



December 9, 2023

Friends,

I have some exciting news to share with you!

Earlier this week, I was the first to file paperwork for my campaign for Mayor and I am excited to seek your support for my candidacy.

These last two terms on the Alexandria City Council have not been for the faint of heart. We've been through a lot together as a city and become stronger because of it. The pandemic struck not mid-way through my first term on Council in March 2020, and it was a fundamental gamechanger to the establishment that tested the boundaries and pushed the limits. Our resilience in the recovery effort of the pandemic speaks volumes. We are still seeing a long tail from Covid-19 in our tourism, education, and economic sectors. However, with rising school assessment scores beginning to mitigate some achievement gaps in our children's learning, and our hospitality receipts increasing with increased tourism, we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

Alexandria has always been special to me.

Over four decades ago, my mother chose Alexandria as our home. It was the place to pick up the pieces of a life left behind and start a new and better life - for just the two of us. She made a wise choice.

Life was hard and times were tough. Struggling to make ends meet, but steadfast in the belief that faith and community would pull us through. Alexandria did not let us down.

I learned firsthand from our neighbors and friends what it meant to be a part of a community that cared, that taught me resilience and shaped my life. Today, those friends are family. It could have turned out completely different. **Again, Alexandria did not let me down.**

Raised in what was once known as the Shirley-Duke Apartments, the largest stock of low income housing in the nation, Foxchase was home during my youth. I am a proud product of Alexandria City Public Schools and of Alexandria's West End, where my home still is today. It's not a mile from the memories made while at 603 N. Howard, but it is now where my husband and I raise two future Titans of our own.

My service to the community has taken many forms. Intrinsically motivated and inspired to volunteer and serve since my youth, I appreciate how Alexandria constantly comes together to strengthen our community in the spirit of Virginia Tech's (my alma mater) motto Ut Prosim "That I may serve". My love of our Alexandria led me to run for City Council and I am now completing my second term on Council as the Vice Mayor. I am very proud of all we have accomplished, especially our resiliency through the pandemic. We achieved historic collective bargaining agreements for our first responders and trade partners to provide salaries that are competitive with our neighbors, built new schools and fully-funded our public school system, and addressed many other issues including climate change.

As your Vice Mayor, I continue to immerse myself in our community and keep my ear to the ground, meeting people where they are, listening to the issues, and creating ways to improve their lives. That won't change when I am elected Mayor.

I have initiated sustainable programs for the most vulnerable in our community, implemented initiatives for the mental and physical health and well being of our youth and families, established more climate-friendly multi-modal transit opportunities for Alexandria with strategic placements of electric charging stations, Capital Bikeshares and scooter lots, along with partnering regionally for the future of rail projects, and the long-awaited opening of our city's 5th metro station at Potomac Yard/Virginia Tech in conjunction with the 2018 announcement that welcomed the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus to Alexandria (which is now due to open in the Fall of 2024). I have experienced the transformation of our Landmark Mall site over the years, and we finally brought in the wrecking ball in May 2022 to begin the long-awaited transformation in partnership with site anchor INOVA Alexandria Hospital in the West End. Throughout, we have continued to open up and activate our Waterfront acreage with activities and arts programming, welcoming more pedestrian traffic and outdoor dining along King Street even as we relaxed original Covid safety measures implemented. Municipal fiber and internet competition have been sourced and is building out for our community, parks and trails are being rehabilitated, and stormwater infrastructure is being prioritized as our combined sewer outfalls (CSO project) network is nearing completion and will make our waterways cleaner. Alexandria showcases its inclusiveness and is always dedicated to finding more equitable, accessible solutions for every part of daily life.

We have made great strides.

As your Mayor, I will continue to build on the accomplishments of prior councils, while concentrating on what matters most to our community, such as crime prevention; education programming and fair teacher compensation, improving our infrastructure with building/modernizing more schools; economic development opportunities (particularly growing our business community which will help alleviate the tax burden on our individual citizens); and striving to provide more affordable housing for our residents while maintaining the unique neighborhoods that make our city so culturally rich and aesthetically pleasing. My mission is to optimize all of these areas with laser-focus and continuing the work that proves Alexandria is innovative, future-thinking and keeps us moving forward for the benefit of all.

Obviously, we have a lot to do, but many hands make light work! **I ask for your support at the ballot box in June, as a volunteer for my campaign, or with a financial contribution to power this grassroots initiative.** Together, our community will continue to be successful and welcome to all.

Please visit my website (www.AmyJacksonVA.com) to sign up to help and to become a founding donor for Amy Jackson for Mayor!

I know we will continue working together to keep Alexandria the best place to live, work, play, and raise a family. A city of many diverse cultures and people, who work together to keep it great and make it even better. Our diversity is our strength.

I am so proud to be an Alexandrian in this city with all it has to offer, and we have so much more to do. **I ask for your support** and I look forward to us continuing on this journey - together.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy B. Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vice Mayor Amy Jackson
Democratic Candidate for Mayor

P.S. Please reserve the afternoon of Sunday, January 21st for our Official Amy Jackson for Mayor Campaign Kick Off!

To connect with me and receive more information on events like this in the coming weeks, sign up for Amy's updates at www.AmyJacksonVA.com.