



**Richmond REALTOR® Political Action Committee (RPAC)  
2007 Candidate Questionnaire**

Name Joseph B. Walton

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District: Powhatan County, District One (Huguenot)

**1. Why are you seeking election/re-election?**

Because I am a professional who works hard, has a home on a couple of acres and believes District One needs a representative who offers that perspective. I also believe that having a diverse Board of Supervisors that represents all types of Powhatan constituents is the best way to ensure progress and secure Powhatan's future.

The current representatives have been unable to cooperatively lead and prepare for the future.

My personal and professional background and experience will make me an effective representative. I will work to affect the change and progress needed to secure Powhatan County's future as a highly regarded Central Virginia community. I will be an effective leader by making every vote count towards the betterment of our county. My effective leadership will start on day one.

**2. What are the three most significant challenges confronting your district? If elected, how will you address these challenges?**

We have a very out-of-date Comprehensive Plan for the County which would include, in particular, certain areas of my District - the 60/288 and 711/288 interchange which need to be reviewed and updated to reflect the best interests of the county's future. There are instances of a lack of Zoning Ordinance/Comp Plan alignment and enforcement in the District. There has been a lack of cooperative results by the current Board in addition to abstentions and inaction because of large landholding conflicts of Board members.

I will promote and pursue the update of the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances to match the new plan (possibly in phases) to get the quickest benefit and prevent future development issues and ensure developmental sustainability. Part of that update will include pursuing quality commercial development in our major corridors.

I will bring the objective perspective of a small business owner, Information Technology professional, and 2 acre homeowner to the Board with a sincere willingness to effectively lead and produce cooperative results for the betterment of our county.

- 3. The Richmond Association of REALTORS® has long been a supporter of regional cooperation. What steps can/should the Powhatan Board of Supervisors take to promote more cooperative working relationships among surrounding jurisdictions?**

I agree that planning does not and cannot happen in a vacuum. I will advocate, support and work with our neighboring localities and agencies (VDOT, RRPDC and MPO) to make sure Powhatan has a proactive seat at the table and that we take full advantage of the overall benefit to the region to be had by all from regional cooperation by individual localities and agencies.

I am interested in regional cooperation from the perspective and to the extent that a 'rising tide raises all boats'. I do not believe in regionalism for regionalism's sake or charitable support of other localities nor do I want other localities to participate with Powhatan for those reasons. The vision of regionalism is at its best is when it is a 'win' for all participants.

- 4. Describe the current economic climate in Powhatan County. What do you see as the biggest obstacle to economic development and what steps would you take to facilitate economic development throughout Powhatan?**

The current economic climate is a budding one from a traditional community business perspective, regional business perspective and tourism perspective. The business tax base is slowly rising but there are certain political steps that need to be taken to help our business tax base grow in a faster and more sustainable rate. Our proposed State Park, Civil War Trails, pending commercial projects and other history provide seeds for a vibrant economy but the right political support is critical.

As a supervisor I will advocate and support a Board of Supervisors publicly and politically committed to a quality business friendly environment. I will be an ambassador to business development offering support in addition to our Economic Development Director's support to ensure that prospective business interests know they are important to the Board and the County and have political support.

- 5. Is an adequate supply of affordable workforce housing a concern to you and your constituents? If not, why? If so, what land use and housing policies would you support to address this issue?**

Affordable housing is a topic that has been debated and discussed in many circles recently. I support efforts to address the concerns of lower income new and old households being able to afford to live in a community that will benefit from their presence.

I will use the Comprehensive Plan process currently underway to ensure a broad array of housing options through community development.

- 6. During the 2007 General Assembly session, legislators passed a transportation funding package that gave localities the authority to impose transportation impact fees. If elected, would you support enactment of these fees?**

There were several pieces to the Transportation Package that went into effect in July that could potentially have long-term impacts for development in Powhatan County. Impact Fee assessments are one of those elements that I and many others are still learning about to see how it will impact the County fiscally and the development community fiscally.

Specifically, I will review the suggestions and recommendations of the professionals associated with our Comprehensive Plan review in addition to seeking the development community's input as to the potential impact to the ability for Powhatan to develop in a balanced, quality manner.

- 7. If elected, what will be your three primary goals during the next four years?**

Rather than just three, I have formed my campaign for Supervisor around four primary goals. The four leadership goals I will strive for are Fiscal Responsibility and Quality Growth, an Objective Perspective and Cooperative Results. I believe these are four cornerstones to Effective Leadership for Powhatan County.

Effective Leadership is what I will strive for in order to provide the best possible future for all the citizens of Powhatan County.

**Dear RAR,**

**Thank you for the opportunity to answer these questions.**

**I look forward to the opportunity for you to endorse a candidate that shares your interests in a sustainable development of Powhatan that is both balanced and quality in nature, in short, a future Powhatan that we can all be proud of.**

**I look forward to speaking with your panel on September 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**Joe Walton**

Please return the completed form **NO LATER THAN Tuesday, September 4** to Elizabeth Hancock, Government Affairs Coordinator, via fax (804-422-5058), email ([ehancock@RARealtors.com](mailto:ehancock@RARealtors.com)) or mail at 8975 Three Chopt Road, Richmond, VA 23229.

Please include copies of campaign literature if available.