



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: **Dwight Patel**

Campaign Website: www.DwightForMoCo.com

Candidate for: **At-Large**

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

A: I donate to Can Food Drives, in High School at Montgomery Blair High School, I spearheaded efforts to collect cans for the needy.

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 want economic opportunities for ALL not just those who identify as "Black, Indigenous, Latinx/Latino, and/or a person of color". I am for tax incentives to bring new businesses to Montgomery County. I also am for training programs so that Unskilled people can learn a marketable skill.



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: Income Insufficiency – Two ways to fix this problem, one learn a new or a skill that’s in higher demand like a trade, prioritize spending how about cutting out luxuries like Eating out, Going out to the movies and clubs, eliminate Cable TV, and so on.

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

A: Refer County Residents to the HHS website [<https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic>] we should be encouraging our residents to not rely on government handouts. We should stress self- reliance. For far too many of our citizens and some who are illegal aliens WIC and other Government Subsidies turn into a way of life, thereby providing zero incentive on self-improvement.

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: Climate Change is JUNK SCIENCES - I am old enough to remember when we were going to face a global ice age, then global warming and now its just Climate Change. The Climate changes every day. This is just an effort by the woke left to stifle innovation. I think we need to Drill-Baby-Drill and go full nuclear. News flash the electricity you get comes from a coal powered power plant. Nuclear is the cleanest and cheapest form of energy.

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

A: Way to increase food production is to use science and technology to increase food production. Monsanto has come up with genetically modifying corn and other agricultural products. We should offer tax breaks to farmers, to grow more foods, remove regulations that dictate how much fertilizers can be used and so on. The biggest hindrance to farmers is onerous Regulations imposed by non-farmers on council and state Legislators.

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

A: Offer tax subsidies for restaurants and grocery stores to donate excess food to local food banks, homeless shelters, and food pantries. Most restaurants do donate at the end of the evening unused foods to local charities.



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: This isn't the job of the Government, we can't tell people what to eat, how much to eat. We are a nation of individual rights and liberties. How did Michelle Obamas school lunch program work out? Children going hungry in schools, kids bringing lunch from home.

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: One the biggest problem is Mr. Biden's created supply chain mess, the high price of gas, trickles down and increases the cost of foods at the local Giant, Safeway, Wholefoods and Wegmans stores. Best thing the cunty can do is offer tax breaks to those businesses who'd like to participate in a food sharing program.

