1) What is the biggest issue/challenge you believe Loudoun County faces in the upcoming term?

TONY BUFFINGTON (R): The single biggest issue facing Loudoun County is traffic congestion. Residents spend far too much time and energy trying to get where they need to go.

RICHARD JIMMERSON (I): Supervisors have the obligation and duty to provide quality education, ensure public safety, and maintain our county infrastructure. Our local government also promotes the economic, social and environmental well-being of our collective communities. The challenge is to accomplish all of this by attracting economic development and promoting small business. Supervisors have to control the budget and keep taxes lower to spur revenue so that we will have the funds to invest in long-term community needs. Supervisors must have a common vision to support all of this without personal agendas. By working as partners and not as competitors, we can address the long-range planning this next Board will undertake. The decisions being made today are important for our future. Working together, we can solidify Loudoun as an attractive location that appeals to businesses and people.

2) How do you propose to address this challenge?

TONY BUFFINGTON (R): I’m committed to working with all parties to identify, prioritize and accelerate smart solutions designed to improve our transportation network and best reduce traffic congestion throughout our county. I'll work to continue the
County’s dedication of two cents of the real property tax rate to go towards transportation projects within our CIP. I’ll work closely with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority in order to ensure our fair share of local and regional transportation funding. I’ll work with state and federal officials to ensure that we’re taking advantage of any available opportunity to apply for transportation grants. I’ll also work with state officials for the increased funding needed to better maintain our rural roads. Additionally, I support the effort to implement graduated tolls on the Greenway and the creation of local sections of parallel roadway designed to reduce dependency on the Greenway by providing publicly accessible non-Greenway alternatives.

RICHARD JIMMERSON (I): One of the strengths that Loudoun has is our location and access to a diverse workforce. The increase in urbanization, mobility, ageing population and other transformations in demographics are issues that will have a crucial impact on our future. Millennials are looking for mixed-use communities, transportation options, and a variety of shopping and dining options. Loudoun has delivered on this trend. We need to use data and analytics to help the county make choices for our future and to provide better services to our citizens. This data will enable our county professionals to see trends and use modeling to predict needs for the future and guide the upcoming Comprehensive Plan Review. Growth establishes the need for change and the use of technology will help Loudoun solve our most pressing problems.

3) Please detail the specific opportunities or regulatory measures that, if elected, you will work to see implemented to support the private sector’s efforts to create jobs and make commercial investment in Loudoun County.

Chamber Position: The Chamber supports significant investment in economic development and an aggressive effort to market Loudoun to recruit increased commercial investment. The Chamber supports a common sense regulatory environment that allows businesses to grow and invest in our community.

TONY BUFFINGTON (R): I support robust economic growth in Loudoun County. A major impediment to economic growth in the Blue Ridge District is the lack of sufficient broadband and cellular coverage. A top priority will be to work with the community, local businesses, our Communications Commission, Verizon, Comcast and other providers to identify regulatory changes that will encourage providers to fill this hole in our market. Not only will this create local jobs, but it will empower businesses in western Loudoun to advertise via the internet, accept credit cards, sell their products worldwide, and be more competitive in the marketplace. I will also work with the community, business leaders, our Economic Development Advisory Commission, the Rural Economic Development Council, the Purcellville Business Council, and the Loudoun County Chamber of
LOUDOUN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Commerce, to identify smart pro-business regulatory measures that will help implement the County's Rural Economic Strategy and encourage private sector investment in Loudoun County.

RICHARD JIMMERSON (I): Loudoun has a strong and active economic development office, and I would ensure they continue and even step up their efforts. We should be facilitating coordination with our Career Tech Centers and NOVA Community College to encourage job and education training that meets the needs of our local job market. There is a need to improve communication with our towns and their efforts to support "Main Street" and small business development. Our permitting and inspection procedures should be streamlined for better customer service, along with a reduction in the regulatory cost of doing business. I see the value in offering lower rates for certain industries that bring in high employment. However, the true way we attract industry and entrepreneurs are with our talented workforce, transportation networks, and quality of life. Most importantly, I support funding our schools because it is one of the main reasons businesses and families move here.

