

BOS Chair Candidate: Supervisor Jeff McKay

NAACP Candidate Questionnaire

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

Yes – I was pleased to hear the School Board started taking the steps necessary to change the name of the school. South County is home to some of our most diverse residents, and it's critical that all our students and their families feel safe and welcome in their schools. We've come a long way as a community and we must show that progress by renaming Robert E. Lee High School.

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

Though I support the AAP program conceptually, I do not support the way it's implemented in Fairfax County. At Springfield Estates Elementary School, there is an AAP program that masks poverty in the surrounding community. Without the AAP program, the school would qualify as a Title I school, thus opening itself up to additional staffing and financial support and assistance. Instead, it's treated the same as "any other" school in our area. If we are to continue the AAP program, we must do so equitably and productively so as not to harm our neighborhood schools. I am a strong believer in community schools and currently the AAP program is beyond capacity and decisions to allow more students is damaging many schools in my community and I am very concerned about this subject. In addition, the facility impacts, traffic impacts, etc. on the community around the centers does not seem to be adequately evaluated.

3) Do you support the use of police body-worn cameras?

Yes – Our community supports the cameras, our officers support the cameras, and I personally support the cameras. Police body-worn cameras would help all of us feel safer, be accountable, and eliminate doubt and subjectivity. As our Board's Budget Committee Chairman, I supported the launch of the pilot program and I will – this year – make a motion as part of our Budget to fund the program's first year.

4) The County has determined a need for new housing to shelter 15,000 new families making less than \$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?

The County should attempt to accommodate all people identified. What was identified was a floor, but I think we can go well beyond that number. We have a high number of projects in the pipeline, an innovative ability to do land use, and increased efforts for the County to acquire land to build additional affordable housing. As we continue to generate jobs, the County needs to house the entire spectrum of the workforce. I am committed to working to create housing opportunities that work for all, as I have been doing in Lee District for more than a decade.

Frankly, if all other districts of the County embraced affordable housing like we do and will continue to do in Lee District, we would not have the affordable housing shortages we now face.

5) Would you support increasing the power of the Civilian Review Panel?

I was proud to support the creation of the Civilian Review Panel in December of 2016. This action, along with the creation of the Independent Police Auditor position, were two major steps needed to review our Police Department's policies, practices, and actions, as well as strengthen the trust needed between the community and officers. The Panel's annual report was released on March 21, 2019. As part of that work, a discussion will ensue about what should change and what should not. I am open to increasing the power of the Civilian Review Panel but would first want to engage in a discussion with all stakeholders (including the members of the panel and the NAACP) about what might be needed.

6) What do you believe the County should do to address overcrowding in schools?

As our Board's Budget Committee Chairman, I'm proud to have increased the amount of dollars we give to FCPS for capital improvements in recent years by \$25 million per year in perpetuity. We have also reduced the number of trailers at our schools by nearly 150 in the last four years. Years ago, I also served on the Infrastructure Finance Committee. That committee recommended \$13 million more a year from a sinking fund to go to schools' capital needs. We have now been doing that for years, which allows schools to do major maintenance without having to dip into their capital fund. This combined \$38 million a year has made a difference. In addition to continuing to make these significant investments, the County and FCPS must better identify and capitalize on available space in schools. Lastly, we must fight to ensure an equitable distribution of programs exists. Our capacity issues are about money, a lack of boundary changes when needed, and academic program decisions. All must be addressed.

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

Though the County Board of Supervisors cannot alone change this law, I am happy to advocate for changes alongside the NAACP. It is clear far too many people, especially people of color, are in jail because of simple marijuana charges. That is a waste of resources and worse can damage people for life.

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

As with the last answer, I am personally supportive of this, but recognize action from other entities is required in order for such a change to be enacted. I am happy to advocate for such changes alongside the NAACP.

9) Do you believe Amazon moving to the area will have a negative impact on Fairfax County?

The arrival of Amazon to Crystal City will certainly impact Fairfax County. I believe it will do so both positively and negatively. First, the company will no doubt boost our local economy and help some of the County's major initiatives (such as Embark Richmond Highway) come to fruition. In addition, the Virginia Tech campus will benefit our County residents who need technology courses to gain better jobs. According to the Economic Development Authority, we have 97,000 open jobs in our economy now. This campus should help people with job advancement. However, because of the company's size and popularity, it also has the potential to impact us negatively. We've taken a particular focus on affordable housing and transportation, but there are still other impacts we don't yet know. This is why I did a Board Matter, which passed unanimously, requesting that staff participate in regional forums, study the potential impacts to Fairfax County, and host a forum for our residents and community. As that study, which is underway, continues on, I am committed to continuing to form task forces (such as the Embark Affordable Housing Advisory Group) and charging them to come up with aggressive policies to protect our most vulnerable residents.

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

One of my biggest successes since being elected Lee District Supervisor was the passage of the One Fairfax resolution and policy. I was proud to co-author its language, ensuring that all County decisions are examined through an equity lens to ensure equal opportunity for all. This policy is one I championed throughout the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team (SCYPT) process and was proud, alongside Supervisor Hudgins, to be the principal instigator. I have fought for equity in my district for the past 11+ years and am glad it is recognized Countywide now. That being said, the policy was not written to single out one specific application. The Board of Supervisors and County staff face dozens if not hundreds of decisions every day. In the process of making each of those decisions, equity must be an intentional focal point. That is the crux of One Fairfax. It's to ensure budgetary decisions help all areas of the County. It's to ensure places like the new South County Domestic Violence Shelter exist so residents along Route One don't need to drive/ride to North County for protection. It's to ensure all of our high school students are given the opportunity to play on top-notch fields with the best equipment, not just those with highly effective booster clubs. One Fairfax must be used in literally every decision we make. I'm proud of that, and I'm proud to see it working. We must continue to evaluate all we do – not just a few things – under this lens.

11) When the Housing and Community Development Office opened its housing choice voucher wait 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?

Our federal resources are extremely limited, so the County must first take action to protect the housing and number of vouchers we have now. We must also continue to find innovative ways to use those federal resources. For those who are on the waiting list, our County efforts must be focused on (1) producing more affordable housing for those who need it and (2) ensuring those

receiving vouchers are moving on a path to self-sustainability. I think the recent housing report and the Embark Housing report that I co-sponsored give us a roadmap moving forward that we must implement.

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?

Every land deal and land use case in Fairfax County is different. Unfortunately, our ability to control what a particular landowner does can be somewhat limited in certain circumstances. To me, the use of “if possible” highlights this. However, regardless of the language included in the policy, I know we must do more for affordable housing and will not hesitate to ensure every developer who meets with me knows this. It’s a top priority of mine, and I know it’s a top priority of the community’s.

I was glad to see that the Affordable Housing Resources Panel strongly recommended using the existing one-half penny from the Penny Fund for preservation. It’s critical that we not only continue but enhance our efforts to preserve affordable housing in the County.

Additionally, at our next Board of Supervisors meeting, I am doing a Board Matter jointly with Supervisor Storck to formally adopt the recommendations of an affordable housing work group we created following our adoption of Embark Richmond Highway. Those recommendations also called for “no net loss” of affordable housing and will serve as guidelines for every new land use case that comes before the Board of Supervisors for action. More efforts like these are necessary to protect the County’s affordable housing.