



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

Candidate Name: Nakia R. Wright
Contact Email: leadingthewrightway@gmail.com
Council Seat Sought: Prince George's County Council – District 6

1. How does your life experience qualify you for the office you seek? As a life-long resident of Prince George's County and a 29-year resident of District 6, I began a humble journey attending Prince George's County Public Schools and College. I became a vibrant leader, full of passion, humor, and big ideas. Working and serving in the community, serving as the Chair of Faith-Based Advisory Board, served on the Board for Joint Land Use Study, was invited into environments where I could witness legislation and zoning laws and how it impacts the future of our county, along with the love of District 6 has prepared me to serve the residents of District 6. While the totality of my accomplishments may not be listed above, my years of service, commitment, and dedication to the community have strengthened my resolve to serve in a greater capacity, with the desire to enrich the life of every resident.

2. What have the primary sources of your campaign's fundraising been, both in this campaign and past campaigns? The primary source of my campaign's fundraising has been individual donors.

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 always work with the Council to ensure programs are funded to include the public financing program.

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? District County Council members' primary responsibility is to the residents of his/her elected district. The At-Large, County Council member is not restricted to district lines but shares a responsibility to all of our residents. I would support the current legislation.

5. What is your position on the Maryland MAGLEV train proposal? I am very concerned about the environmental impact of the sensitive areas affected by the proposed construction.

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? Create financial incentives to encourage builders to build new homes that are within reach for many first-time buyers. Focus on manufactured housing: Manufactured, modular, panelized, and precut homes are built entirely or partially in factories and assembled on site, these various forms of prefabricated dwellings are an attractive solution because they cost less to produce than homes built on-site and a quicker turnaround time than building. Lastly, we should continue with down payment assistance, particularly for first-generation homebuyers. This will provide low-wealth families with a much-needed start on the path to homeownership.

7. 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?**
- 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?**
- d. Do you support adequate funding to staff the PAB to investigate the number of complaints filed, including budgeting for independent legal counsel?**

I support incorporating the functions of the existing Citizens Oversight Panel in the Police Accountability Board. Each County Council District must be represented on the board. Subpoena powers would be necessary to conduct hearings/investigations. Third party compensated investigators is a great proposal. Counsel and staff funding would be necessary for the board to investigate the filed complaints and conduct hearings as mandated to resolve complaints as any other administrative board.

8. 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.

The County Charter allows for the redistricting of the County Map every 10 years. The process was the complaint and the lack of transparency of the revised map. In addition, the candidates who already filed for election were impacted because they were no longer in the district filed. While the legal right is provided, the process was not transparent.

9. 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.**
- b. What is the solution to fixing the huge remaining backlog in school maintenance, renovation, replacement, and expansion?**
- c. What actions do you think the County should take to ensure that school capacity matches current and future demand?**

State and County officials must work together to find funding to renovate, replace and expand existing schools with the growing population. The County must create a future plan to meet the demands of growing households and the need for additional schools.

10. Should the Prince George's School Board be restored to a fully elected body? Why or why not? Yes, the Prince George's School Board should be a fully elected body because it would be an equitable board that is all elected by the voters.

11. 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 (CSPSs) 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? Perhaps, County council can institute a new policy/procedure for public review early in the development process to replace the Conceptual Site Process

12. 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?**
- 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?**

As a Council member, I work toward a fair, equitable, and transparent way to allow public input.

13. 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? It would be great to have a single-payer healthcare system in which one entity collects all healthcare fees and pays for all healthcare costs.