

**Erin Flynn's Responses to LWV-Falls Church Questionnaire, submitted 9/5/23
(Official copy with biographical information will be available at vote411.org)**

What led you to run for this position, and, if elected, what are your top three priorities?

I'm running for City Council because Council serves a critical oversight role and makes important decisions. I want to ensure City policy is responsive to resident concerns, enjoys strong community support, and embraces that which makes Falls Church unique—its small-town feel, successful local businesses, excellent schools, and walkable, tree-lined streets. My background makes me well suited to advocate for and secure the best possible results for our community.

I'll prioritize: (1) the reliable delivery of City services, including by making sure we have the workforce and infrastructure to meet basic needs; (2) appropriately scaled development that protects the pedestrian experience and accounts for increased traffic on local streets; and (3) the tree canopy, green space, stormwater management, and sound environmental policy.

What initiatives would you support to ensure the City's long-term financial viability?

The City should seek to achieve the best possible residential and commercial environments, and excellent schools and services, while maintaining reasonable tax rates. It must adhere to strong fiscal policies and high ethical standards to ensure its financial health.

The City has kept its operating budget within organic growth and has strong capital reserves, and it consistently pursues state and federal funds to help finance costs. We must ensure sound fiscal and economic projections, undertake reliable market analyses, and actively promote the City as a first-rate place to live, visit, and do business. And we must negotiate strong agreements that provide the City leverage and reduce risk where other parties don't meet their obligations.

With current and proposed construction of apartments, condos, and senior living units, Falls Church is doing our part to address regional housing needs. Do you support or disagree with or have no position on this statement?

Support

Please elaborate on why you support or disagree with or have no position on this statement.

Falls Church is growing rapidly. The City projects households will grow 75% (from 5300 to 9300) between 2020 and 2045, with an increase of 1500 units by next year. Another 700 units will soon follow if One City Center, and the 450 senior living units at West Falls and Quinn/Homestretch, are built. That's half the projected increase within only a few years.

At this point, the City should work on preserving the 100-plus dedicated affordable units at The Fields and Pearson Square that will expire within five years. If not, it will have a net loss in affordable units, and risk displacing residents, despite recent development and other programs. We must explore strategies, including public-private partnerships, to meet pressing housing needs.

**Erin Flynn's Responses to LWV-Falls Church Questionnaire, submitted 9/5/23
(Official copy will be available at vote411.org)**

How would you balance increased density with environmental and sustainable infrastructure needs (such as tree canopy, stormwater, pedestrian and biking safety, parking, schools, and public works and emergency services)?

The City must preserve mature trees and green space to counteract heat islands, promote walkability, and help manage stormwater. And it should prioritize improved sidewalks and signals, increased bike infrastructure, and pedestrian safety.

As density increases and weather worsens, the City must tackle infrastructure needs through its public works program and redevelopment. To achieve better outcomes, Council should retain oversight over most multi-family projects. It must use sound fiscal modeling to project revenues and costs, including for schools, and budget for changing public safety needs (*e.g.*, at/near schools and related to senior housing). Traffic and parking studies can help gauge the effects of development and inform decisions.

As an elected official, what would you do to support and respond to citizen input?

I commit to inform residents of the issues before Council, actively solicit input, and rely on that input to craft a path forward. I trust that when residents engage on issues, they are doing so in good faith and for the betterment of their City. I will respect whoever shares their views, whether informally or in a public meeting. And I will encourage courteous and respectful civil discourse that acknowledges the complexities of the issues the City faces and the oft-competing interests involved.

In my experience, decisions are better when informed by multiple perspectives and the knowledge and experience of City residents and small business owners. I support City outreach by varied means and continued remote participation in meetings.