



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **AFL-CIO Endorses Missy Cotter Smasal In Virginia's Second Congressional Seat**

**VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.** – Today, AFL-CIO, a federation of 60 national and international labor unions, endorsed Missy Cotter Smasal's campaign for Virginia's Second Congressional District.

"Missy Cotter Smasal embodies the values and vision that our working families need in Congress," **said Doris Crouse-Mays, President of Virginia AFL-CIO.** "Her unwavering commitment to labor rights and fair wages makes her the clear choice for a brighter, more equitable future. The Virginia AFL-CIO proudly endorses her, confident that she will be a steadfast advocate for workers' interests and a champion for our collective progress. Virginia AFL-CIO will work tirelessly alongside Missy to ensure that we advance worker rights everywhere."

"I am thankful for the support of the AFL-CIO," **said Missy Cotter Smasal, Democratic nominee for Virginia's 2nd Congressional District.** "Unions have paved the way for a strong middle class. From fighting for fair wages and safe working conditions to paid leave, unions have improved our everyday lives and I'm thankful for all the union members in my family. I look forward to continuing to support labor rights in Congress, and am proud to welcome the Virginia AFL-CIO to our campaign team."

### **BACKGROUND**

Missy Cotter Smasal served as a Surface Warfare Officer in the U.S. Navy and deployed aboard the U.S.S. Trenton during Operation Enduring Freedom. After her active duty service, Missy started a small business in Virginia Beach, Rita's Shore Drive, which she owned and operated for more than 10 years.

Missy currently serves as the Virginia Citizen Representative on the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a bipartisan commission that has achieved consistently strong and effective results in pursuit of Bay restoration goals. She is the Executive Director for Valor Run, a local non-profit that produces running events to honor the U.S. military women who have served our nation since 9/11. She is also an adjunct professor at Old Dominion University.

She and her husband, Bryan, who served as an Army Officer, are the proud parents of two great kids in Virginia Beach City Public Schools. Missy is running for Congress to fight for coastal Virginians, military families, and veterans. She will stand up for our local values and priorities, and push back against extreme politicians in DC.

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