



Prince William Conservation Alliance

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Questions for Prince William County Supervisor Candidates in 2015

With responses published for community leaders throughout your district

Please respond to these seven questions and send responses to Prince William Conservation Alliance at alliance@pwconserve.org by September 24. Thank you.

Candidate Name: Ruth Anderson District: Occoquan
Campaign Website: www.ruth4supervisor.com Party Affiliation: R

1. What changes, if any, would you make to the current 10 acre minimum in the rural area?

I definitely support saving large amounts of green space and appreciate the "rural crescent". But, I am somewhat open to unique ideas for saving large amounts of land for pastures and farming while allowing a few clusters of homes (each on less than 10 acres). Bottom line: I want to remain open to very unique ideas for development that preserves our rural area while allowing some home groupings. Willowsford in Loudoun County is an example. However, we would need to ensure that the same amount of land is undeveloped as would have been if everything remained in accordance with the current plan...one home/10 acres. I need more education in this arena and am willing to learn. I also need to spend time with people currently living in the rural crescent before making any decisions!

2. Would you support Prince William County funding for a Purchase of Development Rights to encourage commercial agriculture and preserve open space in the Rural Area?

Yes, I support the concept but would need to have specifics of the county offer to make an informed decision.

3. How would you increase commercial agricultural operations in the Rural Area, including wineries and breweries, to preserve open space?

I would highly encourage increased agricultural operations in our rural areas. I would have the County Economic Development Department develop marketing materials on the attractiveness of Prince William's competitive business tax rate, excellent soil and climate, and other advantages such as proximity to high population areas. Advertising could be done extensively in trade magazines that cater to these industries.

Also...much education, at many levels, can take place on "working" agricultural operations...e.g., Windy Knoll Farm. More partnerships with schools and universities would enhance marketing, agricultural, and conservation programs.

4. As the county population increases, how will you increase the acreage of public parkland for ballfields and for passive recreational activities?

I would make sure that developers proffer adequate sports fields per a certain number of new residents.

5. VRE has proposed to increase the number of trains running throughout the day, and also to extend its tracks to Gainesville/Haymarket. Which of those two options is your top priority?

Before I decide I would need to have more information. Has VRE done studies to show that non-rush hour trains would have good ridership? Would the community of Haymarket support trains to their area? I would probably support both options as they cut down on roadway traffic.

- 6. Do you support the proposed Bi-County Parkway? The Bi-County Parkway is a 10-mile highway segment of the 45-mile long corridor that would connect I-95 in Prince William County to the back of Dulles Airport in Loudoun County.**

We definitely need to create better north to south connectivity between Western PWC and Dulles! I have studied both the Bi-County and Tri-County Parkway proposals. The Bi-County Parkway looks good on paper but is fraught with various problems...many residents and elected officials have taken a stand against it. Therefore, I do not believe it is the right solution as currently proposed...however, I am "all about" listening to alternatives to the plan. The Tri-County Parkway serves about the same purpose and is more palatable to most people. I will support the Tri-County Parkway or a future alternative proposal to it. I believe the people of PWC will begin to unite behind a solution that the majority of residents can support. If we don't make plans to fix this problem, we will lose many potential business opportunities for PWC.

- 7. In the update of the Economic Development Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, would you consider it a higher priority to improve rail and bus transit capacity in order to attract businesses to Prince William, or would you prefer to rezone acreage to permit more development?**

I would not want more land rezoned for large areas of dense residential development until we get a good, working plan for schools and roads. Our roads are already at over capacity. However, I support development that is mixed residential/commercial or commercial.