

**BOS Chair Candidate: Joe Galdo**

NAACP Candidate Questionnaire

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

As we have seen elsewhere – including right here in Fairfax County – school name changes are often nasty, divisive, and expensive. I would rather see our county’s finite time and money spent on classroom instruction and tutoring programs, with a particular focus on minority student achievement.

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

The existing Gifted and Talented programs are fine – but we need programs for all students, designed to meet their unique needs, so they can all reach their full potential.

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 would vote to fund the use of body worn cameras for the county’s law enforcement officers. Body worn cameras could help verify complaints of police mistreatment of civilians, and perhaps deter misconduct in the first place. They could also deter false claims of misconduct – everybody stands to win.

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?

Housing subsidies often do more harm than good. Shrinking, not growing, the government’s role is the way to bring about more affordable housing in the long run.

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

I am very open to increasing the civilian review panel's role.

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

I believe Fairfax County would benefit greatly from educational choice – whether it comes in the form of charter schools, tuition scholarship vouchers and/or tuition tax credits. Parents would be free to choose non-district schools, thus relieving pressure on district classrooms.

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

Ultimately, it is the Commonwealth Attorney's decision to make. My personal view, however, is that our county should focus on more serious crimes.

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

I agree that we should end the use of cash bail.

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 imagine it will be a mixed bag. The biggest downsides could include more stress on our county's infrastructure and schools. Now more than ever, we need to refocus on the basics of county government. I am determined to streamline and modernize our county government, while budgeting for outcomes.

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

A child's ZIP code should not determine his or her prospects in life. Educational choice programs – especially if non-public schools are included – would significantly narrow both socioeconomic and racial achievement gaps. For this reason, I believe that we should consider charter schools, tuition scholarship vouchers, and other means of empowering families with educational options.

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?

The current housing choice voucher program should be administered efficiently and fairly. To make Fairfax County more affordable in general, we need to streamline government and lighten up on taxes. We should always remember that high property taxes hurt renters, too.

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?

First, government must do no harm. Too often, government incentivizes development that destroys affordable commercial and residential units. Allocating scarce resources efficiently is what markets do best. We should allow the market to provide various kinds of housing for all. That means, among other things, streamlining regulations and getting taxes as low as possible.