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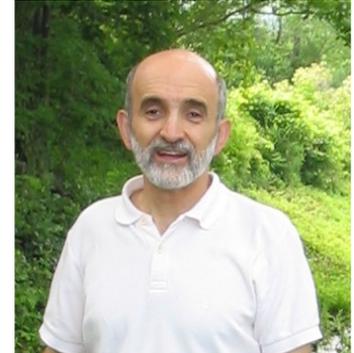
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## Citizen John First to Challenge Katko for Congressional Seat

**Lyons, NY** - John Murtari, former Air Force pilot, software engineer, business owner, and civil rights activist, announced his candidacy for the 24<sup>th</sup> District currently represented by John Katko. Murtari is a long-time resident of both Wayne and Onondaga counties. He's aware of redistricting and is also ready to challenge Democrat Joseph Morelle. His committee filed with the Federal Election Commission on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.



His motivation is a response to the divisiveness that has gripped our nation: between political parties, between family members and friends, intolerance, and desires to limit free speech. A student of history, he's concerned where these trends will take our country.

The January vote by Mr. Katko to impeach President Trump triggered his decision. He said, "I contributed to Mr. Katko's campaign and felt betrayed. While I don't approve of the language President Trump sometimes used in describing his opponents, I fully support most of his policy actions regarding our economy, our borders, being pro-life, a strong military, and making our NATO allies pay their fair share for defense. **I'd be proud to stand by former President Trump's side.**"

Use of the moniker "Citizen John" highlights his outsider nature. His appreciation for the struggles faced by ALL Americans and their desire for a better life for themselves, their families, and neighbors. The campaign website, <https://VoteCitizenJohn.com/>, highlights different episodes in his life: child of Italian immigrants, Air Force instructor pilot, caring for elderly parents, husband, father, whistle blower, struggling thru divorce, distant parent, jailed in peaceful civil rights demonstrations & inability to make child support payments, business owner, and bladder cancer treated by the VA.

A theme of his will be, "*A different kind of Candidate & A different kind of Campaign.*" He wants to speak simply & clearly about policy and his belief in dialogue between opposing views. A return to what he calls "*Civil Discourse*" – the understanding that two intelligent people can accept the same set of facts, yet reach different conclusions based on their life experiences.

While his website explains in some detail how he feels about topics of current interest. He hopes to also stress fundamental beliefs about what we want for our country: *Liberty, honesty, & excellence. A compassionate, united, and proud America.*

He plans to spend a lot of time visiting local groups and is eager to see volunteers join in the effort. Contribution of any amount are welcome! He is not a wealthy man and every dollar helps.

He's seeking access to State GOP election programs and is being blocked by the Wayne County GOP. His brief comment, "All we are looking for is a level playing field and equal access to information."

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