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GoLocalProv Political Team

Roger Williams University School of Law

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August 17, 2017

Newsroom

GoLocalProv: Vargas '20 on Trump and the Future of the RI GOP

GoLocalProv calls new IL, Luis Vargas '20, "the leading Latino Republican in Rhode Island" and interviews him on President Trump, white supremacists, and how the Republican Party can again win in RI.

From GoLocalProv: "[RI GOP's Leading Latino Speaks Out on Trump and the Future of the Party in RI](#)" by GoLocalProv Political Team

August 17, 2017: In a sweeping interview **Luis Vargas [RWU Law '20]**, the leading Latino Republican in Rhode Island, harshly criticized President Donald Trump for his position on white supremacists, Nazis, and the KKK and what the GOP needs to do to win in RI.

Vargas almost pulled off the ultimate upset in 2016 when he nearly upset sitting Representative Joe Almeida in Providence. He ran as an Independent.

More recently, Vargas has been helping Mike Smith in his race for the now vacant Senate seat in Newport/Jamestown — District 13 and he just began law school at Roger Williams University.

For Rhode Island Republicans to win in the future, the party will need to develop candidates and messages that reach a broader group of Rhode Islanders. From 1984 to 2010, the governor's office in Rhode Island was held by Republicans except for four-years (Democrat Bruce Sundlun 1991 to 1995).

On Trump

Vargas said, "No, there were not good people protesting in Charlottesville. There were neo-nazis, white nationalists... A domestic terrorist who ran his car into a crowd of protesters. The President's comments were embarrassing, unpresidential, but I can not honestly say that they were surprising. There is a pattern of ridiculous statements coming from this President, and it is very troubling."

Vargas has been one of the only Rhode Island Republicans to take on Trump's comments.

"If I could speak with the President I would say this: You were elected to do a job. Do that job, do it with respect, do it with civility, and do it with class. Instead of whining and arguing with your detractors, focus on putting people back to work and strengthening families," said Vargas.

"Golf less, tweet less, and listen to the advice of those around you, who I am sure are tired of watching you damage the party and country's reputation," he added.

GOP Chair's Refusal to Speak Out

While GOP Chair has refused to comment on Trump's comments about Charlottesville, Vargas urged Bell and other leading Republicans to speak out. "There can be no lukewarm statements. There is no good neo-nazi and there is no good white nationalist - they are antithetical to what so many Americans fought and gave their lives for."

"**Brandon Bell [RWU Law '97]** has been nothing but welcoming to me and to my initiatives for outreach - he genuinely wants to see the party grow across demographics and to help lift up the average Rhode Islander," said Vargas.

For full article, click [here](#).