

**Greater Greater Washington
Candidate Questionnaire
Arlington County Council Special Election
Melissa Bondi**

1) What are your thoughts on the practicality and cost of the Columbia Pike streetcar? Is this project a good use of funds?

I am a supporter of the Columbia Pike Streetcar, as an integral piece of Arlington's transportation network that will insure mobility for the residents of Columbia Pike in the near term, and for the region in the long term. Arlington's success as a healthy and sustainable community depends on developing and sustaining many options for travel: Metro, streetcar, bus, bicycles and pedestrian, as well as autos and car-sharing. Each plays a specific and important role. The streetcar is also an essential piece of Arlington's transit-oriented development approach to planned growth in corridors.

The Columbia Pike community has invested years into an extensive and thoughtful planning process examining every aspect of their community, including its commercial centers, open space, street connections, and transit. The need for enhanced transit options - beyond what buses alone can provide - was one key finding of this ongoing review and analysis. Columbia Pike neighbors have participated in the planning for the streetcar through efforts like the Street Space Planning Task Force, which examined the roadway and studied various travel alignments.

Equally important, a comprehensive housing study for the corridor is currently underway, looking at ways to protect and ensure the broad diversity among many kinds of families who call Columbia Pike home today. Participants are looking at the additional tools that could be applied to Arlington to help achieve these goals.

Major transportation efforts, like a modern streetcar system, require extensive planning and are subject to rising costs. We need to be able to explain any changes in costs and to provide context that helps to reinforce the overall value Arlington residents will realize through such an important investment. As Arlington has proved for many decades, in order to achieve worthwhile, long-term planning and infrastructure goals, it is essential to maintain steadfast commitment to a long-term vision. If elected, I will continue to support the Columbia Pike community and Arlington's goals for a successful transit-oriented community.

2) To what extent is retaining and building new affordable housing Arlington a priority of yours? If a priority, what tools should Arlington use to encourage affordable housing?

Affordable housing is a cornerstone priority to me, and over the past ten years in Arlington I have worked on many plans, policies, and projects specifically relating to the preservation and creation of affordable housing throughout the County as a housing advocate, policy author, and community leader.

As a neighborhood representative to the Clarendon Sector Plan Task Force, I worked to devise new incentives and alternatives to ensure more affordable housing in my own neighborhood. I am also a past chairman and member of Arlington's Citizens Commission on Housing, which reviews and advises the County Board on housing-related budget, policy and project applications. I have worked on the creation and preservation of hundreds of affordable housing units, both rental and home ownership, in my neighborhoods and throughout the County. I am also a past member of the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, which focuses on local implementation of federal CDBG block grant funding. I worked on affordable housing provisions, including density, financing, preservation, and new construction for dozens of site plan projects, sector plans, and other policies governing development during the past several years.

I was a founding member of the Save Buckingham Coalition, which organized tenants, housing advocates, and other community leaders to force negotiations with a private sector developer who wanted to tear down more than 10 acres of market-rate affordable, historic garden apartments in the Buckingham community (near Ballston). I later chaired the Buckingham Community Preservation Committee, which created innovative housing programs, tenant assistance and protection policies, and worked directly with tenants and other stakeholders to better ensure that existing families, not just 300 affordable housing units, would be maintained. The Buckingham Villages deal also led to other planning victories, including two new streets to fill out the grid in this neighborhood and the creation of a new, one-acre park, among many other benefits. Previously I chaired the Gates of Arlington tenants' advisory group, and helped develop Arlington's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. I was a core member of the Arlington Affordable Housing Task Force, and was a co-author the County's Affordable Housing Ordinance, our version of inclusionary zoning, which was codified into state law in 2006.

As a County Board member, I would:

- Increase resources for housing preservation, rehabilitation and new construction through AHIF, our Affordable Housing Ordinance and other existing tools
- Maximize local opportunities to access state and federal resources for home ownership programs, including VHDA programs, Live Where You Work, and HOME and Community Development Block Grant dollars.
- Pursue permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, housing grants and other programs to help prevent homelessness, in accordance with the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness
- Support the community's efforts on the current Columbia Pike Land Use and Housing study, which pursues affordable housing best practices and innovative strategies that could be applicable County-wide.
- Prioritize further partnerships to achieve the joint goals of affordable housing and historic preservation in garden-style and related buildings and complexes.

