

### Sanders

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local volunteers. Sanders, a 74-year-old Vermont senator, has become known for drawing large crowds at his events and for the enthusiasm of his supporters. He's raised more money than any presidential candidate except Hillary Clinton, who he's competing against for the Democratic nomination.

On Friday, Jan. 8, the office held its first phone bank, as volunteers called primary states like Iowa and South Carolina trying to mobilize voters for Sanders. The smell of fresh paint hung in the air as volunteers had just finished cleaning and painting the walls. Space heaters were the only source of warmth since the heating system wasn't working yet. Volunteers brought in their own laptops or mobile devices and phones to call voters using the campaign's online tools.

"It's very much a grassroots effort and that means that supporters are donating their time, money and supplies," said volunteer Rebekah Ricardo. "We're willing to do that because of how much we want

Bernie to win and how strongly we feel about the good he can do for this country."

Sam Little was among the volunteers at the phone bank. The 27-year-old said Sanders support of things like free college tuition make him appealing to young people. She said that she feels that Sanders support will grow among African-Americans like her. She pointed out that Sanders is not only a long-time civil rights activist but has also been consistently active on the issue of economic inequality, which was among the major causes of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"I think he's not as well known to minorities as Hillary Clinton, but if they learn who he is and what his policies are, they'll see that he's more beneficial to them," she said.

Sanders was arrested in 1962 while protesting segregation at the University of Chicago and participated in the 1963 March on Washington. He's spoken out against mass incarceration and the death penalty his entire career. In 1988, he endorsed civil rights leader Jesse Jackson for president.

Larry Little, a Winston-

Salem State University professor and longtime local activist, stopped by to see the office during the phone bank. He is a long-time supporter of Sanders, because of the senator's devotion to things like civil rights and economic justice. He too said Clinton's dominance among black voters comes from familiarity. Those who don't follow politics closely wouldn't know about Sanders' history, but he said but he'll be trying to change that locally, by stirring up support in the black community for Sanders.

"There are a lot of us who follow these things carefully, we just have to take his message out there," said Larry Little, who is Sam Little's father.

Volunteer Angela Savitri, who switched her party affiliation from unaffiliated to Democrat so she could vote for Sanders in the primary, also said she had many reasons to like Sanders, including his support for getting big money out of politics, paid parental leave, economic parity and environmental issues.

"He is the only candidate in my lifetime who cares more about humanitarian values than solely



Sam Little



Larry Little



Photos By Todd Luck

Signs for Bernie Sanders stand along the wall of his new campaign office on Waughtown Street.

Savitri. He also doesn't have an affiliated Super PAC, unlike Clinton and most presidential candidates, which she believes will make him less beholden to big money special interests.

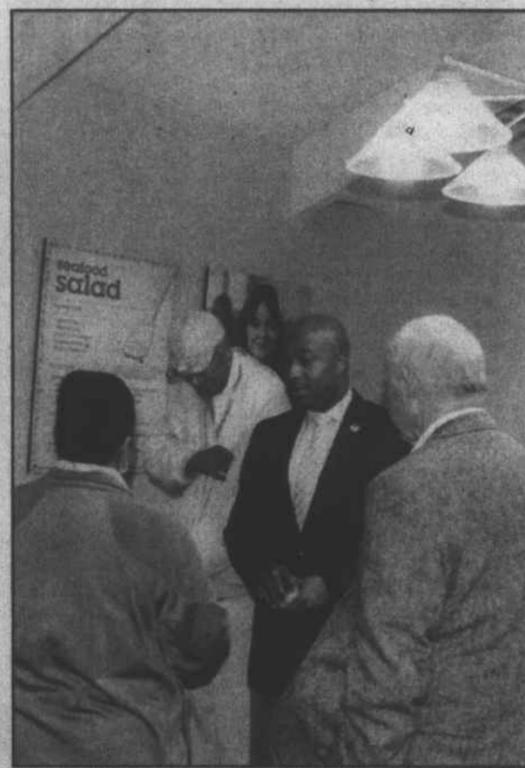
Sanders is supported by a Super PAC that's not

affiliated with his campaign, called National Nurses United for Patient Protection. Unlike other Super PACs, it is funded by union dues, not contributions from wealthy donors. Sanders has repeatedly said he will not raise money for any Super PAC.



