



# MCCC 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Craig L Rice

**Email:** Ricepolitics@gmail.com **Campaign Website:** Wwww.craigrice.org

**Office you are seeking:** County Council **District:** 2

**Years of residence in the district in which you are running:** 11

## Education Information

**College, Post-graduate, Technical School or Certificate Program you completed and the degree(s) you attained.**

University of MD, Comp Science

## Employment Information

**Current Occupation:** President, Montgomery County Council **Current Employer:** Montgomery County Council

**How long have you been employed here?** 4 years

**If less than two years, please provide immediate previous employer:**

## Questions

**In your opinion, what are the key issues facing the business community in the district/county/state you seek to represent?**

Business climate (taxes, fees, time delays) Investment in attracting businesses

**What do you believe are the core responsibilities of the position you seek and what will you do to carry these out?**

My responsibility is to continue to function as One Montgomery. Working with our County Executive, Federal Delegation, the Governor, General Assembly and MCPS, we can ensure our County stays on track as the economic engine and education leader of the State and one of the best places to live, work and play in the region. This can only happen through strong relationships with these stakeholders.

**Please explain your budget priorities and describe your approach to the role you will play in impacting the County/State budget.**

From a budget standpoint, we need to invest in business outreach and support, as well as a marketing campaign to attract more businesses to the area.

**What improvements do you believe are needed to the transportation infrastructure In Montgomery County and Maryland? Please list them in your priority order.**

1. BRT from Clarksburg to Shady grove 1. CCT 1. Purple line

**If elected, how do you plan to address the perception and reality of Montgomery County and Maryland having a less competitive business climate?**

My message as Council President this year was to have an aggressive business agenda. This included working with the County Executive to reform regulations and fees associated with businesses' day to day operations. Some of these reforms have already been rolled out, including eplans which just launched. We must also have a robust marketing plan which highlights the true story of our business investments here in the County. But we must also work in conjunction with the MCBDC and chambers to ensure that their priorities are reflected in our County priorities as well.

**How do you define economic development?**

Investment in business sectors that contribute to its health and vitality.

**What role should government play to help attract, grow and retain business?**

It should play an integral role that supports the varied industries and provides a collaborative approach to growth.

**What current economic development initiatives do you support?**

County procurement regulation changes Investment in economic development marketing Reduction of fees and time for permits, etc. A strategic plan for addressing the energy tax

**What new economic development initiatives would you propose?**

County procurement regulation changes A strategic plan for addressing the energy tax

**Please use this opportunity to provide any other information you would like MCCC members to know.**