My perspective on best practices in housing policy, including understanding what's possible in Virginia, is borne of my experiences outside of Arlington, too. For three years

I worked at the Coalition for Smarter Growth as its housing director, and also worked on federal housing policy and Sustainable Communities as a consultant for Smart Growth America. I serve as a board member of the local Arlington New Directions Coalition and the statewide Virginia Housing Coalition, and as president of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance. I am an Advisory Committee member of Housing Virginia and a Regional Advisory Committee member of the United Way National Capital Area Affordable Housing Community Impact program. Previously I represented Arlington as an advisory committee member of the General Assembly's Virginia Housing Commission.

3) What is your opinion of the Crystal City Sector Plan and its impact on the economic development of Crystal City?

Crystal City has the potential to become one of Arlington's great neighborhoods. The county is currently engaging in a plan to reinvent and reimagine Crystal City as a walkable, urban community. This is critical for the thousands of Arlingtonians who live and work in Crystal City. As a County Board member, I'll work directly with our community to help Crystal City develop in a sustainable, thoughtful way.

The need for a sector plan for Crystal City (which had never previously had one) was compelled by the 2005 BRAC decision, which will eventually lead to the departure of as many as 18,000 jobs and the vacation of a couple of million square feet of office space. The impact on hundreds of small businesses and thousands of residents was obvious; Crystal City is also a key component of Arlington's economy, and a major contributor to its tax base. This focused attention on the need to re-position Crystal City as a competitive downtown.

As a location, Crystal City enjoys significant natural advantages, including proximity to downtown DC, a Metro station, a VRE station, highway connections, and an airport, which can make it highly attractive for class-A office space. Nonetheless, the built legacy of Crystal City reflects much of the urban planning and architecture of the 1970s, and presents many problems. The quality of buildings would have to be improved, as most were constructed for government lease space, not the standards of the class A market. The design of the street network was excessively oriented to the automobile. The walkability of area would need to be improved, along with the quality of its public spaces, and the internal reach of its transit network.

This led to several years of intensive work by a citizen-led task force, county staff, outside consultants, and residents of the community, in a process that was at times contentious, and required a lot of compromise. The plan that resulted has some very good elements. It is not perfect.

Among the positive achievements I see in the plan are:

- generally better urban design, more walkable streets, enhanced parks and public

spaces;

- affordable housing targets, perhaps the most ambitious yet included in an Arlington sector plan, and vitally needed in an area particularly lacking low- to moderately priced housing;
- a commitment to transportation infrastructure, especially streetcar, which is essential to accommodate new development in an environmentally responsible way, and which provides a strategic opportunity to link Crystal City with Potomac Yards (and possibly Alexandria) to the south, and to Pentagon City (and Columbia Pike and Fairfax) to the west;
- inclusion of a vehicle for on-going citizen participation and monitoring in implementation, through the “CCCRC,” a permanent advisory body led by residents.

Crystal City is a work in progress. It is important that it succeed. For me, success means that it continues to be an important center of economic activity, that it is vibrant and productive, and attracts the kind of businesses and other organizations that will contribute to the overall vitality and fiscal health of the county. But it means equally the creation of a place that residents can be proud of and that supports their lives in an environmentally sustainable way.

I know from my own experience as a neighborhood leader in developing the Clarendon Sector Plan that, to be successful, in both economic terms and as a place that works for residents, requires continued citizen participation, with support from the County.

As a member of the Economic Development Commission, it is clear to me that, for the long run, we also need to think proactively about who will fill the office buildings over the next 30 years. [In this regard, please also see my response to # 9, below.] A successful Crystal City – for that matter, a successful Arlington – will need to diversify its portfolio, becoming less dependent on federal office space, building on other strengths in areas like science and research, clean technology and information services, non-profit organizations and small businesses, tourism and the arts, among others.

4) What can or ought to be done about the capacity crisis in the ACPS system?

Arlington’s public schools (APS) do face a capacity crisis, across the county and in every grade level (notably at the elementary school level). At current growth rates, we are adding roughly 600 kids to the system – approximately the size of an entire elementary school – every year. The 2010 Census showed a 13% growth in the number of children under 5 and 5% growth in children 5 to 9 since 2000. More children continue to be born in Arlington and, as they age, more are staying enrolled in Arlington schools. This is a good problem to have – it’s a testament to the overall quality of life Arlington offers, including its outstanding schools.

