



2022 Endorsement Questionnaire - Prince George's County Council  
[All Responses Will be Made Public]

Candidate Name: Stanford Fraser  
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Council Seat Sought: At-Large

1. How does your life experience qualify you for the office you seek?
  - a. My young career has been dedicated to public service. At Howard, I volunteered on the campaign to repeal the death penalty in Maryland. In law school, I dedicated my second and third years of school to representing tenants and foreclosed homeowners in Boston's Housing Court. Today, I work as a public defender representing working class people who can't afford a lawyer. My life experiences have taught me how to advocate for changes to unjust laws. It has taught me how to negotiate against individuals who have more bargaining power than me. And it has taught me to never be afraid to be a fighter for justice. I'll bring my life experience and lessons from my legal career to office
2. What have the primary sources of your campaign's fundraising been, both in this campaign and past campaigns?
  - a. This is my first campaign. My primary source of fundraising has been donations from friends, family, and supporters. I've made calls to almost every person I've ever met in my life. And I use social media posts & advertising to gain more donations. I've had friends host mini fundraisers in their homes and have hosted small zoom fundraisers for my campaign. I'm proud to be a grassroots candidate.
3. In 2018, the Prince George's County Council approved a small-donor public financing program for Council and Executive races to come into effect for the 2026 election. As yet, the Fair Election Fund Commission has not been set up and no funding has been allocated to the program. Do you support the small donor public financing program? If elected to the Council, will you work to ensure the program is funded each year leading up to the full funding needed for the 2026 election?
  - a. Simple answer, heck yea.
4. In 1992, through a citizen-driven referendum, a two-term limit was placed on council

members which the council repeatedly attempted to repeal over the years and repeatedly failed. As a result of the addition of two at-large seats on the council in 2016, the two-term limit has been diluted with council members allowed to jump from at-large to district seats and back without limit. Do you think district membership on the council is significantly different from at-large membership? Would you support or oppose the reinstatement of strict two-term limits?

- a. I do believe district membership can be different from district membership. In theory, at large candidates should be thinking about the best ways to serve the entire county as a whole. While a district council member may have a more narrow focus. Still, given the history of term limits in the county, and voters' constant rejection of removing term limits, I would support the reinstatement of the strict two term limits in the county.

4. What is your position on the Maryland MAGLEV train proposal?

- a. I'm opposed to the Maglev train. I've done canvasses opposing its construction. (I will attach photos to this questionnaire.) I think there are better alternatives to improve our public transportation. Improvements to the marc train line such as improving penn station and updating the tunnel in Baltimore can greatly decrease travel times for commuters. And given the extra funding allocated to Amtrak in the Biden stimulus packages, there is a real possibility that improvements along the Northeast corridor will be more beneficial than the proposed Maglev train.

5. There is a great shortage of affordable housing in Prince George's County. What role can the County government have in creating policies that will provide affordable housing for residents at all income levels? How will you engage on this issue?

- a. The County government plays an important role in creating policies to ensure affordable housing for all. One of the best ways to maintain stable families and encourage affordable housing is with housing subsidies and land use policies that increase the supply of affordable housing. This can be done by expanding cooperatives like the greenbelt GHI, inclusionary zoning, preserving units through the right of first refusal, and building housing instead of surface parking lots at our various metro and marc stations. Our strategy for affordable housing needs to include the creation of market rate housing to meet the demand to live in this area. And policies such as community land trusts and inclusionary zoning near metros to increase the supply of below market housing.

6. As part of the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 (HB670-2021), the Maryland General Assembly requires each county to set up a Police Accountability Board (PAB). Prince George's County Council must pass legislation to fulfill this State mandate.

- a. Do you support incorporating the functions of the existing Citizen Complaint Oversight Panel in the PAB?
  - a. Yes!
- b. How would you ensure that the composition of the PAB reflects the community?
  - a. We need to have an open application process that includes advance notice to the public. We also need to clearly define the role and powers of our PAB so potential applicants can assess if they want to apply.
- c. Do you support a PAB with subpoena powers and paid investigators to effectively review complaints of police misconduct filed by members of the public?
  - a. Yes, yes, and yes.

- d. Do you support adequate funding to staff the PAB to investigate the number of complaints filed, including budgeting for independent legal counsel?
  - a. Yes. Investigative powers are almost worthless if the board doesn't have the staffing or funding to do actual investigations.

7. The County Council approved a councilmanic district map that was very different from the map created by the independent Redistricting Commission appointed by the council. The map was found illegal by two separate levels of our judicial system. Please share your thoughts on the Council's map, public opposition to the map, and the judicial finding.

