' - meaning: if you destroy affordable housing you must replace it or provide 15% - whichever is greater.

## **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?*

One of the main reasons that we don't have the funds our schools system needs to address the achievement gap and keep up with school construction is because we are not collecting nearly enough in impact taxes from new construction. I will increase our collection of impact taxes.

## **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?*

Yes, I believe partnering with existing non-profits to provide legal defense for our immigrant community is the best approach.

*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, absolutely. I stand opposed to public-private partnerships which only serve to enrich a private companies with public resources.

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

The states and counties should have greater input and oversight of the WMATA board. The WMATA board should include elected/appointed officials from DC, MD, and VA such as the Transportation Secretary/Directors from each state.

### **Democracy with Accountability**

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

Yes