The downside of this growth is that APS soon will not have enough seats for its student population. With a projected K-12 growth rate of 4% a year, APS is projecting nearly 27,000 students in 2017. The resulting system-wide shortages in capacity will top 1,000

in 2014 and almost 3,500 by 2017. To date, APS has attempted to address this shortfall by converting computer labs to classrooms, moving programs from crowded to underutilized schools, increasing enrollment at county-wide (choice) schools, and by adding relocatable classrooms (i.e. trailers). Since 2005, APS has added 2,740 seats, not including trailers. It seems clear that we must plan to provide additional capacity.

The process that is now underway appears to be a good start. This summer, the school board set weighted criteria to help guide decision-making. They conducted a system-wide evaluation of APS sites to determine where additions or new school could be located. With assistance from community schools councils and other leaders, they narrowed this list down to 16 school sites. APS has held two public meetings to update citizens on their progress and to receive feedback and comment.

Recently APS and the County Board adopted joint criteria for considering certain county-owned sites for their potential to house a new school or school programs. Analysis of the feasibility of those sites to meet both school capacity and community needs is now underway. Next, APS intends to rank capacity planning solutions and present options for consideration in the 2012 CIP process and future CIPs.

As this process moves forward, it is my hope that the public will be fully informed and engaged in evaluating alternatives and assessing the benefits and tradeoffs these decisions will require. It is vitally important that the solution reflect a genuine effort to respond to neighborhood priorities and concerns, and to mitigate any impacts of expansion. My goals in this process are to arrive at a solution that 1) gives our students the best opportunity to get a superb K-12 education, 2) is flexible enough to respond to changing circumstances and multiple priorities, 3) can be provided in a time-frame that is reasonable and fiscally responsible, and 4) is sensitive to other important community priorities, such as environmental design, shared facilities use, and the preservation and enhancement of adjacent open space, which is also at a premium.

As a County Board member I will also work to build on existing relationships between the County and School Boards, and to encourage increased collaboration among APS and county staff. Arlington has many capital needs, from transportation and infrastructure to Neighborhood Conservation and parks, recreation and natural resource areas, and we must think comprehensively about the timing and cost of achieving our priorities, within the ongoing parameters of our sound fiscal discipline. I am hopeful that the process now underway will lead to alternatives, and ultimately solutions that address our schools' capacity needs in a timely, cost-effective matter.

5) What do you see as the most pressing issue facing Arlington County today?

I think the most pressing issue is to mitigate the continued threats to, and losses in, Arlington's affordable housing stock. Having an adequate supply of affordable housing aids the stability of families and the retention of our local work force, frees up personal income to achieve other economic goals, and increases the efficiency of our transportation networks, which in turn is better for our environment, our health and our

pocketbooks. I've seen first-hand the negative, sometimes devastating impacts on families and communities when property owner decisions lead to displacement without local government participation and review, which in Virginia is not guaranteed in many cases.

A significant portion of our diverse Arlington population, from immigrants to seniors to persons with disabilities and young families need access to safe, decent affordable housing. The lack of affordable housing also makes it more difficult to attract and retain skilled employees, like teachers, nurses, paralegals, bus drivers and many service workers, all of whom are essential to our economy and our quality of life.

Arlington has preserved and created more than 6,500 committed affordable housing units across the County – about 14.5% of the total rental stock – through public-private partnerships with for-profit and non-profit partners. The County uses bonus density incentives to help create affordable housing. Arlington also uses its own tax dollars every year to help to finance housing projects by providing low-interest loans that are paid back over time, enabling the same funds to be recycled to future projects for the same purpose.

That said, Arlington has still lost ~10,000 units of market-rate affordable housing in the years between 2000-2010, through redevelopment, condo conversion and market rent increases. Unfortunately, the economic recession has not abated our need to do more to help mitigate the loss. Please see my answer to question #2 for more information about my goals for further addressing this issue.

6) Of your past experience in Arlington County's civic life, what is your greatest strength as a candidate for the County Council?

