

Statement for Joe Vodvarka for U.S. Senate campaign

By Jesse Vodvarka, Joe's son and campaign manager

These past few weeks both my Father, Joe Vodvarka, and I, Jesse J. Vodvarka, went out and collected approximately 2100 signatures ourselves to get Joe on the ballot for U.S. Senate. Before we had a person sign a petition we asked "Are you a Pennsylvania Republican?" Those that said yes and were willing to sign did, however, while many of those who signed were registered Republican, a percentage were registered otherwise.

This past Tuesday 3/13/18 we were issued a petition challenge by Mr. Christiana and upon our review we found that approximately 270 of the 2200+ signatures that we turned in were from Democrat, Independent, non-affiliated or other and for that reason we are withdrawing from this race.

Having run for U.S. Senate before our main reason for running was to represent American manufacturers that have been decimated by Free Trade deals such as NAFTA and the WTO. As a 4th generation manufacturer myself, having heard all the stories of Pittsburgh and how it was back a century ago to seeing what has happened to America's manufacturing base today is alarming. Having seen countless auction flyers of small machine shops to large Delphi plants and other manufacturers come in the mail only to have a blind eye turned to it by politicians and told essentially that "it's best for the American people to have access to cheap foreign made goods" prompted a sense of duty in us to get involved. Ours is a story of three couch potatoes that got up off their butts to make a difference and while never making it to office in our attempts, we did more for the 1st amendment rights of all Pennsylvanian's, and possibly all Americans, through legal precedent than most will ever know. We overturned the Flaherty decision which would stricken not registered address objections from petitions and will now help good candidates get to the ballot.

Our attorney, Sam Stratton, told us the legal precedent we set helped many candidates from being removed from the ballot in his experience alone. And as another good friend we made along the way, John H. Morley Jr., put it we "paved the way for a lot of other good people to run for office."

In other words, sometimes when you set out to do something you may fail, but that doesn't mean you won't help a lot of other people in another way.

At this point our hope is to see Fair Trade agreements implemented with other countries to protect American manufacturers and the working men and women of America. History shows that it has worked before with similar conditions in America, for evidence of that look up the first act this country ever passed, The Tariff Act of 1789. Note, it's something you won't find in your child's history book from school.

To whoever does make it to office for this U.S. Senate seat I hope that you will work with President Trump to pursue Fair Trade agreements & level the playing field to bring manufacturing back to America.