

Responses from Rodney C. Taylor

Rodney C. Taylor is running for the Democratic endorsement for Prince George's county council district 9.

Question: Prince George's County is the most dangerous in Maryland for pedestrians and cyclists. Why do you think this is? Is there a role for you in changing this?

Response: Without exact statistics it would be difficult to determine the reasoning for this, but my speculation would be that we need to invest money to provide bicycle paths, cross-walks and sidewalks in most areas of the County. I would support more funding for these endeavors. We need to require any new developers to provide cross-walks, sidewalks and bike paths.

Question: Currently, The Bus is the only bus network in the region that provides no weekend or evening service, although Prince George's County has a high concentration of workers in the service industry who don't work 9-5 jobs. Would you support extending The Bus service hours to better match what is provided by other jurisdictions?

Response: Yes, I fully support providing more "The Bus" schedules with more routes and longer hours to include weekends. Not only does it support our working force, but it would also support our seniors.

Question: Do you support Governor Hogan's proposal to widen I-495 and/or the B-W Parkway? Why or why not?

Response: I support all infrastructure improvements, including widening the lanes to accommodate the amount of cars on those roadways. However, prioritization is important when considering these improvements.

Question: What is your top economic development priority, and what strategies do you plan to use to achieve it?

Response: I support bringing more jobs into the County, and would support recruiting large companies or organizations such as Amazon, FBI, food chains such as Harris Teeter and Whole Foods. It would be my desire to chair a committee relating to economic development.

Question: The county is currently developing a Comprehensive Housing Strategy. What are your goals and priorities for that? How would you combat the problems of evictions and foreclosures?

Response: I believe Prince George's County needs to take a serious look at affordable housing and consider developing new or modified approaches to ensure that we can offer affordable, high-quality housing options for a range of income levels, preferences and phases of life. We

should be focusing on middle class housing for average working families.

Question: A development review process known as "call-up" was previously struck down by the state Supreme Court, but a similar process, known as "election," is proposed in the current draft of the county's zoning rewrite. Do you support including or removing "election" in the final zoning code?

Response: I do not support the "call-up" or "election" which is a form of call-up. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission should be the decision-maker here, not the County Council overriding the Commission's decision. Other jurisdictions do not have this call-up procedure, but rather use the court system. We should do the same.

Question: Do you support allowing accessory dwelling units (ADUs), sometimes known as "granny flats," in single-family home zones? Why or why not?

Response: I am very supportive of helping our aging community, such as seniors who can no longer maintain large luxury homes. However, I would like to hear more from the community as it relates to these granny flats. I strongly believe the community should have some say in whether this would be a good idea for the County, and until hearings or work sessions are held on this matter, I would refrain from making a final decision on this issue.