4) What is your vision for supporting and growing the tourism industry in Loudoun County to better support the success and growth of tourism and related economic development that can come with it?

Chamber Position: The Chamber supports Visit Loudoun as the Destination Marketing Organization for Loudoun County and supports a well-funded approach to marketing Loudoun as a visitor destination. The Chamber supports public investments in the activities and assets that generate the most tax revenue and create economic opportunities for existing businesses.

TONY BUFFINGTON (R): I fully support Loudoun's growing tourism industry and look forward to working with all parties to ensure that the Board of Supervisors is supporting proactive measures designed to expand this industry to its full potential. Loudoun County is the "gem" of northern Virginia, with the potential to attract not only local, but national and international tourism. Be it our growing wine, brew, spirit, cider and guided tour industries; our bed & breakfast, equestrian and agricultural industries; our historic Towns, Villages, landmarks and scenic country settings; or our trails, golfing, or outdoor recreational facilities and parks, there are many reasons for people to visit Loudoun. The Board should fully implement its Rural Economic Strategy and create a Tourism Commission with the mission of working together with Visit Loudoun, the County's Rural Economic Development Council and the Economic Development Advisory Commission to identify and recommend pro-tourism/pro-economic development initiatives.
LOUDOUN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**RICHARD JIMMERSON (I):** No one can argue that the rise in agri-tourism has helped build a healthy rural economy, reduce development pressure and the cost burden to the county in providing infrastructure and services in Western Loudoun. Wine tours, pick-your-own food, and farm fun “agri-tainment” have become staples of our rural economy. Previous administrations promoted preservation and placed a high value on the agricultural heritage that is a main component of tourism in Loudoun. To continue this trend, we should review the rural strategic plan, reduce prohibitive zoning regulations, and promote communication between the rural industries and elected officials.

5) How do you believe Loudoun County should prioritize local transportation funds to ensure citizens and businesses have an efficient multimodal transportation system?

**Chamber Position:** The Chamber supports performance-based prioritization of transportation projects with emphasis on congestion reduction, economic development and time savings. The Chamber also supports VDOT granting Loudoun County officials authority to design and construct transportation projects.

**TONY BUFFINGTON (R):** With traffic congestion being the number one issue in Loudoun County, it’s imperative that the Board focus its attention on the implementation of an effective multimodal transportation system designed to best reduce traffic congestion throughout our County. I support the Board’s decision to dedicate $0.02 of the real property tax rate to road construction within the CIP, and being that this is our number one issue; the Board should explore the feasibility of dedicating a higher percentage for this purpose. The Board needs to determine the most effective way to prioritize and allocate its transportation funds in a manner that supports its Comprehensive Plan and includes all types of County funded transportation to include road development and construction; Silver Line Metro access, parking and transportation; commuter bus service; park and ride lots; local fixed route bus service; on-demand ADA compliant Para transit bus service; and pedestrian and bicycle accessibility.

**RICHARD JIMMERSON (I):** In June, the Commonwealth Transportation Board approved a new prioritization program that will score projects according to a set criterion to fund the most critical projects, improve transparency, and remove politics from the process. We must continue to work with local municipalities and community leaders to coordinate long-range planning. We should follow a strategic plan to systematically repair and replace aging infrastructure for cost savings in the future. I support funding upgrades and additions to transportation as a community investment and believe in the value of seeking grant funding and securing state funding.
6) What role do you believe mixed-use development and availability of affordable and diverse housing choices has in the County’s economic development success? What policies would you implement to support your position?

**Chamber Position:** The Chamber supports land use policies and designations that reflect the current and future business needs, including developing the full potential of transit station areas and creating walkable urban mixed-use environments. The Chamber supports a comprehensive county-wide Housing Plan that addresses the need for market rate, workforce and affordable housing. And reform of the County code to achieve this result.

