



GSSCC Candidate Questionnaire County Executive & County Council

Name: __Rosemary Arkoian_____

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Elected Office You are Seeking: Montgomery County Council At-Large Candidate_____

Legislative District: District 2 (County) and District 39 (State)_____

Number of Years Lived in that District: _39 years_____

Party Affiliation: _Democrat_____

Relevant Non-governmental Professional Experience/Positions Held: __Former Linguist/ Intelligence Research Analyst at National Security Agency, Ft. Meade, MD (Russian and Arabic)_____

1. GSSCC believes that a thriving business community brings prosperity for all of our citizens by increasing the number of good private sector jobs and expanding the tax base to support necessary public services.
 - Please list all the initiatives/legislation you have supported/or would support to foster the growth of existing businesses and encourage new business creation.
I would cut out much of the red tape for small businesses, especially. Market Mont. Co. As a business friendly place.
 - Please describe your plan for increasing the tax base – rather than tax rates – in the County.
I'd bring in more businesses, small and large. I'd form Public/ Private relationships.
 - What is your plan for making Montgomery County more attractive to businesses looking to expand or relocate (i.e. increased tax incentives, subsidies, streamlining the development approval process)?
 - I'd support increased tax incentives and I'd definitely streamline the development approval process.

2. Montgomery County leaders have continued to approve increases in the County's operating budget that require spending at levels exceeding private sector growth. GSSCC believes the County government needs to do a better job of living within its means. This is even more important given the recent announcement of a \$120 million revenue shortfall for the current fiscal year.
 - Did you or would you have supported the 2016 property tax increase?
No, I wouldn't have supported the 2016 property tax increase.
 - Did you or would you have supported the 2016 recordation tax increase?
No, I wouldn't have supported the recordation tax increase.
 - Did you or would you have supported the eventual phase out of the County's exorbitant energy tax?
I would support the eventual phase out of the County's exorbitant energy tax.
 - Other than raising taxes, what ideas do you have for creating an economy that will meet the growing needs of county residents?
I'd cut out the duplication of effort in the various government departments. I believe there's waste in our spending. I'd be more frugal and careful in our spending practices. Waste not, want not! Again, work on Public/ Private Partnerships.
 - Would you support consolidation of some County Government functions in order to reduce costs? If so, please describe which programs or services you would recommend be consolidated, reduced, or eliminated.

I would support consolidation of some County Govt. functions in order to reduce costs. I'd need to study more closely the various depts. And use a commonsense approach to consolidating, reducing, or eliminating programs/services.

- Other comments:

I think sometimes, Montgomery County suffers from PARALYSIS by ANALYSIS.

3. In recent years, our members have faced an increasing number of federal, state, and expanded local regulations that directly impact their ability to remain viable.
 - Did you or would you have supported the additional increase to the Montgomery County minimum wage to \$15 by 2020?
I have concerns about how small businesses would be able to stay in business with increase in minimum wage.
 - Did you or would you have supported mandatory sick leave, even for part-time employees?
I'd support mandatory sick leave for full time employees, but perhaps not for part-time employees.
 - Do you support an employer's right to hire and schedule its employees according to its individual needs?
Yes.
 - Do you support legislation that dictates minimum work hours or scheduling requirements?
No.
 - What policy ideas do you have to enhance the success of our member job-creators?
I'd need to study this matter more closely.
 - Other comments:
4. Prior to considering any legislation, the County Council seeks a Fiscal Impact Statement to determine the impact of that legislation on the County's budget.
 - Would you support a law that requires the same kind of analysis to determine the fiscal economic impact on businesses and non-profits, prior to consideration and enactment of any new law or regulation?
Yes.
 - Would you require that this analysis include interviews and discussions with actual business owners?
Yes.
 - Why or why not?
Actual business owners would know more than any County Council members would know.
5. Many of our small- and medium-sized business members feel that the policies adopted most recently by County government reflect a lack of appreciation for the contributions they make to our community. Please describe your understanding of the difference between the challenges faced by large multinational companies and small locally owned/operated businesses. Provide three specific examples of how you will support small businesses and ensure opportunities for them to grow and expand.
Small businesses don't have as much money as large multinational companies. We need to nurture and support our small businesses. Have more public campaigns to tell citizens to shop their local small businesses. Have mentors for small start-up businesses. Cut down on the red tape.
6. The Silver Spring Central Business District was envisioned to become a smart-growth live/work/play community. However, in recent years, Silver Spring has evolved into a primarily residential neighborhood (bedroom community), with virtually no commercial office development in the past 10 years. Local retailers and restaurants are feeling the brunt of having fewer and fewer customers during office hours. What will you do to address this and help bring more businesses back to Silver Spring?
I'd work on marketing Silver Spring as a wonderful community to not only live in, but also to shop and dine in.
7. The Route 29 Corridor in Eastern Montgomery County has suffered from a lack of commercial and other development for many years. Traffic congestion has increased, and most of it is through traffic to the Beltway or downtown D.C. Few, if any new employment opportunities have been created to provide jobs

that would take these cars off the road. What are you going to do to ensure economic development that brings new businesses to Silver Spring including downtown and the East County/Rt. 29 Corridor?
Same answer as in the previous question.

8. The Chamber supports a balanced approach to transportation policies that take into account the needs of our member businesses, their employees, their customers, and their vendors. That balance must accommodate those who use public transit, drive on our roads, travel by bicycle and on foot, and need sufficient parking options at their destination.
 - Please describe your approach to finding the right balance of transit, roads, parking, and other transportation options.
We need to have more transit near where people live. We need to try to fix 270 and we need completion of the 5.6 miles of M-83 for the Upcounty.
 - How will you assure the future success of the Metro?
I'd take a regional approach and get all 3 areas, Mont. Co., No. VA, and DC to all help fund Metro.
 - What will you do to address the needs and concerns of businesses that expect to be harmed financially during the construction of The Purple Line?
We perhaps need to give them some tax breaks.
9. What is your vision for the future of greater Silver Spring and Montgomery County over the next 5 years?
I'd like to see Montgomery County and greater Silver Spring grow to their full potential by investing in our businesses, our educational opportunities for all, young and old, and be more mindful of our environment and climate change.
10. If elected, how will you measure your success at the end of your term?
I believe if I LISTEN to the citizens, do my homework and compare the pro's and con's of various issues, be honest, diligent, persistent, and always available to the citizens, then I will have achieved my desire to serve "the average citizen, and not the special interests".