

Name: **Craig Zucker**
Address: Brookeville
What office are you seeking?: State Senate
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: www.craigzucker.com

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

District 14, the area I represent in the state senate, includes a big portion of the Ag Reserve. To me the Ag Reserve represents our history and future. The farms within it have attracted young families, and new businesses around it. The Ag Reserve is a vital economic driver for the county. Waredaca and Brookeville Beer Farm get their ingredients and serve products from farms within the reserve. The businesses around the Ag Reserve provide economic diversity, creates thousands of jobs.

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

My priority is to provide, preserve and protect. I support promoting farms and farmers, protect forest conservation and ensure that Montgomery County is getting its fair share of program open space money.

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

Continue to ensure that farms thrive and that the land is preserved. It will be achieved through public perception and policy.

5 **Can you identify some of the top challenges to the Reserve's local agriculture and what actions you would take, if elected, to address them?**

Like most areas, Montgomery County is not immune from overcrowding. We need to ensure that we keep our farms viable; and that people understand the importance of preserving the Ag Reserve.

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

As a state senator I have supported funding assistance for farmers. In addition, I support legislation that provides scholarships for farmers looking to pursue higher education.

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

I have always been a strong proponent of recycling programs. As a state elected official I look forward to working with our county government to support their work creating good, sound public policies.

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- 8 **How can we expand the role the County's schools play in the support of a healthy local food system and the success of local agriculture? Do you support a rural schools' policy that provides equity for Reserve cluster schools acknowledging the unique nature of schools in region set aside for farmland and open space preservation?**

This is a better question for the Montgomery County Executive or County Council. As a state legislator I will do all I can to bring back additional levels of funding that can help create additional programs. If there is state-wide legislation on this, it should be requested by Montgomery County Public Schools or county government.

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- 9 **Currently the County is exploring how best to support a strong agricultural economy through agritourism and new farming enterprises such as on farm breweries and wineries. What are your thoughts about how best to advance on farm activities within the context of the master plan?**

I appreciate all of the initiatives the Country Side Alliance has promoted especially the Community Supported Agriculture. In the past I have been there to support the Alliance when they needed me. I plan to do the same in the future. I want to strengthen our farms and attract positive attention to all of the great things they have been doing for our area. I look forward to working with you to address our community's needs.

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- 10 **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?**

I support Bus Rapid Transportation and the Purple Line. I am opposed to the M83 project.