

Candidate's Name: Evan Glass Office Sought: County Council At-Large

## Candidate Questionnaire from VOCAL MOCO

Background: Voters Opposing County Alcohol Laws in Montgomery County, Maryland (VOCAL MOCO) is a nonprofit advocacy organization established by Montgomery County consumers. Its purpose is to end MOCO's alcohol monopoly and modernize the County's alcohol laws. Our website is located at [www.vocalmoco.org](http://www.vocalmoco.org)

VOCAL MOCO realizes an end to the County's alcohol monopoly and modernization of its alcohol laws will require legislation at the County and State levels that may ultimately require popular referenda.

Accordingly, VOCAL MOCO asks:

1. If elected, would you support legislation to end Montgomery County's wholesale monopoly on the sale of liquor, wine and beer to restaurants and wine and beer to County retailers?

X Yes

2. If elected, would you support legislation to end the County's retail monopoly on the sale of liquor and permit licensed County retailers to sell liquor?

X Maybe. It depends on how the licenses are distributed.

3. If elected, would you not only support legislation ending the County's monopoly but support ending the County's wholesale and retail alcohol sales altogether?

X Not at this time. The current operation raises \$30 million in revenue for the county. My longstanding proposal (link below) will allow restaurateurs the direct sale of wine, beer and spirits.

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO [ken@vocalmoco.org](mailto:ken@vocalmoco.org) BY MAY 24, 2018

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Of the \$30 million in revenue that the monopoly provides the county budget, my policy will only reduce that figure by \$2-3 million. I am confident that this gesture will increase economic activity within the restaurant and hospitality industry, thereby recovering the minor budgetary costs.

4. If elected, would you support legislation to permit grocery stores, convenience and other stores, large and small, to sell alcoholic beverages, subject to reasonable licensing requirements, as is allowed in DC and Virginia?

X Yes

5. If elected, would you support efforts to address any revenue shortfall resulting from an end to the County's monopoly, including requiring the State of Maryland to allot a portion of sales taxes on County alcohol sales to the County?

X Yes My proposal for ending the monopoly would cost approximately \$2-3 million, which is not a severe shortfall. If the county were to eliminate the DLC all together, I believe that would result in a severe shortfall, which would require alternative sources of revenue. A sales tax on liquor could be one way to recoup the lost revenue.

6. If the monopoly were ended, would you support efforts to help affected County Department of Liquor Control employees transition to good public and private sector jobs?

X Yes My proposal for ending the monopoly would not result in the loss of jobs. If the county were to eliminate the DLC all together, the

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county would be morally obligated to help affected employees transition to good paying jobs.

7. Finally, if elected, would you support legislation that would remove statutory and regulatory impediments to the growth and success of Maryland's craft beer industry, specifically provisions that cap production, sale, and distribution of Maryland craft beer products?

X Yes.

Additional Comments?

In 2013 I served on the Montgomery County Nighttime Economy Task Force. During my term of service, I was questioned the function of the Department of Liquor Control and its services. The result of my public inquiry was the Task Force's recommendation that the Office of Legislative Oversight research and explore options for dealing with the DLC.

In 2014, as a candidate for the Montgomery County Council's District 5, I wrote an op-ed in the Washington Post called for an end to the DLC's monopoly. My remedy was to allow restaurateurs the direct sale of wine, beer and spirits. Here is the op-ed:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/breaking-montgomery-countys-monopoly-on-booze/2016/01/18/515ead94-bbde-11e5-99f3-184bc379b12d\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/breaking-montgomery-countys-monopoly-on-booze/2016/01/18/515ead94-bbde-11e5-99f3-184bc379b12d_story.html)

After losing the 2014 election by one percent, the OLO issued a report on the subject and the County Council passed a resolution calling for an end to the DLC monopoly. Their resolution mirrored exactly what I authored in my Washington Post op-ed.

To this day, that DLC monopoly still exists.

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If on the Council, I will work with our state delegation to enact the reforms I have called for since 2013 – 2014. Of the \$30 million in revenue that the monopoly provides the county budget, my policy will only reduce that figure by \$2-3 million. I am confident that this gesture will increase economic activity within the restaurant and hospitality industry, thereby recovering the minor budgetary costs.

If we want to truly help our small businesses, this is one simple gesture toward that goal.