

**Amy Jackson – Democratic Nominee for Alexandria City Council – Oct. 2018 –
COC SURVEY**

My roots have been in Alexandria since 1981. I was raised in the West End (Foxchase Apartments), and my mother has now lived in ParkFairfax since 2000. Currently, my young family and I live in the Seminary Hill section of Alexandria. I am a proud ACPS graduate (attending Patrick Henry ES, Hammond MS, T.C. Williams HS), as I hope my children will be.

I continued my education at Virginia Tech, earning a BA in Communication Studies and English. I began my now 16-year career as an educator while working for the Office of Staff Development and Training for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), where I received the Outstanding Employee Award. My education continued in night school at George Mason University where I received my M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction (Secondary Education in Social Studies), and then my second M.Ed. in Education Leadership (School Administration, PreK-12), all while working with my students during the day, and coaching and sponsoring clubs in the afternoons before my own classes.

As a dedicated public servant, I have participated in city programs such as the Citizens Police Academy and the Commonwealth's Attorney's Community Academy to learn more about public safety initiatives. I have been an active member of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce since 2016, and I have also served The Fund for Alexandria's Child (Chair), Alexandria's Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative (Chair), Alexandria Commission for Women, Alexandria Landlord and Tenant Relations Board, The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, Senior Services of Alexandria, The John Alexander Chapter of the NSDAR, and The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria.

As a civic leader & educator, I am proud of my accomplishments. My leadership on these numerous city commissions and non-profit boards and committees is a testament to my commitment, my vision for Alexandria. As a career educator, my leadership among faculty, staff, and students within the school division and at every level of my school community has made me a valued leader. I have always taken every opportunity to make the lives around me better.

I have been involved in our community for many years, working tirelessly to make it a better place to live, work, and play. Serving is my calling and serving the city as a member of City Council is another way I can give back to a city that has given so much to me. With my vast experience and knowledge of the workings of Alexandria, I am looking forward to carrying on this work as one of your Alexandria City Council members next year. Please visit my website at www.AmyJacksonVA.com for more information.

The City needs to attract a broader commercial tax base by enticing new businesses to locate to Alexandria using our marketing arm, Visit Alexandria, and creating buy-in and incentive plans with Business Improvement Districts for local businesses that will then generate revenue and support all Alexandrians. We have to be attractive by being proactive and progressive in the business community, so that the positive, inclusive

message is amplified and welcoming. At the moment, Alexandria is on a short list for internationally known corporations, and that generates more interest to then welcome other businesses in our City.

Although there are many sustainability concerns that should be considered in taking priority when improving our City, we need to look at what needs the greatest amount of attention and assistance right now in order to make it the most successful opportunity – and modernize our City to attract and retain business and families. Priorities such as education, affordable/workforce housing, West End smart growth, public safety, CSO planning, and transportation/traffic. With that said, I believe that our community needs to begin with the schools. I will work to better provide educational resources to meet our children's needs. Pay increases are needed for our teachers, as is improved allocation of funding for our increased enrollment and our education programs. Alexandria City Public Schools needs to be a successful school system, so that our community has a strong foundation on which to be build and thrive upon in the future – that attracts and retains families and businesses to help our economy thrive. Our students need more equitable, available pre-k programs to assist in closing achievement gaps seen in local and state assessment scores, and we need to repair our existing schools and build/buy new ones for a safe, modernized environment.

Sustainability for businesses and families that have come to Alexandria is only as successful as what we as a City make of it. At the moment, we as a Council and as a community need to focus on education, affordable housing, and our infrastructure needs. The gateway of the West End, Landmark, needs that small area plan to be completed as soon as possible. We need to take opportunities to thrive and streamlining our procedures when it comes to zoning and permits will alleviate some frustrations with the pressure of time constraints and funding increases.

Alexandria needs to work in conjunction with state and federal officials with our demanding city budget items. Our city is in dire need of replacing structures and repairing what we cannot afford to replace at this time. We have transportation costs, and metro closures looming, not to mention assuring a timely completion of the combined sewer outfall project and Landmark. We are a small city in comparison to other local jurisdictions, so, although on paper, Alexandria looks wealthy, we are not so much so as other locales. We need to work with our state officials on keeping our costs down and having state and federal funding assistance increased to assist in completing our prioritized projects.