

Media Contact: Samiha Hassan

(305) 766-5920, Samiha@MiketerMaat2022.com, www.MiketerMaat2022.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mike ter Maat for Congress

A Fresh Approach for Florida's District 20

Pro-Reform Police Officer and Libertarian Economist Enters Congressional Race

Hollywood resident throws hat into ring as alternative to Democratic and Republican candidates

Hollywood, Florida – [Mike ter Maat](#), a South Florida police officer and former university economics professor, publicly announced on Monday his candidacy for Florida's 20th Congressional District seat as a Libertarian who offers a fresh new approach to improve the lives of district residents. A long-term member of the Libertarian Party, ter Maat wants to change the government's approach toward the lives of low- and moderate-income District 20 residents through Libertarian policies that focus on police and justice reform, economics, school choice and COVID mandates.

While Democrats blame the wealthy and Republicans blame the poor themselves for the problems facing District 20 residents, ter Maat believes heavy-handed criminal justice, work disincentives, and other policies that undermine families are the driving factors that must be actively addressed for the health of District 20.

"Continuing the government's 50-year so-called 'War on Poverty' is doing the same thing over and over again while expecting different results," ter Maat said. "The government's misguided approach to justice, economics and COVID ironically makes our lives worse, not better."

Police & Justice Reform – ter Maat believes that issues like drug addiction and community violence in District 20 are not addressed properly due to the heavy hand of government, which has driven a wedge between communities and police. He also believes that politicians who chant 'defund the police' disqualify themselves from the serious discussion of police and justice reform that communities deserve. He advocates for:

- Negotiating for market-oriented police contracts with greater accountability, transparency, flexibility, incentives and citizen involvement,
- Ending municipalities hiding behind the doctrine of qualified immunity,
- Ending criminalization of the victimless behaviors of consenting adults, and
- Ending prison sentencing that is five times longer than outside the U.S.

School Choice – A former economics professor, ter Maat advocates for deep systemic reforms regarding public education. Without school choice, ter Maat believes high dropout rates and poor career preparation will continue to drive intergenerational poverty. “Poverty is not natural, it is a political construct, the result of bad policy.”

COVID – While ter Maat encourages everyone to follow the science, he believes that a government that tells citizens what they must wear or where they cannot go is unconstitutional. He is steadfastly opposed to government restrictions, including a government vaccine passport. “I’m glad to have been vaccinated personally, but the Bill of Rights has not been suspended just because we are in the midst of a pandemic,” ter Maat said.

Florida’s 20th Congressional District

This highly diverse constituency is 53% Black, 24% Hispanic, 16% non-Hispanic white, 3% Asian; 99% urban, 1% rural; and had a 2019 median household income of \$49,200 compared to the national median of \$68,700. The 2017 Cook Political Report ranks this the 23rd most Democratic out of 435 districts nationally, with recent presidential votes 31 percentage points more Democratic than the national average.

Mike ter Maat

Mike ter Maat (terMOTT, with a small ‘t’) has been a police officer in South Florida for eleven years. Previously, he worked as an economist with banks, the White House Office of Management and Budget, international development agencies, federal agencies, and trade associations. In 2002, he founded Foreword Financial, a professional training business for bank executives which he ran until 2009. He has taught economics at Nova University, Barry University and George Washington University and has substituted at dozens of South Florida public schools. He has a B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering and an M.B.A. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Economics from George Washington University. www.MiketerMaat2022.com

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