Rob Tompkins

For Congress '26, then President '28 - Democrat

Richmond, VA | chtompki@apache.org | linkedin.com/in/chtompki | (804) 241-3104

Candidate Statement

A son of the american revolution - Technologist, caregiver, and athlete with 15 years of leadership in democratic software governance, federal innovation, and entrepreneurial ventures. A survivor of the Virginia Tech shooting, lifelong advocate for healthcare access, and caregiver to a quadriplegic parent on Medicaid, I bring both lived experience and proven leadership to Congress. My mission: to build a safer, fairer, and more resilient America where families, communities, and innovation thrive.

Political & Community Leadership

Member & Vice President, Jakarta EE Relations, Apache Software Foundation - Led global governance for thousands of contributors, building consensus across diverse stakeholders.

Caregiver & Advocate - Power of attorney for a quadriplegic parent since 2009, navigating Medicaid and disability services firsthand.

Gun Violence Survivor - Lived through the 2007 Virginia Tech school shooting, later mentoring students on resilience and community healing.

Gun Violence Survivor - Lived through the 2007 Virginia Tech school shooting, later mentoring students on resilience and community healing.

U.S. Freestyle Kayaking Team - *(2000, 2001, 2007)* Represented the United States overseas in Freestyle Kayaking

Professional Experience

Principal Engineer — Naborforce

- Led systems connecting families with eldercare support, combining innovation and compassion in technology.

Staff Consultant — Vertical Relevance

- Architected secure ISO 20022 real-time payment systems for FIS, strengthening financial infrastructure.

Senior Systems Engineer — NASA Fornax Project

- Built scalable astrophysics data platforms on AWS, supporting national research and innovation.

Capital One — Engineering Leadership Roles

- Top open-source strategy leader, software supply chain security engineer, and cloud modernization at enterprise scale.

EDUCATION

University of South Carolina - *M.S. Mathematics*

Columbia, SC | 2009

Virginia Tech - *B.S. Mathematics & B.S. Engineering Science and Mechanics*

Blacksburg, VA | 2007

Honours and Achievements

- U.S. Canoe/Kayak Team athlete
- Climbed El Capitan in Yosemite in 2005
- Virginia's Blue Ridge Enduro MTB Series Winner 2021

Selected Talks

- ApacheCon 2020, Apache RoadShow 2019, "From No Open Source Experience to PMC of Commons and Apache Member," https://www.robtompkins.com/apachecon-2020-from-no-oss-experience-to-pmc-and-member
- All Things Open 2019, Insecurities and Vulnerabilities, https://www.robtompkins.com/ato2019-insecurities-and-vulnerabilities
- ApacheCon 2017, "Introducing Commons Text," https://www.robtompkins.com/apachecon2017-text-presentation

Publications

- Drost-Fromm and R. Tompkins, *"Open Source Community Governance the Apache Way,"* in IEEE Computer, vol. 54 no. 4, pp. 70-75, April 2021, doi: https://www.computer.org/csdl/magazine/co/2021/04/09399942/1sF3Go1prSU
- C. R. Tompkins, *The morphism with unstackable image words*, preprint https://arxiv.org/abs/1006.1273
- C. R. Tompkins, *Latin square Thue-Morse sequences are overlap-free,* Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science, 9, 2009, 239-246