

My Vision Statement:

To build an Arlington where unity, innovation, and inclusion empower every resident to thrive—where safe neighborhoods, equitable opportunities, and sustainable living form the foundation of a vibrant, connected community that future generations will be proud to call home.

**Julius D. “JD” Spain, Sr
Speech**

Good afternoon, everyone, and Members of the County Board,

When I ran for office, I chose the theme “**We Are One Arlington**” because it embodied a vision of unity and shared purpose. It was more than just a slogan—it was a promise to **engage every resident, regardless of neighborhood or socioeconomic status**.

Today, I reaffirm that commitment as a member of your County Board. Together, we are one community, united by collective aspirations and shared responsibilities.

As we approach a challenging budget cycle, I will work alongside my colleagues to ensure our financial decisions reflect Arlington’s core values: **equity, opportunity, and sustainability**. Our focus should be on maintaining prosperity while addressing the needs of all residents.

With over 30 years of diverse leadership experience spanning government, the nonprofit sector, and academia, I bring a results-driven approach to leadership. Recognized for decisiveness, empathy, and a commitment to innovation, I pledge to focus on fostering collaboration, listening intently to stakeholders, and driving bold, impactful actions. While these initial months will be dedicated to understanding the internal dynamics of our local government, my priorities for advancing our community are well-defined:

Public Safety: A Foundation for Progress

Public safety is the cornerstone of our aspirations as a community. Every Arlingtonian deserves to feel secure, irrespective of race, age, disability, gender, or sexual orientation. Achieving this requires innovative prevention measures and unwavering accountability.

I will advocate for:

- **Increased investment in safe streets and restorative justice programs.**
- **Enhanced staffing and resources across local government functions.**
- **Transparency and community oversight foster trust in law enforcement.**

Neighborhoods like Green Valley [have waited decades](#)—too long—for action on safety concerns. Reckless behavior disrupting our neighborhoods is unacceptable, and I will push for sound, decisive leadership to address these issues.

I am also committed to examining and enhancing recruitment practices and pay structures for first responders. Local residency incentives, such as increased housing stipends, could encourage first responders to live and work in Arlington, strengthening our community ties. Together, we can create a safer, more just Arlington for all.

Supporting Our Youth: Public Health and Education

Public health and education are the cornerstones of a thriving society. While Arlington County allocated \$1.5 million last year for after-school programs addressing youth health challenges, including the drug epidemic, funding is just the start.

I will ensure these programs are robust, long-term, and responsive to young people's needs. Our youth deserve safe spaces to learn, grow, and thrive. I also look forward to collaborating with the School Board to ensure students and educators have the resources they need to succeed.

Housing Attainability: Meeting a Growing Challenge

The housing crisis impacts every corner of Arlington. While awaiting the EHO appeal outcome, we must act. I will collaborate with the County Manager and staff to incentivize housing development that serves all Arlingtonians while preserving neighborhood character.

Housing should not be a privilege; it is a fundamental right. Together, we will uphold Arlington's inclusive spirit and ensure housing is accessible to everyone.

Governance and Economic Security

I spoke openly about this one the campaign trail and it is my opinion that Arlington has outgrown its current governmental framework, but the citizens have the right to understand our history and decide about the future. I support a public conversation about future initiatives to include establishing a County Board-Directed Commission. This commission may be composed of diverse stakeholders (Community, Non-Profit, Faith-Based, Business, etc.,) should review and thoroughly analyze our government structure, and make recommendation(s) if it remains suitable for a population of over 240,000.

The adaptive reuse initiative approved in 2024 converting outdated office buildings into multi-use spaces is a promising step. I will continue addressing commercial vacancies and fostering economic growth along Columbia Pike and Langston Boulevard.

Environmental Stewardship: A Lasting Legacy

Ensuring the Tree Canopy Program has the funding it needs to meet our Tree Canopy goals is non-negotiable to me. Trees are vital to our ecosystem, climate resilience, and sustainability efforts. Preserving and expanding green spaces must remain a top priority.

In closing, the challenges we face are significant, but so is our collective capacity to overcome them. “We Are One Arlington” is more than a slogan—it is a call to action. It reminds us that our strength lies in unity, diversity, and our shared commitment to a brighter future.

I invite each of you to join me in this mission. Together, let’s listen more, innovate boldly, and work tirelessly to build a community we are all proud to call home.

Thank you.

JD's Priorities for 2025: Building a Stronger, United Arlington

1. Public Safety: A Foundation for Progress

- Advocate for innovative prevention measures and enhanced accountability in law enforcement.
- Increase investments in safe streets, restorative justice programs, and neighborhood safety initiatives.
- Strengthen recruitment and retention of first responders by improving pay structures and exploring local residency incentives like housing stipends.
- Ensure transparency and foster trust through community oversight.

2. Supporting Our Youth: Public Health and Education

- Expand and strengthen after-school programs that address youth health challenges, including substance abuse prevention.
- Collaborate with the School Board to ensure students and educators have the tools to succeed.
- Create safe, inclusive spaces for youth to learn, grow, and thrive.

3. Housing Attainability: Meeting a Growing Challenge

- Act decisively to address Arlington's housing crisis by incentivizing diverse housing development while preserving neighborhood character.
- Uphold Arlington's inclusive values and ensure housing is accessible to all residents.
- Work collaboratively with stakeholders to respond effectively to the EHO appeal outcome.

4. Governance and Economic Security

- Support the establishment of a County Board-Directed Commission to review Arlington's government structure and its suitability for a growing population.
- Drive economic growth by addressing commercial vacancies and encouraging adaptive reuse of outdated office spaces into multi-use developments.
- Promote vibrant economic corridors, particularly along Columbia Pike and Langston Boulevard.

5. Environmental Stewardship: A Lasting Legacy

- Fully fund the Tree Canopy Program to preserve and expand Arlington's green spaces.
- Prioritize climate resilience and sustainability through innovative environmental initiatives.