

ENVIRONMENT:

- **With the recent heat waves and forest fires, it seems like the world is on fire as climate change worsens. Would you support and advocate for a county Climate Action Plan with specific actions outlined for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and a timeline for those emission reductions leading to net zero emissions by 2050 for existing facilities and for new proposed projects/facilities ?**
 - * In answering, please address:
 - Henrico County doesn't have a plan to address climate change.
 - What actions would you propose to reduce Henrico County's carbon footprint?
 - Can you commit to developing a plan that addresses climate change?
 - Would you commit to making the CAP part of the new comprehensive plan this year?

Response:

It is inexplicable to me that Henrico does not have a Climate Action Plan. Neighboring jurisdictions have them and it is certainly within the capabilities of a government as developed as ours. Our failure to adequately address environmental concerns has not only jeopardized the safety and future of residents, it has literally cost the County exorbitantly. In 2021, Henrico was ordered to pay a \$200k fine and \$360k in attorney fees, plus devote \$1mil to sewage projects as a result of environmental neglect. Those lawsuits will keep coming if we don't immediately prioritize green actions, so yes, I would prioritize developing an effective CAP and incorporating it into the 2045 Comprehensive Plan.

Regarding specific actions, experts in the field have identified many steps to reduce greenhouse gasses that have proven effective for cities and counties. Additionally, there is an abundance of guidance that exists, as well as any number of similar localities to model ours after. Feasible actions include supporting remote working, adopting and enforcing green practices in county buildings and properties, replacing county vehicles with green fleets, protecting tree canopies, requiring contractors to have green practices and procedures, and creating a transportation infrastructure that realistically enables alternatives to car usage.

- **Henrico County is becoming a major internet hub with new data centers planned. Data centers are a major economic development focus for Henrico. Dominion Energy is proposing to build out the electricity grid to serve companies like Facebook, QTS, and others. Do you feel like Henrico County has done enough to educate residents and affected communities about all aspects of their economic development plans?**
- * In answering, please address:
 - Who should pay for Dominion Energy's expansion of transmission lines to supply data centers?
 - Are you aware of the environmental impacts of data centers on our air quality, our climate goals, water resources and health?
 - How would you mitigate these environmental and community impacts?
 - Would you support a required analysis of the expected cost of infrastructure expansion necessary to service data center demand for energy, water, transmission

lines, sewer, new roads, energy substations to be conducted as part of the approval process?

Response:

The ever-growing problem of data centers is one that has largely flown under the radar to those who aren't deliberately seeking out that information. Many folks are aware of the environmental harm caused by the airline industry, but aren't aware that the carbon footprint of data centers is even greater. Every locality, Henrico included, which has or seeks to house data centers bears a responsibility to inform its residents of the environmental risks they pose.

As with a CAP, Henrico does not need to reinvent the wheel here. Data centers are a reality and necessity in our modern society, and experts have developed mitigation strategies including using renewable sources to cool and power these facilities and taking advantage of natural topography to minimize impacts. I would absolutely support that an analysis of full costs and mitigation strategies be included as part of the approval process.

Regarding Dominion Energy, they can and should bear the costs of expanding transmission lines to fulfill their service obligations. They profit billions each year and not only can afford it, but it is simply part of their cost of doing business. No one wants to be without solid access to data, and our economy is reliant on it. So it's an easy sell for corporations to say that we must compromise climate protections to have the things we need. This simply isn't true. We just have to be willing hold them accountable for having to find and fund ways to make both work.

- **State law allows local jurisdictions to adopt a plastic bag fee to encourage the use of reusable bags and to**

cut down on plastic bags in our waste stream. Would you support this local option legislation for Henrico County?

Response:

This is a good example of how we must always view policies with an equity lens. Not everyone is equally situated to absorb this additional cost, and not everyone is able to shop with frequency, meaning each trip requires many bags. I would support this legislation but would include an exemption for those buying their groceries with SNAP or WIC, because we do not want to increase barriers for vulnerable populations. I also would explore ways to provide reusable bags to households at no or reduced cost, as that initial expense can be prohibitive for some.

- **The 30 by 30 campaign is a conservation initiative intended to protect 30% of land for nature by the year 2030. The report states that 30% of the Earth's surface is the minimum that humans must protect in order to effectively fight climate change and prevent irreversible declines in biodiversity. As of 2021, Virginia had only achieved 16%. Henrico County has only achieved 6%.**
- Follow up questions:
 - Would you support setting a 30% by 2030 land conservation goal for Henrico County and put in place the mechanisms to achieve that goal?
 - Are you familiar with conservation programs in the county?

- Can you list in what ways have you helped conservation efforts and what will you do to advance the goal of 30% by 2030?

