

**Providence District Supervisor Candidate: Dalia Palchik**

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, just as I supported and helped to rename Justice HS, I would support changing the name of Lee HS. I think it is important that we understand why these schools were named the way they are, and the history and context surrounding that. Just because they are part of our history, does not mean that we need to glorify that past on our buildings and in our modern-day community. I also think it is important that all students feel welcome, accepted, and empowered at their own school, and a name can have a lot to do with that.

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

We need to look at the models that work to support ALL kids, not just some kids. I fully support our proposed review of these programs to help attain more equity and access to higher thinking and expectations for ALL students. While I believe that the AAP curriculum is an excellent resource, it is currently creating a system that often segregates students within schools or programs. I believe more students should have access to the right curriculum and project-based learning to help achieve their potential. Just as we are working to increase inclusion for students with disabilities and twice exceptional students, we need to do the same for all abilities. Students certainly need to be challenged in school, but different students excel in different subject areas, and we need to teach to the whole child. Some examples of more equitable ways to achieve this are to have more programs and trainings in every school, focus on project-based learning and real-life problem solving, increase bias and culturally responsive education and training, and to have additional flexibility in how we group kids to help them meet more of their needs at their base school. Some of our own programs that have shown the most equity for access to AAP have a local-based approach, and often pair that with local language immersion. A prime example is Braddock Elementary School.

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)

I certainly support the concept of body worn cameras, but it is my understanding after the pilot program was complete that the funds to launch this full time would be exorbitant. It is my understanding we would have to find a way to cut back on something else in the budget, or raise the real estate tax rate in order to fund the body worn camera program, which would include costs for storing the data. I would need to gain a firmer understanding of the best way to fund the program, and work with other members of the Board of Supervisors and the community to help us find a plan forward. I also look forward to reading the results of the pilot program study to help make these decisions.

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?

While I am proud of Fairfax County's many achievements, I also spend much of my time thinking about all the families who struggle day by day to pay the rent or pay the mortgage in order to call Fairfax County their home. Many families who would love to locate here simply cannot afford it, and we lose the opportunity to welcome them to our community. I believe that a community is at its best when people of all ages, backgrounds and income brackets have the opportunity to put down roots, raise their families, and age in place. A large part of fully realizing the vision of "One Fairfax" must include pursuing new affordable housing and workforce housing options for young professionals, restaurant workers, teachers, public safety personnel, people with disabilities, and older adults. If we are committed to living out the vision of inclusivity in our communities, then finding creative ways to increase housing that is affordable must be a priority. This includes public funding, as well as incentives and land use policies to help preserve and increase market-based housing. Just as Arlington County created a plan and a fund to help reach their goals, I believe we need to work quickly to help address our needs. Recently, I was excited to hear a number of recommendations on affordable housing by a group of community stakeholders at a Board of Supervisors Budget Committee Meeting on March 12. This group (The Affordable Housing Resources Panel) was made up of residents from nonprofit, private and public sectors. They recommended that a minimum of 5,000 new homes affordable to households earning up to 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) be produced in Fairfax County over the next 15 years. To achieve this goal, the group proposed that future members of the Board of Supervisors allocate the equivalent of one penny on the tax rate to be used for capital purposes to support the creation of new homes that are affordable. They also recommended that a future Board of Supervisors develop a package of innovative land use policies to facilitate the development of affordable housing, proactively identify opportunities to co-locate affordable housing with bond-funded county capital facilities, consider a countywide proffer policy on commercial contributions that are used for affordable housing production, and partner with houses of worship to identify opportunities for housing development on land owned by faith communities, to name a few. As a candidate for Providence District Supervisor of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I am running to be at the table and play an active role in these future discussions regarding affordable housing in our communities. Especially in Providence District, it is important that we work to improve affordable housing options and availability so that all our residents from Oakton to Tysons to Falls Church can increase their economic mobility and self-sufficiency to help create a "One Fairfax" that works for all.

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

Yes, and I would work with our partners in Richmond to help increase our local ability to do so. In a Dillon Rule state, this means that we need to partner with the state to allow

more flexibility.

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

We need to build more schools via the Capital Improvement Plan and bond funding. We will need to move forward with the planned boundary adjustment to help the County ensure a better distribution of students and facility space.

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

Yes, I do. I see this as a social justice issue that plays into the disparities we see in the rates of incarceration and penalties faced by people of color.

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

I strongly support eliminating cash bail. I believe it is wrong for people who have not been convicted of a crime to have to spend the night in jail, or even months in jail, just because they cannot afford bail. This again is a social justice issue. Bail is a system that rewards those who are wealthy, and punishes those who are not. It has nothing to do with level of guilt. While I understand the shortcomings and unintended consequences that may come with risk assessments and conditional release programs, I think the more we can come up with alternatives like these and refine them, the better off we will be as a society.

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.

While I am happy to see more jobs and a big boost to the economy coming to our area, I am concerned about housing prices continuing to inflate, increased traffic congestion, and a large influx of students in our school system. I think we need to make sure Fairfax County is at the table with Arlington and Alexandria so that we can address these issues and infrastructure needs as a region. I think we should take advantage of this time before Amazon arrives to figure out where we think many of these employees will live, and plan accordingly. It is helpful to know that not all Amazon employees will show up in Northern Virginia overnight - they will come to the campus over time. But still, the impact will be significant and we need to be working on coming up with a game plan now.

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

Students throughout our school system should have access to equal resources, quality teachers, programs and amenities to ensure that everyone receives an excellent education, regardless of his or her zip code. Education is an incredible way to lift families out of poverty and to open up new opportunities for young people to build a better life for themselves. I believe

this education also needs to include access to pre-K as well as wrap-around services at local schools.

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?

It is a big problem. There is such huge demand to live in Fairfax County, and not enough affordable housing opportunities to meet the demand. I am in favor adopting many of the recommendations made by the Affordable Housing Resources Panel just a few months ago. They recommended allocating the equivalent of one penny on the tax rate to be used for capital purposes to support the creation of new homes that are affordable, identifying opportunities to co-locate affordable housing with bond-funded county capital facilities, and partnering with houses of worship to identify opportunities for housing development on land owned by faith communities, to name a few. I would support these initiatives to help all those who want to live in our community, but aren't able to make the Housing Choice Voucher waitlist.

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 agree that we should aim to preserve as many affordable units as possible, but the government does not always have direct control over what private landlords do with their property. That is what I think the term "if possible" means in that context. I think the government can provide incentives to property owners and landlords, and possibly enter into some public-private partnerships to help preserve affordable units, but we cannot guarantee that all private units will remain the same as they are currently. The Affordable Housing Resources Panel recommended keeping one penny on the tax rate dedicated to preserving these units, and I support that level of funding going towards such an important effort.