

Raja Election Night Remarks

Prepared for Deliver

November 11, 2011

INTRODUCTION:

Thank you.

Well, this isn't exactly the party we all hoped for, but I have to say I really love the company.

This has been a truly tremendous journey. I just got off the phone with Rich Fitzgerald and congratulated him on his victory tonight and wished him well over the next four years.

When we launched this campaign in February, Neeta and I could never have dreamt of the outpouring of support we received over the past nine months. It has been truly humbling.

This campaign journey began at a downtown office building where we talked about creating jobs and keeping our young people here.

That building and all too many like it, symbolized both the challenges and the opportunities we face together as a region.

I entered this race because I believed we needed new leadership to unleash our region's great potential. While tonight did not go as we all would have hoped, this is not a defeat for our shared vision.

THANKS

I want to thank everyone who worked so hard for our cause.

First, I thank the voters from across Allegheny County - Republican, Democrat, and Independent, who supported our candidacy. I am humbled by your vote and grateful that you were willing to try something new.

I want to thank the many residents who came out to our town hall meetings. It was inspiring to see so many everyday citizens who care passionately about our region's future. Please stay active and never give up on making our region all that it can be.

I want to thank Allegheny County's restaurateurs and tavern owners for their

endorsement and steadfast support. These small business owners work hard every day to create jobs and provide for their families.

I thank the leaders and activists in the pro-life and second amendment communities. I am grateful for your commitment and dedication to our shared values and your unwavering support in this campaign.

I thank former Democratic State Representative Shawn Flaherty, Randall Taylor, and the Democrats for Raja for having the courage and conviction to be willing to stand up for something greater than mere party loyalty. These are good men and woman who care about the future of our region.

I thank our chairman, Jim Roddey, who was been a mentor, a great leader, and most importantly a friend. I also want to thank our vice chairman Dave Majernik and Gary Young.

I thank the Republican elected officials who went out of their way to support our campaign early and often. In particular, I am grateful to Governor Corbett, Senator Toomey, Congressman Tim Murphy, State Senator John Pippy, Majority Leader Mike Turzai, Representative Mark Mustio, Representative John Maher, Representative Rick Saccone, and Representative Randy Vulakovich, Councilman Vince Gastgeb, Councilman Matt Drozd, and newly elected councilwoman-elect Heather Heidelbaugh for the help and advice they offered during the campaign.

I want to thank the Indian community in Allegheny County. As a community, now is the time to stay active in politics. We have come here to live the American Dream and many of us are living it. Now is the time to stay involved so we can assure that that same dream is obtainable for all of Allegheny County's children.

I also want to thank all the volunteers and donors who made this campaign possible. The people who made phone calls day-in and day-out, the people who knocked doors in all kinds of weather, and the people who put up yard signs throughout the county. Like Kevin and Jacque. Like Dee and Eileen. Like Tom and Mike and so many more. I won't forget what you all did.

Also, where would we be without my dedicated campaign team? James, their fearless campaign manager who burned the midnight oil to keep the team running. Rennick, who executed 42 perfect town halls all across the county. Christie, who helped us expand our reach to voters across the county, and Dan, who made sure our phone banks were always full.

Lastly and most importantly, I need to thank my wonderful wife Neeta and our children Omisa and Isana for putting up with me throughout this campaign. It's been many long nights and a lot of time away from the family but they have been my biggest supporters from day one. Thank you guys.

MOVING FORWARD

During the course of this campaign, we have seen a very tough and aggressive side to the man who will lead our county for the next four years. Tonight, let us all hope that Mr. Fitzgerald will devote the same energy and enterprise to solving the county's problems that was on display throughout this tough campaign.

Make no mistake; this has been a tough fight. We've taken our lumps, but I know that what we endured is nothing compared to the challenges many folks in our region face. Despite the differences and relentless attacks, we are all Pittsburghers – we're all invested in the future of this region. We will only be able to reach new heights working together.

And while Rich Fitzgerald and I disagreed on the path to get there, we both agreed on the destination – getting our region back on track. In fact, we even agreed on a few things and voters should hold us accountable.

First and foremost we agree that we must fix the property reassessment system. I applaud his commitment to this very important issue.

Second, Rich and I agree on the need to fix the Port Authority and bring down the cost of labor, restore routes, and improve access and quality.

Lastly, Rich and I agree on the promise of responsible Marcellus shale drilling and drilling at the airport.

CLOSE

This campaign -- OUR campaign -- was built on a simple premise: a better future for all of Allegheny County and an end to the politics of the past.

While we did not achieve our ultimate goal, there is no doubt this county is better off for the debate.

I am not going away. I will continue to be involved because, like you, I care passionately about the future of our county and our region.

To my voters, supporters, and friends don't get discouraged, stay involved, stay active - because the change we seek can only be accomplished if we work together.

I am grateful for your support, humbled by your confidence, and committed today more than ever to making this region a destination for opportunity. Thank you.

END