

**Candidate's Name: Nancy Floreen Office Sought: County Executive**

## **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 \_\_\_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?  
\_X\_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?  
\_X\_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?  
\_X\_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?  
\_X\_Yes \_\_\_No
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 \_\_\_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?  
\_X\_Yes \_\_\_No

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

Additional Comments?

We need to explore how best to transition the County out of the liquor business. The current County system of regulating, distributing and selling alcohol should be fundamentally changed because it does not meet consumer needs. As a County Government department, it does not function with the flexibility and entrepreneurial orientation necessary to provide a desirable level of customer service. I will support changes to State law that will replace the current system in a way that protects taxpayers; ensures public health and safety; promotes consumer satisfaction and choice; takes care of current County employees through any transition; and preserves our community's quality of life. Any changes should also provide for the County to responsibly fulfill its required fiscal obligations regarding the "Liquor Control Revenue Bonds" which Montgomery County used to fund local transportation and other projects.

Or comments re: specific questions:

#4. While I support allowing chain grocery stores and other large and small retailers to sell beer and wine, this is a statewide issue that would require state legislation to make any change, and it is not unique to Montgomery County.

#5. To protect the interests of all taxpayers, the reforms in Montgomery County should be at least revenue-neutral. Those reforms should not be exclusively contingent upon the State government agreeing to reimburse Montgomery County for the non-tax General Fund revenue we would give up. (That would be an unlikely scenario to achieve from a political standpoint.) I will support any responsible, creative solution that will allow the County to pursue a revenue-neutral solution.

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**#6. Yes. The County's "Collective Bargaining Agreement" already includes detailed provisions regulating the transition of represented employees. I would make sure any change takes the needs of current County employees into account.**

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