



**GSSCC Candidate Questionnaire**  
**Montgomery County Council – At-Large**

Name: Evan Glass

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Elected Office You are Seeking: County Council

Legislative District: At-Large

Number of Years Lived in that District: 19 years

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Relevant Non-governmental Professional Experience/Positions Held:

- CNN journalist
- Reingold Communications, director
- Community Communications, principal
- Gandhi Brigade Youth Media, executive director
- Member of GSSCC, via Gandhi Brigade Youth Media

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1. GSSCC believes that a thriving business community brings prosperity for all of our citizens by increasing the number of good private sector jobs and expanding the tax base to support necessary public services.

- Please list all the initiatives/legislation you have supported/or would support to foster the growth of existing businesses and encourage new business creation.

***Increasing economic development is a top priority for me. Encouraging economic growth can be achieved through the following policies that I support:***

- ***Reducing the energy tax, which penalizes small and midsize businesses for the purpose of capturing tax dollars from the federal government.***
  - ***Reforming the county's antiquated liquor control system by allowing restaurateurs the ability to directly order wine, beer and spirits. This would allow these small businesses to use their purchasing power to order quantities of scale and create a dining experience as they wish.***
  - ***Promoting transit oriented development in our urban corridors where job centers and cultural capital can be created.***
  - ***Improving the Department of Permitting Services so that it supports the growth of our small business.***
- Please describe your plan for increasing the tax base – rather than tax rates – in the County.

***In addition to the policies previously listed, I am encouraged by the work to bring more bio, pharma, and medical device manufacturers to Montgomery County. We have a terrific life sciences sector that needs continued nurturing and support.***

- What is your plan for making Montgomery County more attractive to businesses looking to expand or relocate (i.e. increased tax incentives, subsidies, streamlining the development approval process)?

***I am hopeful that the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation will create and implement a plan to attract and retain employers. The plan should include incubator and concierge services to help start and grow businesses.***

***I also believe that we need to improve and update some operations and permitting services to reflect the modern business climate.***

2. Montgomery County leaders have continued to approve increases in the County's operating budget that require spending at levels exceeding private sector growth. GSSCC believes the County government needs to do a better job of living within its means. This is even more important given the recent announcement of a \$120 million revenue shortfall for the current fiscal year.

- Did you or would you have supported the 2016 property tax increase?

***Property taxes were increased in 2016 because the county had few options because we have not done a good enough job of increasing the tax base. If additional revenue is required for future spending, we need to increase our economic growth.***

***One reason that our current leaders in Rockville are viewed with some suspicion is because spending measures have not always been allocated in ways that they were justified through public discourse.***

***Moving forward, I will conduct myself and the work of the County Council in an open and transparent manner. If a spending increase occurs, it will be predicated on honest discussions that include a full accounting of how the funds will be collected and spent.***

- Did you or would you have supported the 2016 recordation tax increase?

***My thoughts on the recordation tax are the same as my thoughts on the property tax increase.***

- Did you or would you have supported the eventual phase out of the County's exorbitant energy tax?

***Reducing the energy tax is a priority of mine because it penalizes small and midsize businesses for the purpose of capturing tax dollars from the federal government.***

- Other than raising taxes, what ideas do you have for creating an economy that will meet the growing needs of county residents?

***As noted previously, Montgomery County needs to continue growing our life sciences center while looking to modernize our policies and procedures to better support and grow our small businesses.***

- Would you support consolidation of some County Government functions in order to reduce costs? If so, please describe which programs or services you would recommend be consolidated, reduced, or eliminated.

***As a proponent of good government, I will look for financial savings through government efficiency. I would support the creation of an inspector general to ensure that the MCPS budget is being used in accordance with the taxpayers needs and efficacy.***

3. In recent years, our members have faced an increasing number of federal, state, and expanded local regulations that directly impact their ability to remain viable.

- Did you or would you have supported the additional increase to the Montgomery County minimum wage to \$15 by 2020?

***In my campaign for the County Council, I desire to look forward and discuss how I can have a positive impact on future policy decisions made in Montgomery County. That said, I supported increasing the minimum wage to \$15.***

***Looking forward, I do believe that expansion of the EITC is an important tool to fight poverty, one that is largely overlooked in today's public discourse. I also believe that we should increase job training through collaborations with Montgomery College, Universities of Shady Grove, Worksource Montgomery and our nonprofit partners. The latter may be paid for by grants and other partnerships. The former will have to be allocated within the County's budget.***

- Did you or would you have supported mandatory sick leave, even for part-time employees?

