



MCCC 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Eric Luedtke

Email: ericformaryland@gmail.com **Campaign Website:** www.ericformaryland.com

Office you are seeking: State Delegate **District:** 14

Years of residence in the district in which you are running: 9

Education Information

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

B.A., University of Maryland, 2002 M.Ed., University of Maryland, 2004

Employment Information

Current Occupation: Middle School Teacher **Current Employer:** MCPS

How long have you been employed here? 10 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?

For district 14, and for the 29 corridor in particular, transportation access and adequate zoning for commercial development are the single largest business issue. Without significant transportation improvements and the finalization of the White Oak Science Sector Master Plan, east county will continue to lag economically behind the rest of the county.

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

The single most important aspect of being a Delegate is being responsive to the needs of the community you represent. Since being elected in 2010, I have consistently worked to be as accessible to possible to my constituents, and to the best of my ability fight for the needs of District 14's communities.

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

While I do not serve on the Appropriations Committee, I do believe we can do a better job of ensuring that taxpayer money is well spent. The legislature needs to take a more active role in ensuring that our state departments are efficient and responsive. In the big picture in terms of spending priorities, I believe that state's focus should be on areas that underlie our economic strength, particularly education and transportation.

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

These are two very different questions. My biggest priorities for my own district are completion of the 97/28 intersection upgrade, construction of the remaining Route 29 interchanges, and funding for the Route 29 BRT line. Countywide, now that we have addressed the transportation revenue crisis, we need to complete both the Purple Line and the CCT as soon as possible. Statewide, I support continued investments in both the Port of Baltimore and BWI Airport to support regional economic growth.

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

Perception is prologue, and for far too long political leaders in both Montgomery County and Maryland have used rhetoric that defines the state as not economically competitive. There are clearly ways we can improve, but we need a commitment from political leaders across the ideological spectrum that they will not undermine economic growth in order to score cheap political points. Beyond that, I believe the state and county need to play to our strengths. We will never be a low-tax state - trying to compete with states like Texas by slashing public services and the taxes that support them is both politically unfeasible and undesirable. Instead, we should focus on targeted investments in growth industries like cybersecurity and we need to continue to build on our strong record in education and infrastructure. Finally, we have tremendous work to do in ensuring that government deals quickly, fairly, and in consistent ways with the business community. Just as one example, it is absolutely inexcusable that the Washington Adventist Hospital move has been held up for literally years by state bureaucracy. We can and should do better.

How do you define economic development?

Providing an adequate workforce, infrastructure, tax, and investment climate to allow for economic growth.

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

We should provide for the basic workforce and infrastructure needs that undergird our economy while targeting tax credits and investments to growing sectors of the economy.

What current economic development initiatives do you support?

I think the biotech tax credit has been an incredible economic tool, and am hopeful that similar credits in cybersecurity will prepare us for future growth. The Invest Maryland Initiative is a creative idea, and while we still need to watch how it does, I am hopeful that it will prove successful in growing Maryland businesses in need of capital.

What new economic development initiatives would you propose?

While Maryland has had strong programs in biotechnology, we need to diversify our economy into other high-skills sectors such as cybersecurity, nanotechnology, and green energy. Because of our strong educational systems and highly skilled workforce, we are uniquely suited to expand the state's innovation economy. This should be a high priority for economic development in the state for the next four years.

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

My door is always open, and I look forward to working with the Chamber and Montgomery County's business community for four more years.