

RISE PRINCE GEORGE'S

For Immediate Release

January 13, 2022

CONTACT:

Cheryl Cort, cheryl@smartergrowth.net

Kyle Reeder

Prince George's group releases election platform to build a shared, sustainable prosperity

MARYLAND -- Today RISE Prince George's released its [2022 election platform](#) to Prince George's candidates. **RISE Prince George's** is a group of county residents and allies advocating for policies and practices that build shared, sustainable prosperity in Prince George's County by creating safe, walkable, inclusive and transit-oriented communities. Members of the group offered their reasons for supporting the platform:

"This election presents the community with the opportunity to select leaders dedicated to delivering on a shared vision of a future that is more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable in Prince George's County" said Kyle Reeder, community activist and Capitol Heights resident.

"By transforming our transit-rich county into a more walkable, interconnected place, we create the conditions to improve quality of life and expand economic mobility for all Prince Georgians." Reeder said.

The group plans to share its vision and policy recommendations with all candidates running for Prince George's County Council and other races, focusing on four key goals:

- Great places around transit
- Housing for all
- Safer streets for walking and bicycling
- Better bus service

"Prince George's is a great place to live, but many families struggle to afford a decent home. We are urging the county to continue to make housing affordability a priority. Ensuring we have affordable homes to live in will take increased funding paired with smart strategies to preserve

and build the housing options our families need” explained DeeDee George, a resident of Upper Marlboro.

The group recognizes that the county has adopted several key strategies in the last several years to address critical challenges facing residents including a new [economic development vision](#) focused on transit-oriented development, a [Housing for All strategy](#), [modernized zoning](#), [urban street design standards](#) and [TheBus improvement plans](#). The county also launched a [Vision Zero](#) program to make streets safe for everyone, with the goal of eliminating all traffic deaths by 2040.

“Safe walking and bicycling is essential for how Prince Georgians get around. Whether walking to a store, school or bus stop, we need to have safer access. Given our lagging safety record, it’s urgent the county redesign our streets to be safe for all users -- including those walking and bicycling,” said Halima Ali, a Largo resident who is making an effort to live car-light and bicycle for as many trips as safely possible.

As the county recovers from the health and economic crisis brought on by Coronavirus, the group also advocates for better bus service to be a priority for residents and workers.

“Many county residents have no choice but to endure long waits to ride the bus to reach jobs, education, and healthcare. In 2022, we need our elected officials to commit to fast, frequent and reliable bus service to help people get to where they need to go,” said R.W. Rowlands, a resident of New Carrollton who is a frequent transit rider and advocate.

Better buses, mixed-income housing, walkable, and connected, transit-oriented communities build a stronger, more racially and economically equitable Prince George’s that also protects our climate.

The group’s full platform and two page summary is available [here](#).

###

About [RISE Prince George’s](#): Rise Prince George’s is a group of county residents and allies advocating for policies and practices that build shared, sustainable prosperity in Prince George’s County by creating safe, walkable, inclusive and transit-oriented communities. RISE Prince George’s does not endorse or work on behalf of candidates, or express any view for or against any candidate.

RISE Prince George’s is a collaboration with the [Coalition for Smarter Growth](#) (CSG). CSG is the leading organization in the Washington DC region dedicated to making the case for smart

growth. CSG's mission is to advocate for walkable, bikeable, inclusive, and transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and equitable way for the Washington, DC region to grow and provide opportunities for all.