

Candidate's Name Robert Drozd Office Sought MD State Senate LD14

Candidate Questionnaire from VOCAL MOCO

Background: Voters Opposing County Alcohol Laws in Montgomery County, Maryland (VOCAL MOCO) is a nonprofit advocacy organization established by Montgomery County consumers. Its purpose is to end MOCO's alcohol monopoly and modernize the County's alcohol laws. Our website is located at www.vocalmoco.org

VOCAL MOCO realizes an end to the County's alcohol monopoly and modernization of its alcohol laws will require legislation at the County and State levels that may ultimately require popular referenda.

Accordingly, VOCAL MOCO asks:

1. If elected, would you support legislation to end Montgomery County's wholesale monopoly on the sale of liquor, wine and beer to restaurants and wine and beer to County retailers?
 Yes No
2. If elected, would you support legislation to end the County's retail monopoly on the sale of liquor and permit licensed County retailers to sell liquor?
 Yes No
3. If elected, would you not only support legislation ending the County's monopoly but support ending the County's wholesale and retail alcohol sales altogether?
 Yes No
4. If elected, would you support legislation to permit grocery stores, convenience and other stores, large and small, to sell alcoholic beverages, subject to reasonable licensing requirements, as is allowed in DC and Virginia?
 Yes No
5. If elected, would you support efforts to address any revenue shortfall resulting from an end to the County's monopoly, including requiring the State of Maryland to allot a portion of sales taxes on County alcohol sales to the County?
 Yes No
6. If the monopoly were ended, would you support efforts to help affected County Department of Liquor Control employees transition to good public and private sector jobs?
 Yes No
7. Finally, if elected, would you support legislation that would remove statutory and regulatory impediments to the growth and success of Maryland's craft beer industry, specifically provisions that cap production, sale, and distribution of Maryland craft beer products?
 Yes No

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO ken@vocalmoco.org BY MAY 24, 2018

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Additional Comments?

Regarding question 4, I have some reservations regarding liquor sales in grocery, convenience, and other stores, but am comfortable with beer and wine sales in such establishments.

Regarding question 5, I would not support an effort that requires a one-for-one offset of revenue shortfalls, only a fair apportionment.

Regarding question 6, I would not support *special* measures unique to County Department of Liquor Control employees, but could support additional, temporary funds for any such employee transition programs otherwise available to all County employees.

I believe strongly in free markets and capitalism, with government regulation solely to ensure systemic fairness and protections for both buyers and sellers of goods & services. The Montgomery County alcohol laws seem to exceed by far the necessary government oversight of our state alcohol industries, leaving in place restrictions that hinder both growth and customer service. Our state needs to be more business-friendly, particularly Montgomery County, which has failed to experience business growth consistent with the rest of our state.

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