Speech of Todd McClure – Candidate for Chairman

Halifax County Republican Party Mass Meeting

Thursday, March 17, 2016

"Good evening, everybody. What a great crowd of Halifax Republicans tonight! I’m delighted to be here and to ask your vote for Chairman of the Halifax County Republican Party.

First, I’d like to take a moment to thank Pat Barksdale for all her efforts on behalf of our party. I respect very much the work she has put in, and if you elect me tonight, look forward to working closely with Pat and her supporters as well as those who came here to support me.

For those I may not have met yet, I’m Todd McClure. I serve as pastor of Centerville Baptist Church here in South Boston. Our church runs a Christian school, and since returning from the mission field in Africa, I have long been active in our community here.

I am a lifelong Republican. I have worked hard to educate folks in our church and the community about our shared conservative principles, and to mobilize them to exercise those principles on behalf of our candidates every Election Day.

Why am I a Republican? It’s pretty simple. I am a Republican because I believe deeply in the values in our party platform. I believe life begins at conception, and I believe our government should respect and protect all human life. I believe marriage is between one man and one woman, no matter what five unelected lawyers on the Supreme Court may say.

I believe our rights come from God, not from government. Government is there only to protect what God has already given. I believe our government today, under Barack Obama, is completely lawless and out of control, and it is up to us to change that, starting here tonight.

But too often, our Republican leadership in Washington has failed to honor the promises in our platform. They have made promises, and we trusted them and gave them a majority in both houses of Congress. And in response, they go right on funding the sheer evil of Planned Parenthood. They continue funding Obama’s lawless amnesty for illegal aliens. They refuse to secure our border.

I believe you and I are here tonight for the same reason. We are here because we stand without shame or compromise for the principles of our Republican platform, the principles of liberty that made our country great. You and I are not paid for what we do; we do it to preserve liberty for our children. That is why I am a Republican!

And why do I want to be party Chairman? I believe I bring a unique skill set that I hope to use to build and grow our party, and to elect more leaders at the local level who share our values. In my work as a pastor and at our Christian school, I have developed motivational skills, organizational skills, and have helped to build and grow a large and successful ministry. I believe these traits would help me attract new talent to our party, and help make us even more successful in recruiting candidates and advancing our Republican values.

 In today's America, articulating our values, standing fearlessly for them, and winning over skeptics, is not an easy task. But it is exactly the arena where God has placed me throughout my career. Whether on the African mission field, building a church, or articulating our values in the community, I have years of experience in winning hearts and minds - across lines of generations, cultures, race and politics.

If you elect me tonight, I promise you this: This campaign is not about subtraction. It is not about ‘us vs. them.’ No, this campaign is about addition, and multiplication. I will work hard to utilize the talents and experience of everyone in this room, and many more besides. It is not the chairman, but you, the grassroots, who make our party great. I will work hand in hand with you to fulfill our shared mission.”