I believe the greatest strength I would bring to the County Board is the depth of relevant experience I've gained as a public policy professional, community leader, and volunteer. In more than ten years as an Arlington resident, I have had the opportunity to work on a neighborhood level, on county-wide issues, and at the regional, state, and national levels on matters of public policy that are directly relevant to the work of the County Board, and that have real implications for our community.

I've worked on sidewalks, traffic calming and streets issues at the neighborhood level, as well as drafting innovative smart growth and sustainability approaches in the Clarendon Sector Plan. I was one co-author of Arlington's landmark version of inclusionary housing law, and have led numerous public processes to ensure that tenants, home owners, policy advocates, and other stakeholders always have a voice at the table in decision-making.

I've been a civic association president, a neighborhood conservation representative, a task force member, and a commission chairman. I bring my own ideas and opinions to most discussions, but in all of my efforts, I believe I have earned a reputation for fairness and inclusion, demonstrating a consistent ability to bring people of different opinions together to resolve issues and implement solutions in a constructive way.

My professional policy work both informs, and is informed by, my extensive Arlington experience. As mentioned earlier, for three years I served as Housing Director for the Coalition for Smarter Growth, researching, developing, and promoting equitable access and integrating affordable housing and residential units generally into environmentally sustainable, mixed-use, equitable transit-oriented development across the Washington Metropolitan region. I also considered the positive impacts of applying affordable housing best practices throughout the region to the related policy areas of planning, zoning, transportation and transit, walkability and pedestrian safety, parks, trails and open space, small business retention, and community participation in local decision-making.

As a federal housing policy consultant for Smart Growth America, I led research, analysis and recommendations for federal housing policy for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities, including brownfields development, federal housing financing instruments, and other housing initiatives. I have presented at numerous policy conferences, from EPA's Smart Growth to PolicyLink to RailVolution, among many others.

I currently serve as a Project Coordinator for the Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington, focused on improving the ability of nonprofit partnerships to deliver safety net and related services to local residents. I also served as campaign director for the regional Think Twice Before You Slice campaign, a joint initiative of the Nonprofit Roundtable and the Center for Nonprofit Advancement, which emphasized analysis, education, and community engagement on the impacts of local and state budget decisions across the Metropolitan area on low-income and vulnerable populations. During the Clinton and Bush Administrations, I worked for seven years at the Natural Resources Council of America, focused on national environmental policies, laws and nonprofit programs to support conservation efforts across the United States.

7) How should growth be managed in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor? Should there be a greater emphasis on sustainability, affordability, traffic calming measures?

There is more to Arlington, obviously, than just the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor. As a community, Arlington has recognized other key transportation corridors including Columbia Pike, Crystal City/Pentagon City, and Lee Highway, each with its own character and opportunities. And then there is the rest of Arlington, consisting mostly of garden apartments and single-family homes we seek to preserve. I mention this because I don't believe our values about sustainability, affordability or safety are fundamentally different in the R-B corridor than they are in any part of Arlington. I have worked on dozens of site plan projects, sector plans, policy efforts and ordinance amendments from Lee Highway to Shirlington. What differs among them is the exact way in which these values are expressed in concrete policies and plans.

Of course, the R-B corridor has been the most frequently mentioned in our national awards for planning and sustainable development, and is clearly a success story. I've been proud to live in Clarendon since first moving to Arlington in 1999, and was able to give up my car in 2008. I believe we have achieved success by insisting on community-

driven planning, in which all stakeholders have the clearest possible parameters, but in which the County Board can encourage appropriate creativity through the development site plan process (which itself is a community-oriented process). I saw this first-hand as an active participant in the Clarendon Sector Plan task force (I chaired the parks committee). Using this resident-based approach and many best practices in smart growth and sustainability, we have built an evolving community in which an ever greater emphasis can be placed on mixed-income, mixed-use land use, transit and pedestrian-oriented design, LEED certification, energy efficiency, parks, trees and open space, and transportation demand management, among other goals.

As mentioned in other responses, I also helped lead the effort to create Arlington's version of an inclusionary zoning law, known as our Affordable Housing Ordinance. This was an Arlington-wide effort to change local and state laws to require large and regular contributions to affordable housing from new development. A formula worked out with input from advocates, residents, developers and other stakeholders gives top priority to on-site construction of affordable housing, and, secondarily preservation and creation of affordable housing near the new development. The R-B corridor (as well as the other corridors I mentioned above) has seen this policy become a routine part of the fulfillment of our development plans, and hundreds of new and preserved committed-affordable homes have been achieved.

