

**NAME: Ethan Pham**  
**PARTY: Democratic**  
**SEEKING: Congress, District 7**



**Why are you seeking your office?**

This country took my family in, helped us get on our feet, and gave us so many opportunities. The safety net helped us get started, public education taught us English and prepared us for college, and the love and compassion of so many helped us climb the American ladder. I'm running to make sure the opportunities that were available to us remain available for all Americans. This includes making sure everyone can see a doctor when they get sick without going broke, that our children are safe from gun violence, and that we stand up for our democracy.

**What do you expect to accomplish if elected?**

I expect to be in the first group of representatives to pass meaningful gun control measures in decades, including banning assault rifles and implementing universal background checks, as well as strengthening our Justice Department so that we can make sure the police are held accountable when they fail us.

I expect to pass a public option so that Americans can buy into Medicare and make sure that they have affordable healthcare. And I expect to pass the Dream Act so that those who came here as children can live without fear of deportation to a land they don't know.

**What distinguishes your candidacy?**

I am uniquely positioned to understand and represent the needs of this District's amazing diversity. As the only immigrant in the race, I understand the struggles of coming to this country with nothing. As someone whose family was able to work its way off the safety net, I understand the struggles of a family where both parents work two jobs each. As someone who now owns a small business, I understand the challenges facing entrepreneurs trying to thrive here. As an attorney who has worked in the private and public sector, I understand both sides of the equation.

**How can we improve school safety?**

Fund schools. Pay teachers more and hire more teachers, so that we can reduce class sizes, thus allowing teachers to know their students better and help identify problem areas quicker. Increase funding for school counselors and mental health professionals in schools.

But more than anything, we need to get rid of weapons of mass death like AR-15s

and do all we can to keep guns out of the hands of killers.

**Pick one issue. Expand on how you will address it.**

While school shootings are beyond tragic, the majority of those killed by guns are victims of domestic violence, and domestic violence is the number one predictor of future harm. We need a federal system where family members who are gravely concerned about the mental health of a loved one can petition a court to have a restraining order put in place to temporarily take away deadly firearms. We should trust our judges and courts to be able to make these determinations. Doing so would save tens of thousands of lives.

**Please give a 100 word summary on your background**

I was born in South Vietnam. My father and grandfathers fought for the South Vietnamese military alongside U.S. forces. After the war, communists threw my dad in a “re-education camp” – really a torture/labor camp. When he got out, my folks took us to America. We had nothing. The safety net got us on our feet, and public schools taught me and my siblings English. Now my sister is a nurse and my brother a Captain in the Air Force. My brilliant and talented wife, Jenny, and I run a law firm in Norcross with six employees.