



2022 County Council Candidate Questionnaire

The Food Council invited all County Council candidates to complete a 9-item questionnaire, which was developed in collaboration with our community partners. Our goal is to provide information on local candidate's food system priorities and commitments. As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, we do not endorse candidates.

For more information, please contact Heather Bruskin, Executive Director at hbruskin@mocofoodcouncil.org.

Name: **Andrew Einsmann**

Campaign Website: www.andreweinsmann.com

Candidate for: **District 7**

1. Please describe your personal and/or professional engagement in any local food systems initiatives, policies, and programs.

A: I have for years been a major sponsor for Nourish Now. I have volunteered for both Manna and Germantown Help. I have donated food to many food pantries.

2. Please describe any plans you have for creating economic opportunities for individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, Latinx/Latino, and/or a person of color, particularly in food and agriculture?

A: I think these are challenging issues. We need to do a root cause analysis to come to the root of the problem. Why is the number so low? Is it because minorities simply do not own the land? If they own the land why do they not chose to produce agriculture with it. Support and encourage more minorities that have land to grow food assure them that the food will be purchase and connect them with a coop to sell the produce. We need to engage the people of color that might have the opportunities to grow food and encourage them to do so.



3. Please describe your position on addressing income insufficiency, which is a major contributor to food insecurity in our County. Please describe any positions or initiatives in your platform that focus on food security.

A: Mike Tyson said, "Everyone has a good plan until they get punched in the Mouth." The pandemic punched us in the mouth. We need to continue to address food insecurity in the county. The first place to look is the schools and continue and extend the back pack programs. We need to id individuals that are not currently in our safety nets to provide services to them. With 120 different organization, they should try to focus more locally because that is an organization for ever 10,000 residence in this county. With that many organization, if we connected properly no one should be going hungry.

4. What role should the County government have in improving resident access to federal benefit programs, such as SNAP and WIC.

A: Again, through the network of 120 different organizations who are going out in the community, they should be able to get a sense as to where food insecurity is and reach out to those parties. We need to leverage this network better to assure that the people who need the resources can get them.

5. It is likely that the impacts of climate change, national and global politics, and future disasters will further disrupt food production, supply chains, and food security networks. Please describe any policies and programs that you will propose or support to address local food system resilience?

A: With this question, it revolves around is there an ultimate last ditch food bank and who that is and we need to keep them supplied and communicate to the rest of the food insecure network as to that is the place to go. One organization, maybe it is Manna, can step up and become that place and then if other places run out of food refer them to the people in need.

6. Please describe any initiatives or policies you would propose to increase local food production and access to affordable agricultural land.

A: I am glad to see Farm to Food Bank is already up and running because I was not sure it existed. I think we need to have more options in this sector and actually expand this to paying customers as well. We need more farm markets and assure that all that as much food that is grown in the county is consumed by either humans or animals.

7. Please describe any initiatives or policies you will propose to reduce food waste and advance zero-waste strategies.

A: I am an environmental candidate. I believe that there should be as little as possible food waste. Everyone who owns enough land to compost should be educated to compost. We should be delivering simple composting bins to every house like the blue bins for recycling. We need to find a solution for food waste in more urbanized areas to that it can be reduced where there is more limited



space available. I am open to investigating better options there. I am very open to any option that can get us to a zero-waste strategy and shut down the incinerator in Dickerson.

8. Where do you see opportunities for the County government to support food education? How can the County support residents in making healthy and sustainable food choices easier?

A: It must first be taught in schools. Similar to composting in needs to be taught early and often, it, also, needs to be affordable. There are very few in Montgomery County but we need to work to subsidize to put healthy food locations in current food deserts.

9. What do you see as the biggest food system challenges in the County and what do you believe is the role of the County Council in addressing them? How should community stakeholders be engaged in that work?

A: I think the biggest food challenge is education and distribution of the food that can and is raised in local gardens to provide for food for neighbors in need and potential winter storage of that food so it does not get spoiled. We, unfortunately, have need to have better communication channels between people who grow food and people who need it. The County Council can be the voice, marketing and the connective tissue between the haves and the have nots so that food does not get spoiled.

