



AIM County Council Candidate Questionnaire

Responses from Ben Shnider candidate for District 3

Affordable Housing

How would you work with AIM to increase the Housing Initiative Fund to \$100M by the year 2022?
We need to carefully examine existing funding streams to ensure we are increasing funding budget-to-budget for the HIF, as housing costs continue to soar in our community. In addition to being judicious with our current sources of funding, I'd also like to request authority from the state to tax more progressively. Multiple brackets for our income tax and different rates for commercial and residential property taxes are two potential ideas.

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

I will make the development of affordable housing on our public (and private) properties a top priority. I've been vocal about reimagining underused parking lots and office parks as affordable housing communities and green space. This will be a primary focus for me on the Council.

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?

We must continue to expand Excel Beyond the Bell and other programs like it to ensure every student in our community has access to top-notch wrap-around services and enrichment opportunities. Growing this program as referenced will be a priority for me during the budget process.

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 must both pass a Community Trust Ordinance, like that we shepherded through in Rockville, and fund deportation defense in Montgomery County. Both would be a priority for me during the budget process.

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

Absolutely.

Transportation

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

Absolutely.



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

From the Board of the Action Committee for Transit I've long advocated for boosting transit options in our undeserved neighborhoods. I would utilize the bully pulpit and exercise all available oversight mechanisms to prevent such cuts. The dearth of quality transit option available in many of our low-income areas is a major concern for me.

Democracy with Accountability

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

Yes, I'd be happy to regularly meet with AIM activists.