While all this has been happening, Arlington has maintained its commitment to continued improvement of the parts of Arlington that are not planned for dense redevelopment. The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission, on which I served for three years, and the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Committee review and recommend parks enhancements, tree plantings, streetscape, traffic calming and similar neighborhood improvement projects throughout the County. I strongly support the continuation of these programs. At the same time, the Arterial Traffic Management program, which I also helped plan as a citizen volunteer, has been a means for redesigning streets including Wilson Boulevard to make them more pedestrian friendly and walkable. I also served on the Elder Readiness Task Force, which made recommendations about the ways our aging population will access housing, transportation, health care, recreation and other daily needs and community amenities across Arlington, including along the Orange Line.

In summary, I support the general direction Arlington has been taking in the R-B corridor (as I do with our other important planning and transportation corridors), because Arlington has continued to innovate in achieving sustainability, affordability, and safety for our community.

8) What are your thoughts on the recent approval for the development of a 4.7-acre Boeing HQ at Crystal City? Will it bring the kind of growth you believe Arlington needs?

I think the project was an excellent effort for economic development, provided some important benefits for our long-term vision at Long Bridge park, and left much to be desired as a model of our planning and development principles.

As a matter of planning and smart growth policy, the project in many ways fell short of the standards we have set for ourselves in Arlington, from the siting and size of the garage entrance to the project, to the elimination of shared parking benefits and reduced open space, to the diminution of the LEED certification level to be achieved for the project. These are areas that often are negotiated in site plan discussions, but rarely compromised to the degree seen in this project, especially in recent years as Arlington has seen so much development activity across its planning corridors.

Like other locations near the nation's capital, Arlington suffers from tension between meeting increased security criteria among commercial tenants and the need to adhere to the urban form and design principles, and holistic, smart growth policies, that make our communities so desirable in the first place.

It is easy to understand the value of having major employers located in Arlington, and our economic development goals will always include a federal contractor presence due to our proximity to the Capitol and the location of the Pentagon itself. They are important considerations. The tragedy of this particular project is that Arlington's open desire to pursue this employer seemed to make subsequent good-faith negotiation on our planning principles impossible. The applicant had neither incentive nor pressure to compromise on many of the fundamental issues that in other sites have led to project denials. By losing its negotiating leverage, Arlington's commissioners and citizens were unable to find solutions to achieve our economic development and employment goals while also achieving County priorities on smart growth planning and site design at this key location. That is an unacceptable and avoidable outcome.

As I'll answer in more detail in the next question (#9) Arlington's sustainability also depends on attracting and maintaining a solid base of employers, upon whom we depend to create thriving commercial centers to provide jobs and services for our residents. In some cases a particular employer may also be key to creating synergies that help us draw other quality employers into our community. It is a difficult balance.

I believe that Arlington, adjacent to the Nation's capital and the beneficiary of two generations of outstanding community planning, can be confident that it will continue to attract a wide range of desirable economic investment, and so we should not be seen to set aside our planning principles for the sake of a single employer. It is a slippery slope when we start to make exceptions, as it only increases the pressure for further compromises later on.

9) What, if any, do you think would be the impact of potential defense spending cuts on Arlington County's regional economy? How can these potential negative effects be mitigated?

I am a member of the Economic Development Commission, where my work has focused on the issue of economic sustainability, and the Arlington Chamber of Commerce Community Action Committee, which is focused on the nonprofit sector in Arlington. I recently served as a guest lecturer for George Mason University Graduate School of

Public Policy to speak to students on the issue of Economic Sustainability as it relates to the Arlington neighborhood structure and the nonprofit sector.

Arlington has inherent geographic advantages as part of the original nation's capital. Also, Arlington's visionary planning in the 1960s and 1970s has led to enormous success today. However, these factors will likely not be enough to sustain us for the next 50 years – we require a community consensus around an updated vision. We will need to continue our success while maintaining our values, and to do this we will need new ideas to guide our choices, to attract even more employers, service providers and talented people who want to call Arlington home.

