



2022 County Executive Candidate Questionnaire

The Food Council invited all County Executive 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: **Peter James**

Campaign Website: <http://pjames.us>

Candidate for: **County Executive**

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

A: Founder of First Fruits Farms non-profit providing intern opportunities developing technologies to make neighborhood farming economically viable. ie. robotics for labor cost reduction & renewable energy systems for greenhouse heating. Developed U of DC's hydroponics program. Placed ydroponics system in three MoCo schools.

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: As County Exec I will put greenhouse food production in all neighborhoods. FFF interns have been as diverse as is the County.



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: I funded the Rock Terrace special needs school hydroponics system with a local food back currency that 18 Rockville Mercants excepted for goods and services. I will issue County interest free notes that will circulate in the economy provide seed capital to low income neighborhood farmers. Moco imports most of it food. I will convert industrial commodity crop farms in the AG reserve to grow people food until MoCo is a net food exporter.

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

**A: This should be a service provided within HHS department.
Will supply funding for small local farmers to get equipment for process transactions at farmers markets and roadside stands.**

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: Yes, By producing most of the food consumed here in the County, we will avoid those distributions. By grow people food in climate controlled greenhouse, we can afford disruptions due to weather. By producing high grade organic fertilizers from waste stream like yard and food wastes, we will eliminate environmental damage from synthetic fertilizers and nutrient run-off.

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

A: Converting industrial farms to agro-forestry and greenhouse food production, MoCo farmers will generate 10 times the gross revenues. Under current zoning in the AG reserve tenant dwellings are allowed, I would use this allowable use to provide shared agricultural land to small beginning and small farmers. Paul Mock in Berkley Springs, WV produces \$1 million per acre. He is producing the same amount table food as half of the ~440 table food farmers in MoCo.

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

**A: I believe the Co2 footprint of a centralized food waste composting operation that uses a fleet of diesel is unacceptable. Along wit neighborhood greenhouse, I would provide a hybrid in-vessel aerobic and anerobic yard and food waste processing system that will supply fertilizer and CO2 enhancement to greenhouse crops. Food production is increased. ie.
http://71.163.111.38:4000/media/iv_compost.pptx**



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: I will propose community health clinics in my budgets to the council. These would include education and prescriptions for healthy food and integrative medicine.

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 Executive in addressing them? How should community stakeholders be engaged in that work?

A: It is said it is hard to teach an old dog new tricks. I believe neighborhood farming will have good adoption. It is getting the commodity crop farmers to be willing to try and then convert to producing people food. I will produce technology prototypes on County land and perhaps provide incentives to encourage adoption of sustainable farming practices.

