



# Montgomery County 2022 Candidate Questionnaire - Craig Zucker

## Personal Information:

**Name** Craig Zucker

**What Office Are You Seeking in the 2022 Election?** State Senate

## Where Can Voters Learn More About Your Positions Or Contact Your Campaign?

My campaign website, [www.craigzucker.com](http://www.craigzucker.com); and the team's website at <https://www.md14team.com>.

Please Answer the Following Questions- responses will posted in their entirety and will not be edited.

## Someone new to Montgomery County may ask, "What's the Ag Reserve and why is it important?" What's your answer?

The Ag Reserve is a state treasure that benefits local farming, protects precious open space, and provides recreation while preserving Montgomery County's rich history.

## What is your vision for the future of the County's Agricultural Reserve? Briefly, how would you achieve that vision?

The future of the Agricultural Reserve is dependent on protecting farming, stopping any development on it, and promoting its benefits throughout the region. This past session, I sponsored legislation that promotes our local wineries, farm breweries, and distilleries in Montgomery County. My legislation will work toward promoting our ag businesses and attracting people to the area.

## What are your priorities regarding stewardship of the County's natural resources (water, forests, open spaces) and parkland?

As chairman of the Senate Capital Budget Subcommittee, I helped to ensure that program open space was funded as well as our local and state parks. Here in District 14, I worked with the District 14 team to allocate hundreds of thousands of dollars to local parks throughout the greater Laytonsville/Brookeville Area. Protecting our valuable open space including the Ag Reserve must continue to be a top priority.

## What role will you play with regard to ensure that we safeguard our drinking water supply both surface and groundwater?

The Ag Reserve, like other open space, provides valuable protection to our drinking water and the bay. As a member of the Senate Budget Committee, I have worked tirelessly to decrease runoff and safeguard our natural resources. If re-elected I will continue to decrease runoff, fund our parks, and meet our climate goals.

## What are your top priorities to help the County address climate change? What role will the Ag Reserve play?

The ongoing climate crisis is negatively impacting Maryland and is leading to long term problems. We must address this head on. That's why we passed the Climate Solutions Act of 2022, that reduces Maryland's emissions of greenhouse gasses by 60% by 2031 and reaches net neutral emissions by 2045. I also sponsored and passed legislation that transfers Maryland's bus fleet to zero emission buses.

The Ag Reserve is important to ensuring that Montgomery County has quality air to breath and water to drink.

**What more can be done to support our local farm businesses and rural communities?**

The State can continue to provide funding assistance to the counties that keep farmers in business. We have also expanded the Senate Scholarship program to allow more farmers to qualify and provide funding toward tourism and education on the importance of viable farming. The County must continue to push its residents to buy locally. I passed legislation that promotes our local farm breweries and businesses.

**What are your regional transportation priorities? Do you support M83 and an additional Potomac bridge and outer beltway through the Reserve or adjacent rural zones?**

Many of these road projects have been discussed for years and have not been funded. I absolutely will NOT support any project that negatively impacts the Ag Reserve.

**How should our County manage its solid waste? What role should incineration, composting and recycling play?**

I am a state elected official. My focus has been on a state-wide approach to recycling and protecting the bay and our natural resources. I believe the County government should be doing all it can to promote recycling to protect our environment.

**What are your views on the general plan update "Thrive 2050," both the process and the draft now before the Council?**

The plan is currently pending with the Montgomery County Council. I am eager to see what they decide. Once there is a final product I would be in a better position to comment on it. However, a long-term sustainable plan is important.

**Do you believe that the way that local government branches, state entities, and the public currently interact can be improved? If so, what steps would you take?**

I have always attempted to provide top-notch constituent service and be responsive to my constituents. I believe every elected official should do the same thing if they do not already. If your organization feels like they are not being responded to by an agency or government entity, please let me know. I would be happy to assist.