



# MCCC 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Susan C. Lee

**Email:** delegatesusanlee@gmail.com **Campaign Website:** susanleeforsenate.com

**Office you are seeking:** State Senator **District:** 16

**Years of residence in the district in which you are running:** 23 years in our current home. Grew up in both Bethesda and Potomac, MD and left to attend college and law school.

## Education Information

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

University of Maryland, College Park, BA University of San Francisco School of Law, JD

## Employment Information

**Current Occupation:** State Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates, District 16 and Attorney. **Current Employer:** Have served as Of Counsel to Gebhardt & Associates for over 12 years which will end this year.

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

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

## Questions

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

Key issues include supporting and sustaining a vibrant economic climate that promotes and encourages businesses to invest in or stay in Montgomery County and Maryland, supporting better streamlining of processes, supporting mass transit such as the Purple Line, Corridor Cities Transit Way and Metro Momentum, repairing and revitalizing our current roads and infrastructures, increasing public safety, and attracting life sciences, nanobiotechnology, cyber, IT, green, and emerging technology companies that create state of art innovations and medical treatments, jobs, revenues that support a knowledge based economy that will sustain our future and enable us to compete globally.

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

Since being elected in 2002 and holding leadership positions in the House of Delegates, I have and will continue to work collaboratively with MCCC, other business organizations, Maryland TechCouncil, other stakeholder organizations, the Governor, federal and state agency officials, and our Congressional delegation to advance, obtain consensus, and achieve our common goals. Together we have already passed legislation to advance excellence in education, clean

environment, public safety, mass transit, programs and tax credits to advance biotechnology, cyber, nanobiotechnology, and emerging technologies that support a knowledge based economy, to assist veterans of the US armed forces make the transition into the civilian workforce, leverage federal funding, maintain Maryland's Triple A bond rating and other measures that have helped Maryland fare better than other states, especially during a tough economic climate. Building on my track record of leadership, hard work and getting results, I can do even more in the Senate for all our diverse communities.

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

Despite tough economic challenges, I and my colleagues have worked hard to balance the budget each year, fully fund the Rainy Day Fund, and maintain our state's Triple-A Bond rating. I will continue to work to help pass prudent fiscal measures and streamline processes and identify and cut waste and duplication and protect our core priorities that have helped Maryland fare better than other states. I will continue to strongly support increased funding for education, GCEI, and school construction; transportation funding to repair and revitalize aging roads and infrastructures and mass transit; to protect the Chesapeake Bay, waterways, land, and air; leverage federal funding; and measures to support and advance biotechnology, nanobiotechnology, information technology, cyber research, development, innovation, technology transfer, and commercialization to develop life saving treatments and improve the quality of life, generate revenues and create jobs that support a knowledge based economy that will sustain us into the future.

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

We need to increase funding for and move forward mass transit projects, including the Purple Line that brings vibrant communities together, gets people to work, home, school, and other places, and reduces congestion, time on the road, and pollution; Support the repair and revitalization of current roads and infrastructures that also create jobs and boost the economy; support Metro Momentum that greatly benefits Montgomery County; the Corridor Cities Transitway.

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

This session, we in the General Assembly established a private sector commission to review Maryland's economic development programs and business climate. The commission will be examining the strengths and weaknesses of current economic incentive and investment programs and produce strategic recommendations on the structure of those economic development agencies, the interaction between those state agencies and the private sector, and other recommendations. I will continue to support programs and tax credits that promote the life sciences, IT, cyber, and emerging technologies that create innovations, revenues, and jobs to sustain our future, By producing comprehensive strategies instead of taking a piecemeal approach, we can better move our state forward.

**How do you define economic development?**

Maryland has in its borders federal agencies such as NIH, NIST, NSA, DISA, Ft. Meade, world class higher education institutions such as the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, Montgomery College, and others, one of the highest concentration of scientists, post graduates, and life sciences, cyber, and IT companies, and has been rated number one in education nationwide for the 5th straight year. Economic development means being able to fully tap, utilize, and translate Maryland's ideal location to major federal agencies and transportation hubs, concentration of talent, innovation, and entrepreneurship to make Maryland the leader and epicenter of the life sciences, cyber, IT and emerging technologies. This includes supporting the streamlining of processes, assisting small businesses, including

women and minority owned, assisting our veterans after their service to our nation, supporting programs and tax credits that enable biotech, IT, cyber, and emerging technology companies to take their research to product, commercialize, create jobs, and generate revenues that support a knowledge based economy to sustain our future and enable us to globally compete.

