



Dear Neighbor,

My name is Paul Jones, and I am running for Town Council.

I was twenty when I was diagnosed with Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD), a genetic disorder that slowly destroyed my kidneys and caused me constant pain. When I was twenty-eight, I got the news from my doctor that I needed dialysis. Being sick, having this invisible disease, gave me a whole new perspective on the healthcare system in this country. I, like so many others, had to navigate confusing insurance plans and account for monthly copayments, which sometimes felt vicious. Dialysis created a new regimen for my life, forced me to prioritize my energies, and gave me an opportunity to reflect on how I wanted to move forward.

I couldn't have survived my illness without my community. My friends, family, and neighbors came together to show me the love and support that helped me get through the long days. My wife (a lifelong North Smithfielder herself) and I built our home here, and our daughter is a proud 4th-generation North Smithfielder!

Amidst my illness, I put my name on the list for a transplant at MGH with no luck. I had given up on any sort of miracle happening – and then, one day, my wife and I attended her cousin's wedding in Massachusetts. Because of dialysis, I had to leave the wedding early, but the groom caught me on the way out to ask me if I could stay. I explained my medical situation, he understood, and we left it at that. I thought nothing else of it. Six weeks later, my transplant team at Massachusetts General Hospital called me to let me know the groom was a match. He had gone to the transplant team the very next week after his wedding and volunteered to be tested without telling a soul.

While out on medical leave, recovering from the transplant surgery, I had the opportunity to re-evaluate what I wanted for my life. After years of struggling to navigate the healthcare system, I didn't want anyone to feel alone or unsupported. I started a business dedicated to connecting seniors and their families with the resources they need. We now have a team of people who have helped hundreds of families find the senior care they need, and are franchising nationwide.

The love and support I received fostered a passion for serving the community I love. I serve as the Chair of the Economic Development Commission, the Vice Chair of the North Smithfield Fire & Rescue Board, and I served 6 years on the North Smithfield School Committee, where I worked to give our kids the same opportunities to succeed I had; then, as now, I believe a good education is an essential foundation for a happy life.

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As a School Committee member, I voted for the construction of new Science labs at the High School, new classrooms for our Elementary students, and updates to the High School locker rooms. I voted for funding for DECA, We The People, and the creation of Career & Technical Education programs, because students deserve to succeed in life, whether they go to college or not. I served on the School Budget subcommittee, negotiated fair contracts for our teachers and support staff, and acted as a responsible financial voice for the largest department in our municipal government.

I am very proud of what I accomplished on the School Committee, and I intended to continue representing our town; however, life intervened when my father passed away unexpectedly in 2023. The only thing more important to me than my community is my family, and after our loss I stepped back to support my mother and brother.

Over the past year, I have grown increasingly concerned about the direction our town is going in. I have to think about the future I want for my family. Right now, North Smithfield is stuck in neutral: our current Town Council is terrified of making decisions, even those that would clearly improve our residents' quality of life. Instead of taking action the Council has taken a back seat, leaving our community in limbo.

We need real leadership in town. We need people who are not afraid to make decisions, even when they are difficult. We need people in Town Hall who are more concerned with standing for something rather than standing for re-election. That is why I am announcing my candidacy for North Smithfield Town Council, and asking for your support.

I was drawn to North Smithfield by the quiet beauty and open kindness that define this town. Here, from Union Village to Waterford, I found outstretched hands and unconditional warmth unlike any I have known before. Here, I had found a true community, one that has supported me through some of the most difficult days of my life, and one I would be proud to serve.

The road ahead is challenging but exciting. I am looking forward to talking with my neighbors about my ideas for our community and the proactive philosophy that will guide my decision-making if I am elected. I will be spending the next few months knocking on doors, making calls, and meeting with neighbors to talk about a vision for North Smithfield's future.

Thank you for reading about me and what is motivating me to run, and I humbly ask for your vote for North Smithfield Town Council on November 3, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.