

Providence District Supervisor Candidate: Edythe Frankel Kelleher
NAACP Candidate Questionnaire

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

Yes, if the school board votes to change it.

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

School operations are the responsibility of the School Board, however, since my own children attended elementary school, it has been my opinion that third grade is too early to label students as AAP or not AAP. I personally preferred the tracked classes that my non-AAP child attended, in which he had the opportunity to be “advanced” in some but not all subjects.

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, many complaints regarding officer behavior have been quickly resolved by the body camera video.

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 served on the recent Affordable Housing Resource Panel that made recommendations on how to fund new housing that would be affordable to households making up to 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Not only are land and construction costs rising, but tax credits have been reduced in value by about 20% since November 2016. Accommodating these families is key to retaining all types of workers and allowing workers to live close to work will reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. I endorse the recommendations of the panel, and I will work with the non-profit and for-profit housing sectors on all methods of producing more housing that is affordable. Having studied economics, I believe that increasing the supply of something can make it less expensive. New, denser development provides more opportunities for providing affordable units in exchange for bonus numbers of market-rate units. Co-location of housing should be considered with every public development project. Zoning regulations should be eased to make affordable housing easier to construct at places of worship. And I am open to other worthy ideas.

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

The civilian review panel is doing an important job, and I would work toward increasing its responsibilities so that all citizens feel fully represented.

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

I will work with the school board to properly fund the school system's capital program so that facilities may be renovated and expanded as necessary. All options must be considered by the School board, including boundary adjustments, expansion of existing schools, purchasing and repurposing vacant office buildings for schools, and construction of new schools.

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

Prosecuting simple possession of marijuana is costly to taxpayers and criminalizes what has become acceptable use of this substance. Fairfax County should follow suit.

8. Many jurisdictions are ending the use of cash bail, what is your position on this issue?

The requirement of cash bail penalizes those who cannot afford to post bond and keeps in jail individuals who have not been proven guilty. Unless there is a compelling public safety issue, cash bail should be eliminated.

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.

The number of new jobs to be created annually by Amazon is only a fraction of the number of jobs the DC metro area produces, so Amazon will not have an enormous impact on its own, and its impact can be positive if properly planned. For example, it could spark development of new housing in the Richmond Highway Corridor, increasing the supply of housing, providing opportunities for provision of affordable units, and speeding up construction of the planned Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system that will provide enhanced access to employment centers for both new and existing residents.

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

Every decision and all policies need to be considered through the One Fairfax lens. The social equity adopted in the One Fairfax resolution is essential to the county's economic success. I am a long-time member of the county's Economic Advisory Commission, and we adopted social equity as one of our six planks of the "Strategic Plan for the Economic Success of Fairfax County" several years before One Fairfax. We did this because we realized that equity is not only right and fair, it is smart policy.

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?

As described in the answer to question 4, the county should work with non—profit housing providers, co-locate affordable housing at new and renovated public facilities, and make zoning changes to enable houses of worship to more easily include affordable housing on their properties.

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?

The county must respect private property rights as market rents change. However, increasing the supply of rental units through zoning changes and denser developments around transit will help hold back rent increases. In addition, as described in the answer to question 4, I will work with all types of housing providers to create and maintain the affordable housing needed in the county.