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Politics

Colvin talks agriculture and internet access at Chestertown meet and greet

By JACK RODGERS jrogers@thekentcountynews.com 1 hr ago



Jesse Colvin speaks at the Democratic Club of Kent County headquarters Saturday.

PHOTO BY JACK RODGERS

CHESTERTOWN — The Democratic Club of Kent County hosted congressional candidate Jesse Colvin, at its headquarters High Street, Saturday.

Colvin, a Democrat running for the seat held by U.S. Rep. Andy Harris, R-Md.-1st, outlined campaign plans and stances on issues, before answering questions from audience members.

Colvin first answered a question the Democratic Club of Kent County asks all speakers. The question generally asks how a candidate would represent Kent County on a national level.

"If I'm lucky enough to serve, any bill that crosses my desk, I'm going to ask myself two questions," Colvin said. "Does it reflect the values of the people in the district? And is it in the interest of the country?"

Balance between maintaining the heritage and history of Kent County, while moving the county forward is a campaign focus for Colvin. A priority for Colvin to maintain the county's heritage is the formation of an agriculture committee for the district, to cultivate new ideas and uses for land.

"You can't have the Eastern Shore be the Eastern Shore or Kent County be Kent County without agriculture," Colvin said.

Colvin also spoke about the need for access to high-speed internet in rural areas, and its link to education and businesses.

"If you care about education, you want kids to be able to go home and work on school projects," Colvin said. "If you care about entrepreneurs create new jobs, you care about entrepreneurs having access to high-speed internet."

Easily accessible internet has been a national topic, as the Federal Communications Commission voted Dec. 14 to repeal Net Neutrality regulations. The vote opens the door to internet service providers being able to restrict speeds to certain websites, among other policies that treat the internet as less of a utility. These issues are some that Colvin hopes to focus more on in his campaign, he said.

"It's going to take some political will, and some energy and some courage and creative thinking," Colvin said. "Net Neutrality, if I'm lucky enough to serve, we'll probably be playing defense at that point, if the vote this week is an indication of where things are going."

Colvin also answered questions about his willingness to work across the aisle with Republicans, and used examples from his success in his "bipartisan marriage."

"A value I care about and strongly believe in is working across the aisle," Colvin said. "I always say, 'I speak Republican at home all the time,' because my wife is a Republican and I'm a Democrat."

Colvin also spoke on what guides his stances on issues. Staying grounded and understanding individual struggles is a personal attribute that shapes his campaign, Colvin said.

"Rather than argue about the issues of the day, we care deeply about the community," Colvin said. "We understand that everyone is going through something, and rather than argue remember that we're all in this together, and lets help each other."