

Delaware politics: Small business drives 36th District candidates

By HIRAN RATNAYAKE • The News Journal •
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John Potocki was certain that he was better off opening a hair salon in Delaware than in Washington, D.C.

So he moved to Milton a few years ago.

"I wouldn't have done it if I didn't think it was a healthy environment for **small businesses** here," he said.

Making the small towns of Sussex and Kent counties an even more **attractive** place for small businesses is the top goal of two newcomers vying for the open seat in the 36th House District, which includes Milton, Milford, Ellendale and Lincoln.

Both candidates say their work experience qualifies them for the job, which is open because Republican George Carey is **planning to retire** after 26 years.

Harvey Kenton was a salesman for most of his career at the Milford Fertilizer Co. and the Marvel **Insurance & Real Estate Agency**.

He now is the vice chairman on the board of directors at The Felton Bank. His website -- www.harveykenton.com -- says the "big thing is protecting small businesses -- that's the backbone of our economy."

"I think my experience shows that I have a very good background," he said. "I knew how to handle my own budgets and Dover needs to know what our revenue is and what we can spend and why we can't overspend."

Democrat C. Russell McCabe also bills himself as an advocate of small businesses. His website -- <http://russmccabe.org> -- says lawmakers need to "work closely with business leaders to be certain that our regulatory **policies** and tax structures are designed

to provide a favorable environment for economic success."

McCabe said he is well-suited for the job because of his 31-year career with the Delaware Division of Public Archives, which is **responsible** for identifying, collecting and preserving public records. Before retiring last July, McCabe directed the division for five years. He said he managed a budget of \$2.2 million during his final year on the job.

"I spent 31 years in an agency that was frankly responsible for how government works," he said. "What it means is that I had to understand what each of the state agencies do and, as a result of doing that, I have a good knowledge base on how government works. As a member of the General Assembly, my **learning** curve would be a little bit shorter than for a lot of other folks."

Both candidates say state government is too big.

Kenton said he would make government smaller by consolidating the payroll and purchasing systems of **school** districts. McCabe said he would reduce the size by giving division heads the freedom to purchase goods on the open market if they can find better bargains.

There are about 17,000 registered voters in the 36th House District. About 41 percent are Democrats while 35 percent are Republicans.

Kenton said he wishes he lived in a more Republican-heavy district, but he is confident he



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can win because Carey, who endorsed him, also was a member of the GOP.

"We got two good people running but I hope he gets my seat," said Carey, 82, who works as a farmer and lives in Milford. "It's been a great life [as a representative] and I've enjoyed it, but it's time to go."

McCabe said local residents aren't as concerned about party affiliation as they are about maintaining a strong influence.

"What I keep hearing from folks is that they want someone to speak up for them in Dover," he said.

Contact Hiran Ratnayake at 324-2547 or hratnayake@delawareonline.com.



Harvey Kenton



C. Russell McCabe

THE CANDIDATES

HARVEY KENTON

Age: 68

Home: Milford

Party: Republican

Job: Retired sales representative for Milford Fertilizer Co. and agent at Marvel Insurance & Real Estate Agency

Education: Milford High School class of 1959; attended Wesley College but did not graduate

C. RUSSELL McCABE

Age: 54

Home: Milton

Party: Democrat

Job: Retired director of the Delaware Division of Public Archives

Education: Bachelor's in history and geography from Radford University in Virginia.

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


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