

Dear Neighbor,

I was raised in a family that always prioritized giving back. I am the grandchild of immigrants who never forgot those who helped them along the way so they too could experience the promise of the American Dream. The core values of hard work, honesty, integrity, kindness, empathy, gratitude, and the responsibility to help others were ingrained in me as a child. I was taught to lend a hand, to fight for fairness, to right a wrong when you see it even if it comes at a personal cost, and to never quit in the face of adversity. Those lessons, taught by example, have been the hallmark of the footprint I try to leave wherever I walk.

I have been blessed by a supportive family who sacrificed, prioritized education, and gave me the ability to work in a profession I chose, the strength to raise my children with the values that were instilled in me and showed me what true community service looks like. Therefore, I feel a strong desire, and obligation to use my experience in the Senate to create a brighter future for our children, our families, our community, and our state.

I am running as an Independent because I believe there are good ideas on all sides, and I would like to be part of restoring trust in public service; achieving real results by engaging in respectful civil discourse starting with being able to disagree without being disagreeable. This requires time and effort, because to do so you must know the facts, not just catchy soundbites. You must show up, care, listen, and learn, while being an honest and forceful advocate for your position. I believe with informed and experienced leadership, true collaboration and fair compromise can lead our state in the right direction.

To demonstrate my commitment to always put the residents of District 17 first, I am funding this campaign myself and will not ask you for contributions. Further, if I have the honor of earning your trust, I will not accept state health insurance and I will donate the General Assembly salary to local charities.

I look forward to meeting you in the coming months to listen and to share my thoughts on how we can get this state back to a place where our children do not leave to seek opportunity, where hardworking families do not struggle for basic necessities or have to leave the neighborhoods they helped create, where businesses grow and thrive, and where our community's character can be preserved by finding innovative solutions to the problems we face. Finally, I would like to thank you for all you do, because I believe when we all contribute, change is possible.

Sincerely,

Jina Petrarca