

Candidate's Name: **Kevin Grubb**

COUNTY COUNCIL QUESTION

1. This Council will be tasked with appointing a Charter Review Committee, what charter changes do you support? What type of committee members will you be considering for appointment?

ANSWER:

- Amend the Frederick County Charter to provide that a Council Member vacancy must be filled by a member of the same political party as the vacating Council Member.
- Amend the Frederick County Charter to authorize and specify the process for expedited legislation that could become effective on the date of enactment.
- Section 412 should be amended in the Charter to change the removal process for all Department Heads and others (as defined in the Charter) to require either the CE with the consent of 5 Council Members or the vote of 6 Council Members **(The current ballot change applies to the County Attorney only).**
- Para 212 b. Add deadlines/time limits for receiving requested information from the Executive
- Publish annual report on Council members voting record.

The Charter Review Committee should include several members of from the original drafting committee, members from the first elected council, small business representative, county employee, municipal government representative, citizens who request to participate in the process and any procedure outlined in the Maryland Constitution.

2. We didn't get to this question at the forum: Based on your respective campaign commitments, what specific growth policies and regulations do you plan to introduce?

ANSWER: A comprehensive review and analysis for best practices and enactment of a better approach that will lead Frederick County's Growth Management into the next decade. (I obviously took this from question 8, but it is exactly what is needed.

3. Livable Frederick, now going on three years of preparations, has been both criticized and lauded for how it evolved. As a Council candidate, what is your perception of Livable Frederick, and what would you want to see in order to gain your support?

ANSWER: What binding authority does the document have beyond the current administration that created it? What property rights protections does the document provide for County residents who the designations impact? Those are just a few questions I would need answered, prior to supporting the plan.

4. What areas should the County Staff/Planning Commission begin with their first Community and Corridor Plans, following Livable Frederick?

ANSWER: I would need to hear a report from staff outlining priorities prior to making any decision

5. What approaches would you take to garner support for legislation that you are introducing?

ANSWER: Continuing communication with citizens, all Council members regardless of political affiliation, County staff who will be impacted by legislation, and media. I would do everything possible to eliminate the possibility of a split vote on all proposals. All legislation should be for the good of the citizens. Nothing should be a surprise or developed in secrecy.

6. If elected and you knew you had full or enough support what one piece of legislation would you introduce day 1?

ANSWER: As a candidate with limited inside information about what impacts county operations, providing an answer is difficult, but whatever that legislation would look like, I hope it would positively impact as many county residents as possible.

7. The County Executive has the primary duty of preparing and presenting a balanced budget to the Council. The Council is restricted to reducing planned spending. Do you have priorities that you'd like to present to the County Executive for inclusion in future spending plans?

ANSWER: Priority given to Public Safety, schools/ school safety, roads and the implementation of financial systems that would allow all fees to be paid electronically or over the phone.

8. What specific initiatives will you be pursuing to support our small businesses in Frederick County?

ANSWER: Work to improve access to county services through technology, online forms, news alerts, online payment options, provide flex/extended hours for specific County departments allowing access for those citizens who work during the day. Assign Economic Development liaisons to small businesses looking for assistance on navigating the government processes and always look to streamline those processes.

9. When it comes to business-friendly policies and regulations, are there specific programs, services and regulatory changes that you would undertake?

ANSWER: I would ask that the Office of Economic Development assign new and developing Small Businesses with an OED Liaison. The Liaison would assist small businesses with navigating the governmental processes required to open a business. The OED would prepare an annual report outlining difficulties during the process and include suggested changes to improve.

Extend county service hours (some evenings, Saturday mornings) for identified departments that could better serve citizens who would typically be required to take off work to accomplish.

10. In your discussion with the business community what have you found to be the greatest challenges facing the business community constituents?

ANSWER: Access and communication with county agencies. Citizens using government services should always know what the next step is and when it will occur without needing to contact a County employee. With the ability to update files electronically, citizens should always know what is occurring next.

11. If elected, what would you do to improve/enhance the relationship between the County and the Frederick County General Assembly delegation?

ANSWER: Communication is the key to any relationship. The County and State representatives should meet regularly to discuss issues affecting County citizens.

12. Are there any specific solutions or ideas you have identified to support accelerating the needed widening of US 15 and I-270 projects.

