

Erik Raudsep
erik@raudsep2018.com
www.raudsep2018.com
919-399-9408



Erik Raudsep is a proud member of the community of Durham, North Carolina. He moved to North Carolina over 10 years ago, and knew quickly that he had found the home that he was searching for. Erik grew up on Long Island, New York, this is where many of his ideas of community and perseverance derive from. When moving to North Carolina Erik was so grateful to find Durham; where many of his view points and beliefs in community, were already in practice. A place where his vision of perseverance, and can do attitude were embodied by so many other residents already. Erik has been driven to run for office because he sees such inequity and indifference from many leaders, especially when finding communities like McDougald Terrace, where Erik has been active in making a difference with organizations like Bull City United, McDougald Moms, and Men of Vision.

Erik is proud owner of Iron Homes Inspections, a small home inspection business that helps clients all over the Triangle. Erik has had failed businesses over the years, but the perseverance that he learned in his youth has paid off, and educated him to be the success that he is now. This has also taught Erik that government needs to get off of the back of small business and foster their development. He feels that all too often Government helps the big corporations because it is the big projects that grab the attention and the headlines. However, the real difference can and needs to be made by fostering small business. It is important to remember that small business hires their friends and neighbors, so one small business in a community that is under privileged can have a positive effect for many. Now think of the effect of many small businesses, in that same community, they would create a positive force that would not be able to be denied, and change that community for the better without sprawl or gentrification. It is also important to remember because they are hiring friends and neighbors they are not paying minimum wage but a true living wage, again making a profound positive impact. Where the same effort for a big corporation does not generally help the under privileged and in the few instances where it does it is with minimum wage, unskilled jobs making minimal, or no impact at all where it is needed.

Erik is a member of the LGBTQ community and has been with his partner for over two years. They would like to adopt in the future, as they believe that their home has ample love to share with a child. They also believe their values and experiences would raise not only a wonderful child to an adult, but one that would be active in their community, and poses the attributes of compassion and responsibility that they both hold very dear. This is one of the many reasons that issues for equality; not only for the LGBTQ community, however for all dispossessed or under privileged communities is so important to Erik. Erik does not want anyone to lose the privilege that any community or individual has, however, he wants everyone to have the same privilege to be shared by all individuals. This is not an issue that we all should all meet at the middle, however we all need to push to the front and be shoulder to shoulder with each other.

Erik is first generation here in the United States. His father escaped from the Soviet Union in 1968 and quickly made his way to the United States. Growing up with pride in his heritage, and his own families struggle to make the very best not only for himself but also for all the generations to come. For this reason, Erik is an enthusiastic capitalist with a strong belief in free markets. He is also sad to see the crony capitalist system that has evolved that takes the worst parts of capitalism and socialism, to line the pockets of people that are in power. He also believes that we have not gone down that dark road too far, and the damage can be undone and restore North Carolina and the United States to the system that was intended. It is also because of his father's experiences of being a refugee and immigrant to the United States; that Erik is unwavering in his beliefs of the positive and strengthening aspects of immigration. Erik firmly believes in the necessity of opening up North Carolina to be protective of immigration from all over the world. If we want to be competitive as an economy here in North Carolina globally, we will need a population from all over the globe to be successful.

Erik also has the experience in politics to be successful in the NC General Assembly. Erik has worked on many campaigns starting back in his time in New York. From small campaigns like Frank Murphy for New York Assembly to being the Chief Technical Director for the Lazio 2000 campaign for US Senate, and many in between. Erik has also worked on legislative issues and has reviewed pieces of legislation on various state level pieces and even federal level material that was seen before Congress. Erik has always been behind the scenes and now strikes out to be the face which is a very new and at times un-nerving experience. He has already remarked seeing his name on a bumper sticker on a car that he does not know was one of the most unusual experiences, however he took that as proof that his message and his passion as the common citizen with common sense has not only merit but true value for his constituents.