



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

Candidate Name: Victor Ramirez  
Contact Email: Victor@Victorramirez.com  
Council Seat Sought: District 2

1. How does your life experience qualify you for the office you seek?

I was raised in Mt. Rainier and have represented a majority of District 2 for 16 years as a State Delegate and State Senator. My family and I came to the United States in 1980 soon after the civil war in El Salvador began. My parents brought my siblings and I to the states for a better life and to escape the war. My parents did not have the opportunity to attend college but they sacrificed their lives in order for my siblings and I to be able to graduate from college. I have seen firsthand the effects of a corrupted government and how a selected few families oppressed and ruled a whole country. Good government and transparency are very important to me and it should be for every elected official. Public service is my passion because I know personally that government programs can play a important role in helping people live a better life.

2. What have the primary sources of your campaign's fundraising been, both in this campaign and past campaigns?

Most of my campaign contributions have been from my constituents and small business owners.

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?

Yes, I fully support the small donor public financing program and I'm committed to fully funding the program for the next 2026 election.

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?

Yes, I do believe district membership is very different from at-large membership. I will support the reinstatement of strict two-term limits. Elections are expensive and in order to run county wide it takes a lot of money and it allows for deep pocket money, i.e. developers, to influence who gets elected to those seats. I also believe that deep pocket money takes the power away from the citizens and who they would like to elect.

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

I'm against the Maryland MAGLEV train proposal.

6. 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?

The county can play a major role in affordable housing. I will propose legislation and support policies to allow for affordable housing. I support the county continuing to use the right of first refusal to reinvest in neglected properties and demand affordable units for properties that receive funding from the county through the housing trust fund and payment in lieu of taxes. Also, I support inclusionary zoning and the county should pass legislation for it. I also would encourage middle housing as part of an affordable housing strategy to be placed in infield development. Additionally, I'm in favor of legislation to allow the establishment of accessory dwelling units.

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? Yes, I do support the functions of the existing Citizen Complaint Oversight Panel in the PAB.
- b. How would you ensure that the composition of the PAB reflects the community?  
As I a council member before confirming nominations, I would make sure that the community is reflected in the composition of board and this diversity must be geographically, ethnically and racially.
- 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? Yes, I do.
- d. Do you support adequate funding to staff the PAB to investigate the number of complaints filed, including budgeting for independent legal counsel? Yes, I do.

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. I did not agree with the councilmanic district map. The councilmanic district map did not take into consideration county residents concerns and those who voted in favor of the map did not fully consider the public's

input. Also, it intentionally split districts to favor certain candidates over others. I fully support the independent Redistricting Commission's map.

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. My preference would be that county schools be built with state funding. I'm not certain that we should be the first county in the nation experimenting with this concept to build public schools.
- b. What is the solution to fixing the huge remaining backlog in school maintenance, renovation, replacement, and expansion? I think identifying a solution to this problem is complicated because school construction has been underfunded for such a long time, and it's going to take a lot of money that the county does not have at this time. Our county needs to increase our commercial tax base and should consider increasing taxes on new developments that do not include affordable housing.
- c. What actions do you think the County should take to ensure that school capacity matches current and future demand? The county needs to make sure new housing developments don't affect the capacity of our schools and new schools should be built to match not just current demand but future demand as well.

9. Should the Prince George's School Board be restored to a fully elected body? Why or why not? I support an elected school board in order to give a stronger voice to parents and to hold school board members accountable to the voters.

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?

Yes, I do commit to working to restore the requirement for CSPs as soon as possible.

11. The County Council often uses Zoning Text Amendment bills to rewrite the Zoning Ordinance on the 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:

I would work to severely curtail the use of ZTAs.

- 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? Yes, any ZTA bill filed should include these items and be shared in advance with the public.
- 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? Yes, I would press for this kind of disclosure to adjacent property owners at a minimum.

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? Yes, I will join the county council in calling on our congressional delegation to support and enact federal legislation for single-payer system.