LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS QUESTIONNAIRE
COUNTY COMMISSIONER SCOTT OSTROW

- **QUALIFICATIONS: How do your skills, experience, and/or accomplishments support your candidacy for this office?**

My record as an incumbent county commissioner supports my candidacy for re-election. My accomplishments include service as a county commissioner, public engagement, community service, and activities focused on the revitalization of Lexington Park.

- **GOALS: What are your specific goals for this term in office and what, if any, challenges do you foresee?**

My goals include safeguarding homeowners from increasing property tax assessments; constraining county government spending through zero-based budgeting; focusing public safety funding on organized crime, e.g., gangs, and crime prevention on offenders' pre-release and community-based corrections programs; continue to conduct townhall meetings, and activities to revitalize Lexington Park. The foremost challenge is gaining majority support from the other county commissioners to do some of these things.

- **EMPLOYMENT: What steps should the county government take to encourage economic development and job growth and what steps would you take to implement them?**

I will continue to advocate for a business friendly environment that encourages investment. As I have done in the Lexington Park area, collaborate directly with investors, developers, and community stakeholders to advance major redevelopment efforts.

- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING: What specific ideas do you have to increase the supply and quality of affordable housing and to preserve existing affordable housing?**

I have addressed this subject in detail at https://www.scottostrowforcommissioner.com/ . In brief summary: support a mix of housing types in areas with existing infrastructure; encourage partnerships with employers, nonprofits, and the private sector, renew existing housing stock, support aging-in-place initiatives, promote energy efficiency improvements; streamline permitting and review processes; eliminate duplicative or outdated regulations; examine what the county government could do to reduce home sale closing and mortgage escrow costs for first-time buyers.

DEVELOPMENT: What specific policies would you support regarding preservation, future development, and necessary infrastructure?

At this time, the Comprehensive Plan through 2050 is being written to replace the plan adopted in 2010. In my opinion, the most important goal is to control sprawl. Fundamental to this goal is the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which stipulates the minimum Level of Service standards for development to proceed. State law permits APFO standards for nine types of facilities: Schools, Roads, Water, Sewer, Stormwater Drainage, Health Care, Fire, Police, and Solid Waste Disposal. The existing St. Mary's County APFO does not include Health Care, Police, and Solid Waste Disposal.

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- **BUDGET: What are your top three fiscal priorities for the County and why?**

The top three fiscal priorities are to protect public health, safety, and welfare through the efficient and effective provision of essential public services and facilities. Foremost is to limit the annual increase in county government spending to revenue gained from the expansion of the tax base, and not to increase tax rates. No spending should be exempt from critical review.

- **PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?**

I am concerned with the state government's policies that negatively affect St. Mary's County. Continued Republican control of the county government and agencies is essential to thwart Annapolis-style politics here.