



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

Candidate Name: **Patrice Murray**
Contact Email: **votepatricemurray@gmail.com**
Council Seat Sought: **District 4**

1. How does your life experience qualify you for the office you seek? **I have experience at all levels of government, Federal, State, Local & Municipal. Additionally, I have served my community as well as the county in various capacities.**
2. What have the primary sources of your campaign's fundraising been, both in this campaign and past campaigns? **Neighbors and friends have been my source as this is truly a grassroots campaign.**
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? **I will absolutely ensure the public financing program is funded in Prince George's County.**
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 in support of a strict two-term limit.**
4. What is your position on the Maryland MAGLEV train proposal? **I oppose the MAGLEV! There is no reason for Prince George's County residents to have this dangerous vehicle**

disrupt and come through our communities and it doesn't even provide the benefit of a stop in the county.

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 will initiate policy for developing communities to offer housing that is commensurate with the wages offered in the community. And setting aside an amount of homes in all communities that allow residents to afford housing along with ensuring transportation is available to each new development.**

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?
- b. How would you ensure that the composition of the PAB reflects the community? **There should be a representative from each councilmanic district on the board.**
- 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. **My thoughts on the Council's action to submit a last minute map were expressed by the 152 residents who spoke against their action. I agree with the judicial decision.**

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. **I see no reason why the State has not and can not provide the funding for our children's schools, especially since developers have to pay a premium towards schools on every home they build. The funds from development in Prince George's County should be the property of Prince George's County schools.**
- b. What is the solution to fixing the huge remaining backlog in school maintenance, renovation, replacement, and expansion? **The solution is providing funding that is equal to the funds each county puts into the school construction pot.**

- c. What actions do you think the County should take to ensure that school capacity matches current and future demand? **Every development should make equitable funds available for infrastructure updates in the community they are building in**

9. Should the Prince George's School Board be restored to a fully elected body? Why or why not? **Yes. The School Board should be restored to a body that is fully accountable to the public they serve.**

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**

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? **I don't see a need for ZTAs. But in the event they continue to be presented I believe all information should be provided to the potentially affected properties.**
- 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.**