



5 Sutton Court, Stafford, VA 22554  
RPortiz2009@gmail.com PaulOrtiz.org

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For Immediate Release  
For more information contact:  
Paul Ortiz, (540) 659-9492  
[Rportiz2009@gmail.com](mailto:Rportiz2009@gmail.com)  
PaulOrtiz.org

### **ORTIZ TO RUN FOR AQUIA DISTRICT SUPERVISOR**

After serving our country for thirty years, retired Marine Corps Colonel R. Paul Ortiz is ready to serve Stafford County. He will be challenging the Aquia District incumbent as an Independent candidate for the Board of Supervisors.

Ortiz decided to run because he is troubled by how the voices of ordinary citizens are too often ignored in favor of influential special interests that have the ear of the current Aquia Supervisor. He wants to help open up County government to be more fair and responsive to citizen needs. "It's time to restore integrity and a spirit of service to the position of Aquia Supervisor," Ortiz said.

Integrity and service have long been essential to Ortiz. He spent 30 years in the US Marine Corps, serving in Okinawa and Iraq, and rising to the rank of Colonel. He currently is a civilian Deputy Program Manager at Quantico.

Ortiz brings considerable experience, leadership and managerial skills to his run for office. He holds three Masters Degrees in management, computer systems, and international studies. He has managed organizations of more than 900 personnel with large budgets, and plans

to use his leadership and professional skills to operate the County more efficiently and effectively.

Another priority for Ortiz is maintaining Stafford's high-quality education. Both of his children graduated from Brooke Point High School and he sees their experiences in Stafford schools as invaluable. "When we invest in our children, we invest in our community and our future," he said.

Ortiz recently saw first-hand how special interests can override both common sense and the welfare of ordinary citizens. Developers got the Board of Supervisors to remove a deed restriction from a parcel of land near the Hills at Aquia subdivision where he lives. The deed restriction preserved the land as "open space." Despite extremely steep slopes that lead directly to a creek, the developers intended to build on the lot, creating the potential for environmental problems for both the parcel and the creek.

Ortiz and his neighbors successfully fought against the rezoning needed for the project to move forward. Ortiz notes, "The current Aquia Supervisor supported that rezoning and the special interests behind it, even though his constituents opposed it. That's just wrong. I'm running for office to change that way of doing business and to make sure constituents come first."

Col. Ortiz first moved to Stafford in the 1970s as a young marine. He and Michelle Ortiz, his wife of 27 years, raised their family in the community of Aquia Harbour. Michelle Ortiz is a nurse at Dewitt Army Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir. Their son, Lt. J.G. Paul Robert Ortiz, graduated from the US Naval Academy in 2007, and is currently serving overseas in an undisclosed location. Their daughter, Stephanie Ortiz, graduated from the Virginia Military Institute this year, and works as a ranger for the US Park Service.