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RIC Pledge Support to Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. in his 2010 Bid to Regain the Governorship in Maryland

A group of Republican Indian Committee (RIC) members met with former Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. (Republican) in Baltimore on Friday, March 26, 2010 to discuss his 2010 campaign for the Maryland Governorship.

Attending from RIC were: Shekhar Tiwari, Advisor to RIC-National, Dilip Paliath, RIC National Executive Director, Sue Ghosh, RIC-National General Counsel, Sebastian Kurian, RIC-MD President, Elisha Pulivarti, RIC-MD Vice Chairman for Outreach, Puneet Ahluwalia, RIC-VA President, and Dr. Ashok Thareja, Maryland businessman and friend of RIC.

Governor Ehrlich was in the meeting by himself, with two of his senior advisors coming in for briefly towards the end of the hour-long meeting. RIC members will be assisting Governor Ehrlich in his campaign.

The meeting was set up to discuss how RIC could help Governor Ehrlich be successful in November. While Governor Ehrlich had not announced his intention publicly to run in 2010, he confided in RIC that he will announce that his intention to run against Governor Martin O'Malley (Democrat) on April 7, 2010.

About the meeting, Dilip Paliath commented, "RIC is committed to helping Republicans like Governor Ehrlich who have demonstrated their commitment to the Indian-American community and the issues important to us. As a Congressman, Ehrlich recognized the importance of U.S.-India relations. As Governor, Ehrlich opened a business development office in India; he had committed to traveling to India on a trade mission if he was re-elected in 2006; he is unabashedly pro-business; and a strong proponent of medical malpractice reform."

Paliath continued, "We look forward to helping Governor Ehrlich regain his rightful place as Governor of the Great State of Maryland. Maryland cannot afford another four years under the current Administration."

RIC will host a Policy Forum with Governor Ehrlich later in April, 2010, and plans to host a fundraiser for Ehrlich.

Governor Ehrlich relayed to RIC that he promised a sports radio show, known as The Sports Junkies, that if he ran for office again, he would announce on their show first. After fulfilling his promise to the hosts of The Sports Junkies, Ehrlich will have a press event in Rockville, and a large rally in his hometown of Arbutus, Maryland in the evening of April 7, 2009.

Governor Ehrlich was elected Governor in 2002, after defeating the daughter of Robert Kennedy, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend. The importance of this victory lies in the fact that voter registration is two-to-one in favor of Democrats over Republicans. Ehrlich lost his bid for re-election in 2006, after being swept up in the national anti-President Bush sentiment, despite Ehrlich's having a 58% approval rating with Marylanders.



Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. is pictured above with RIC National Executive Director Dilip Paliath

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