

## *A Vision for the Future of Annapolis 2021*

Annapolis should be a great place to live, work, and raise a family for all residents. On November 2, Annapolitans will have an opportunity to elect a Mayor and City Council that combine a vision for an even better city with a long-term strategic plan to put the city's fiscal house in order, protect the Chesapeake Bay, improve transparency in planning, invest in our youth, build a more dynamic business climate, and restore public safety.

### Keeping our Fiscal House in Order

The Mayor and the City Council faced significant budgetary challenges since 2017, particularly in the past year. This council addressed shortcomings left from the previous Republican led administration by fulfilling our city's fiscal commitments and ensuring that the process was transparent and accountable. The city maintains a stellar bond rating despite the hardships of COVID-19. The administration maintained consistent services during the crisis and introduced measures that kept our small businesses afloat. A Democratic Mayor and Democratic-led city council will continue to ensure that our fiscal house remains in order and transparent to all Annapolitans.

### Community Safety, Wellness, and Trust

Every Annapolitan has the right to feel safe in our community. Annapolis Democrats are committed to a holistic approach to strengthening public safety, including: expanding community policing initiatives, increasing transparency in crime reporting, working to curb the opioid epidemic, and taking an active role in enhancing the relationship and trust between our communities and our Police, Fire, and Emergency Management Departments.

The administration replaced the city's police leadership; the city's fire department is one of the highest rated in the state; and the Emergency Management Division responded to the COVID-19 crisis, sea level rise, and mitigation of future flood disasters.

### Protecting the Chesapeake Bay and Addressing Sea Level Rise

Our quality of life is directly tied to the health of our surrounding environment. We have made tremendous progress over the last 40 years in restoring our greatest natural resource and economic asset: the Chesapeake Bay. Annapolis Democrats are committed to continuing this progress by: Restoring the water quality of our creeks by strengthening our environmental protections, ensuring new development is sustainable with little impact on our quality of life, and supporting an innovative, equitable, and fiscally responsible plan to treat stormwater runoff.

Annapolis Democrats are responsible for the creation of the resiliency financing authority, an independent body responsible for financing capital intensive projects, including sea level rise, creation of no discharge zones, and the Creeks Cabinet - which advises the administration on environmental issues directly related to water quality in our rivers and creeks.

### Investing in our Youth

An investment in our city's youth is an investment in our future. Providing expanded opportunities for the youth of Annapolis to safely play, grow, and prosper will increase our

quality of life and lift our economy. Annapolis Democrats are committed to investing in accessible after school programs and educational opportunities, partnering with more nonprofit organizations to provide meaningful programming, and working with the business community to increase job opportunities for the young people of Annapolis. Democrats created the Office of Community Services, which connects people to all of the different resources available to help them, such as drug counselling, health care, food, and childcare, among many others.

#### Responsible & Transparent Planning and Development

Inconsistency, lack of transparency, and limited public participation in the city's planning process led to increased traffic, sprawl, and high-profile lawsuits in previous administrations. Democrats on the City Council have already passed smart growth initiatives such as a strengthened Forest Conservation Act and an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance to provide more environmental protections and greater transparency for residents and the business community. Democrats have proposed the creation of an Administrative Hearing Officer position, which will shine light on the planning process and allow the public direct participation in decision making.

#### Creating a Dynamic Business

Democrats have created an Office of Economic Development that meets regularly with the business community, connects them to grants and other economic resources, and helps new businesses relocate to the city. They were instrumental in establishing and managing the COVID-19 recovery zones.

Annapolis Democrats are committed to reforming the city's permitting process to make it fair and equitable.

#### Optimizing Transportation Choices

Building a more livable, walkable, and bikeable community with increased regional public transportation options will decrease traffic congestion, increase job creation, and expand our economy. Annapolis Democrats are committed to embracing alternative modes of transportation, and attacking the traffic problem by working with our city commissions, utilizing past mobility reports to increase bicycling around town, reducing the demand on parking downtown, and reducing the traffic in our neighborhoods.

#### Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is an important tool to assure our communities are balanced and diverse. Annapolis Democrats are committed to expanding affordable housing opportunities and housing needs for many of our public servants such as police officers, firefighters, teachers, nurses, healthcare workers, and other public employees.