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VA HD-87 District Primer
July 2017 • Researched, summarized, and edited by Local Majority's all-volunteer electoral research team!

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In 2016, Clinton carried this district by nearly 25%. This district has run extremely competitive races because Democratic voters have not shown up to the polls, despite their majority. It's critical that we keep this district democratically represented with John Bell.

How We'll Win in 2017: Democrat Incumbent John Bell

John Bell lives in South Riding in Loudoun County with his wife Margaret; both are retired from the U.S. Air Force. They have five children; one served six years in the Air Force and two have been in the Air National Guard. Bell works in the finance industry with a team of professionals focusing on helping institutions with cost efficiencies. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Regis University and both a master's degree in Organization Development and an MBA from George Washington University. He has also been a high school tennis coach, turning around the boys' program at Freedom HS.

Bell enlisted in the Air Force in 1981 after graduating from high school. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 26 years, first as an enlisted man and later as an officer; he retired in 2007 with a major's rank. While in the service, he served as a Finance Officer all over the world, including tours in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. In the House of Delegates he serves on two committees: County, Cities and Towns and Militia as well as Police and Public Safety.

Democratic issues

• **Promoting Economic Development:** Advocates diversifying the economy, investing in growing industries such as cybersecurity and green technology and public-private partnerships to reduce dependence on Federal government jobs.

• **Finding Cost-Effective Transportation Solutions:** Supports prioritizing transportation investments to relieve choke points, pushing for bus rapid transit and more ride sharing, and establishing a new pricing for the Dulles Greenway road with lower tolls.

• **Commitment to public education:** Bell believes that education is the key to economic success. He voted for pay raises for teachers. One of his top priorities is getting state funds to establish full-day kindergarten for all students.

• **Increasing Access to Quality Healthcare:** He trusts Virginia's women and doctors to make personal decisions, not politicians. Advocates increasing access to health care, not restricting it. He helped craft and pushed many of the 15 bills to help those with opioid addiction.

• **Sensible Gun Safety Regulations to prevent Gun Violence**: While respecting the rights of law-abiding citizens to own a firearm, we need to close gun-show loophole and instituting universal background checks.

• **Ensuring Equal Rights for all Virginians**: longtime supporter of marriage equality and LGBTQ rights, against discrimination in any form.

www.johnbellfordelegate.com

About the Republican Candidate: Subba Kolla

Subba Kolla is a 57-year-old real estate broker who was raised in India and educated as a mechanical engineer at the Indian Institute of Technology, India's preeminent technical university. After graduating, he taught on the college level, before deciding, 20 years ago, to move to the United States with his wife and two young daughters.

According to the Loudoun Times, after immigrating, Kolla worked as a database engineer while earning an MBA and a license as a real estate broker. He became a citizen in 2008 and runs a brokerage in South Riding.

Recently he has been politically active, serving on the county Board of Equalization and being elected a delegate to the 2016 Republican National Convention, where the delegation chose him to cast the ballots for Trump. The state party chairman, John Whitbeck described him as "the kind of owner, entrepreneur and community leader we want to be prominent in our party."

The state party chairman added, "The Indian community is critical to the success of the Republican Party winning elections in Northern Virginia, and Subba is a leader in this community." Loudoun County's 375,000 residents include 25,000 of Indian heritage.

Republican Issues

• Lower taxes and fewer regulations for Virginia's working families and small business

• Better transportation solutions for our growing region that will increase our quality of life

• Maintaining and continually improving our educational system with a focus on our teachers and students.

Strengths

Kolla raised over $286,000 in the first quarter of campaigning, mainly from the Indian community, though donations dropped significantly in the second quarter. He has been active in volunteering for Republican campaigns for the past five years, including for Barbara Comstock.
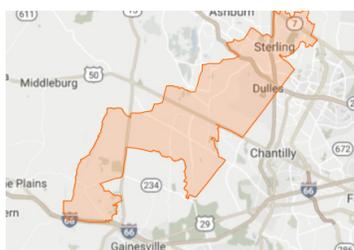
Weaknesses

Relatively new to politics, Kolla has provided little transparency on where he stands on critical issues affecting Virginians. The minimal information he has provided about his campaign display a conformity with conservative Republican values: pro-business, blame the poor for not working hard enough, and reduction in government "interference". Despite coming to America so his daughters would have more opportunity for success, he cast his Republican delegate vote for sexist, womanizing candidate, Donald Trump.

www.subbakolla.com

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VA HD-87: Facts & Stats

Nearby Population Centers
(may include population outside district)
- Ashburn : 46,100
- Sterling: 27,010
- South Riding: 25,680
- Cascades: 12,530

2016 Presidential Results
- Clinton: 22,634 (59.6%)
- Trump: 13,272 (35.0%)
- Johnson: 1,090 (2.9%)
- McMullen: 650 (1.7%)
- Stein: 305 (0.8%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 19,971 (34.5%)