Photos By Todd Luck

Spring Lake Mayor Chris Rey tells Forsyth County Senior Democrats why he should get Democratic nomination for Senate.



Spring Lake Mayor Chris Rey chats with attendees after the meeting.

### Rey

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he'd like to repeat, but this time against incumbent Republican Senator Richard Burr.

"This campaign is about believing," Rey told attendees. "I want you to believe, number one, that Richard Burr can be beat, make no mistake about it, he can be beat."



Rey is running in the Democratic primary against two opponents for the chance to take on Burr, a two-term Republican incumbent. Rey, who grew up in and around Spring Lake, became the youngest mayor in the town's history when he was elected at 34 years old. Spring Lake had an estimated population of 13,037 in 2013. It's a small, rural town, oftentimes unknown to people in other parts of the state, Rey said that he believes that to be an asset, not a weakness, of his campaign, allowing him to connect with voters.

"The majority of the folks I connect with, even though a lot of them may live in these big cities, just about everyone who came up and spoke to me this morning is from a small town," said Rey, who's been reelected unopposed twice.

Rey said he'd left Spring Lake years ago but found that it had become a town "in transition and not in the right way" and that inspired him to come back to run for mayor.

Spring Lake was badly in need of jobs, economic development and infrastructure improvements. The town was also recovering from a police scandal that caused its

police force, which has less than 30 sworn officers, to lose its authority in 2009, with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office taking over law enforcement in the town.

He said the town has transformed over the last four years. The reformed police department got its full authority back in 2013 and has implemented body cameras. He said that economic development has improved as he's attended many ribbon cuttings and ground breakings.

However, Spring Lake still has serious economic challenges. The town is next to Fort Bragg and its economy is dependent on those who work at the base. Job cuts at the base, caused by the across-the-board government cuts of the 2013 sequester,

his.

Rey's mayoral career is just part of the biography he touted. He's an Army veteran who was deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and was awarded the Bronze Star.

After his time in the military, he



Terry



Griffin

## "How do you vote against the interests of your state?"

-Chris Rey

hurt the local economy. Rey said that Burr's vote for the sequester helped spur him to run for Senate.

"How do you vote against the interests of your state?" Rey said.

The sequester was part of the bi-partisan 2011 Budget Control Act, which created automatic cuts if a congressional "super committee" could not agree on a way to reduce the deficit by \$1.2 trillion over ten years, which it failed to do. Burr has said that voting for the act was a "big regret" of

interned for Representative John Lewis. Rey said he learned a lot from Lewis and made an impression on the Georgia lawmaker and civil rights leader.

"He said to me, 'Young brother, you're going to run for office one day,'" Rey recounted, doing his best impression of Lewis. "And I told him I was never, ever going to run for office one day. He was like, 'No, no you will and when you do, I will be there for you.'"

Lewis was true to his word and made appearances for Rey in his mayoral campaigns. Rey is a member of the National Guard and has also worked on cyber security policy for the Department of Defense. He is executive director of Cumberland HealthNET, a non-profit organization that connects the uninsured with health-care in Cumberland County.

Rey said that among his priorities if elected would be

investing in public education, taking care of veterans and their families, closing the gender pay gap and helping those in the lower and middle class.

During Q&A, former County Commissioner Beaufort Bailey asked Rey how he would work with the "sorry conservatives in the Senate" if he won the seat. Rey responded that his time as mayor prepared him to work across the aisle and get results.

"As a mayor of a city, it doesn't matter if you're a Republican or Democrat, I had to get things done," Rey said.

Mildred Griffin, a regular at the Senior Democrats meetings, said she was impressed by Rey.

"He's dynamic, I just love him," she said. "He has a lot of experience in leadership."

Senior Democrat Chair Fred Terry, the husband of N.C. Rep Evelyn Terry who also attended the meeting, said that next month Senior Democrats will be hearing from one of Rey's primary opponents, Kevin Griffin, a Pfafftown native who is CEO of a staffing firm in Durham.

"The vote in Forsyth County is critical for any candidate running for statewide office," said Fred Terry.

Deborah Ross, a former Democratic N.C. representative, is also running for the seat and is the early favorite in the polls.

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