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

To enable businesses to invest, grow, and stay in Maryland, government can assist through legislation or policies that streamline processes, promote public private partnerships, and programs and tax credits that enable small companies such as those in the life sciences, cyber and IT to develop and commercialize their innovations, stay in business, create jobs and revenues, stay in the state for the long term. As a daughter of a US Navy World War II veteran, I understand how important it is to assist our US Armed Forces veterans after they have completed their service to our country. Building on the Veterans Full Employment Act, which we in the Maryland General Assembly passed, I will continue to work with MCCC to support other measures to help them make the transition into the civilian workforce. Government should also provide increased funding and assistance to our higher education institutions that play an important role in serving as a pipeline of jobs at all levels.

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

Programs and tax credits for biotech, cyber, IT research, development, technology transfer, and commercialization; newly passed Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone Program to leverage the strength of institutional assets that have a strong and proven history of commitment to economic development and revitalization in their communities; new Cybersecurity Investment Fund to provide seed and early stage funding for emerging cyber companies; Sustainable Communities Tax Credit; Film Production Tax Credits; and increased funding for Biotechnology Investment Tax Credit, Cyber Maryland Investment Tax Credit Program; and the Research and Development Tax Credit.

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

I will be introducing proposed legislation to create a SBIR/STTR Biotech Bridge Program to enable small biotechnology companies to stay in business while they are taking their research to product and commercializing their innovations. The program will help those companies who have already proven their concept bridge the gap during the critical federal review process and enable them to continue to employ and retain essential research personnel, thereby keeping in our state, important and emerging knowledge based companies that create jobs, generate billions in revenues, develop life saving treatments for all types of critical diseases. I am currently the Co Chair of the Maryland Commission on Cyber Security, Innovation and Excellence and also served as Co Chair of the Nanobiotechnology Task Force. I will be working on proposed legislation to implement some of the many recommendations produced by the Commission and Task Force. Maryland has the opportunity to be the leader and epicenter of an over \$140 billion dollar cyber industry. The state also has the ability to help biotech and nanobiotechnology companies commercialize their lifesaving treatments, stay in business, and create jobs and revenues. I will also support increased funding to our higher education institutions that serve as a pipeline to those types of jobs and work with our Congressional delegation to leverage federal funding.

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

Serving 12 years as a Delegate and in House leadership positions, I helped pass laws to advance excellence in education, environment, life sciences, cyber, IT, technology, public safety, mass transit, and other measures to uplift and empower all Marylanders. Building on my track record of leadership, hard work, getting results, I can do more in the Senate for citizens in District 16, Montgomery County and Maryland. In particular, I have helped pass laws to increase funding for education and school construction thereby making Maryland number one in education for the fifth straight

year; make college affordable and accessible; protect and preserve our environment; and increase transportation funding to repair our aging infrastructures and roads and fund mass transit. Serving two terms as President of the Women's Caucus, I led efforts to pass aggressive agenda of laws to economically empower women, children and families, fight domestic violence, child and senior abuse, and human trafficking, increase health care access and decrease disparities, and other measures. To ensure the safety of our community, I helped pass sensible gun safety laws and authored and led efforts to create a new law to fight the surge in violent home invasions. I also introduced and passed Maryland first ever Telemedicine law to allow doctors to be reimbursed for vital medical services delivered via telemedicine which has a track record of saving lives, improving outcomes, reducing hospital stays and health care costs and disparities, particularly for underserved and remote communities. This session, I introduced and passed a law to extend coverage to Medicaid patients who are some of the most neediest and underserved and will benefit via greater health care access, early diagnosis, improved outcomes, and reduced health care costs. I have also served as Co Chair of the Commission on Cyber Security Innovation and Excellence which is charged with providing legislative and policy recommendations for protecting our state against cyber attacks and developing a strategic road map for making Maryland the leader in cyber innovation and jobs; and as Co Chair of the Task Force to Study Identity Theft. I have authored and led efforts to pass important laws to ensure the protection of our state databases against cyber attacks and require notification to our citizens in the event of a breach; prohibit attacks against the government and certain utilities that could paralyze the operations of our state, economy and infrastructures; and prosecute health and health Information identity theft and the malicious disclosure of a person's sensitive personal information on a social media that would subject the victim to a myriad of identity theft crimes. I also introduced and passed Maryland first Security Freeze law to proactively protect consumers against identity theft, the country's first ever identity theft pretexting law, and measures to obtain relief for victims. I also served as Co Chair of the Nanobiotechnology Task Force which has helped promote nanobiotechnology commercialization and jobs creation. Building on my track record of leadership, hard work, and getting results as a Delegate since 2002, I can do even more in the Senate for the citizens in District 16, Montgomery County and Maryland.