

Contact: Nancy Pilchen, NancyBBP@aol.com, 703/524-8765
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Abby Raphael Earns Key Endorsement from South Arlington Leaders

Civic and school leaders from South Arlington, including leaders of several civic associations and the Friends of South Arlington (FOSA), have endorsed school board candidate Abby Raphael for the 2007 election.

“As leaders of civic associations, PTA’s and other organizations in our South Arlington neighborhoods and schools, we support a county-wide approach to both the opportunities and challenges facing Arlington Public Schools,” wrote the group which includes leaders of Alcova Heights, Arlington Heights, Barcroft, Claremont, Columbia Forest, and Douglas Park Civic Associations, and the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO).

“We believe that Abby will bring energy, insight, experience and fairness to our shared efforts to make Arlington Public Schools even stronger,” the group wrote in its endorsement.

“I am honored to have this vote of confidence from so many South Arlington school and community leaders,” said Raphael, vice chair of the Arlington Public Schools’ Advisory Council on Instruction (ACI), and former president of Arlington Science Focus PTA. “It is critical that all Arlington residents have a voice in the important decisions that the school board makes,” Raphael said. “If elected, I pledge to work with citizens from across the county to promote success for all of our students and schools.

In addition to Raphael’s work on the Advisory Council on Instruction and on the Budget Advisory Council, she serves on the countywide Food Services Advisory Committee.

John Snyder, president of the Douglas Park Civic Association, said he believes Raphael’s experience and abilities give her the best approach to managing the challenges facing Arlington schools in the coming years.

“She brings enormous energy and a fresh perspective to Arlington schools,” Snyder said. “She will be a good manager. Working with her on the Budget Advisory Council, I saw firsthand how she does her homework. She comes prepared with good questions and thoughtful proposals.”

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Rebecca Krafft, a Randolph Elementary School PTA officer and a former civic association president, praised Raphael's outreach efforts. "I respect her for taking the time to learn about South Arlington issues," Krafft said. "I appreciate her in-depth engagement in Arlington Public Schools. "

Civic leader Inta Malis, also part of the group that has endorsed Raphael said, "Abby is smart and has the courage of her convictions. Most importantly she knows how to listen and work together to solve the challenges facing our school system.

Raphael will be on the ballot in the Democratic Caucus, scheduled for Saturday, May 5th from 11am-7pm at Kenmore Middle School.