



For immediate release

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Parisa for Justice Campaign Accelerates Momentum

(Arlington, VA) – From day one, this has been a locally-driven, grassroots campaign, supported and driven by community members that want to see the Commonwealth’s Attorney's office reflect the values of Arlington and Falls Church with [Restorative Justice](#) programs that put victims first, smart on crime policies, and a 21st century approach to [criminal justice reform](#). “I began this campaign as a challenger with virtually no name recognition against an entrenched incumbent. I made it my mission to build a serious, local, grassroots campaign, supported by volunteers and neighbors. Thanks to their efforts and energy, we have unprecedented grassroots support in our community. This is reflected in our individual donations, the overwhelming majority of which have been small dollar donations from local individuals,” said Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Democratic Candidate for Commonwealth Attorney for Arlington County and City of Falls Church.

In her latest filing, Dehghani-Tafti raised over \$39,000 in cash donations from individuals, the majority of which were made by local donors. The average individual donation was \$99.

“The dedication and work of our volunteers and neighbors also drew the support of local grassroots organizations and local unions, representing thousands of residents in Arlington and the City of Falls Church. With their combined hard work and outreach, we have knocked on more doors than have ever been knocked for this office, and educated the public on the job of Commonwealth’s Attorney,” Dehghani-Tafti stated.

“One of the endorsements I’m most proud of is that of the Arlington Education Association, which represents our educators who fight for the success of our kids every day, and who recognize the need for reform in our system. This campaign has also

drawn the support of criminal justice reform organizations, as well as the endorsements of Governor Terry McAuliffe, the Washington Post, and current and former local elected officials such as Sen. Adam Ebbin, Del. Marcus Simon, Del. Mark Levine, School Board Member Nancy Van Doren, School Board Member Monique O'Grady, former Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple, former County Board Chair Walter Tejada, former County Board Member Mary Hynes, former County Board Member Chris Zimmerman, former federal prosecutor Gene Rossi, and former Deputy Chief of Police James Younger.

“Simply put, this level of local support for a challenger is unprecedented in a local primary election where the incumbent has not ever faced a robust primary challenge. What it shows is that community leaders and ordinary citizens understand the office is in dire need of reform.

“In this last reporting period, we are proud that our campaign has continued to garner the support of not just small dollar donations but also that of local and national organizations that will help maintain enthusiasm and engagement in the upcoming November general elections,” Dehghani-Tafti concluded.

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Parisa Dehghani-Tafti has worked within the criminal justice system for nearly 20 years. She works as the legal director of an innocence organization and previously served as a public defender with the country's most reputable public defender service. She has represented clients at every stage of the criminal justice process and in all levels of courts. She is a long-time resident of Arlington with her husband and two children. Parisa will fight for criminal justice reform and to create a fairer, more humane, and more effective system that makes us safer.