



# MCCC 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Craig J. Zucker

**Email:** czucker@craigzucker.com **Campaign Website:** www.craigzucker.com

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

**Years of residence in the district in which you are running:** 13

## Education Information

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

St. Thomas Aquinas College; Bachelor's of Science The Johns Hopkins University; M.A. Government

## Employment Information

**Current Occupation:** State Delegate; Community Liaison to Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot **Current Employer:** Maryland State Government

**How long have you been employed here?** State Delegate: Since 2011 Comptroller's Office: Since 2007 Prior to being elected, I served as Comptroller Franchot's deputy chief of staff.

**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?**

We need to remain competitive with Northern Virginia. In addition, there is often a burden on small business. As a state we need to make sure that Maryland not only supports working families, but those that employees them.

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

As Vice Chair of the Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee on the House Appropriations Committee, I have helped balance Maryland's budget and protected taxpayer dollars. Working with my colleague Del. Galen Clagett, we co-sponsored the Maryland Jobs Development Act that helped track all of the economic development projects throughout Maryland. As a legislator I can help ensure that businesses that are helping to create jobs, receive the state support they deserve.

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

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee leadership, I have made prudent decisions to maintain the State's AAA bond rating, and balance the budget. Moving forward, strengthening the middle class is essential, which is why we need to ease the tax burden on families and small business. We need to encourage small businesses to grow and succeed.

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

We need to ensure that our transportation related projects - like the Brookeville By-Pass, road improvements around the U.S. 29 corridor, mass transit, bus rapid transit - create local jobs and increase quality of life in our area. The legislature passed the transportation infrastructure bill last session that I supported, which will invest approximately \$1 billion toward these efforts.

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

Over the last legislative session the legislature took important steps to address this. A major focus of the 2014 Session was a joint business and economic development legislative package that draws on the strengths of our State and places Maryland in the best position to compete in the innovation economy of the future. The President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee noted that it was "ground-breaking" to see the legislature "come together to support an agenda that is so heavily focused on economic development." According to the President of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, "this package of bills will make Maryland more competitive in technology, innovation and entrepreneurship."

**How do you define economic development?**

Economic development is the effort of the community and policy makers to help promote the standard of living and economic health of a specific area.

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

In Burtonsville the District 14 team created the opportunities for the area to become an enterprise zone.

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

I was the lead co-sponsor of the Maryland Jobs Economic Development Act that tracked all development within the state to ensure they were leveraging all of the appropriate state resources. In my role as a leader on the House Appropriations Committee I protected more than \$8 million of funding from Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund that disproportionately benefits Montgomery County.

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

We need to create more opportunities for small businesses to have an opportunity to succeed. I would support increasing the number of those that qualify as MBE's and do what I can to ensure we stay competitive with N. Virginia. In addition, I have continued to work with the District 14 Team to revitalize the Burtonsville shopping center.

-continued-

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

I worked very closely with the Chamber of Commerce to protect funding for the Veteran Institute for Procurement.