



# AIM County Council Candidate Questionnaire

Responses from Evan Glas 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 am committed to increasing the Housing Initiative Fund to \$100 million by 2022. Of all the boards and commissions which I serve, I am most proud of my work on the board of directors for Montgomery Housing Partnership, the county's largest nonprofit developer of affordable housing, where I currently serve as vice chair. My deep understanding of how to create affordable housing and track record of fierce advocacy in support – be it workforce housing, senior housing, or low-income housing – will drive my leadership on this issue when on the Council.

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

Given that there is a need for approx 45,000 affordable housing units over the next decade, clearly we aren't doing a good job, which is why I want to update and improve our affordable housing policies. This rethink would modernize our MPDU policies to factor in high-rise condos (like in Bethesda and Silver Spring), where the unit might be affordable but the condo fee isn't and incentive housing on public land - such as parking lots, libraries and other underused or new facilities.

I was proud that during my time on the board of Montgomery Housing Partnership we build a high rise of affordable housing for seniors on public land adjacent to the new Silver Spring Library. I am also proud that MHP submitted a proposal to build affordable housing at the old library site, though our proposal wasn't selected and the county decided not to build affordable housing there.

## **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 am the executive director of Gandhi Brigade Youth Media, a nonprofit that provides free after school programming to underserved students throughout Montgomery County. During my tenure at Gandhi Brigade, I entered into a partnership with the Collaboration Council to become a provider for their Excel Beyond the Bell program at three middle schools.

In this campaign for County Council At-Large, I am the only executive director of a nonprofit that provides after school programming in partnership Excel Beyond the Bell. I know how important this program is and I am committed to expanding it to more Title 1 elementary and middle schools.

I know intimately how this program works and will use my direct knowledge to strengthen it and expand it.



## **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?*

We cherish the fact that four of the the top 10 diverse communities in America are right here in Montgomery County. I am committed to making our inclusive and compassionate community even stronger by providing funding for the deportation defense fund.

Most of the students I work with are first generation, immigrant or undocumented – so I have seen their struggles and fears first hand. I am committed to making Montgomery County the most inclusive, safe and loving community in the country.

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

Yes. Working with landlords to house refugees is the type of creative and innovative thinking that these times require. As a housing advocate and long time civic leader (I have been president of two civic associations and chair of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board), I have a track record of working with (and sometimes against) landlords and property owners to operate and support the communities around them. This idea is a smart proposal that I would rally around and build a coalition to support.

## **Transportation**

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

Yes. Good transportation jobs are the foundation of a good middle class -- which our community is quickly losing. Public jobs also allow for more oversight and accountability, as opposed to privatization.

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

Access to good, reliable public transportation is an economic justice issue.

I walk the walk when it comes to public transit. For nearly ten years my husband and I had only one car, requiring me to regularly utilize Ride On, MetroBus and Metro services. (We recently purchased a second car because it is impossible to successfully run for County Council At-Large without a vehicle.) As a regular user of our WMATA and RideOn services, I know how these systems work (and don't work).

I am committed to increasing bus service and building BRT. I see the number of individuals taking the bus from Burtonsville and Olney down to Silver Spring – a long ride – and then transfer to the Metro, hoping it works and takes them where they need to go in an efficient manner.

We must do right for everyone in our community, especially those who rely on public transit.

I will lead this fight, as I am committed to regularly taking public transit to the County Council.



**Democracy with Accountability**

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

Absolutely! As a former CNN journalist, I am always listening to people and helping turn their thoughts and ideas into action. My door and ear will always be open.