

COUNCILMAN CHAD SHRODES
County Council District D 2018 ELECTION

1. What improvements are needed for your district?

Harford County, a national leader in permanent land preservation, has protected over 50,000 acres of its productive farmland and other natural habitat areas through our State and County land preservation programs and the Harford Land Trust. Northern Harford County has existing commercial zoning peppered throughout the area along rural corridors. I encourage the County Administration to create architectural design guidelines and standards and a sign code that correspond with designated overlay districts in advance of these parcels being proposed for development. This will enhance and compliment the character of our rural landscape and village communities while maintaining property owner rights.

2. What legislation do you plan to introduce for your district? For the County? If you are an incumbent, what legislation have you introduced?

During my tenure on the Council, I have created legislation that has protected our rural heritage, environment, and quality of life, while limiting development to the development envelope. I have also supported legislation that requires Community Input Meetings (CIMs) for proposed development projects prior to submitting plans to the County for review. (This is consistent with my voting record, which confirms that I am not, and have never been, beholden to developers.) Visit my web site for more detailed information on legislation I have created and supported, as well as voted against.

http://chadshrodes.com/issues_chad_shrodes_harford_county_council.html

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

I attend Community Advisory Board meetings to notify the public of pending legislation, and to assist resolving community concerns. I initiated a new Forest Hill Citizens Advisory Group in response to development concerns. Further, I started the Northern Harford County Zone Facebook page which has over 4,100 followers to help inform the citizens about issues including upcoming DAC meetings, development proposals, Board of Appeal cases and other development related discussions. I supported legislation that requires Community Input Meetings (CIMs) for proposed development projects prior to submitting plans to the County for review. Recently, I also partnered with the

Friends of Harford to organize a “pre-Community Input Meeting” when commercial development threatened the rural character of District D.

4. Would you be willing to explain your voting decisions on the dais for each bill you vote upon?

Yes.

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 believe these decisions should be readily available to the public. I would support an automatic notification system where individuals could register to stay informed about DAC and Board of Appeal Decisions.

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

I believe that citizens should have the opportunity to vote for a candidate that has consistently represented their interests. I do not think it is wise to force citizens to vote for candidates with unknown track records, simply because an incumbent, who has done a good job advocating for the community, has reached a term limit.

Further I think this practice discounts the importance of experience on the County Council, particularly during cycles where there is significant turnover of Council Members.

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

While District D has limited traffic congestion, I have been an advocate for public traffic safety and will continue to work with the County and the SHA towards improvements that result in safer roads.

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

The County’s Master Plan must continue to balance growth while not jeopardizing productive farmland, natural resources and rural heritage. It is critical that the strategies in the Master Plan are implemented. I encourage the County Administration to create architectural design guidelines and standards and a sign code that correspond with designated overlay districts to protect and enhance the character of our communities. Further I would support review and if necessary an update, of the permitted use charts.

9. Do you feel it's time for noise and lighting legislation in Harford County?

I support the County Administration's efforts to develop noise and lighting legislation. Several years ago, I worked with constituents, the Sheriff's Office, and the Maryland Department of the Environment to establish a Memorandum of Understanding that permitted enforcement of MDE's noise ordinance.

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?

During the last Comprehensive Rezoning, the Council approved zoning in Whiteford that changed General Industrial (GI) zoning to Village Business (VB) zoning which is a better fit for the historic Villages of Whiteford and Cardiff.

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?

All construction projects should be compliant with Erosion and Sedimentation Control ordinances.