

EMPOWER MONTGOMERY

MoCo Council D-3 Candidate Scorecard

Key: “+” = good answer “-” = bad answer “0” = unclear/non-answer

Question	Sidney Katz	Ben Shnider
1) A Project Labor Agreement (PLA) on a public project requires all contractors, whether unionized or not, to subject themselves and employees to union collective bargaining terms. Do you support mandated PLAs for all county financed projects? Explain why or why not.	+	-
2) Recently, Montgomery County and the State of Maryland supported an economic incentive package to Marriott of \$62 million (for keeping its corporate headquarters and employees in Bethesda), \$22 million of which will be contributed by Montgomery County. Do you support this particular decision and other major economic incentives for enticing major companies to stay or locate in Maryland?	+	-
3) The County has a rigorous test that will shut down development in a school cluster if the cluster exceeds 120% of program capacity and will shut down development if there is a deficit exceeding 110 seats at an Elementary School or 180 seats at a Middle School. Do you support this policy? If not, what thresholds would you support?	+	0
4) Should the County abolish the Department of Liquor Control and privatize the system? If so, how would you address the claim that the County will lose \$30 million in revenue?	0	-
5) The County Council enacted 8.7% increase in property taxes in 2016. Do you support this increase? If not, what increase, if any, would you have supported? If not, what reductions in proposed spending would you have recommended?	-	-
6) The County Council, in 2016, enacted a roughly 48% increase in the recordation tax premium and a 125% increase in the school increment base rate designed to raise \$200 million over the next six years, \$125 million of which will be used to fund additional school construction needs. Would you have supported this increase? If not, what increase, if any, would you have supported and, if not, would you have increased the school construction budget and how would you have accomplished this?	-	-
7) The County energy tax has increased over 700% in the last 10 years and commercial property energy customers are taxed at a higher rate and, thus, account for 65% of the County’s total energy tax revenue. What is your position regarding the county’s current energy tax – its purpose, its rates and rate structure, and the amount of revenue it raises? Do you think the Council was correct in slightly cutting the energy tax and why? If not, what would you do?	+	-
8) Do you support or oppose funding the M83 highway?	0	-
9) Programs which encourage commuters for not driving to work are just over \$4 million (out of a \$5.5 billion budget). If elected, will you support an increase in this budget item and, if so, by how much and how would you pay for it?	0	+
10) If you support funding the CCT, how will you get it funded? If not, what would you do to help ease traffic in this upper region of the County and how would you pay for it?	+	+
11) The County Executive and Council have funded BRT from Burtonsville to White Oak. Do you support or oppose extending the Route 29 BRT from White Oak to downtown Silver Spring? If so, how do you propose doing it, such as taking a lane of traffic, reversible lanes, or other alternatives?	0	+
12) Some have argued that such funds would be better spent on mass transit projects, such as the CCT and Route 29 Bus Rapid Transit. Do you prefer investing in major road expansion as proposed by Governor Hogan, or prefer investing in transit projects, or support a combination of both?	+	+
Empower Montgomery Total Score	4	-3