I foresee Arlington working to make its economic tax base more competitive and resilient by attracting a new generation of diverse employers in areas like science and research, clean/green technology, health care, tourism and the arts. We will also better understand how to capitalize on innovative nonprofits, small businesses, and social entrepreneurs so they will contribute to our 21st Century economy. As a County Board member, I would work to:

- Promote a widespread community discussion, on a large scale and over a sufficient period of time, with residents, business and other stakeholders about what our community will want to achieve in the next 50 years;
- Ensure our government is fully aware of what works, what's missing and what could be improved in our retention and pursuit of businesses and employers in our community;
- Increase Arlington's competitiveness and attract diverse new, innovative companies, businesses and organizations through unique, strategic partnerships (like Kettler Ice Plex and academic institutions like Virginia Tech);
- Continue to invest in Arlington's core services to create the quality of life most attractive to future employers and businesses providing services to Arlington residents.

Let me talk specifically about small businesses, which add significant economic investment and contribute to the character and place-making of our communities. They also contribute to our diversity –local restaurants, retailers, social entrepreneurs, boutique firms and nonprofit organizations are all versions of small businesses. I would work to:

- Take full advantage of our Business Improvement Districts and local Alliances to solicit ideas, feedback and recommendations to better support small businesses;
- Pursue innovative, cost-saving measures to support business start-ups like incubators, cooperatives and shared space centers;
- Promote and encourage building form and planning standards that create spaces most appropriate for small businesses, like small retail footprints, designated non-retail spaces, and a more flexible sign ordinance (some of which is happening now).

10) What, if anything, would you most like to improve about Arlington County?

I've written extensively in this questionnaire about my interest in improving Arlington's

economic sustainability, its pursuit of affordable housing in planning, and our future investments in our public schools, transit and walkability networks, and the environment.

I love Arlington, and I like thinking about what we'll be known for 50 years from now – just like we are now known for bold thinking that brought Metro and transit-oriented development corridors here 50 years ago. We've proven repeatedly that some of our best ideas come from the public. As a County Board member, I would work to ensure they have adequate resources to broaden community conversations and to forge tailored solutions.

Our resident-based policy and decision-making culture is known as “the Arlington Way.” Because our population is always growing and changing, our culture must also adapt and change to meet the abilities and resources of our citizens, and the scale and scope of the County's policy challenges. My experience is that the Arlington Way is a sort of social contract in which members of the community are willing to invest time, passion, thought and values into educating themselves about the community and the back-and-forth of joint decision-making, and in return the government takes citizen input as its starting point for action. The Arlington Way takes advantage of Arlington's unique and incredibly diverse, educated and experienced community members.

One issue facing Arlington results from a generational shift in how citizens expect to work with institutions. Traditionally, community education, discussion, and feedback occurred predominantly at large and small, but frequent, in-person meetings and assemblies. Increasingly, citizens today are not getting as involved in formal organizations with regular meetings, but rather are using blogs, social networking, and other methods to conduct their civic business. In many ways, these can enhance our community discussion, for example, sites like GGW, Blue Virginia, and ArlNow have clearly provided many Arlingtonians with both information and a venue for discussion that is more convenient and open to the public than traditional meeting formats. At the same time, there is now more difficulty communicating with citizens today via traditional mail, phone and even door-to-door outreach, and so formal groups like civic associations are finding it increasingly hard to maintain their membership and resources.

I believe the County government must move in multiple directions simultaneously to address these shifts. First, there must be more emphasis within the government to proactively and consistently seek to involve the public in every policy discussion at the earliest possible stage, to recognize when citizens have invested the time and energy to send in a single e-mail, and certainly if they go so far as to attend a meeting. Second, the government must do more to formally support organizations, such as civic associations, upon which it relies for community education and feedback. And third, Arlington must continually be prepared to adapt to new media strategies that will notify and involve citizens in decision-making, for example, by monitoring and participating in blog discussions where citizens commonly ask for official information.

I've benefited as a candidate from following this approach. I am using social media (through Twitter and Facebook) to interact with other Arlingtonians as part of my

campaign. I am meeting with residents and making myself available for unstructured conversations about issues facing our community. And I'm participating in blogs like GGW to share my opinions about Arlington. I would want to continue all of these activities as a County Board member.