



MCCC 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Kathleen Dumais

Email: kmd@eqkmrh.com **Campaign Website:** www.KathleenDumais.com

Office you are seeking: State Delegate **District:** 15

Years of residence in the district in which you are running: 15

Education Information

College, Post-graduate, Technical School or Certificate Program you completed and the degree(s) you attained.

JD, UM School of Law (1983) BA, Mount Vernon College, DC (1980)

Employment Information

Current Occupation: Attorney/Legislator: I practice family law **Current Employer:** Ethridge, Quinn, Kemp, McAuliffe, Rowan & Hartinger, 33 Wood Lane, Rockville, MD 20850

How long have you been employed here? 2.75 years

If less than two years, please provide immediate previous employer: I practiced family law as principal with Paley Rothman in Bethesda for 15 years before returning to my current firm where I started practicing as a young lawyer in 1989.

Questions

In your opinion, what are the key issues facing the business community in the district/county/state you seek to represent?

The key issues facing the business community in the district, county and the state are (1) creating and saving jobs; (2) moving forward with transportation projects; and, (3) continuing our investment in K-12 education, as well as post-secondary education to ensure there is access to an educated workforce.

What do you believe are the core responsibilities of the position you seek and what will you do to carry these out?

For the past 12 years I've served on the House Judiciary Committee, and for the past 4 years I've served as the Vice Chair of that committee. I've had the privilege of playing a leadership role in important, historical policy issues such as civil marriage, the repeal of the death penalty and gun control. Clearly, at the state level, the legislature sets state policy and is responsible for balancing the funding for state priorities -- including education, job creation, transportation and public safety.

Please explain your budget priorities and describe your approach to the role you will play in impacting the County/State budget.

Generally, the state budget is largely formula driven for K-12 education, entitlements, other formula-based programs, public safety, capital spending and debt service. Serving on the House Judiciary Committee, I primarily concentrate on public safety priorities in an effort to ensure state funds are being used in the most efficient and effective manner. Further, as a member of the Montgomery County Delegation, I work with leadership to ensure that Montgomery County receives its fair share of education funding and capital construction dollars.

What improvements do you believe are needed to the transportation infrastructure In Montgomery County and Maryland? Please list them in your priority order.

(1) Progress on the Corridor Cities Transitway is long overdue and is my first priority; (2) I also support the Purple Line; (3) general intersection improvements across the county that have been delayed for lack of funding.

If elected, how do you plan to address the perception and reality of Montgomery County and Maryland having a less competitive business climate?

The truth of the matter is that MD is in a much better position than a majority of the states in the County. We are 1 of only 10 States in the county with a AAA bond rating from all three Bond rating companies on Wall Street. But, sometimes perception can be reality -- so, we must work to change the perception. The Speaker and the President of the Senate established a Business Climate Workgroup that is being chaired by Norm Augustine to address exactly the issue raised by this question. Hopefully, by next session this workgroup will have definitive recommendations for the legislature. Additionally, in the 2013 and 2014 sessions, I introduced legislation to establish a Commission on Tax Policy, Reform and Fairness. Though the bills passed the House in 2013 and 2014, they did not pass the Senate. I believe an important part of changing the perception regarding our business climate is to review our overall tax structure and propose a long term tax strategy -- not the piecemeal fixes that the legislature has been doing over the past 6 to 8 years.

How do you define economic development?

Economic Development is the creation of new jobs, new businesses, new wealth, new schools, and new communities.

What role should government play to help attract, grow and retain business?

I think government can provide initial financial incentives, such as tax credits, to help attract, grow and retain businesses. But, more importantly, government can and does provide education and training for an educated workforce; public transportation so that employees can get to their place of employment for a reasonable cost; safe communities by funding law enforcement, firefighters and other first responders; and infrastructure -- roads, bridges, etc.

What current economic development initiatives do you support?

I certainly supported the various incentives in the FY2015 budget, such as the Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Business Investment Account; cancer research grants to the state's academic centers; biotech tax credits; cyber-security tax credits; and the funds provided to the MD Economic Development Assistance Authority; as well as the other such programs in the budget. Further, I certainly support our state's efforts to keep the increases in tuition at our state higher education institutions at 3% or less. Truly, the investments made in training and education are the best spent dollars for economic development.

What new economic development initiatives would you propose?

I believe we need to invest in making sure our high school students have the opportunity to go to college. There is a wonderful non-profit called "College Tracks" that is only available in two schools at the moment -- BCC and Wheaton. It was started by a few parents to help underprivileged young adults get through the torturous college application process. The success rate of this primary volunteer organization is astounding -- and is really what economic development is and should be about.

Please use this opportunity to provide any other information you would like MCCC members to know.

I've just finished my 12th legislative session. Serving in the legislature at times can be challenging, exasperating, inspiring, and/or frustrating. But, I would not have missed a minute of it. It has been an honor and a privilege to represent the residents of District 15 and it would be an honor to receive their trust again.