

**Providence District Supervisor Candidate: Phil Niedzielski-Eichner**  
NAACP Candidate Questionnaire

1. Will you support the renaming Robert E. Lee High School?

Yes, I am opposed to using Confederate heroes to assert primacy of Whites over African Americans. Lee High School was named at a time when Virginia fought against Brown v. Board of Education and Jim Crow practices were prevalent. In this instance, who/what society honors, society endorses.

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

I do not have an opinion of the AAP program as it is currently implemented.

I firmly believe in the principle that all Fairfax County Public School students must have equal access to programs and opportunities commensurate with their needs.

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 Chaired of the Use of Force Subcommittee of the Police Practices Review Commission that recommended adopting body worn cameras for all patrol officers. Further, I led the post-Review Commission Report implementation working group effort that drove the implementation of over 90% of the Ad Hoc Commission's 200 recommendations, including BWCs. I will as Supervisor vote to support implementing BWC, contingent on assurances that individual privacy will be protected. Indeed, I will propose the establishment of an "Independent Digital Data Control Agency." This Agency will be assigned responsibility for protecting all Fairfax County digital law enforcement data -- to include dashboard, body-worn and drone-carried cameras -- and releasing it only by an independent authority under strict privacy guidelines.

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 the proposals of the AHRP report, including:

- Increasing the Penny for Affordable Housing Fund by one additional cent (for a total of one and a half cents) on the real estate tax rate, equating to approximately \$24 million on an annual basis, for a total annual set-aside of \$38 million.
- Supporting preservation of existing affordable housing units, by reaffirming commitment to "no net loss" of existing market affordable units in Fairfax and prioritizing the current "half penny" for Affordable Housing Fund to support preservation.
- Continuing to offer additional density in return for incorporating affordable units in residential

and mixed-use developments.

- Continuing to utilize land use policies to facilitate development of housing by encouraging voluntary transfer of development rights, bonus density and, perhaps, height exceptions, and trading a reduction in parking requirements for access to multi-modal transportation options.

For those families who still cannot access affordable housing, we must ensure that government services are available and accessible to assist them in finding other options. While we must have the political will to move these initiatives forward, we must also recognize that the Fairfax housing budget is heavily dependent on federal government funds. Many of the programs that I support are not supported by the current administration. Recently, for example, the President proposed cutting HUD by \$8.6 billion and eliminating Section 8 vouchers and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

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

I helped craft the Civilian Review Panel (CRP) charter, consistent with the direction provided by the Board of Supervisors. As Supervisor, I will advocate for an independent review of the implementation of the Civilian Review Panel for lessons learned and in relation to national best practice. I will be open to modifying the CRP charter and operating procedures should this independent review recommend doing so.

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

As current Providence District Planning Commissioner and former School Board member, I have recommended or approved eight Capital Improvement Programs. I have seen firsthand FCPS' capital needs and have consistently advocated for FCPS to undertake a comprehensive review of school boundaries and make changes as needed to reduce overcrowding and more fully utilize the space for those schools who operate under design capacity.

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

Yes, if the marijuana is for personal use and if retail sales are managed by state-regulated stores.

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

I support eliminating cash bail for civil cases or minor criminal offenses.

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 believe that Amazon will have a net positive effect on our region. The jobs generated by Amazon's business ventures will create higher-value job opportunities, promote small business development, and help diversify an economy dominated by federal-agency expenditures for goods and services.

I am concerned, however, with the rising cost of housing and our ability to provide affordable options. Further, I've knocked on over two thousand doors since I entered this campaign in January and have met many voters who are frustrated with the impact— perceived or real – of development on their lives.

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

I support the One Fairfax Policy enacted by the Board of Supervisors as a lens through which policies, programs, and procedures are considered and investment decisions are made. The legacy of systemic discrimination and racism remains in many of our housing practices and I will be a strong advocate for achieving greater social justice and racial equity in housing.

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?

I will advocate for the increase of a penny for the Affordable Housing Fund by one additional cent (for a total one and a half cents) on the real estate tax rate, equating to approximately \$24 million on an annual basis, for a total annual set-aside of \$38 million. I promise to make affordable housing one of my priority issues.

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 “if possible” in this context allows the County to hedge against unknown conditions that might cause the loss of the current inventory of affordable housing. I support the AHRP report recommendation that the inventory of Fairfax “market affordable” housing be protected and increased.