Response:

I do support this goal but am concerned that existing overdevelopment has already jeopardized any realistic chance of meeting it. Henrico is not created equally, and some districts have significantly more land left to conserve than others. My district of Three Chopt is likely at the low end of this spectrum due to the actions of current leadership and his hyper-focus on real estate development. That being said, I would wholly support an analysis of how this goal can be implemented county-wide, and what must be put in place to preserve what is still capable of preserving.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

THE EPA environmental justice community report shows great disparities in the most vulnerable populations in the county. See EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool at [EJScreen \(epa.gov\)](https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen) and a sample copy attached.

- Follow up:
 - What steps will you take to ensure that disadvantaged communities and communities of color are not disproportionately impacted by decisions to locate industrial and other uses that emit pollution or significantly increase traffic or noise?

Response:

We are past the point of ensuring disproportionate impact doesn't occur - it is occurring and has occurred for generations in this country. So we are now required to try to ameliorate past harms as well as try to avoid any further harm.

This is a subject that is personally important to me, because I grew up in a disadvantaged community and I saw firsthand the differences that existed, from the accessibility to resources that improve health and wellness to the existence of structures and features that affirmatively impeded health. I continued living in communities of color as an adult, even as I became a lawyer. I used the tool above to input the address of the home in the East End of Henrico when I first moved to Henrico, and then compared it to my current address in Short Pump. The values were dramatically different, and that is something that must be addressed. This starts with viewing all actions through an equity lens and ensuring input and representation at the table by those trained and versed in equity and inclusion.

LAND USE:

- **Northern Virginia's sprawling suburban pattern of development has resulted in significant traffic and loss of farms and forests, causing many people to move to the Richmond region. How will your land use plans ensure we don't repeat the mistakes of NOVA?**
 - * In answering, please address:
 - Will you support comprehensive plans and zoning to protect forests, farmland, and natural and historic resources?
 - Will you support development patterns including mixed-use transit-oriented communities (TOD) projects that are also pedestrian and bicycle-oriented, that save land and reduce the amount that people have to drive?
- **Development pressures in the eastern portion of Henrico County that would significantly change the character of that community have prompted some residents to post signs saying "Don't Short Pump**

Varina”. What is your position on development of the East End and the sentiments expressed by this sign?

- **Virginia law requires localities to develop long range comprehensive plans to address population growth and land use. Henrico County is currently in the process of formulating its 2045 plan during a period of accelerating growth and land conversion, particularly in the traditionally rural Varina district. The 2045 Plan, when finalized, will guide important zoning decisions and changes on the landscape for many years to come.**
- * In answering this question, please address:
 - What are some of the dangers and opportunities presented by the comprehensive planning process as it plays out in Henrico?
 - If elected, what actions would you take to ensure that Henrico’s 2045 plan —and its use- embody the highest principles of good government and smart growth?

Response:

It is difficult to avoid the problems of NOVA when current leadership seems intent on making Henrico into a mini-NOVA. I think other parts of the County do well to observe what has been happening in Short Pump and to be vocal about not permitting the same overdevelopment in their district.

Time is our most valuable asset because it’s the one thing we can never get more of. The value of having a 20 year Comprehensive Plan is therefore immeasurable. Imagine if when we were creating the current Plan, if instead of focusing on how to widen roads to permit more cars, we had focused on planning to

reduce the number of cars on those roads. Perhaps we wouldn't need a \$250mil Gayton interchange and that money could have gone to transportation improvements actually designed for longterm sustainability. If elected, I will take full advantage of the timing to be able to ensure that our new Plan prioritizes green practices and policies.

TRANSPORTATION:

- **Northern Virginia has built and widened dozens of roads and still has significant traffic. Henrico County plans and Central Virginia Transportation Authority priorities also include significant road expansion. What will be your project priorities for transportation to provide alternatives to driving, increase accessible public transportation for all and reduce emissions?**
 - In answering this question, please address:
 - What actions will you take to increase access to bus transit in your county?
 - Our roads are increasingly unsafe for all users, but especially people walking and biking, and trying to use transit. What will you do to make our roads safer?
 - Transportation is now the #1 source of greenhouse gas emissions. What steps will you take to help your residents reduce these emissions?
- **Will you work to expand GRTC in the county? Including working with our school board to create more routes near our high schools to help students with after school programming, after school jobs, and independent living skills.**

Response:

As alluded to above, I wholly support a deliberate shift in policy that focuses on developing alternatives to our current model of transportation. We simply cannot keep throwing money at Band-Aid fixes to a growing and festering injury. We need to accept that the only way to start digging out of the climate crisis is to change course and figure out a way to adapt our lives to it.

