

Hello,

I'm Joe Walton and I am running for the District 1 seat on the Board of Supervisors. I hope this brief letter will give you an idea of who I am and why you should vote for me.

I moved to Powhatan about 5 years ago from Chesterfield. My parents have lived in Powhatan for 13 years and it was by visiting them that I decided I wanted to live out here. My mother is a kindergarten teacher in Powhatan and my father retired from Verizon.

I got involved in Powhatan from a civic perspective a few years ago related to a rezoning near my neighborhood. Because of that I started regularly attending the Board of Supervisors' meetings and workshops as well as the Planning Commission meetings and workshops to learn as much as I could about the process of our local government and the issues facing Powhatan from the past, present and into the future.

In addition to attending those meetings I got together with other folks and attended the Powhatan Leadership Institute, the Citizen Planning Academy, and since its inception I have been working on the Route 60 Citizen Work Group as part of the Comprehensive Plan update. Also, as part of the rezoning I was involved in, this Spring I spoke in front of the General Assembly on several occasions to support legislation that protects citizens who petition their government in opposition to developers. I am pleased this legislation became law.

I decided to run for the Board because I believe we need people on the Board of Supervisors that are objective, understand the issues, and are prepared to work in good faith together with fellow Board members and regional partners towards solving the issues related to commercial and residential growth. Those three leadership skills will ensure that we keep, attract and maintain quality growth into the future.

I offer the perspective of a self-employed, 2-acre homeowner with a strong desire to help Powhatan grow in a way that we can all be proud of. That perspective ensures I will never abstain on an issue or fail to represent my constituents and that perspective permits me to focus on the future of the county.

Development pressures cannot be ignored and they are much different today than they have ever been. By working hard to achieve quality development we can create the type of county we want: Safe, Rural in Character, Aesthetically Pleasing, Sustainable. My experience has shown that most residents want the same thing; the problem is we don't have people on the Board that can get the job done.

By having people on the Board from different backgrounds who each bring something to the table (and represent the typical resident!) we can get a modern Comp Plan that will create a community we are proud to call home - a county with a high quality of life and an excellent public education system, a county with low residential taxes and a robust commercial tax base.

Once elected, I will do my utmost to be a responsible representative. Being optimistic and positive will enable me to figure out ways to get the right things done rather than waste time

discussing out how to stop things. I will be open to new ideas and accessible to all sides of an issue. I will work hard to resolve points of disagreement.

To ease the tax burden on the homeowner, I will be a political ambassador for quality, sustainable commercial development. Business people need to know that the Board of Supervisors understands business and that Powhatan is business friendly.

Finally, I will hold quarterly town hall meetings so I stay educated by and accountable to the residents of District 1. Residents deserve face-to-face access to their representatives.

Thank you for taking the time to learn a little about me. You will find much more on my website – www.joewalton.com. I look forward to working with the residents of District 1, my fellow supervisors and everyone else to make Powhatan a great place to raise a family, work, and visit.

The election is this Tuesday – I'd appreciate your vote!

Joe Walton – The Right Choice for Supervisor