

**Amy Jahnigen --**

**Candidate for County Council District F 2018**

**1. What improvements are needed for your district?**

District F is a very unique district in that it has a large cross-section of Harford County. It contains residents from Havre de Grace, Abingdon, Belcamp, Aberdeen, Bel Air, APG, Perryman and even a few in Darlington. The needs for these areas vary depending on what part of District F that you look at. The Route 40 corridor needs revitalization & rehabilitation, parts of the district need development and growth, parts of the district need to slow growth until traffic issues and school overcrowding issues are addressed. One common thread that spans the entire district is the need for proactive instead of reactive growth. Development is good for our county, but we need to make sure we are focusing on the correct type of development that makes sense, increases property values, doesn't overcrowd schools that are already overcrowded, addresses the needs of the citizens and is good for the future of Harford County. I am excited about the brand-new Havre de Grace Middle and High school and think that the Computer Science magnet program is a fantastic idea that will be great for the future of Harford County. I also think that expanding the Vocational Education program or introducing an Early College High School in Harford County would be great for the county and the Route 40 corridor would be ideal for this.

Looking at the demographics of Harford County and the size of the county, I think the county definitely needs two full service hospitals and that with the pending closure of Union Memorial, that we need to address the issue of getting a full service hospital replacement.

Here is a look at the cross-section of registered voters in District F:

<u>Residential City</u>	
ABERDEEN	3,884
ABINGDON	8,224
APG	649
BEL AIR	1,652
BELCAMP	4,198
DARLINGTON	3
HAVRE DE GRACE	10,808
PERRYMAN	74

**2. What legislation do you plan to introduce for your district? For the County?**

I want to introduce legislation that would allow for the Harford County Council to give money to the Board of Education that would be earmarked for a specific project instead of always having to go into the general budget. Also, the time it takes to get approvals for projects needs to be addressed as well. President Trump said in his state of the union this year: “Years ago we built the Empire State building in one year and now it could take up to 10 years to get a permit”. That is true in Harford County and it needs to be addressed! We also need to make sure we review what has been approved; when it is planned and make sure that what is in the development pipeline addresses the current needs of the citizens. Again, I reiterate we need to be proactive instead of reactive in how we plan for Harford County.

**3. How would you include or engage more people to provide input to the Council’s decisions?**

Engaging the citizens is one of my most passionate platforms in terms of running for County Council. Every single citizen deserves to have their voices heard and input considered. The largest form of income for the county is property taxes and who pays that – the citizens of the County! I would encourage more people to come to county council meetings, public input meetings, Board of Education meetings, community meetings and get involved in local politics.

**4. Would you be willing to explain your voting decisions on the dais for each bill you vote upon?** Yes, I would be willing to do that. If I am representing my constituents, they should be able to understand why I voted a certain way. I believe that transparency is a good thing in all levels of government.

**5. Would you support better ways to provide the public with user-friendly notification of decisions by DAC and the Zoning Board of Appeals? If so, how?**

Yes, I love all the new technology that the current administration has introduced and I think that we need to continue to expand that and stay ahead of the curve of keeping the public involved, informed and aware of what is going on in and around their neighborhood. We need to expand the Track-it app that Planning and Zoning has put in place to add a tab for approved plans/decisions.

**6. Would you vote in favor of term limits for County Council members? Explain.**

Yes, I would vote in favor of term limits. A lot of political positions have term limits and there are valid reasons for that. It is good to get new perspective and fresh ideas.

**7. How do you propose to solve the County's traffic problems in your district?**

District F has many areas with traffic problems. Some of these are county zoned roads, others are state highways. I would advocate the State Highway Administration to address the issues for several areas – one of which is the intersection of Routes 136 and 7. Another is the Route 543 corridor from Belcamp to Bel Air. For the county roads, we need to assess traffic and speeding dangers on roads and tackle them one at a time based on the speed, traffic and accident rate.

**8. What parts of the zoning code do you feel need to be changed?**

I think that we need to constantly analyze the development envelope and make sure that areas zoned R1 are not overwhelmed with requests for R2 exemptions.

**9. Do you feel it's time for noise and lighting legislation in Harford County?** I think each case would need to be addressed individually and make sure the needs of the citizens and the benefits to the county are equally taken into account when making decisions.

**10. Do you approve of General Industrial (GI) zoning adjacent to residential communities or within a Village District? If your answer is 'No', how do you reconcile your disapproval with HarfordNEXT and recent Comprehensive Zoning Review decisions?** We should be careful about what we put next to residential communities and make sure that we think about the safety and well-being of our residents when making decisions on zoning. We want to increase jobs and business in Harford County, but we should not put residents at risk or decrease property values while doing this.

**11. Do you agree with the reduction in the number of County inspections on construction sites when only 34 percent of contractors are in compliance with the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance?**

I think we need to balance the types of inspections required with the types of violations that are occurring and hold the responsible parties accountable when issues of non-compliance are discovered.