

## AV200 Is Interviewed Over the Phone by Nashville Public Radio

*The former Secretary's team scuttle around the candidate's downtown office ensuring everything is in working order for his interview over the radio. The candidate is seated at his desk drinking a glass of water while he's on hold being introduced by Jason Moon Wilkins of NPR.*

“We’re very fortunate to have with us today a veteran of DC politics, a former Majority Leader in the House of Representatives, the former Secretary of Health and Human Services, and a former candidate for Senate from the Eastern state, AV200, welcome Mr. Secretary.”

“Thank you so much for having me Jason.”

“Certainly. Now correct me if I’m wrong, but your entire political career, thus far, has been holding office in DC, correct?”

“Well Jason, my entire career as a politician has been based in DC yes, but I’ve worked on, and for, political campaigns in Chesapeake for a long time leading up to taking office in the House.”

“Certainly, so you’ve decided to now run for a seat on the Eastern Assembly, why is that? Surely someone with your resume doesn’t need to return to a state assembly, right? Doesn’t that appear to be a step backwards?”

“Well no Jason I don’t think so and here’s why. I’m not running for office for any form of personal glory or as a vanity tour. I’m actually interested in making the state of Chesapeake work for working families. The current makeup of the state government is dominated by conservatives. The BMP might be more moderate than their GOP counterparts but a pet alligator is still an alligator, it’s just a little better behaved most of the time. Currently there is no voice for left-of-center ideas in the state government. The Democratic party has entirely abandoned the state in favor of maintaining their political alliance with the BMP.”

“I think a party abandoning its supporters in a state is wrong which is why I’m no longer affiliated with the Democratic party. I won over 82 million votes in Chesapeake when I ran for Senate, I lost by less than 2 percentage points. The President won Chesapeake. Chesapeake isn’t a conservative state, just like Dixie isn’t a conservative state when candidates are willing to put in the work, and parties are willing to support their candidates. I want to represent the interests of Chesapeakeans who’ve been abandoned by the Democratic party and been told they have to support the BMP. Look I voted for Senator King in the last election, and I have great respect for some members of the BMP, but they don’t represent my values and I think the millions of Chesapeakeans who voted for me in January should get to vote for a candidate that actually represents their values in the state assembly.”

“And what are those values Mr. Secretary?”

“For starters actually getting to work on issues that matter to the average people in Eastern. The GOP and BMP have introduced one foolhardy proposal after another, from declaring pornography a public health crisis, to issuing a non binding condemnation of the Governor from another state. I’ll tell you what’s an actual health crisis, opioids destroying rural communities and tearing families apart. I’ll tell you what’ll actually protect police officers in Eastern, implementing common sense gun control that keeps guns out of the hands of the bad guys. While the current members of the state assembly waste not only their time but the money of the taxpayers who put them there, I’m going to be advocating for actual solutions to the issues we’re facing here in Chesapeake.”

“I was elected Majority Leader my first term in Congress. I was nominated and confirmed to the President’s cabinet with the support of every Senator besides the GOP. I was the most active member of the President’s cabinet. I’ve enacted multiple policies which are benefiting average Americans right now. I want to bring my experience and willpower to the state capital and start the process of making Chesapeake work for the average citizen and not the ultra-rich.”

“You mentioned early you’ve ended your affiliation with the Democratic party, you’re running as an Independent candidate with the support of the Socialist party, is that right?”

“Yes Steve that is, and I’d just like to say, I have no ill will for my former colleagues in the Democratic party. I disagree on political strategy and nothing more. I have many good friends in the party and I have a lot of love for many of the people still in the Democratic party. Now that being said, I’m no longer a Democrat and I’m not running as one. I’m an Independent candidate with the backing of the Socialist party. I’m running on a platform of my own ideas and values.”

“Do you think the people of Eastern would really elect a socialist?”

“They elected the President, who let me tell you, is a small ‘s’ socialist. 82 million people voted for a small ‘s’ socialist candidate for Senate. Labels aren’t as important as good policy and the current members of the assembly are by no means enacting good policy.”

“I think that’s all we have time for today Mr. Secretary, thank you.”

“Thank you so much for having me Jason.”

*The candidate hangs up the phone as his staff make arraignments for his next event.*