

Candidate's Name Ariana Kelly Office Sought Delegate, District 16

### 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?

Yes  No

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?

Yes  No

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?

Yes  No

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?

Yes  No

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?

Yes  No

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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?

Yes  No

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?

Yes  No

#### Additional Comments?

Montgomery County's alcohol control system is outmoded and not meeting the needs of Montgomery County consumers or businesses. I am a strong supporter of eliminating Montgomery County's monopoly and have consistently supported and co-sponsored measures that would modernize the system and eliminate the monopoly.

As a consumer, I shop in Northern Virginia for my beer, wine and liquor. We can do better for our constituents.

As Chair of Montgomery County's Economic Development Committee, I have heard Montgomery County's consumers loud and clear: they want more choices. I have also heard our small businesses loud and clear: they want to be able to fairly compete. Under my leadership we passed numerous changes to modernize alcohol laws. We:

- repealed arcane prohibition-era laws to allow licenses to be issued for additional types of businesses throughout the entire county, including bowling alleys, billiard halls, and pharmacies, hotels, etc;
- allowed limited distillery licenses so distilleries can sell their own distilled products;
- expanded Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses to be issued anywhere in the county;
- allowed existing private beer and wine shop owners in Montgomery County to apply to the County for a license to also sell spirits;
- established a Class BD-BWL alcoholic beverages license;
- established a refillable wine container permit;

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- expanded the hours of sale for many types of license;
- repealed a ban on wine auction permits;
- passed legislation to allow wineries to obtain a license sell its wine directly to the public;
- established a sports stadium alcoholic beverages license;
- established a Beer, Wine, and Liquor Festival license;
- expanded the holiday hours of sale for beer, wine and liquor licenses

Obviously, there is still much more work to do. The legislation to end the county monopoly did not have enough votes in the County Delegation to pass. This year's elections could be transformative for this movement. It is critical we elect legislators who are willing to take tough votes and stand up to bullying.