

## NAACP Candidate Questionnaire

### **I. Supervisors**

1. Will you support the renaming Robert E. Lee High School? (For School Board candidates “support” means voting to change the name?)

Yes although the authority to do this resides solely with the School Board and not the Board of Supervisors.

2. What is your opinion of the current AAP program?

I have not weighed in on the AAP program as the Board of Supervisors has no authority over the AAP program, this resides with the School Board.

3. Do you support the use of police body worn cameras? (For Supervisor candidates “support” means voting to fund use of body worn cameras for all Fairfax police)

Yes I support and will vote to fund body worn cameras.

4. The county has determined a need for new housing to shelter 15,000 new families making less the \$70,000. Because of rising land and construction costs, new units in that price range require some form of public loans or grants. How many of these families should Fairfax County attempt to accommodate and how would you do it? What should happen to those who can find no affordable housing here?

I support a package of initiatives to generate housing for all 15,000 families making less than 70,000. First, I support a full 2 cents to be dedicated to affordable housing. Second, I support moving forward with the land use reforms developed by the AHAC land use subcommittee I chaired in 2017. In particular the County should implement the first consensus recommendation of this group – a policy of allowing owners of old office parks and other commercial centers to convert some or all of their property to residential but contingent upon a much higher commitment (I would expect in the 30 – 35% range) and without forfeiting future redevelopment development rights of the commercial development that these new mixed income communities will be replacing.

I also support moving forward with most of the other recommendations of the Affordable Housing Resources Panel. We should also look at innovative financing and partnership mechanisms particularly with Fortune 500 companies moving into the region – some of whom have committed hundreds of millions of dollars to affordable housing initiatives in cities on the west coast.

5. Would you support increasing the power of the civilian review panel?

Yes.

6. What do you believe county should do to address the overcrowding in schools?

Fairfax County should review and update the methodology used for residential developers to offset the impacts of their new development on FCPS. When I chaired the committee that first institutionalized this practice but it has been more 15 years since the residential development criteria were adopted.

7. Many jurisdictions have stopped prosecuting possession of marijuana, do you believe Fairfax County should adopt a similar policy?

The question of whether any particular crime should be prosecuted is the responsibility of the Commonwealth's Attorney, not the Board of Supervisors. But I have no objections to changing enforcement strategies for possession of small amounts of marijuana.

8. Many jurisdictions are ending the use of cash bail, what is your position on this issue? The Board of Supervisors has no authority on whether cash bail is used or not, but I have no objections to ending the use of cash bail where other mechanisms are employed to ensure that defendants appear in court.

9. Do you believe that Amazon moving to the area will have a negative impact on Fairfax County? If so, please explain what should be done. If not, please explain.

I do not think that Amazon's arrival in Arlington will have a negative impact to the area. The DC region is overly reliant on federal spending and Amazon's move will be a step towards diversifying the regional economy. There will also likely be spin-off businesses although those will likely be limited to Arlington.

10. What is the most important policy the County can promote or adopt to live up to the One Fairfax resolution?

While One Fairfax is a lens for considering equity in all policy decisions, probably the most important policy would be an aggressive move to address the affordable housing crisis. Some combination of a full 2 cents dedicated to affordable housing and implementation of the innovative strategies in the Affordable Housing Resources Panel (including the land use reforms developed by the AHAC Land Use Subcommittee I chaired) would be a good start.

11. When the Housing and Community Development office opened its housing choice voucher waiting list this winter, 12,000 people applied and 2,000 were chosen by lottery to be on a wait list of about 2 years. What should be done to assist the other 10,000 very low-income people who applied to the list?

See my response to questions 4 and 10.

12. A new survey shows there are 9,500 market rate housing units affordable to families making less than \$70K in Fairfax County. As land values rise driving rents up and many of these older units are turned into townhouses, we are in danger of losing affordable housing. The county policy is that there should be "no net loss, if possible" of affordable housing. What does "if possible" mean to you? To the county?

I would support changing the policy to no net loss. Even with this change the redevelopment of old affordable market-rate units threatens to overwhelm the creation of new affordable units. Fairfax County should undertake a concerted effort to support and facilitate rehabilitation of market-rate affordable housing communities to maintain those places as affordable and provide a good quality of life for residents.

## **II. School Board**

1. Will you support the renaming Robert E. Lee High School? (For School Board candidates "support" means voting to change the name?)
2. What is your opinion of the current AAP program?
3. Do you support the use of police body worn cameras? (For Supervisor candidates "support" means voting to fund use of body worn cameras for all Fairfax police)
4. Would you support increasing the power of the civilian review panel?
5. What do you believe county should do to address the overcrowding in schools?

6. Many jurisdictions have stopped prosecuting possession of marijuana, do you believe Fairfax County should adopt a similar policy?
7. Do you believe that Amazon moving to the area will have a negative impact on Fairfax County? If so, please explain what should be done. If not, please explain.
8. What is the most important policy the County can promote or adopt to live up to the One Fairfax resolution?

### **III. Commonwealth**

1. Many jurisdictions have stopped prosecuting possession of marijuana, do you believe Fairfax County should adopt a similar policy?
2. Will you support the renaming Robert E. Lee High School? (For School Board candidates “support” means voting to change the name?)
3. Do you support the use of police body worn cameras? (For Supervisor candidates “support” means voting to fund use of body worn cameras for all Fairfax police)
4. Would you support increasing the power of the civilian review panel?
5. Many jurisdictions are ending the use of cash bail, what is your position on this issue?
6. What is the most important policy the County can promote or adopt to live up to the One Fairfax resolution?