



## CANDIDATE SPOTLIGHT

**CHRIS HARNISCH**

HOUSE OF DELEGATES DISTRICT 27

CANDIDATE: **CHRIS HARNISCH**

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### **What would you like voters to know about you?**

The most important thing for voters to understand about me is my deep love for our country, state, and community. I am a public servant who is concerned about the state of our country. One of the defining features of our nation that makes it truly exceptional is that every generation has strived to hand off a more perfect union than what it inherited. But now, for the first time in a very, very long time, I fear that we are on the verge of not doing that.

### **Why are you running for office?**

Public service has always been important to me and is an integral part of my life. It is a value instilled in me by my parents. I drew inspiration from my grandparents' generation, which earned the designation "The Greatest Generation" for always putting service to country above all else. This country has given me so much, and I intend to always serve it in some capacity.

I have served in the military for 14 years, and I am currently an Army Reservist. I have also served in other areas of government. Running for office is a continuation of public service for me. As John Adams said, "Public business, my son, must always be done by somebody. If wise men decline it, others will not; if honest men refuse it, others will not."

I have been to 70-75 countries, and I have witnessed extreme poverty and totalitarianism. Our nation is truly exceptional, and I am grateful to live in the United States. I believe our country is a force for good in the world and that it is a nation well worth serving.

I am running for the House of Delegates because I believe that decisions made at the state and local levels have the greatest potential to have the most direct impact on our daily lives. I am Virginian born and raised and feel blessed to live in a community that is a "mosaic of people"

from all over the country and the world. When I get to Richmond, I will make sure that the voices of everyone in our community are heard, and I will fight to defend liberty and preserve the American dream for all.

### **How long have you lived in Loudoun County?**

I am a native of Northern Virginia. I was born and raised in Fairfax County and have lived nearly all my life in Northern Virginia.

My wife and I moved to Loudoun County about a year ago, shortly after we got married. Living just across the county line, I have always admired Loudoun and enjoyed spending time here. We wanted to be in a place with a strong sense of community and a great place to raise a family.

Most of Northern Virginia is going in a direction that is not good or healthy for families and businesses. But the residents of Loudoun have made clear that they still want the county to be a great place to raise a family, and the parents here showed to the world, especially in 2020-2021, that they have the fight in them to keep this a wonderful place. Their sense of fight signaled to families all over the region that Loudoun is a place where parents care, they want to be involved in their kid's lives, and they will ensure their voices are never silenced. That's attractive for young families who want a sense of community and schools where parents have a voice. Other parents in my community have expressed the same sentiment about living in Loudoun. Loudoun is not lost like other counties in Northern Virginia.

### **What are your top 3-5 issues and why?**

My top 3 issues are kitchen table issues:

- **Education:** Making sure schools prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy without political/ideological indoctrination. When schools come up short, I want to make sure parents have a voice in alternative education options. Also keeping kids safe in schools. LCPS has failed to protect children, and in some cases the school board, including my Democratic opponent, has been active in covering up sexual assaults.
- **Cost of living:** It is expensive to live here. I would like to see Virginians keep more of their money; especially with a nearly \$4 billion budget surplus in Virginia. Giving Virginians some relief is important.
- **Public safety:** Stopping crime. Crime is increasing around the country and Loudoun is no exception. The Commonwealth's Attorney is unwilling to prosecute certain crimes. Instead of demonizing the police, we need to make sure the police are well resourced, well trained, and well-funded and have the laws on the books to stop crimes and keep our community safe. Thank God for Sheriff Chapman and his team for keeping us safe. They deserve our unwavering support.

## **What is the most memorable thing that you've done or has happened to you?**

Personally, my most memorable and happy experiences were marrying my wife, Natasha, and the birth of our 4-month-old son.

Professionally, my most memorable experience was my 14-month tour in Afghanistan. Our military is a force for good and makes the world a safer and better place. I was deeply disappointed with the handling of our withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Perhaps the happiest day in my career was when I spoke to the grandfather of an American little boy that my team helped rescue from Syria after his parents trafficked him there when they went to join ISIS. The grandfather, who was an immigrant from Yemen, was profusely grateful for the efforts of the U.S. Government. He thought he would never see his grandson again. He said no other country in the world would have done this. This and my work with other counter terrorism professionals have been unforgettable.