



APARNA MULCHANDANI (Ramsey, NJ)

Business Owner | Active Volunteer | Community Activist
Candidate for Ramsey Borough Council
www.VoteForRamsey.com
www.facebook.com/sahlermulchandaniforramsey

- BA (Visual Communications Design): Purdue University
- BFA (Design): University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Board Member: Mahwah Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Board Member (2012-15): Ramsey Chamber of Commerce
- Board Member (2006-08): Rockland Business Womens Network
- Board Member (2004-06): NJ Association of Women Business Owners
- Provided pro-bono services for multiple area non-profits for 17 years
- Married for 22 years with 2 teen aged children

I believe that:

- **Elected officials should have open, honest and ongoing relationship with our community and should be held at a higher ethical standard and treat residents and business owners fairly.**
- **There needs to be full and complete transparency in governance.**
- **Informing and engaging residents regularly through the use of technology, social media, and televising council meetings builds a better community.**
- **We must obtain community input on all large-scale projects, control costs and spending, provide due diligence and ensure checks and balances are in place.**

I grew up in India and arrived in the US in 1990 as a 19 year old college student. My student visa became a Green Card after a few years. I never applied for citizenship, even though I was eligible, because it would mean giving up my Indian citizenship. My grandfather was true a Gandhian and this would have broken his heart. As Indian-Americans we do not have the option of dual citizenship.

After the death of my grandfather in 2000, I continued to struggle with the decision of giving up my birth country for my adopted country. Giving up my allegiance to the place where I was born, where my entire family lived, that had made me who I am, was not something I took lightly and I struggled with the decision up until 2008 when I finally applied for US citizenship. I knew I wanted Barack Obama to be my president. I knew I had to vote. I was sworn in as a US citizen in August 2008 and voted in November 2008 for the first time at the age of 39. I took both my kids into the booth and tearfully, filled with pride and humility, I cast my ballot. "Every vote matters" I told my boys.

Fast forward to 2016. I found myself devastated that HRC had lost and was unhappy with the message DT was sending to our kids. As a proud American, I was ashamed at what was going on around me. I decided to make another life altering decision and become a candidate for Ramsey Borough Council, a quintessential suburb of approximately 12,000 residents in Northern New Jersey. It is a town with a full Republican government since 2002. A Republican Council with a bully mentality. A Republican Council that feels that they are entitled to be in power. A Republican council that thinks the voices of the residents don't matter. I have never run for office – but I asked myself "if not me, then who. And if not now, then when"?

Win or lose, this year a path will be carved in our town for future Democrats, for progressive women, for people of color... for diversity in every sense of the term.