

EX-ATTORNEY GENERAL: RALLY BEHIND LAROCK

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By SALLY VOTH

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CLEAR BROOK — Former state attorney general and 2013 gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli lauded 33rd District Del. Dave LaRock's performance in his first term in the Virginia House of Delegates and encouraged supporters to rally behind him during a Tuesday evening picnic in Clearbrook Park.

LaRock, R-Hamilton, is being challenged by Democrat Chuck Hedges and Libertarian Mark Anderson in the Nov. 3 election.

Cuccinelli was joined by 27th District Sen. Jill Vogel, R-Upperville, who is running unopposed, and Winchester resident Kate Obenshain, an author and political pundit who was the first chairwoman of the Republican Party of Virginia from 2003 to 2006, Gov. George Allen's chief of staff, and vice president of Young America's Foundation from 2008 to 2012.

They were among several area GOP candidates who attended the picnic.

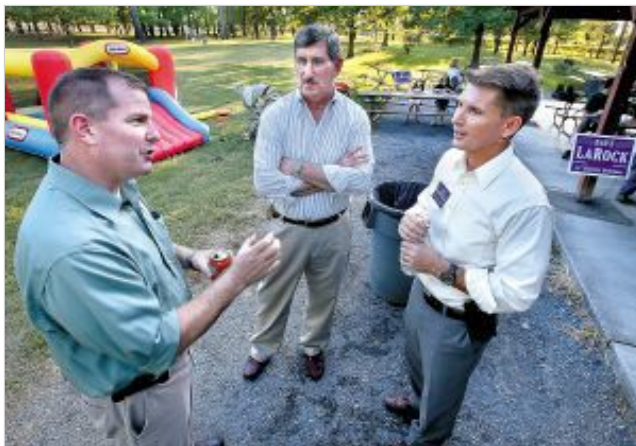
Cuccinelli said he could "use some improvement on" fighting for his beliefs while maintaining a smile on his face — something he said LaRock does.

"[He] fights for your conservative principles in a way that, frankly, is attractive to people," Cuccinelli said. "He puts a really good shine on what we believe. We use these phrases, like everything we're in is a war all the time. The goal isn't to eliminate the other side. It's to convert them.

"Don't let tonight be your last night in this race. Be



Del. Dave LaRock (from right), R-Hamilton, talks with Barbara and Garland Jenkins and their grandson, Luke Asti, 15, on Tuesday at a picnic hosted by LaRock and his family at Clearbrook Park. The Jenkins family is from Stephenson. (Photo by Ginger Perry/The Winchester Star)



Chris Collins (from left), Republican candidate for 29th District of the Virginia House of Delegates, talks with Marc Savitt, of Frederick County, and Terry Bohan, Republican candidate for Frederick County sheriff, at a picnic hosted by Del. Dave LaRock, R-Hamilton, and his family at Clearbrook Park on Tuesday afternoon. (Photo by Ginger Perry/The Winchester Star)

your own grassroots warrior for Dave LaRock.”

Obenshain said LaRock “stuck his neck out there,” unseating longtime Del. Joe May, R-Leesburg, in the 2013 primary.

“He did what we all need to do — he appealed to average, hardworking Virginians in our district,” she said.

Obenshain called on local Republicans to quit “the bickering, the pettiness.”

“Let’s do that at the end of November,” she said. “Right now, let’s all come together in unity and stand up for the Constitution.”

She also called on Republicans to elect party candidates Terry Bohan, for Frederick County sheriff, Chris Collins, for 29th District House of Delegates, and Beau Correll, for city commonwealth’s attorney.

The commonwealth’s attorney’s race has divided the Winchester Republican Committee, with some siding with acting Commonwealth’s Attorney Marc Abrams, who is running as an Independent, over Correll, who is chairman of the city GOP. Also in the race is Independent Howard Manheimer.

LaRock, whose wife Joanne prepared the food for the picnic, said he’d continue to fight for education reform if re-elected.

One of his bills in the 2015 General Assembly session would have permitted the parents of some special-needs students to set up education savings accounts that would allow some of the state’s education funding to go toward private education. The bill was defeated on a tie vote in the state Senate.

Cuccinelli, who lost the governor’s race by 2.5 percentage points to Terry McAuliffe and is currently working to help get other Republicans elected to the state Senate, discussed presidential politics and his political future after the picnic.

“Next year is going to be real interesting in Virginia as a swing state,” he said. “This Republican presidential nomination is really turning into a whale of a barn burner.”

Cuccinelli said he doesn’t have any favorites yet.

“It’s a spectacularly high-qualified field,” he said. “So, I feel very blessed in that regard. And the Democrats are struggling. Hillary’s stumbling all over the place.”

Cuccinelli gave credit to liberal-minded Bernie Sanders, an Independent U.S. senator from Vermont who is seeking the Democratic nomination, for making an appearance Monday at



Ken Cuccinelli, former attorney general and 2013 gubernatorial candidate, talks with conservative activist and author Kate Obenshain at the picnic.

Liberty University, a conservative Christian college in Lynchburg, and to the college for its reception of him.

Sanders and current Republican standout Donald Trump are both enjoying “a very anti-establishment appeal,” Cuccinelli said.

“On the Democratic side, there are a lot of [candidates],” he said. “I have many friends who are Democrats who just can’t stand how owned the Clintons are.”

Bill and Hillary Clinton are “so incestually related” to numerous special interests, Cuccinelli said.

Jim Webb, the former U.S. Democratic senator from Virginia who has launched a presidential campaign, isn’t doing enough, according to Cuccinelli. Until Webb’s willing to contrast himself with his fellow Democrats, he won’t gain any traction, he said.

Cuccinelli, 47, said he “doesn’t have any plans” to run for governor.

“I started young,” he said.

He spent two terms in the state Senate before becoming state attorney general in 2010.

Now, the father of seven said he’s enjoying spending time with his family.

“I never had a moment’s rest [when in public office],” Cuccinelli said. “After 12 years, it’s nice to not be on the ballot.

“We might do that again someday.”

— *Contact Sally Voth at svoth@winchesterstar.com*