

Sponsored Content

An Open Letter to the People of Fairfax

DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

I am running for Mayor because I believe Fairfax stands at an important crossroads.

For over twenty-four years, my family has called this city home. We raised our family here, built lifelong friendships here, and have shared in the opportunities that make Fairfax such a remarkable place to live. Serving on the City Council has only deepened my appreciation for our community—and strengthened my belief that our very best days can still be ahead of us.

At the same time, I have listened carefully to residents throughout our city, and I hear a common concern. While there is broad appreciation for our quality of life, many people are becoming less confident about its direction and what the future may hold. They worry about rising property taxes and the increasing cost of living. They worry about development that feels increasingly out of character with our community. They worry about traffic, environmental protection, public safety, the cost of housing, the long-term strength of our schools, and whether our government is truly listening to the people it serves.

Taken together, these concerns have left many residents wondering whether the City of Fairfax is becoming stronger—or simply accepting changes that gradually diminish the qualities that have made our city such a wonderful place to call home.

I believe those concerns deserve to be heard and can be addressed.

The truth is that these challenges are not the result of any one decision or any one issue. They reflect larger economic, demographic, fiscal, and community changes that are affecting cities throughout our region and across the nation. That means there is no single solution. We cannot solve complex problems one issue at a time or by allowing our community to become divided over them.

Instead, we need thoughtful leadership that understands how these issues are interconnected, brings people together to solve complex problems, and is willing to think beyond the next meeting or the next election. Most importantly, we need to restore confidence that Fairfax has a positive future—and that together we can shape it rather than simply react to it.

The mayor plays an important role in this call to leadership. By Charter, the mayor presides over the City Council and helps it carry out its chartered responsibilities for policy and governance. This enables the mayor to help the Council achieve vision and remain focused on the priorities of the community while encouraging effective collaboration and ensuring



Thomas D. "Tom" Peterson, candidate for Mayor, City of Fairfax

that government never loses touch with the people it represents. While the charter does not provide the mayor directive authority over city staff or the Council, the mayor's role is designed to help others succeed, build consensus, make difficult decisions when necessary, and to conduct the people's business with integrity. This is the process of facilitative leadership.

This form of leadership is not measured by who receives credit. It is measured by whether a community moves forward together.

Our community deserves that kind of leadership.

I believe we can strengthen our economy while protecting the character of our neighborhoods. We can pursue carefully balanced growth that supports local businesses, expands opportunity, provides housing, and protects the quality of life that resident's treasure. We can better manage the pressures facing homeowners and taxpayers while maintaining excellent city services. We can strengthen public safety, preserve our forests and open spaces, protect our watersheds, improve transportation, and ensure that our schools continue to thrive.

None of these goals are easy or stand alone. All require teamwork and skill. Together, they form the foundation of a stronger community of Fairfax—one built on fiscal responsibility, equity, environmental stewardship, responsive government, and shared opportunity for everyone who calls our city home.

Achieving that future will require more than good policy. It will require a renewed partnership between City leaders and the community. Residents deserve to help shape the future of the City of Fairfax—not simply

react to decisions after they have already been made. They deserve a government that listens carefully, communicates openly, welcomes participation, and earns trust through transparency, accountability, and consistent follow-through.

That belief inspired Fairfax Common Ground, a community framework built around the values and priorities that unite us rather than divide us. I believe our greatest progress will come not from focusing on our differences, but from working together on goals we share.

Throughout more than four decades of public service and professional leadership—including service in local government, state and national policy, business and nonprofit leadership, and higher education—I have learned that experience matters. Equally important are humility, patience, sound judgment, and the ability to bring people together around a common purpose. Those are the qualities I would bring to the office of Mayor.

This election is not simply about choosing the next mayor. It is about choosing the direction of our city—one that is not defined by growing uncertainty, but by renewed confidence; not by division, but by collaboration; not by simply accommodating change, but by shaping it wisely.

Together, we can build a Fairfax that remains financially strong, environmentally responsible, economically vibrant, and deeply connected to the people it serves. We can leave the next generation a city that preserves its character while embracing thoughtful progress—a city built on strength, stewardship, and shared opportunity.

That is the future I believe in.

It is the future I hope to help build with you.

I respectfully ask for your support for my campaign and for your vote on November 3.

With gratitude and optimism,

Thomas D. "Tom" Peterson
Candidate for Mayor, City of Fairfax

For You, Fairfax
Restore Confidence. Build Common Ground.
Shape Fairfax's Future.



For more information, to make a contribution and to volunteer for the Thomas D. "Tom" Peterson for Mayor campaign, please visit Tom4Fairfax.org or email the campaign at Tom4Fairfax@gmail.com

Paid for and authorized by Thomas D. "Tom" Peterson for Mayor