- a. I'm beyond pleased that the map was thrown out by the courts. But I'm disheartened and angry the County attempted to pass the gerrymandered map in the first place. And even more surprised that the council went through with passing the map even after 150 individuals testified against it at a public hearing. Still the community relaying against the council's actions demonstrates the potential for organizing a stronger and better county for working people.

8. The County has a massive backlog in school maintenance, renovation, replacement, and expansion, which former Board Chair and education stalwart, Dr. Alvin Thornton, has attributed in large part to 20 years of historical racial discrimination towards Prince George's students.

- a. The County's solution to part of this problem has been to engage in a Public-Private Partnership for the construction and maintenance of six middle schools - the first county in the entire country to engage in a P3 for school construction. Do you think that using private capital with significantly higher interest rates that places the burden on Prince George's taxpayers is a viable model to address historical racial discrimination or should the State make Prince George's schools whole through State funding.
  - a. I wasn't the biggest fan of the P3 for school construction. And I want to closely follow the program for the next few years before we attempt new p3 programs for construction in the future.
- b. What is the solution to fixing the huge remaining backlog in school maintenance, renovation, replacement, and expansion?
  - a. Thankfully, we have received the largest amount of funding from the state in our history. This allows us to use some of those funds for school construction and maintenance.
- c. What actions do you think the County should take to ensure that school capacity matches current and future demand?
  - a. One method of making sure school capacity matches current and future demand is to follow our zoning and community plans without using the text based zoning process. When council members change zoning without public comment and notice it can change community density to the point that current school infrastructure can't meet community needs.

9. Should the Prince George's School Board be restored to a fully elected body? Why or why not?

- a. Yes. We have seen the hybrid model cause dysfunction in our current school board. In order for the public to influence our school board and hold our leaders accountable a fully

elected school board is a must.

10. Through legislation and through zoning and land use decisions, the Council plays a decisive role in county planning, and that planning drives transportation demand, demand for services and facilities, environmental and public health impacts, greenhouse gas emissions, and many other impacts. The Zoning Ordinance Rewrite eliminates the requirement that developers file Conceptual Site Plans (CSPs) for certain kinds of projects. CSPs provide critical opportunities for public review and comment on land use proposals early in the development process. Will you commit to working to restore the requirement for CSPs as soon as possible?

- a. The zoning rewrite was a years-long process to update our zoning code. One way to ensure affordable housing is to make it easier and cheaper for companies to build housing units in the county. So the focus should be on a zoning code that allows for appropriate by right construction that meets the needs of a community and matches our smart growth plan for the county. Additionally, CSPs play a vital role when a developer submits a proposal for a zoning variance. And I support efforts to make sure zoning variances that don't meet the zoning requirements of a community include CSPs so the public can have input in the designing of their communities.

11. The County Council often uses Zoning Text Amendment bills to rewrite the Zoning Ordinance on the fly and to help developers advance certain projects without going through the normal public review process. ZTAs weaken the Zoning Ordinance and undermine the public's right to know and to have a meaningful say on development proposals. Will you commit to working to end or severely curtail the use of ZTAs and to ensuring that:

- a. Any ZTA bill filed includes a list and map of all of the potentially affected properties, as well as analysis of the potential impacts on communities, the environment, agricultural lands, and demand on public services and facilities?
  - a. I definitely want to severely curtail if not eliminate the use of text based zoning amendments in the county. I will make sure potentially impacted properties and communities are identified and evaluated in the ZTA process.
- b. For each potentially affected property, the Council notifies all adjoining property owners, local community associations and watershed organizations, and local municipalities, by first-class mail and no less than 60 days prior to any public hearing on the ZTA?
  - a. One of the biggest problems with the text based zoning amendment process is the lack of public notice and input. I support policy changes to make sure the public is informed of any ZTAs and that the public could comment on any ZTAs.

12. In May of 2021, the County Council unanimously passed CR-027-2021 in support of a single payer Medicare for All system at the federal level, becoming the first county in Maryland to support the federal legislative initiative. The resolution cited the increase in racial health disparities due to the pandemic that only a single-payer system could address. The resolution also pointed out that Medicare for All "would reduce County spending on healthcare and enable local governments across our state to invest additional dollars into education, environmental protection, housing assistance, and other critical services." Will you join the County Council in calling on our Congressional delegation to support and enact federal legislation for a single-payer system?

- a. Heck yea, a universal healthcare system is a must for working people in America. While the county council has little to no power to create universal healthcare, I'm dedicated to using our limited powers to push out federal elected officials in the right direction.