



MCDC Screening Committee
CD7 Primary Election 2026

Candidate Assessment Summary



Executive Summary

The Screening Committee's role is to evaluate candidates on vision, readiness to serve at the congressional level, policy plans and knowledge, and campaign strategy and viability.

The Committee's assessments are based on candidates' questionnaire responses, their screening interviews, and our evaluation of this information using the CD7 assessment rubric.

[We encourage members to visit the MCDC website's candidate page to view the interviews and read the questionnaires that informed our determinations](#) so you can make your own assessment. We are grateful to all the candidates for engaging in this process; the Committee sincerely appreciated meeting each of them, and every candidate contributed thoughtful and worthwhile perspectives.

The Committee evaluated candidates across several core measures.

- **Morris-County-specific knowledge:** Candidates should demonstrate a clear understanding of our towns, our elected officials, and the needs of our communities.
- We also expect to hear about **policy and vision** in a way that extends beyond general ideas or top-line themes. Candidates should demonstrate how their plans can be implemented and how they will deliver actual results.
- Although matters like protecting democratic institutions and engaging with national and international affairs are meaningful aspects of the position, our Committee evaluation has emphasized **state and local priorities** over a wider national or global focus.
- Successful campaigns require **operational strength and substantial financial resources**. Congressman Tom Kean Jr. has the advantage of incumbency and a sizable campaign war chest. Flipping this district from Red to Blue requires an intensive commitment that demands superior fundraising capacity and excellence across every element of campaigning: message, field, voter turnout, and financial sustainability.
- Finally, MCDC has high expectations for **supporting down-ballot candidates**, from municipal and county races to legislative contests. Candidates should understand these roles and be prepared to help strengthen and support the entire Morris County Democratic team.

This ranking is not an endorsement; that designation will be awarded by our CD7 voting members during the 2026 Primary Election Nominating Convention on March 22, 2026, 10:00AM, at the County College of Morris.



Screening Committee Candidate Ranking

Candidate	Rank	Assessment
Rebecca Bennett	1	Strongest overall performance, exhibiting excellence across readiness, policy, campaign infrastructure, and fundraising.
Tina Shah	2	Excellent performance across readiness, policy, campaign infrastructure, and fundraising.
Michael Roth	3	Very good performance across readiness, policy, campaign infrastructure, and fundraising.
Megan O'Rourke	4	Very good performance across readiness, policy, campaign infrastructure, and fundraising.
Brian Varela	5	Good performance across readiness, policy, campaign infrastructure, and fundraising.
Beth Adubato	6	Satisfactory performance across readiness, policy, campaign infrastructure, and fundraising.

MCD C Screening Committee: CD7 Primary Election 2026

MCD C is grateful for the time and attention given to this process by the members of the Screening Committee:

- Roxbury Municipal Chair Brian Considine
- Mount Olive Municipal Chair Andy Meissner
- Mendham Township Councilwoman Amalia Duarte
- Mine Hill Council President Gary Colucci
- MCD C Chair Emeritus William Kersey
- MCD C Chair Darcy Draeger
- MCD C Vice Chair Mike Delamater