



## 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](mailto:hbruskin@mocofoodcouncil.org).

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Name: **Christopher Bolton**

Campaign Website: **Bolton4you.com**

Candidate for: **District 5**

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

**A: I have given away food every Saturday since covid started.**

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 would enlist the help of the Maryland food bank to ensure that a steady food supply would come to neighborhoods that need it.**

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 inefficiency comes from the rising cost of housing and renting that typically are in areas of color. I take the position that people need a public private partnership to help address high rising rental costs.**

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

**A: I think the poverty levels and income limits are out of date and need to be revised.**

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: I think the Maryland food bank is still a good resource as stated in my previous answers.**

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

**A: I think keeping the address of Aziz and giving farmers an opportunity to open up local community based farmers market and sell overstock product at a cheaper price and at least the farmers can make a little more money off of overstocks.**

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

**A: Community based farmers market I think would address that issue**

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 think account it needs to tap into the resources that the federal would state governments have about healthy eating about healthy eating and healthy recipe making**

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: The biggest food challenge in the county is food desert lack of access to healthy food there are more fast food restaurants that lower income residents tend to try to try to then healthy eating options. Community stakeholders need to pass the word out to residents and make space available to hold these kind of farmers markets.**

