

A Vision for the Future of Annapolis

Annapolis should be a great place to live, work, and raise a family for all residents. On November 7th, Annapolitans will have an opportunity to elect a Mayor and City Council that combines 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.**

Putting our Fiscal House in Order

Annapolis will face significant budgetary pressures in the next four years that threaten public services, our bond rating, and our quality of life. The City's bond debt has roughly doubled in the past ten years and the current Administration has not presented a plan to manage the debt or pay for upcoming major infrastructure obligations such as addressing flood mitigation and replacing the Hillman Garage. The City's unfunded pension liabilities have not been addressed and will continue to put pressure on the operating budget. The City Council took a major first step to address this structural deficit in June. **Annapolis Democrats are committed to continuing the fight to put the City's fiscal house in order.**

Strengthening Public Safety

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, working in conjunction with HACA, increasing transparency in crime reporting, working to curb the opioid epidemic, and taking an active role in strengthening the relationship and trust between our communities and our Police, Fire, and Emergency Management Departments.**

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.

Proactively protecting the entire City from climate change and sea level rise by working with our scientists who warn that Climate Change is a real and serious threat to our historic town, by developing a comprehensive plan to protect all of our City, and taking immediate steps to start addressing the infrastructure needs we face to adapt to this threat.

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, improve public safety, and lift our economy. **Annapolis Democrats are committed to investing in accessible afterschool 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.**

Committing to Responsible & Transparent Planning

Inconsistency, lack of transparency, and limited public participation in the City's planning process has led to increased traffic, sprawl, and high-profile lawsuits. Democrats on the City Council have already passed smart growth initiatives such as a strengthened Forest Conservation Act and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance to provide more environmental protections and greater transparency for residents and the business community. **Annapolis Democrats are committed to reforming our planning policies, increasing public participation, adhering to and implementing our Comprehensive Plan, and creating a consistent and transparent planning process for the benefit of all Annapolitans.**

Creating a Dynamic Business Climate

Annapolis is blessed with a historic downtown, a storied maritime industry, and a wealth of educational and governmental anchor institutions that bolster our economy. Yet the City's economy remains inhibited with significant vacancies along Main Street and throughout the City, a reputation for having an unfriendly business climate, and no strategic vision for attracting businesses that fit our unique character. **Annapolis Democrats are committed to reforming the City's permitting process to be more business-friendly, encouraging locally-owned, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses, and working with residents and the existing business community to strategically address economic opportunities.**

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 and 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 in age and income level. **Annapolis Democrats are committed to expanding affordable housing opportunities in the City by addressing housing needs for many of our public servants such as police officers, firefighters, teachers, nurses, and public employees and strengthening policies on Moderately Priced Dwelling units.**