



MCCC 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Brian J. Feldman

Email: brianjfeldman@comcast.net **Campaign Website:** BrianJFeldman.com

Office you are seeking: State Senator **District:** District 15

Years of residence in the district in which you are running: 22

Education Information

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

University of Pittsburgh School of Law-J.D. Johns Hopkins University-M.A., Government Penn State University-B.S., Accounting

Employment Information

Current Occupation: State Senator/Attorney **Current Employer:** Maryland General Assembly

How long have you been employed here? 12 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?

Maryland needs to take a number of steps on several fronts to improve its economic competitiveness, particularly vis-a-vis our neighboring jurisdictions.

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

I plan to continue to take a leadership role in enacting policies which fully exploit our state's inherent economic areas of strength, particularly our biotech and cybersecurity sectors. For example, I was the author of the legislation creating our very successful state biotech investment tax credit program which has served as model for many other states.

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

We need to continue to make education our highest budget priority since a well educated workforce is essential to building a vibrant state economy. The best way to fund our other budget priorities is to enact policies and make

investments in areas which substantially grow the state's tax base. My role as a member of the Senate Finance Committee, a policy committee (as opposed to a policy committee), is to introduce and advocate for passage of such policies.

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

I fully supported and voting for the transportation financing package enacted during the 2013 session and was the lead House sponsor of HB 524 (Constitutional Amendment) to prevent the raiding of the transportation trust fund. As for priorities, we need to build the Corridor Cities Transitway, the Purple Line and make key improvements to the I-270 corridor in order to reduce traffic congestion.

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

As the only Tax Lawyer/CPA in the state legislature, we must first modernize/overhaul our state tax structure to better reflect how our economy currently operates with an eye towards improving our state's relative competitiveness. We must also move forward with the Joint Legislative Business and Economic Development agenda initiatives announced at the beginning of 2014 session, some of which take advantage of the federal assets located in Maryland, particularly in the biotechnology and cybersecurity sectors.

How do you define economic development?

From the standpoint of a state legislator, economic development involves enacting state policies which help grow our state economy and our state tax base.

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

Government's role in this arena is to enact policies which help grow our state economy and our state tax base. By the same token, Government must avoid enacting policies which have the potential of undermining the state's ability to attract, grow, and retain businesses, i.e. poor choices in the tax policy area.

What current economic development initiatives do you support?

As the author of the Biotechnology Investment Tax Credit program, I support the recent increases in funding for the program approved this year by the General Assembly. I also support the new Cybersecurity tax credit program and new cyber seed investment fund managed by TEDCO. These programs help companies in our new innovation economy sectors secure critically needed capital.

What new economic development initiatives would you propose?

I fully support the Joint Legislative Business and Economic Agenda items announced by Senator Miller and Speaker Busch at the beginning of the 2014 session.

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