ANSWER: Because both of these projects require State funding and prioritization, I would recommend a study for a "By-Pass Lane" allowing traffic heading north above the new Christopher's Crossing interchange to enter a center lane "By-Passing" the on and off ramps contributing to the slowdown of traffic through the city ramps, similar to the northbound lanes on 270 allowing local traffic to exit the highway onto exit lanes.

13. The first County Council has been seated for almost 4 years now, and has had to maneuver through establishing certain 'norms', 'processes' and 'rules of order' to administer their agenda. What is your observation of the first council and if elected what would you propose to further refine the legislative process in the County?

ANSWER: We elect a Council member for each of the 5 Districts and 2 members at large. What special authority or ability does each Council member have to effect change in their specific districts? I think the answer is very little, if any. Each Council member should submit a priority list of projects prior to the County Executive's budget preparation and those items should receive heavy consideration.

The Yes or No Questions: Please take this opportunity to go beyond the simple answer of Yes or No.

One of the key initiatives the Chamber learned from the Greenville SC trip was a Citywide TIF, that was purposeful, and led to strategic investment of longer term infrastructure needs for all types of development.

1. Do you support Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) mechanisms to support infrastructure necessary to bring forth...Residential Opportunities... (YES/NO)... in Frederick?

ANSWER: No, In general I do not support additional taxes. Before voting to support additional taxing mechanisms, I would want to make sure all current resources are being used as efficiently as possible and would want to make sure we've exhausted all other possibilities.

2. Do you support Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) mechanisms to support infrastructure necessary to bring forth...*Employment Opportunities (Yes/NO)*.....in Frederick?

ANSWER: No. In general, I do not support additional taxes. Before voting to support additional taxing mechanisms, I would want to make sure all current resources are being used as efficiently as possible and would want to make sure we've exhausted all other possibilities.

3. Do you support Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) mechanisms to support infrastructure necessary to bring forth... *Mixed Use Opportunities (YES/NO)*...in Frederick?

ANSWER: No. In general, I do not support additional taxes. Before voting to support additional taxing mechanisms, I would want to make sure all current resources are being used as efficiently as possible and would want to make sure we've exhausted all other possibilities.

Related to financing of Infrastructure, but not utilizing a TIF as described for prior questions:

4. Do you support broad-based taxes and fees to pay for school infrastructure needed as a result of enrollment changes?

ANSWER: I would like more information as to what specific broad-based taxes and fees you are referring to.

5. Do you support broad-based taxes/fees to support constructing specific transportation projects?

ANSWER: I would like more information as to what specific broad-based taxes and fees you are referring to.

Relative to County Operations/Separation of Powers

6. Do you support a completely separate staff for the County Council in order for the Council to have independent-or-autonomous review and analysis of legislative initiatives that come before them?

ANSWER: I'm against spending additional tax dollars on additional staff when the county has very capable staff members to handle questions and requests for information, but the ability of Council members to access staff and information needs to be addressed and improved.

Over the last four years the County Executive has introduced as much legislation as the Council. Further if you look at the Council bills, many are as a result of an administrative policy or issues that required the Council to take up as a result of administrative actions.

7. Do you think the Executive Branch is attempting to address too many legislative initiatives as opposed to running the administrative arm of the County, or is this the right approach?

ANSWER: Because the Charter states; "All the legislative powers which the County may exercise under the Maryland Constitution and laws of the State are vested in the Council", the Executive has no other choice if he/she would like to introduce legislative items. I think there can be a balance of legislative

initiatives and running the administrative arms of the County. Its up to the Council to follow-through with those initiatives.

The Frederick County Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) has been in existence for nearly 30 years. During that time, there have been specific adjustments to how it is administered with the most recent significant changes occurring in 2008. Now, **in 2018** with a rapidly changing economy, demonstrated shifts in county demographics, and housing choice preference from both existing/resale and new home buyers, combined with programmatic decisions affecting capacity in different ways throughout the County.

8. Do you support a comprehensive review and analysis for best practices and enactment of a better approach that will lead Frederick County's Growth Management into the next decade?

ANSWER: I absolutely support a comprehensive review, If the present use of APFO was adequate we wouldn't have current school overcrowding and roads that don't handle our traffic adequately.

The council addressed a number of bills brought forth to them affecting business development and land use;

9. Do you support a more targeted approach to updating certain code/zoning changes, rather than dealing with issues on a piecemeal basis?

ANSWER: An annual agenda should be developed for addressing a targeted approach to updating code and zoning changes. Targeting specific code changes, will allow a more focused approach to updating an entire section.