

Good afternoon and thank you for all of the hard work that has been put into creating these new districts.

Unfortunately, District 7 does not make sense. It is the largest in population (over 10,000 more than the proposed District 6), is too large in physical size (second only to District 2) and will be unable to represent the population in that district in an equitable manner.

The needs in Damascus and Mt Airy are greatly different than the needs of Norbeck/Norwood.

Damascus, Mt. Airy and Woodbine have experienced great growth without the needed infrastructure to support the volume of cars on roads and children in their very old schools. They need the basics, such as sidewalks and shoulders along roads.

In comparison, (1) Takoma, Bethesda, Silver Spring have gained completed school facility renovations - a good example that shows the lopsided political advantage that those around the DC Beltway already receive. (2) The at-large members all reside in the Southern part of the county - thus not understanding the needs of those north or west in the county. (3) Those closer to DC, including Norbeck/Norwood already have the public transportation & road infrastructure required... while the upper, western part of the county is still waiting for these amenities afforded to those in the southern portion of the county. (4) Yet another inequity that proves why this district would not work are when looking at county services. For example, county indoor pools and QUALITY county fitness centers, 55+ amenities, and variety for summer camps are all lacking in this northwestern area.

I could go on, but I know time is limited.

In sum, a representative for the suggested area drawn for District 7 goes against a lot of what we voted for - as we wanted places like Damascus to have a representative that UNDERSTOOD our needs and decreased the "beltway power." This plan INCREASES the "beltway power" by giving them now the ability to vote a Norbeck/Norwood- area person to now represent northern Montgomery County. Upper County support/representation will continue to be non-existent if this plan goes through.... we will not have a seat at the table.

Thank you, again, for your time.

Anna Hunter