

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

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

Yes, as part of a plan that addresses the three key areas of workers; general budget funds; and servicing existing bonds backed by alcohol sales. All of which can be done with an appropriate plan.

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

Yes, as part of a plan that addresses the three key areas of workers; general budget funds; and servicing existing bonds backed by alcohol sales. All of which can be done with an appropriate plan.

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 ☒X No

It would depend on the overall plan being presented. Most proposals that have been made (e.g., Delegate Frick's legislation; what has been successfully done in Wicomico County), do not eliminate the entire County wholesale and retail alcohol business. I am checking no because those are the workable proposals I am most familiar with but would be happy to discuss alternatives.

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

Candidate's Name Marc Korman Office Sought Delegate, District 16

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

This could be a part of the overall plan to address a change in County alcohol sales. Such a sales tax diversion could be used for the general fund revenue and, potentially, to back the existing DLC-backed bonds.

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

If some county role remains but with competition, some workers would stay. Other workers could be shifted to other County positions (at commensurate pay, benefits, and seniority). Finally, some workers would choose to leave for the private sector or retirement.

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

I generally support deregulation in this area, within reason. It is not only craft beers that may face some limitations, but distilleries as well.

Additional Comments?

See above.