This starts with buy-in. People need to understand why it has reached a crisis point, and believe that the “fix” is something that will actually work for their lives. I don’t underestimate the challenge of this - it’s so easy to just jump in our cars and go places, so hard to not have a vehicle for every adult in the household. I was born in and have visited the Philippines, I was stationed in South Korea when I was in the military, I lived in Germany and have visited many other countries. In so many other places throughout the world, public transportation isn’t only practical, it’s the thing to do. We have to start by removing this odd stigma we attach to public transportation here, and then put the infrastructure in place so that people can actually use to to get where they need to go. We need to stop building sidewalks to nowhere just to say we’ve developed sidewalks and actually make it work for folks in their every day lives.

HOUSING:

- **Henrico County, like other communities, faces challenges in providing affordable housing. What specific policies, funding, and tenant rights measures do you propose to increase the availability of affordable housing options, especially for lower income families?**
 - In answering this question, please address:

- Would you be willing to identify affordable housing unit goals and targets?
- Would you create a housing trust fund and how would you leverage federal funds? (this question is only for Henrico)
- Would you create legal defense support for tenants who are facing eviction?
- How would you address issues of discrimination, and would you use public land available in conjunction with fire houses, government offices complexes, community centers to provide affordable housing?

Response:

Affordable housing has been another casualty that has come at the feet of overdevelopment. As developers build new, increasingly expensive communities, they drive up the cost of existing homes, which impacts both the buyers market and rental market. This is extremely pronounced in the Three Chopt district. Builders have been given free rein to build but have not been held appropriately accountable for including affordable and diverse options for people.

I relate to this personally because I am a renter myself. I bought my first home when I was 22 using the military VA home loan entitlement. It's the only way I was able to purchase. I was able to buy a second home, as well, but lost both to foreclosure in divorce. I have rented since then, first out of necessity and thereafter by choice so that I could have flexibility with schools for my children. The amount I currently pay in rent undoubtedly far exceeds most of the mortgage payments of my neighbors. If it is a challenge for me as a lawyer, I know it impacts so many others much worse.

We must force developers to include affordable options and we must develop hardline plans to ensure that there is enough housing for the "missing middle" - the folks who earn decent wages but are still priced out of decent housing. I support

development of a housing trust fund that assists both buyers and renters, and initiatives that avoid evictions. Because property owners should be able to rely upon receipt of rental income, we should focus on front-end measures that prevent folks from reaching the status of eviction to begin with.

PUBLIC PROCESS AND TRANSPARENCY:

- **How do you plan to increase transparency and the involvement of all residents, representing the full diversity of the community, in the decision making process?**
 - In answering this question, please address:
 - What additional approaches would you use for outreach to reach renters and lower income residents?
 - Do you think the county website provides adequate information, and if not, how would you improve it?

Response:

Again, this is where representation and inclusion is key, which is part of why I believe my service on the Board would be so instrumental. I would be deliberate not only on sharing my own experiences and perspectives, but in reaching out to members of underrepresented communities so that their voices can be heard alongside those who are already at the table. We can't just keep reaching out to HOA's and other organizations that exclude renters. We need to be present throughout the community, including our apartment complexes and other congregate living areas. Our website needs to be much more detailed and inclusive, and we need to take better advantage of mediums like virtual town halls and social media outreach to encourage participation. It can be very intimidating to become involved in civic activities and we need to be better at making that process more accessible and open.

EDUCATION EQUITY:

- **With the new proposed changes to our education system regarding the marginalization of Black history being taught in our public schools and policies related to LGBTQ students, what are your thoughts on this change? Do you support or oppose Gov. Glen Youngkin's proposed changes?**
- **Reducing food insecurity is essential for promoting educational equity because it addresses both immediate barriers to learning, such as hunger and health issues, as well as the long-term structural inequalities that affect educational outcomes. What is your plan to help reduce food insecurities in Henrico County?**
- **How do you plan to collaborate with the Henrico County School Board to address education equity issues within the county?**

RESPONSE:

I find the Governor's policies abhorrent and to be willfully ignorant of truth. As a teen mom in a low socioeconomic community growing up, I knew that education was my only way to build a future for myself and my daughter, and I still believe the education is what will save us from becoming a society we don't recognize.

Henrico County is very diverse but very segregated. The educational experience my oldest child experienced in the the East End differed significantly from the experience my other kids received and receive now in the West End, and we cannot accept that. We must have community conversations and be willing to accept that this is happening so that we can then address it head-on. No family should have to move from one side of the County to another because they are worried that their child will not receive the education they deserve. I will work hand in hand with the School Board to address this.