**TONY BUFFINGTON (R):** I support mixed-use/walkable developments and having an adequate amount of affordable and diverse housing in Loudoun County. These types of development and housing choices are necessary in order to attract a broad range of business and to provide the housing diversification needed to allow individuals of varying income levels to live, shop, play and raise a family where they work. When reviewing the Comprehensive Plan, I will work to adopt a new plan that encourages a reasonable and adequate amount of these types of development and housing choices in appropriate locations.

**RICHARD JIMMERSON (I):** Roadway design, zoning and development standards will have an impact on the Metro Silver Line rail ridership. Mixed-use zoning can augment business vitality, provide employment close to home, and create a variety of housing choices. Mixing land uses is effective in creating affordable housing by requiring such housing to be built with market-rate development. The Washington region saw the highest job growth in the retail sector, however, the growth in workforce housing hasn’t increased at the same rate. We should advocate for reform or elimination of outdated housing programs to address the current and future market needs. Administrative policies such as expedited permit processing, credit enhancement to reduce financing costs for such developments, and density bonuses could be critical to providing service workers the ability to live where they work.

7) What specific initiatives do you support to enable access to the reliable, affordable energy required to support the needs of Loudoun’s businesses and to sustain our community’s high quality of life?

**Chamber Position:** The Chamber supports a County-wide energy plan that emphasizes energy generation, transmission and conservation. The Chamber supports Loudoun County implementing a PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) loan program, to allow property owners to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
LOUDOUN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

TONY BUFFINGTON (R): Access to reliable, affordable energy is imperative for everyone who lives and does business in Loudoun County. The County has limited influence/authority in this area; however, I support Board action requiring special exception approval for all future "By-Right" single user applications requiring above ground high volume transmission lines. My support for such requirement is not an effort to deter these types of businesses, such as data-centers, from doing business in Loudoun County, but rather to ensure that we are not unnecessarily cluttering our County with large, unsightly and devaluing high power transmissions lines in circumstances where such businesses could be better located near existing high power sources.

RICHARD JIMMERSON (I): The country’s power grid is under increased pressure; in the past decade, demand for electricity increased by around twenty percent yet capacity only increased around seven percent. Economic growth is not sustainable without affordable electricity. Governments should be investing in our energy grid, continued efficiency, and renewables such as wind and solar. This type of progress and innovation creates jobs, grows the economy, and reduces our dependence on oil.

8) What is your position on the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process, and what would you do to make these or any other proposed environmental regulation or strategy “Loudoun appropriate” given the diversity of land types and uses in Loudoun County?

Chamber Position: The Chamber objects to unfunded and onerous Federal and State water quality mandates that diminish economic growth. The Chamber supports an environmental strategy that is flexible, uses market-based incentives and is tailored to Loudoun’s unique needs and businesses.

TONY BUFFINGTON (R): I support any reasonable effort to maintain or improve the quality of the environment we live in; however, I oppose any effort that would have an unreasonable, unnecessary or disproportionately negative affect on businesses or residents in Loudoun's urban, suburban or rural environments. I would therefore oppose, and work to make "Loudoun appropriate", any proposed environmental regulation or strategy in conflict with this approach.

RICHARD JIMMERSON (I): The Endangered Species Act protects more than 40 species in the watershed of the Chesapeake Bay. Protecting the bay without limiting economic growth from over-regulation of agriculture and municipalities is a challenging balance. Compliance adds significant cost, which is passed on to the consumers by
municipalities, home-builders, and businesses more directly impacted. Agriculture is the largest contributor to elevated load levels and is the least able to afford implementing conservation practices. We must offer creative incentives for compliance that don’t overburden any one group. It should be our goal to promote economic growth.

9) Do you believe that Loudoun County’s Comprehensive Plan should be revised given Northern Virginia is predicted to attract both significant numbers of jobs and residents over the next 20 years? What specific policies would you like to see incorporated in a revised Comprehensive Plan?

**Chamber Position:** The Chamber supports regular updates to Loudoun’s Comprehensive Plan, in part to allow for the full complement of current and future market demands, such as for walkable urban mixed-use environments.

