

Newszap.com, 10/26/10

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### [Campaign 2010: McCabe for State House 36th District](#)

Published on 10/26,2010



#### **C. Russell (Russ) McCabe**

Age: 54

Party: Democratic

Who is your current employer? Retired

Other Employment History: Archivist/Historian – Delaware Public Archives (1978-2009) including Division Director (2005-09)

What companies or businesses do you own, or hold a greater than five-percent stake in? None

On what corporate boards do you or have you served? Have served on numerous non-profit boards and commissions

Do you receive a pension for other service in state or federal government? Yes

Political Experience: Sussex County Recorder of Deeds (1987-91)

Education: Graduate-Sussex Central High School (1974)/Graduate – Radford University (1978) - Bachelor of Arts - History and Geography

Where do you live? Milton Area

How long have you lived in Delaware? Entire life

How do you politically define yourself? I do not self-define based upon any particular ideology. I believe in common sense and practicality.

Why are you running for office? I believe that each of us has an obligation to do whatever we can to repay the many blessings of living in this great country. I would like to use my deep knowledge of Delaware, its people and government, to help to make our future as bright and glorious as our past. I believe that my experience, energy, honesty, and commitment to my native state will be assets when serving the residents of the 36<sup>th</sup> District.

To what religious and civic organizations do you belong?

- Founder and past President, Georgetown Historical Society
- Board member and past Vice President, Milton Historical Society
- Board of Directors, Preservation Delaware
- Member, Delaware Humanities Council
- Member, Delaware Historic Preservation Review Board
- Member, Delaware Heritage Commission
- Member, Historic Georgetown Association Community Redevelopment Organization
- Treasurer, Goshen Cemetery (Milton)
- Member, Commission on Archives and History, Peninsula-Delaware Conference of the United Methodist Church
- Member, Delaware Department of Agriculture Century Farm Committee
- Board of Directors, Coach and Manager, Milton Little League

Family: Wife Michele, sons Josiah (24) and Coulter (20)

#### ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

What ideas do you have for improving the economy and creating new jobs? First and foremost, we need to be certain that our tax structure and regulatory policies are conducive to business growth. Simply put – we should do everything possible to decrease the burden of taxes and make it easier to do business. We must be aggressive and creative when it comes to attracting new businesses that will create much-needed employment opportunities. We must work closely with business leaders to ensure that our present workforce is protected as well.

What are the top three issues in this campaign (besides jobs and the economy)?

1. Education - Now more than ever, it is of critical importance for Delawareans of all ages to have access to the kind of education and training that supports economic prosperity and a greater quality of life. We must do whatever is necessary to guarantee that our educators are properly supported and equipped to prepare students for the challenges of the future. We must do so in a way that promotes efficiency while maintaining the kind of local/community involvement which Delawareans have come to expect. In addition to providing the best education we can for our children, we must bring renewed focus to the needs of adult learners to better prepare them for a changing economy.
2. Cutting State Spending - As a Division Director with responsibility for approving agency purchases, I was often confronted with a critical flaw in our state's current system of centralized purchasing – higher costs. Though designed to promote economy, our present practice of limiting the purchase of

certain equipment and supplies exclusively to selected vendors discourages competitiveness and frequently results in the needless expenditure of our tax dollars. I am recommending that our state's rules for purchasing be changed to allow state agencies to make purchases on the open market when contract vendors are unable to match the price for comparable items.

3. Building a Better State Government - I believe we must identify activities which are critical to agency missions and eliminate those that are not. In order to do this, I am recommending that a thorough and open study of state government be undertaken. This will require careful analysis of statutory responsibilities and an honest assessment of priorities. The process should be fair, free of personal or political bias, and – most importantly, conducted in a manner that is transparent and allows the citizens of our state to have input and participate in the hard decisions which must be made. The product of this effort should be a real plan for reducing the size and cost of government. This plan must include measurable benchmarks that ensure action and accountability.

What is your position on the implicit obligations of politicians to their corporate donors? I believe that the increasing influence of money in politics and government is deplorable. Unfortunately, the cost of campaigns results in the necessity of accepting contributions. I have made it very clear to any and all donors that my acceptance of donations to my campaign must come without obligation.

Do your children, or did your children, attend public schools? Like me, my children were educated in local public schools.

Rate the performance of our public schools. What improvements would you suggest for the school system? Though it has been a few years since my youngest child's graduation, our experience with local schools was a positive one. As concerns areas for improvement, I believe adding teachers vs. administrators and reducing class size is important.

What ideas do you have for improving or protecting Delawareans' lives in the following categories?

Jobs -

Economy

Taxes and fees

Government spending

Casinos

Public Safety

Health Care

Women's Rights

Gun Control

Religious rights

Energy

Environment

Land use

We must promote prosperity, see that infrastructure keeps pace with development, and preserve our open spaces. We must protect the lives and properties of our citizens and the safety and well-being of our children. We must put aside political differences and work together to address the critical issues which we face. A Representative should *represent* the citizens they serve. As we move forward it is my intention to seek input from the residents of the 36<sup>th</sup> District in developing solutions for the many issues/challenges which we face.