

Two Different Challengers

Two very different challengers are running in the 3rd SD and 91st HD Republican races. Paul Jost is a self-made man with impeccable conservative credentials running a principled race. Jost expects Republican senators to be loyal to Republican Governors, the Party and the values of our Virginia Republican Creed. Meanwhile, Forrest Ward describes himself as a Republican but has difficulty explaining how his actions and his election promises reflect anything remotely considered Republican. The challengers present a contrast in almost every aspect.

Paul Jost is the reluctant candidate. He made the commitment to run when dedicated conservatives implored him to run. Of course, in typical decisive action, when he decided to run, he threw himself into the race body and soul. Moreover, Paul Jost is building on decades of party loyalty and activism. He isn't a Democrat who discovered the Commonwealth was leaving the growing leftist, liberal socialism of the Democrat Party, and became a Republican of convenience. Paul Jost is a consistent Republican who cares what the office of senator does for Virginia's destiny. He won't make personal gain from public office. He will not be beholden to any special interest, the traveling supplicant for any lobbyist or the mouthpiece for powers who want your tax dollars for their projects.

Forrest Ward is the default candidate. He had to run when Paul Garman declined. It is costing someone a pretty penny indeed. Forrest Ward certified in legal documents that he is a legal resident of the 91st HD as of 21 March 03. Yet, he told the Poquoson Republican Committee that his family would not move to his new house. He has two houses in Hampton. His wife, the elected Democrat treasurer of Hampton, has a legal residence in one. He has a legal residence in the other. Some nights he sleeps in one and some nights he sleeps in the other. Un-huh. Everybody has the money – and the commonsense of maintaining two homes in the same city. Right? Sometimes the kids come over to his house to pick seashells. No funny business here, yup. Just normal Republican family values at work?

The contrast continues on issues. Paul Jost fought the sales tax. The people voted 3 to 1 against the tax in York and Poquoson. He represents the will of the people. Forrest Ward explains that last year he was just a business man, so that is why he supported the tax so you could pay more to help his business – make his trucks drive faster. But now that Forrest Ward is a politician (these are his words - I'm not kidding) if he was in the General Assembly he would vote 'yes' to make you vote on the tax referendum. But, because you the voters are against it, he would vote 'no' against the tax in the actual election referendum. Read that slowly to yourself again. Please recall that Delegates Melanie Rapp and Tom Gear were courageous, resolute and right in voting against the unconstitutional referendum.

Paul Jost is ready to work real issues like ending the death tax and supporting other pro-family and pro-life issues. But, Forrest Ward says that if he is elected he can get with Del. Melanie Rapp and get VDOT to widen the two roads out of Poquoson. That, he figures, will increase private investment in Poquoson. That level of understanding for how VDOT, our governments and economics work is worthy of Forrest Gump.

Paul Jost is supported by the social conservatives of the Republican Party as a trusted candidate. Forrest Ward hasn't said why he is NOT a social conservative. Ward

does say, often, that he is a fiscal conservative. He says it just like Democrat Governor Mark “I won’t raise taxes” Warner did throughout his campaign. Maybe Forrest Ward learned to copy the phrase at the fund raiser he attended for Democrat Mark Warner (Ward’s wife was a host).

Quite a contrast in challengers indeed. Republican Paul Jost supported John Hager for the nomination and then, wholeheartedly and generously, campaigned for the Republican candidate – Mark Earley. Forrest Ward supports fund raisers for Democrat Mark Warner for Governor. Jost fights the Sales Tax and Ward supports it. Jost is a social conservative and Ward isn’t. Don’t you Republicans wish you could vote in both primaries? I do.

James Atticus Bowden