



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

Candidate Name: Eve Shuman  
Contact Email: eve@eve4district3.com  
Council Seat Sought: District 3

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

I was raised by a single mother who immigrated to the United States from Haiti, and was the first in my family to graduate college. After graduating from Cornell Law School at twenty-four, I practiced in family law, often representing victims of domestic violence. I left a successful legal career and chose to become a public servant because, above all else, I care about people. Prince George's County is changing, so I believe we need progressive leaders that match the demographics and concerns of the electorate. District 3 is 85% Black and Brown, majority female, with a booming immigrant population, but our council representatives have not reflected the demographics of the people living here. I am running for the district 3 seat because:

1. I embody the modern, racially diverse, and politically progressive district.
2. I am running on a platform that promotes progressive solutions to issues surrounding crime, childcare, economic growth and prosperity, small business development, and equitable and environmentally sustainable infrastructure growth.
3. I have the vision, energy, acumen, and desire to deliver results for the residents of this district.

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

As a campaign, we've raised over \$100,000, most of which from individual donors. My husband and I are both attorneys and have been fortunate enough to have received financial support from the legal community, both from current and former colleagues and law school classmates.

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?

As a first-time candidate and a woman of color I know how hard it is to run a viable campaign. The inability to fundraise is a huge barrier for first-time candidates and prevents them from gaining any traction on the campaign trail. It also keeps those already in power from having meaningful challengers, which then breeds complacency and disregard for the needs of the people they represent. I am fully in favor of small-donor public financing and will work to fund and set-up the Fair Election and Fund Commission.

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?

I am fully in favor of two-term limits and am currently running against a candidate who is attempting to flout that legislation and return to the council after having already served two terms. However, I do believe that the at-large seats are different from the district seats. As U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen's regional director I had a bird's-eye view of the County Council and paid particular attention to the two new at-large seats. In function, the at-large members behaved distinctly from the district members, often acting in leadership and supportive roles. I did not receive the impression that the at-large members were acting as additional representatives for their respective native districts.

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

The MAGLEV is a great example of the kinds of development projects we should not be supporting. The MAGLEV will barrel through the County using magnetic levitation, connecting Baltimore to DC in its first stage. While the project has a glossy exterior, a deeper look reveals a much more troubling picture. I will oppose the MAGLEV for the following reasons:

- The environmental and structural impact caused by massive tunneling;
- The disruptive speeds of the train, which will tear through the District;
- The train itself will be too expensive for the average commuter;
- There will not be a stop in Prince George's County, so it's costs will not come with any added benefits to our community; and
- There is no guarantee that this project would create jobs for Prince Georgians in the short or long term.

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?

I fundamentally believe that all members of our county are entitled to safe, affordable, and environmentally friendly housing. In office, I will:

- Increase access to grants for first-time home buyers, particularly teachers and public safety service workers.
- I will promote public-private development projects that create affordable housing in a transparent manner that supports the wishes of our residents.
- I would support down-payment assistance, financial counseling, tax credits, and employment assistance programs.

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
- b. How would you ensure that the composition of the PAB reflects the community? The PAB needs to reflect the county's diversity, both racially and economically. To ensure that this happens, we must widely advertise PAB positions and be intentional about who we choose.
- 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
- d. Do you support adequate funding to staff the PAB to investigate the number of complaints filed, including budgeting for independent legal counsel? Yes

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 was opposed to the council's gerrymandered map, which effectively cut out candidates they did not like, or who posed a challenge to incumbents in the 2022 election cycle. This attempt to undermine democracy injected unnecessary discord and uncertainty into our process and only worked to erode trust in transparent and fair elections. I submitted testimony in opposition to the map and was pleased by the decisions of the county and appellate courts.

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.

While I'm in favor of using state funds to make Prince George's schools whole, I think that the P3 construction program was better suited to address the urgency of our deteriorating school buildings. We are now on the road to getting six new or renovated school buildings and, sadly, I don't believe that would have happened if we relied solely on our state partners to act.

- b. What is the solution to fixing the huge remaining backlog in school maintenance, renovation, replacement, and expansion?

This is such an urgent issue, and I believe that we need to use every available avenue to accomplish this goal. We need to grow our economy, focusing on development and expanding our commercial tax base. We can accomplish this with transit-oriented development, by creating livable downtown communities. We must also continue pushing for state dollars and utilizing the public-private partnership school construction program.

- c. What actions do you think the County should take to ensure that school capacity matches current and future demand?

As we continue to build, grow, and create density around our metro stations, we must also consider the population growth. New housing should never be approved without first considering whether the local schools can meet the demands of the growing population.

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

Yes, a fully elected body is more democratic and allows residents to choose their own school board representatives.

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?

My campaign has knocked over 7,000 doors in District 3 during this campaign cycle, and a common complaint is the lack of transparency in development. If the zoning rewrite makes the process less transparent then we are going in the wrong direction. I will work to restore CSPs when in office.

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? Yes.
- 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.

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, the pandemic has revealed and exacerbated racial disparities in our healthcare system. **I am supportive of a Medicare for All system and will be an advocate for it while on the council.**