

Candidates Name: Shannon Bohrer

### 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:** I believe the county charter is working well and I have no specific changes in mind. As to the committee members I would be looking to appoint individuals and representatives with diverse perspectives. I would like the process to be open so the public is able to have input. Just because I have no problems, does not mean they don't exist.

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:** Growth has to be planned and balanced with the needs of education, public safety and infrastructure. Policies related to growth issue(s) should require procedure(s) that the government follows so the growth does not outpace the government services.

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:** I already support Livable Frederick. I don't think the plan is perfect, if for no other reason than all plans have flaws. When plans are made they sound good, but when instituted minor issues and deficiencies are often found. I equate this to change orders in projects, just because a problem is found does not mean the original plans are ignored. I would like to see more community meetings, in each district, about the topic of the Livable Plan. While the plan development and purpose should be discussed, more input should always be welcomed.

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

**ANSWER:** I don't know. I would think that areas where the infrastructure and educational resources are already stretched, those areas would not be prioritized. However, that is only considering two elements. I believe that would be a large topic for discussion with the County Executive, the County Council and other interested groups, after the election.

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

**ANSWER:** To garner support for legislation I would include working groups, subject matter experts and citizen input. I plan, if elected, to publish a monthly newsletter on the councils business for two purposes. One is to inform and the other is for feedback.

**Any legislation, or any changes, needs support. Support comes from the general public, the affected parties and others with interest.**

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

**ANSWER:** I don't think I could have full support on day 1, which would be very unusual. I would like to introduce legislation that prohibits council members from offering tax breaks and/or incentives in their final 6 months in office.

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:** I like the overall 2019 budget, but I am not totally familiar with the county government. I know the county has an Emergency Management section and they have contingency funding for weather and unanticipated expenses, which is good. Disasters seem to be occurring all around us, like the spring flooding, so I am not sure if the funding is sufficient. I also know that future obligations of funding that include pensions, are currently funded at actuarially levels, which is very good. Those are the only two priorities that I have, at this time.

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

**ANSWER:** I would like a review of the process(s) that business(s) are required to follow the county regulations. I believe that there are instances when regulations can be stream lined and still meet the requirements for the regulations.

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

**ANSWER:** No, there are not any specific policies at this time. If elected I will be citizen friendly and business friendly. I do support ROOT, the business innovation center, supported by the county. I support Root because of the multiple partnerships which includes the Chamber of Commerce.

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

**ANSWER:** My contacts have been limited but in general there seems to be a lengthy time line from planning of projects to permits and completions of projects. If this timeline can be shortened while complying with all requirements, I would support it. That is also providing that all of the requirements are needed.

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

**ANSWER:** I would like to see more scheduled interactions with the local, state and federal level of governments. The interactions need agendas that reflect issues that we face. How each side can help the other, can't be answered if you don't know the question. I know this is vague, but as a member of the Frederick County Farm Bureau, we have a spring meeting with local, state and federal elected officials, where each level of government speaks to the members. After which questions can be asked. I would rather the questions be given to the speakers before the meeting. Listening is nice but effective communications requires both sides to have input.

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:** Widening I -270 in Frederick County will only result in backups farther down county. Two Lanes going into three lanes, with feeder ramps in-between that add more traffic, creates the congestion that we currently have. This is why the backup on I-270 around Rt. 85 occurs. I-270 is being feed from Rt. 15, US. 40, I-70 and Rt. 85, which is too much traffic feeding into I-270 in the am.

Changing lane directions on I-270, having more lanes in the am that go south and more in the pm that goes north could be part of a solution. The fact is that as Frederick County grows, we will have more commuters using I- 270.

Alternates to I-70 should be examined, including more mass transit.

When the interchange of Monocacy Blvd. and U.S. route 15 is completed and opened, part of the congestion from U. S Route 15 and Rt. 26, will just move a little north. We need a much larger comprehensive plan that includes the future growth projections.

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:** I am not sure. I am familiar with our government but I am not familiar with the administration and the rules of order. I am sure that if elected and after being exposed to the daily operational procedures I would have a much better perspective to offer suggestions.

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.**

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

**ANSWER:**

**No.**

**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.**

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:**

**The question while specific in wording is very broad. This is a large and complex issue and I do not have an answer.**

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

**ANSWER:**

**The question while specific in wording is very broad. This is a large and complex issue and I do not have an answer.**

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:**

**No. I think the staff can share the responsibilities. We are all working in the same direction, we may have different opinions and we should expect to have disagreements. But we should all be on the same team.**

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: It is my opinion that this is currently the correct approach. The council has the authority to submit bills.**

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:**

**Yes, we should always be questioning our policies and how we approach our problems.**

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:**

**Yes, that is one reason why I support the Livable Frederick Plan.**