2015 House of Delegate Results
- John Bell (Inc) (D): 8,203 (49.9%)
- Nguyen (R): 7,883 (48.0%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 34,725 (67.9%)
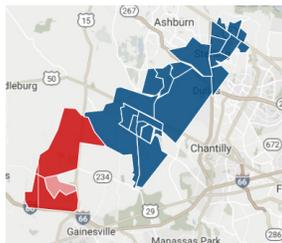
2014 US Senator Results
- Warner (D): 9,835 (51.7%)
- Gillespie (R): 8,696 (45.7%)
- Sarvis (L): 467 (2.5%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 30,318 (61.5%)
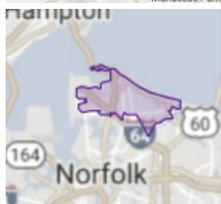
2013 House of Delegates Results
- Bell (D): 10,087 (49.4%)
- Ramadan (R): 10,274 (50.3%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 25,906 (56%)

2013 Governor Results
- McAuliffe (D): 10,172 (52.9%)
- Cuccinelli (R): 8,112 (42.2%)
- Sarvis (L): 904 (4.7%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 27,079 (58.5%)

2016 election results

2011 Redistricting previous map - HD87 completely changed location from Norfolk to DC metro.

VA HD-87: Better Know the District

Geography & Environment

Most of the District's land is in eastern Loudoun County, but there is a chunk of Price William County to the south. The district is a long, gerrymandered set of precincts. Starting around the city of Sterling in the northeast, near the Potomac River, the district snakes through affluent suburbs into Prince William County, ending at I-66. Its population is exploding: the population of Haymarket, a Prince William County town, was 879 in 2000 and 1,970 in 2016. L

Citizenry

Two-thirds of the population is American-born; enclaves of Asian-American voters make up 26.6% of 81,125 people in the district. The rest is 55% White, 8.1% Black and 13.4% Hispanic. India is the biggest source of newcomers, who concentrate in new suburbs flanking Dulles. Hispanics and African-Americans concentrate in Sterling. Working-age adults dominate the population: 60% are from 25 to 64; 31% are 19 or younger. Seniors 65+ make up 6.5%.

Religion

City Data reports that about 61% of Loudoun County residents profess no religion, while 14% are Catholic. Mainline Protestants represent 7%; Evangelical Protestants 5.5%. There has been a dramatic rise in the Muslim population, who represent 8% of the total. The All Dulles Area Muslim Society has branches in Sterling and Ashburn. It was the focus of national attention in June when a 17-year-old congregant, Nabra Hassanen, was beaten to death after a Ramadan service.

Education

Advanced degrees are common; 65 percent of the population has some sort of post-secondary degree. Another 28 percent have a high school diploma. The two district high schools are Freedom High — the Eagles — (which schooldigger.com ranks 34th of 350 Virginia high schools) and Park View High School in Sterling — the Patriots — (which the site ranks 305th.)

Sources

www.vpap.org
www.statisticalatlas.org
Additional sources listed online

Economy

The Census Bureau reports Loudoun County is the richest in the country: median household income $125,000. Many district 87 residents work as managers or professionals — engineers, executives and lawyers — and take home $121,000 annually, on average ($134K for Asian-American residents). In some parts of Sterling, people make less than a third of that. The district unemployment rate is 3.4%; about 2.9 percent are on food stamps. In Sterling, 6.7 % of households are on food stamps; in southeast Sterling, that figure is more than 11 percent.

Loudoun County has the world's largest concentration of data centers, with nearly 10 million square feet currently in operation; more on the way. Some 70% of the world's internet traffic passes through the digital infrastructure here. The region has a large concentration of tech workers. Its proximity to Dulles and to Washington D.C. make it a center of transportation/warehousing jobs and federal employment. Education, healthcare and local government are other major employers. The unemployment rate is 3.0%. Home values, though, are stagnant.

Health Status

Loudoun County is one of the state's healthiest. Still, the 2016 Inova's Health Needs Assessment Survey found anxiety and depression are serious concerns, as are substance abuse and obesity. The Commonwealth Institute reports 1,400 district residents would have gained Medicaid coverage had it been expanded. The Loudoun Medical Group with multiple sites, is a large practice with 500+ employees; HCA's new Stonesprings Hospital Center recently opened.

Transportation

Gridlock is almost inevitable in a booming economy. The north-south Route 28 through part of the district is the focus of a feasibility study looking to increase capacity. Many commuters must go through the interchange in Fairfax County where Route 50 meets I-66, one of the worst intersections in the region. Political arguments persist over tolls, high-occupancy vehicle lanes and various approaches to relieving the traffic nightmares.