



**Hampton Roads Black Caucus**

**“Giving Power to Voices”**

**CHESAPEAKE-HAMPTON- NEWPORT NEWS-NORFOLK-PORTSMOUTH-SUFFOLK-VIRGINIA BEACH**

**2016 ENDORSEMENT PROCESS/CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

**Candidate Name: Brian C. Bass**

**Office Seeking: Mayor**

**District: Suffolk**

**How would you support Black Owned Business Growth/Economic Development?**

**I will promote and encourage the policy of the Commonwealth of Virginia to contribute to the establishment, preservation, and strengthening of small businesses, including micro businesses and small businesses owned by women, minorities and service disabled veterans and to encourage their participation in state procurement activities.**

**Virginia Information Technology Agency, VITA, encourages Small, Women and Minority-Owned Businesses (SWaM) businesses, including micro businesses and service disabled veteran businesses to participate in the state's information technology (IT) procurement activities. This page provides resources intended to assist such businesses interested in participating in Commonwealth IT procurement activities potentially leading to a contract award.**

**Small, Women and Minority-Owned Businesses (SWaM) businesses will use specific strategies tailored to the unique needs of each industry:**

- Spending: Inform certified SWaM about opportunities.**

- **Business Development:** Help SWaM become more competitive throughout the state procurement process.
- **Certification:** Increase the number of certified SWaM within the target industries through outreach efforts to maximize the pool of available firms.

What are the strategies?

As this project evolves, SWaM will develop a variety of strategies to support and advance this initiative.

Current strategies include:

### 1. Certification

- a. Fast track new certification applications of firms within target industries.
- b. Work with trade organizations and Chambers of Commerce on certification drives to increase applications from firms within the target industries.
- c. Partner with the Regional Economic Development Councils and regional staff to develop a joint marketing/outreach campaign to identify local SWaM for certification or technical assistance.

### 2. Business Development

- a. Develop lists of certified SWaM that will be offered direct business development assistance.

Business development activities will help selected SWaM meet the capacity needs of the state agencies that could possibly purchase goods or services from them.

### 3. Spending

- a. Advocate with the state agencies and authorities that have the largest spending amounts within the target industries to increase their use of SWaM vendors.
- b. Identify and target discretionary purchase opportunities.
- c. Work with the Regional Economic Development Councils and staff in targeted regions to get local information about projects with significant potential spending within the targeted industries.

How would you support Educational Advancement?

Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, and women are underrepresented among M.S. and Ph.D. recipients in the natural sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics; a trend that

continues throughout the academic pipeline from starting assistant professors to senior academic administrators. As a voice within the City of Suffolk I would visit schools during times when involvement (career day, field trips, and mentoring programs) would encourage, guide, and motivate teens and young adults down a career path that focuses on their interest.

**How would you support Community Development?**

The United Nations defines community development as "a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems." It is a broad term given to the practices of civic leaders, activists, involved citizens and professionals to improve various aspects of communities, typically aiming to build stronger and more resilient local communities. This is something I would be involved with to ensure that all people in the City of Suffolk are represented in community development.

**Why do you feel HRBC should endorse you and how would you support the mission and goals of HRBC?**

I have lived in Suffolk since I was four years old and my ancestry with the Nansemond Indians establishes a bond that runs deep with the city. (Forest Glen High School class of 1988 and Paul D. Camp Community College class of 2012). If anything, my love and passion for this City is what drives me to be the next Mayor of the City of Suffolk. I have experience and understanding in local government, been involved with the public school system for over 30 years, dealt with Unions and Safety Teams during my employment with International Paper (16 years), degree in Environmental Studies (2014). These things will help make Suffolk a better more vibrant community. In closing the mission and goals of HRBC are also my mission and goals if I am elected Mayor.

Hampton Roads Black Caucus was established in 2012 with the purpose of promoting the political views of the African American Community in the Hampton Roads area.

The intent of the Hampton Roads Black Caucus is to endorse candidates who support the ideas values, and mission of the African American Community through economic, education, and political initiatives.

The goal of Hampton Roads Black Caucus is to raise funds to support the candidates that best represent the goals of our organization.

If you are seeking endorsement from our membership driven organization, please take a moment to complete the application.

Every member of our organization will receive a copy of each candidate's completed application to assist them in determining the candidates HRBC should support.

The selection process heavily relies on our membership. The collective outcome of this internal voting process will determine HRBC's support for state and local political races this November.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office by [info@HamptonRoadsBlackCaucus.org](mailto:info@HamptonRoadsBlackCaucus.org) or call 757-237-6257

For more information on HRBC, visit our website at [www.hamptonroadsblackcaucus.org](http://www.hamptonroadsblackcaucus.org)  
Please return **Response by October 10, 2016**: email: [rrtphy@aol.com](mailto:rrtphy@aol.com); Fax: 757/306-4217 or mail:

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Thank you!

Hampton Roads Black Caucus Board