

McCabe challenges Kenton for 36th House seat

By Kara Nuzback

To better understand the differences between Republican **Harvey Kenton** and his Democratic opponent **Russ McCabe**, the Cape Gazette asked the candidates to answer four questions.

The contenders, vying for the House seat left vacant by Rep. George Carey, R-Milford, were asked about state budget, renewable energy and what sets each one apart from his opponent. Kenton did not respond to phone calls or emails.

Q: What key measures should the Legislature take to reduce the state budget?

McCabe: Though designed to promote economy, our present practice of limiting the purchase of certain equipment and supplies exclusively to selected vendors discourages competitiveness and often results in wasted tax dollars. Our state's purchasing rules should be changed to allow buying on the open market when contract vendors are unable to match the price for comparable items.

Secondly, we must identify activities that are critical to agency missions and eliminate those that are not. A thorough and open study of state government should be undertaken. The product of this effort should be a real plan for reducing the size and cost of government including measurable benchmarks to ensure action and accountability.

Q: What steps, if any, do you think should be taken to promote Delaware's role in developing the renewable energy industry?

McCabe: I believe we should use all means at our disposal to pursue the development of green energy businesses in Delaware. We must do whatever is necessary, utilizing such tools as business tax breaks and private-public partnerships to ensure our state becomes a leader in this emerging field. From an economic development perspective, this makes simple sense. More jobs in Delaware means a stronger economy - a stronger economy means a brighter future.

Q: What is the biggest difference between you and your opponent?

McCabe: I believe that working in a career devoted to learning about the history of our state and its people has provided me with a unique and intimate understanding of how our government works, and more importantly, how it can be improved.

Q: If there were a fire in your house, what two possessions would you save?

McCabe: After securing the safety of my family, I would save the large trunk that my wife's

ancestors brought from Ireland when they came to this country in 1850. Aside from the sentimental and symbolic value of this worn but beautiful antique, it contains many of our family treasures: family Bible, wedding album, family photographs, etc. The second item I would grab would be my computer and its removable hard drive. With everything from taxes to those new-fangled digital photos – it is the information age equivalent of our old trunk.

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Harvey Kenton

Harvey Kenton, 68, was born in Milford and graduated from Milford High School in 1959. He attended Wesley College, where he was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame for football, basketball and track. Kenton, who also served in the U.S. Navy, lives with his wife, Jeanne. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Kenton has worked in sales for Milford Fertilizer Co. and Marvel Insurance & Real Estate Agency. He serves as the vice president of the Delaware State Fair, vice chairman of The Felton Bank Board of Directors, and member of the Cedarfield Ruritan Club.

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Russ McCabe

Russ McCabe is a native and lifelong resident of Sussex County. He and his wife, Michele, have two sons. McCabe, 54, has raised his family in a place that he loves, alongside his parents and friends. After graduating from Radford University in Virginia, McCabe enjoyed a 31-year career at the Delaware Public Archives, a job that allowed him to combine a love for the history of Delaware and its people with public service. Having so much for which to be grateful, McCabe said, he is offering his time and energy as an expression of gratitude.