

Responses from Bruce Branch

Bruce Branch is running for the Democratic endorsement for Prince George's county council district 7.

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: We lack designated driveways for pedestrians and cyclists. We need designated lanes just as we do with HOV lanes. This will dramatically curtail accidents as fatalities as well new laws that will promote auto safety.

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, particularly because of the employment opportunities that are now available in Northern Virginia and the National Harbor and MGM where employees don't work traditional hours.

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

Response: Absolutely. It will curtail some of backlogs and allow traffic to move more smoothly, particularly during rush hours.

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

Response: A live here, work here policy that will give priority to District 7 residents and small businesses for jobs and contract opportunities.

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: As you know, we have more foreclosures and evictions than any other place in the state. I am a strong advocate for affordable housing and would like to see the county expndnd more money on developing emergency housing outside of hotels for displaced residents.

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: Yes, I would make it mandatory that developers complete each and every project that it begins so that we don't become a place with blighted or unwanted properties.

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

Response: Yes, I believe ADU's can support grandparents or allow adult children get the start they need in homeownership. It would fill a tremendous void for affordable housing.