



## MCCC 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Sheila Hixson

**Email:** hixsoncampaign2014@gmail.com **Campaign Website:** www.sheilahixson.org

**Office you are seeking:** State Delegate **District:** 20

**Years of residence in the district in which you are running:** 48

### Education Information

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

Bachelor of Sociology from Northern Michigan University

### Employment Information

**Current Occupation:** Federal Relations Representative **Current Employer:** Self

**How long have you been employed here?** 25 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?**

Taxes are a big issue for the business community, also the need for government and the private sector to meet together to work on the problems that we have in order to create a better business climate.

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

I'm chairman of the committee that is in charge of Education, Financial Resources, Transportation, Elections and Gaming. I have a responsibility to ensure that these are fairly implanted throughout the state in order to better the business economy and also to help the people in the state of Maryland.

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

The main priority is education. Maryland has had the number one education system in the state for 5 years and I want to see this continue. We need an educated work force for the business community. I would approach this by ensuring that

education is funded in the state. This could be done through the different programs and taxes in the state. This way we ensure Maryland's future for education and businesses alike.

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

1. Completion of the Purple Line
2. Completion of the upper county transportation road
3. Maintaining roads and infrastructures

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

I would address this issue by installing a tax credit for small businesses and corporate businesses in the state. This would be an incentive to start and maintain a business in the state and make the business climate here more competitive.

**How do you define economic development?**

I believe that economic development is the joint effort of the business community and the government to work together in order to ensure a growing economic development in the state.

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

The government should set up incentive programs for the business to come here, offer services for tracking operations and make it a business government relationship.

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

I support initiatives that help the growth of business in the state. In my own district we are helping to support the growth of a new medical complex. By supporting initiatives like this we are helping to grow businesses in the state and help to create more jobs in the state of Maryland.

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

I would once again go back to tax credits. These credits help to increase business in the state, which helps the state overall.

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

Currently Speaker Busch has a commission together to study the business climate in Maryland and what we can do to make it better. Their findings should be coming out sometime this fall and we hope to go from these findings in order to produce legislation to benefit the business community within the state.