***As an employer, I do support sick leave for employees.***

- Do you support an employer's right to hire and schedule its employees according to its individual needs? Do you support legislation that dictates minimum work hours or scheduling requirements?

***I believe that a good employer should provide scheduling information as far in advance as possible. I do not have enough information to speculate on legislation.***

- What policy ideas do you have to enhance the success of our member job-creators?

***As noted previously, reform of our county's liquor laws and Department of Permitting Services are two areas that will provide positive changes.***

4. Prior to considering any legislation, the County Council seeks a Fiscal Impact Statement to determine the impact of that legislation on the County's budget.

- Would you support a law that requires the same kind of analysis to determine the fiscal economic impact on businesses and non-profits, prior to consideration and enactment of any new law or regulation?

***Yes.***

- Would you require that this analysis include interviews and discussions with actual business owners?

***As a former journalist, I believe that everyone should be invited to the table and be part of the conversation.***

5. Many of our small- and medium-sized business members feel that the policies adopted most recently by County government reflect a lack of appreciation for the contributions they make to our community. Please

describe your understanding of the difference between the challenges faced by large multinational companies and small locally owned/operated businesses. Provide three specific examples of how you will support small businesses and ensure opportunities for them to grow and expand.

- ***I have led efforts to reform our county's liquor laws. Here is a Washington Post op-ed I authored in 2014, titled: [Time to End Montgomery County's Alcohol Monopoly](#)***
- ***Reform the Office of Procurement's LSBRP program***
- ***Reform the Department of Permitting Services***

6. The Silver Spring Central Business District was envisioned to become a smart-growth live/work/play community. However, in recent years, Silver Spring has evolved into a primarily residential neighborhood (bedroom community), with virtually no commercial office development in the past 10 years. Local retailers and restaurants are feeling the brunt of having fewer and fewer customers during office hours. What will you do to address this and help bring more businesses back to Silver Spring?

***As a community leader in Silver Spring, I agree that Silver Spring is not reaching its potential as a place to live, work and play. The departure of Discovery only exacerbates this problem. We need innovative, forward thinking ideas to bring more jobs and daytime foot traffic to DTSS. The possible arrival of Amazon to Montgomery County may also provide a boost.***

7. The Route 29 Corridor in Eastern Montgomery County has suffered from a lack of commercial and other development for many years. Traffic congestion has increased, and most of it is through traffic to the Beltway or downtown D.C. Few, if any new employment opportunities have been created to provide jobs that would take these cars off the road. What are you going to do to ensure economic development that brings new businesses to Silver Spring including downtown and the East County/Rt. 29 Corridor?

***I strongly support the Viva White Oak project and the bio-life sciences center it will create. I also support BRT along Route 29 to facilitate better transit options along the corridor.***

8. The Chamber supports a balanced approach to transportation policies that take into account the needs of our member businesses, their employees, their customers, and their vendors. That balance must accommodate those who use public transit, drive on our roads, travel by bicycle and on foot, and need sufficient parking options at their destination.

- Please describe your approach to finding the right balance of transit, roads, parking, and other transportation options.

***As an active pedestrian in Downtown Silver Spring and a regular user of public transportation, I understand first hand the need for a multimodal transit strategy. "Balance" is a good word to describe how to provide transit options in an urbanized area. More importantly, local government needs to be proactive in planning for how driverless cars and other technological advances will impact our transportation infrastructure.***

- How will you assure the future success of the Metro?

***Fixing Metro is my top transportation priority. If Metro fails, the exodus of users will clog our roads and make our region's transportation system even worse.***

- What will you do to address the needs and concerns of businesses that expect to be harmed financially during the construction of The Purple Line?

***I have long advocated for greater support of our businesses that operate along the Purple Line corridor. I believe that as a state project, our representatives in Annapolis should have done a better job of helping advocate for financial support.***

***As a Councilmember, I will provide much needed oversight to the Purple Line, working to ensure that it is constructed in a timely manner and on budget. If our elected officials do not provide the much needed oversight, I fear that the Purple Line may have the same fate as the Silver Spring Transit Center, which we cannot afford.***

9. What is your vision for the future of greater Silver Spring and Montgomery County over the next 5 years?

***I want Montgomery County to be a community where individuals can live, work and play. We need to ensure that our schools are teaching every child to the best of his/her ability We need to ensure that our transportation infrastructure is working properly so that residents and workers can travel safely and efficiently. And we need to make sure we have enough jobs to pay for our services and provide high quality of life for our residents.***

10. If elected, how will you measure your success at the end of your term?

***The measure of my success as a Montgomery County Councilmember will be defined by the size of the economic growth I have helped spur and the new opportunities that are created as a result.***