

The Virginian-Pilot

Vote Values

I live on the Eastern Shore, a part of Virginia where we look out for our neighbors. We check on the older adults and the sick; we share when we are able; and when someone needs assistance, we help out. It's who we are. Last year, while driving on one of the deserted back roads, I stopped to take a photograph. Out of nowhere, a car pulled up, the driver lowered the window and asked: "Is everything alright?" A stranger - just checking in. In another case, my husband's old truck decided to conk out and almost before he could lift the hood, a stranger stopped, hooked up the two trucks, and gave my husband a tow home.

They were neighbors, not strangers. On the Eastern Shore, that's what we do. Neighbors who fish or garden will often call and offer their catch and produce. When my blackberries are ripen in abundance, I put out the call to my neighbors. It's what we do. That is true in neighborhoods across America. Although we have different opinions, our values are the same. We were taught the value of hard work and the importance of treating others with kindness, respecting personal freedoms, and helping out where we can.

In this election, vote for your values; vote country over party; vote for democracy. Vote for candidates who believe in helping others, doing what's right for others, and lifting people up. It's who we should be in America. It's who we must be. I will be voting for my values.

Melody Copper, Machipongo, VA