



# MCCC 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Kumar P. Barve

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**Office you are seeking:** State Delegate **District:** 17

**Years of residence in the district in which you are running:** 28

## Education Information

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

Georgetown University, Bachelor of Science, Accounting, 1980

## Employment Information

**Current Occupation:** Chief Financial Officer **Current Employer:** Environmental Management Services, Inc.

**How long have you been employed here?** 20 years

**If less than two years, please provide immediate previous employer:** n/a

## Questions

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

The primary issues are, a) regulation reduction, especially at the local level, b) tax reform, c) transportation improvements. We also need to continue and broaden our efforts to take full advantage of the growing federal cyber security market place.

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

The core responsibility is to maintain the best K through 12 school system and university system in while keeping our balanced budget while maintaining a Triple-A bond rating. By many measures we have the best public school system in the United States and the University System of Maryland has several top-ten programs. We have also reduced the relative cost of tuitions at our state colleges.

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

The first priority is to maintain a budget that is balanced fairly and in a timely manner. This should be done while maintaining Maryland's Triple-A bond rating. The state must use the increased gas tax revenues only for transportation related programs which includes the highway user formula for county and municipal governments. For that reason I support the constitutional amendment that puts the increased tax revenues in a "lock-box" for transportation only.

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

My top transportation priorities are the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) and the Watkins Mill Interchange. Both projects are supported by local communities and both are designed to reduce congestion and support balanced economic growth. The CCT specifically benefits the entire upcounty as well as Gaithersburg and Rockville and the high technology companies in that area. Although the legislature can not do so directly, I will continue to encourage the MDTA to lower the toll on the Intercounty Connector (ICC). I also support the purple line in the down county.

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

I serve as a member of the Business Climate Workgroup of the House of Delegates. In the course of our work we found that while Maryland is a good state in which to do business these are several ways in which we can improve. Specifically, Maryland needs to streamline and in some cases reduce business regulation. State and county regulations need to be better coordinated. Also, levels of business taxation need to be reduced and simplified as the economy recovers. I would be very supportive of these kinds of actions.

**How do you define economic development?**

Economic development is the creation of private sector wealth and jobs.

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

There is a lot that government can do. First we should continue to oppose bad tax policies like the so-called "Combined Reporting" method of corporate tax calculation and the unfair application of the hotel tax to non-hotel facilities like the one owned by Lockheed-Martin. We should have a better process for monitoring and coordinating state regulations. The state government should continue to provide tax incentives and funding programs to encourage economic development that takes advantage of federal agencies like (but not limited to) the NIH, NIST and the NSA. Additionally, the state should be encourage the expansion of high-speed Internet to rural and other underserved communities.

**What current economic development initiatives do you support?**

I am very supportive of the investment programs of the Technology Development Corporation, a program that I helped to create fourteen years ago. Economic incentive programs should continue to be used, but with increased scrutiny of our return on investment.

**What new economic development initiatives would you propose?**

I support the recoupling of the Maryland estate tax to the Federal estate tax so that business owners are not put in a position of having to sell or breakup a business upon the death of the owner. I will continue to support the Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) and all of the existing programs of the Department of Business and Economic Development. Furthermore, I would support the lowering of the corporate income tax percentage as the economy recovers.

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

I am one of the few members of the legislature to have a background in accounting and business management. Currently I am the CFO of Environmental Management Service, Inc., a small hazardous waste disposal company. I have always used that background to guide me as we have set policy in our state.