

Notes from Derek Tran Talk

Making Waves for Democracy Feb. 1, 2026 Meeting

I'm glad to have the ability to talk to you all about who I am and why my race is important. I am 100% focused on a plan moving forward after the killing of 2 Americans in Minneapolis – and the upcoming vote on DHS funding.

I ran the second-closest race in the US – Adam Grey's was the closest – he won by 187 votes. I won by 653 votes, and our race was the most expensive - \$46 million spent on both sides – disgusting. What it takes to beat a Republican. Reps spend more money, so Dems have no choice but to spend more money as well. I raised \$6 million in the last cycle, and \$2 million for ballot curing.

About myself: I am a lawyer, and the son of Vietnamese immigrants. My parents were refugees – they came to the US in 1975, after the fall of Saigon. They experienced much tragedy. My family's boat capsized, and my father lost his first wife and four sons. He survived with my 2 half-sisters. My parents were in refugee camps in Indonesia, before the US let them in. They wanted to come to the US. Australia and Canada opened their borders, but my father wanted to come to the US. I'm very fortunate – I was born soon after they arrived in the US. I grew up poor – we had food stamps, WIC, subsidized housing. I grew up with profound love and respect for this country. I remember being in a line with my mom in the grocery store, paying with food stamps, embarrassed, but proud of the US taking care of immigrants. At 18 years old, I wanted to give back to this country. I didn't tell my parents, but I joined the Army Reserves. I was in High School, and I went to boot camp, proud to serve this country. I never served overseas. I put myself through law school, studying at night while I worked during the day. I was a consumer rights lawyer and worked in employment law, working on civil cases for plaintiffs.

I had 2 older children and a one-year-old when I decided to run for office. I talked with people in Little Saigon in O.C. – there had never been a Vietnamese representative in DC. I was motivated to be the first, to be the voice of refugees, immigrants and Vietnamese people.

I am fortunate – I have the ability to form relationships with good people. George and I became good friends in DC.

The current status of my campaign: The Republicans found 5 Vietnamese American Republicans to run against me – so they know the seat belongs to a Vietnamese American.

They spent \$1 million on hit pieces against me in the last year. I've heard rumors that Young Kim is going to run against me, so that Ken Calvert can run in that new district.

I take my job seriously – I represent the people in my purple district – I LISTEN to my constituents, progressives and conservatives. They are 2/3 Republican and NPP voters.

The main issue is the cost of living/inflation. I founded the Lowering Costs Caucus to introduce legislation to reduce costs in the country.

When canvassing, we want to listen to voters – ask them what is important to them, then bring that info back to me and my campaign. We have been doing listening tours.

My top wins – I fought to bring resources to his district – I succeeded in bringing 15 projects @ \$14 million to the district.

I need your help to reach more people!