



MCCC 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Jamie Raskin

Email: senatorjamieraskin@gmail.com **Campaign Website:** www.jamieraskin.com

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

Years of residence in the district in which you are running: 24

Education Information

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

Harvard College AB '83, Harvard Law School JD '87

Employment Information

Current Occupation: Professor of Law State Senator **Current Employer:** American University Washington College of Law State of Maryland

How long have you been employed here? 24 years 8 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?

Small business needs capital for investment. All business needs consumers and customers who have more disposable income and wealth. Businesses need a strong physical, governmental, transportation and social infrastructure within which to flourish.

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

As a State Senator for Silver Spring and Takoma Park, Chairman of the Montgomery County Senate Delegation, and Majority Whip, I work every day to champion the people and the values of my district, and to bring prosperity and fairness to my community and constituents.

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

Our budget should reflect and advance our priorities as a state. I will fight to make them align and to make sure that money is not wasted on out-of-state consultant boondoggles like the botched health care rollout, which cost us \$200 million at least.

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

1. Build the Purple Line and make it community and small business-friendly. 2. Expand mass transit, including development of a Bus Rapid Transit plan. 3. Road repair and construction.

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

Businesses want stability of expectations in terms of taxes and regulatory commitments. We should work to create consistency and continuity in burdens placed on them. Beyond that, businesses will welcome what all of us want: the nation's premiere schools and colleges, a beautiful and healthy environment, reduced traffic, and strong and exciting communities.

How do you define economic development?

I define it as real improvements in the quality of life attained by the people in a community. The Real Progress Indicator is very helpful because it controls for anomalies in the usual GNP analysis, which counts things like money spent on car accidents, expensive tort litigation, treating people for cancer and other sicknesses, and war munitions and preparations all as economic positives contributing to the GNP. These things all have costs that should offset their asserted values..

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

Government should encourage the development of community-rooted and socially productive business. This is why I introduced the legislation creating America's first Benefit Corporations, which have spread across America and are taking the business world by storm. We should be encouraging businesses that do well and do good at the same time, mixing commerce with the common good., Far too much public money goes to a handful of corporate giants when it should be used to stimulate commerce among the cash-starved small businesses.

What current economic development initiatives do you support?

Working with my Delegation, we have championed Takoma Community Kitchen, a large nonprofit kitchen space that will jump-start lots of small baking and catering businesses in our neighborhoods. I do whatever I can to support Benefit Corporations, green corporations, and the ongoing renaissance of downtown Silver Spring. .

What new economic development initiatives would you propose?

I would love to see a nonprofit village in downtown Silver Spring, a Benefit Corporation village, expanded theater and art space in my district, and more youth-oriented businesses and recreational opportunities in the community.

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

My door is always open to the people and businesses of Silver Spring and Takoma Park!