**Tony Buffington (R):** The Comprehensive Plan should be rigorously reviewed by the next Board to better evaluate, consider and plan for the future growth of Loudoun County. A new plan will be our road map, and I will work with all stakeholders, to include the Planning Commission, community groups, businesses and individual citizens to ensure that we anticipate and plan for the continuing influx of homes and business into the County, our corresponding infrastructure needs, as well as which kind of growth is best suited for different parts of the County, and its effect on existing development. In short, a new plan must be far-sighted and balanced. As Blue Ridge District Supervisor, a specific example that I'd like to see included in the revised Plan is language reflective of the County’s commitment to the identification and implementation of smart solutions designed to increase broadband accessibility and cellular coverage throughout western Loudoun.

**Richard Jimmerson (I):** We can’t put together a puzzle without a picture to guide us. Our comprehensive plan is our guide for the county. First we must analyze and promote a broad understanding of the short and long-range economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of all proposed actions. The drive for development is often the result of seeking increased revenue or infrastructure improvements offered by that development. The wave of growth has added to the county’s debt to build new roads and schools. Loudoun had managed explosive growth by steering growth toward clustered communities in the East and around the existing towns in the West. Form-based zoning could be utilized to ensure that new development will be compatible in mass, scale, and form with its surroundings. Loudoun will continue to change, and residents should be part of shaping that change rather than trying to halt it.
10) How do you propose to ensure that there are adequate schools, parks and recreational facilities for current and future residents in Loudoun County?

**Chamber Position:** The Chamber supports working with developers to encourage and sustainable development and development of schools, parks and recreational facilities, without burdening the development process.

**TONY BUFFINGTON (R):** As the County continues to grow, so will our need for additional schools and parks and recreational facilities. Therefore, it is imperative that we engage the School Board, LCPS staff, and the Department of Parks and Recreation in early communication, coordination and planning to ensure an adequate and balanced future supply of such facilities.

**RICHARD JIMMERSON (I):** Unless we manage growth responsibly, we risk losing the very qualities that attracted residents and businesses to Loudoun. It will be critical to maintain a balance between the rate of population and economic growth against the needed infrastructure and public services to support that growth. Supervisors need to work more effectively to address the needs of each district, as well as those that benefit the county as a whole. Exploring formats that create better cooperation could reduce the polarization of our individual districts and their different interest groups.

11) How do you propose to address the increasing funding requests by Loudoun County Public Schools to ensure our children receive a quality education?

**Chamber Position:** The Chamber believes Loudoun County Public Schools, the School Board and the Board of Supervisors must implement cost reduction and operational efficiencies within our school system. The Chamber strongly supports a review of local education spending to identify areas where efficiencies can be implemented.

**TONY BUFFINGTON (R):** With two children being educated in Loudoun, I'm committed as anyone to ensure they receive a quality education. The Board must appropriate enough money to fund necessary educational needs and increased attendance proportionate to growth, while entertaining the possibility of additional funding in support of its desire to provide students with the best possible education. This should never be viewed as a blank check though and I’m hopeful the Superintendent and School Board will continue to be as consultative with the Board of Supervisors as they were this year. It’s imperative that both Boards have a shared vision of LCPS’s long term objectives so that they can be better considered in the annual budget process. That said, the best way to
better fund our schools while maintaining an affordable residential tax rate is to implement pro-business policies designed to grow a robust economy while ensuring only smart new residential growth.

**RICHARD JIMMERSON (I):** School costs are variable and not fixed. Healthcare, transportation, utilities, and mandates increase steadily. Our dilemma is that state funding for education in Virginia is down 16 percent from 2009 (adjusted for inflation). Bare minimum funding allows no advances in salaries, technology and the variable costs. The state of Virginia provides school districts 10 percent less funding than the national average. This situation creates a reliance on local revenues from property and sales taxes, and we need the ability to diversify our revenue sources. Federal funding to Virginia has increased steadily and for FY 2016 we will see a 4.1% increase. It will be critical that Loudoun Supervisors push for expanded state funding that grows at the same rate as our obligations to citizens, so vital services are maintained. Investing in education is the largest decision we make to assure a positive future for our children and our community.

12) Given the increasing number of uninsured and underinsured individuals in the county, how do you propose to increase access to affordable health care in Loudoun County?

**Chamber Position:** The Chamber supports expansion of healthcare infrastructure to meet community need; appropriate local planning for emergency preparedness and public-private partnerships to address pandemic preparedness; and expanding services offered by safety net healthcare providers.

**TONY BUFFINGTON (R):** The best way to increase access to affordable healthcare at the County level is to focus on growing our economy. A larger economy will bring more jobs, higher pay, and added opportunity for Loudoun's unemployed/underemployed and uninsured/underinsured residents to take personal responsibility for their healthcare in a manner that does not require higher taxes. The recent Supreme Court decision to uphold federal tax credits for eligible Americans regardless of state residency, while raising the overall healthcare costs for most, will also serve to increase access to affordable healthcare for the uninsured/underinsured in Loudoun County and provide a level of predictability and consistency that business owner’s desire.

**RICHARD JIMMERSON (I):** Medicaid is a program with rules and practices that differ from state to state. Medicaid spending has increased mainly due to an increase in enrollment, some of which is driven by economic conditions, health care inflation, and
policy shifts. Medicaid expansion has the potential to avert flight of lower-wage workers to other states; which is troublesome when you consider that one in four workers are employed in lower-wage jobs. Reform of health care must continue to occur even while we pursue expansion. There is potential in expanding the public-private partnerships that already exist. They increase access to healthcare for the uninsured and underserved in our community.

13) How would you assess the County’s efforts to engage the Loudoun business community on important public policy issues and how would you improve or otherwise change those efforts?

**Chamber Position:** The Chamber believes government must be responsive to its citizens and businesses and believes that Loudoun County’s business community must have the opportunity to work with government officials to develop and implement legislative and regulatory policies that will impact Loudoun’s economy and quality of life.

**TONY BUFFINGTON (R):** I believe the County has maintained a constructive relationship with our business community, to include the Chamber. This is important as it allows our business community to provide timely and effective input on major County level budget and policy issues. As Supervisor I’ll advocate for continued early and frequent consultation with the Chamber and other business groups as policy challenges arise and well before any final votes are taken. To be clear, I’ll also seek input from our community and other advocacy groups, so that no constituent feels disenfranchised. Additionally, as Blue Ridge District Supervisor, I’ll foster increased communication between our rural business community, the Chamber, the PBA, and the County's departments of Rural Economic Development and Economic Development to determine how best to implement the County's Rural Economic Strategy and resolve issues that may harm our rural business community and/or its potential for growth.

**RICHARD JIMMERSOON (I):** Loudoun’s Department of Economic Development and the various initiatives the county runs in partnership with area businesses has created a strong foundation for growth and investment. This is important for the expansion of existing businesses already in Loudoun and the relocation of other companies and industries to Loudoun. Elected officials need the logic and vision to seek out opinions on a broad range of public policy issues that affect the business community and the community as a whole. Part of our strategy should involve a retention and expansion survey of the business community to assist our economic development team in adopting programs and resources to support the expansion of the business community. Gaining perspective about their challenges can help direct our policy and positions.
14) Please briefly describe what best qualifies you to hold the office for which you are running.

**TONY BUFFINGTON (R):** A unique understanding of the issues and concerns affecting rural and suburban environments gained through my rural upbringing as a Future Farmer of America and my current residency in Brambleton, where for several years I've served as a member and current Vice President of the largest HOA in Loudoun County. Years of experience serving as a Commissioner on the Loudoun County Heritage Commission. Relationships formed with members of the Board of Supervisors and School Board members; Town Mayors and Council members; VDOT, NOVEC and Dominion personnel; Broadband providers; the business, farming, and wine/brew/distillery communities; and the many resident I’ve met throughout the County. 17+ years of US Marine Corp and federal law enforcement leadership experience. Being the father of two children currently being raised and educated in the County. My strong desire for Loudoun to be the best place in America to live, work, shop, play and raise a family.

**RICHARD JIMMERSON (I):** I am a seasoned executive with extensive experience in the areas of budgeting, strategy, organization, community outreach, and dispute resolution. My decades of experience and time spent gaining these specialized skills prepared me well as a qualified candidate for the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

15) What is the chief factor that differentiates you from your opponent(s) (if you have one)?

**TONY BUFFINGTON (R):** My opponent appears to support a 100% no growth and preserve policy for the Blue Ridge District. As a member of the County’s Heritage Commission, I too understand and support the need to preserve our beautiful, historic, natural, and scenic, rural country environment; however, I believe in a smart growth policy where every application is considered based on its own merit upon which individual approval/denial decisions are made. My opponent appears to advocate government funded infrastructure as a means to increase broadband and cellular coverage throughout western Loudoun; whereas, I support implementation of regulatory changes designed to encourage free market providers to take advantage of the opportunity to provide services throughout this area. My opponent has run a negative campaign and garnered very little support from the community; whereas, I’ve remained positive and garnered tremendous support from citizens and businesses alike throughout Loudoun County.

**RICHARD JIMMERSON (I):** My executive experience is the chief factor that differentiates me from my opponent. My leadership in the areas of Internet infrastructure and governance has helped facilitate the growth and development of the Internet industry
over the last two decades. I have played a significant role in helping build one of the fastest growing and most successful industries of our time. I have worked extensively with multi-stakeholder communities in many different regions of the world to help grow the infrastructure of the Internet and facilitate the advancement of new Internet businesses. I will use my experience to help strengthen Loudoun County in my role as Supervisor.

16) Is there any other personal or professional information you would like the business community to know about you that is not already covered?

TONY BUFFINGTON (R): I believe in reasonable and common sense leadership to include open, honest and transparent communication in order to ensure that well-informed/smart decisions are made at all levels. As the next Blue Ridge District Supervisor, I’ll be receptive to the issues and concerns affecting our business community. Thanks for the opportunity to earn your trust and support.

RICHARD JIMMERSON (I): My service with the U.S. Marine Corps was responsible for my move to Northern Virginia 25 years ago. The vibrant economy, diverse culture, and beautiful landscapes kept me here. Family is my priority. My wife and I have three daughters who attend the local public elementary, middle, and high schools. I would like the job and business opportunities in Loudoun County to be diverse and plentiful enough to keep my children in the area once they have finished their education and join the business community. I have the time, interest, and qualifications to fully perform the duties of a Supervisor for Loudoun County. I am committed to working together with the Loudoun business community.

Campaign Committee Information:
Candidate’s Name (as it will appear on ballot): Tony R. Buffington, Jr
Campaign Manager: Tony Buffington
Campaign Address: Friends of Tony Buffington, PO Box 4268, Ashburn, VA 20148
Campaign Phone: 202-713-6675
Campaign Website: http://www.tonybuffington.com
Campaign Twitter: N/A
Candidate’s Current Occupation: Federal Law Enforcement Supervisor in the Washington, DC area.
Candidate's Political Experience: Current Loudoun County Heritage Commissioner, Current Vice President of the Brambleton HOA, Current Republican Nominee for Blue Ridge District Supervisor (I've been campaigning since August of 2014).

Candidate's Business Experience: Never owned a business; however, I fully support all efforts to work with our business community in order to find smart ways to grow our economy. Primary work experience: Marine Corps Sergeant (4 yrs), Federal Law Enforcement Supervisor (13 yrs).

**Campaign Committee Information:**

Candidate's Name (as it will appear on ballot): Richard A. Jimmerson, Jr.

Campaign Manager: Karen Jimmerson

Campaign Address: vote@jimmerson.us

Campaign Phone: 703-930-5503

Campaign Website: http://www.jimmerson.us

Campaign Twitter: @jimmrich

Candidate's Current Occupation: Chief Information Officer (Internet industry)

Candidate's Political Experience: Internet governance leadership (1990s-Present)

Candidate’s Business Experience: Internet industry executive (1990s-Present)