

NOVEMBER 2019 ELECTIONS – HENRICO COUNTY
League of Women Voters of the Richmond Metropolitan Area, Inc.
P.O. Box 25492
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The information in this Voter Guide was obtained by the League of Women Voters using www.Vote411.org.

The League of Women Voters of the Richmond Metropolitan Area obtained this information. Questions were formulated. Candidates were contacted by email and phone and they submitted their answers electronically in their own words. No editing was done by the League.

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party. The League is nonpartisan. The League hopes this information is helpful to citizens as they prepare to vote on November 5, 2019.

Henrico County Commonwealth's Attorney

Duties - The Commonwealth's Attorney prosecutes violations of state law and local ordinances in circuit, district, and juvenile courts and provides legal advice to the local government.

Term - 4 years

Salary - \$149,980 minimum from Virginia Compensation Board and not including any optional county supplement

Candidates (choose 1):

C. Owen Inge Conway

Party: Rep

No response

Shannon L. Taylor



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Address: P.O. Box 71685 Richmond, VA 23255

Campaign Phone: (804) 895-4730

Web Site: <http://shannontaylorVA.com>

Email: connor@shannontaylorVA.com

Twitter page: twitter.com/shannontaylorVA

Facebook page: facebook.com/shannontaylorVA

Questions:

Q: *What is the greatest challenge facing the Commonwealth's Attorney's office and how will you address it?*

A: • My number one responsibility is to keep the community safe. I am pleased that, under my leadership, crime rates have dropped. However, I want to do that in a way that is productive, constructive and compassionate. For those that commit violent crimes, the response should be incarceration. For those who are committing crimes due to untreated underlying mental and behavioral health concerns, we need to search and utilize alternatives to incarceration. We want to look at the root causes of crimes

Q: *What is your position on the use of diversion, alternative sentencing, and restorative justice?*

A: • I support all of those and they are policies in my office.

Q: *What will be your priorities during your term?*

A: • To continue and enhance the criminal justice reform policies I have initiated. And to make certain that the community is safe. I want to continue to build on the diversity in my office to make sure it reflects the diversity of Henrico.

Henrico County Board of Supervisors

Duties - The five-member Henrico Board of Supervisors is the policy-making body of the county. It passes ordinances and approves the annual budget. Members are elected from the five magisterial districts and they choose a chair and vice chair each year. The Board of Supervisors appoints a County Administrator, who directs the county's day-to-day operations.

Term - 4 years

Salary - \$55,819 (Vice Chair \$61,401; Chair \$64,191)

**Henrico County Board of Supervisors Varina District
Candidates (choose 1):**

Tyrone E. Nelson

Party: Dem

No response

Angela L. Rowe



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: PO Box 1873 Richmond, VA 23218

Campaign Phone: (804) 921-7977

Web Site: <http://angelarowe4varina.com>

Email: angelarowe4varina@gmail.com

Age: 6/27/1962

Facebook page: Elect Angela Rowe

Questions:

Q: *What are your priorities for managing residential and commercial growth in the county?*

A: I will advocate for a Smart Growth strategy for the Varina District, one that preserves its beauty, green space and options for rural living and farming. I will also advocate for the adoption of a “Smart City” approach to county strategic planning and oversight, one that focuses on improving the quality of life for citizens at its core, to drive enhancements to governance processes, public participation, use of technology and objective data-driven decision-making to provide sustainable services.

Q: *What, if anything, should be done to improve infrastructure for pedestrian safety along bus routes in Henrico?*

A: I have highlighted the need for infrastructure improvements generally, regarding the quality and safety of county roads, as well as pedestrian safety along bus routes. I plan to advocate for more aggressive funding allocation to these improvements, including curbs and gutters in the more rural areas of the Varina District, sidewalks, seating and covered bus transportation kiosks and safer access for disabled citizens.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginia voters believe that people should be able to afford to live in the community where they work. What programs or policies would you support to promote workforce housing in your district?*

A: I will advocate and support quality affordable housing projects and initiatives for families at all income levels in the Varina District that provide safe access to public transportation services. I will also advocate for expanding public bus transportation services, both in terms of access locations and hours of service.

Q: *What do you think are the most important issues for the county and what will you do to address them?*

A: With the prospect of a downturn in the US economy more likely than not over the next several years, important issues for the Varina District and the county include infrastructure, job, food and housing insecurity. Human/Social Services needs that support all families, including the expansion of mental, behavioral and physical wellness initiatives, will also be my priorities for funding allocation, as well as to support continued progress in student performance at all schools in my district.

Henrico County Board of Supervisors Three Chopt District

Candidates (choose 1):

Thomas M. "Tommy" Branin

Party: Rep

No response

Henrico County Board of Supervisors Fairfield Disitric

Candidates (choose 1):

Delta R. Bowers



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 101 Chickahominy Bluffs Rd. Henrico, VA 23227

Campaign Phone: (804) 266-1492

Email: drbassoc@aol.com

Age: 9/19/1961

Facebook page: Friends of Delta

Questions:

Q: *What are your priorities for managing residential and commercial growth in the county?*

A: Priorities for managing residential and commercial growth in the Fairfield District are to invite housing developers and industry into the Fairfield District to build quality homes at comparable prices relative to other districts in the County. In reference to commercial development, I intend to work with the County Manager, other Board of Supervisors, the community, and the commercial developers to bring industry into the Fairfield District. Jobs are needed to combat the 15% poverty level.

Q: *What, if anything, should be done to improve infrastructure for pedestrian safety along bus routes in Henrico?*

A: The County should install bus shelters and crosswalks. I have been requesting of VDOT on major roads like Brook Road and Chamberlayne Road in the Fairfield District for quite some time.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginia voters believe that people should be able to afford to live in the community where they work. What programs or policies would you support to promote workforce housing in your district?*

A: I would create working relationships with organizations and provide incentives for organizations to move into the Fairfield District. The Fairfield District has the highest poverty and unemployment rates of all of the districts in Henrico County. We need to bring organizations into the District who will provide jobs for the Fairfield District residents. The Fairfield District has enough affordable housing and subsidized housing complexes. I would like to see subsidized tenants become homeowners.

Q: *What do you think are the most important issues for the county and what will you do to address them?*

A: I believe that the County appears to be segregated relative to its economic, education and Infrastructure status. It is my intent to ensure that the Fairfield District achieves economic, education and Infrastructure parity. I will work with the School Board, Board of Supervisors, the County Manager and industry to ensure that Henrico County becomes "One Henrcio County" in which not only the Fairfield District residents achieve parity, but all residents.

Frank J. Thornton

Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

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Campaign Phone: (804) 264-5363

Web Site: <http://www.frankthornton.com>

Email: thornpar2@gmail.com

Age: 3/27/1941

Questions:

Q: *What are your priorities for managing residential and commercial growth in the county?*

A: Henrico County has been rather successful in managing residential and commercial growth by using the 30-70 % approach in the past, 70 % residential and 30% commercial. To me, I believe that this process will continue to be fruitful in the county.

Q: *What, if anything, should be done to improve infrastructure for pedestrian safety along bus routes in Henrico?*

A: It is my opinion that county leaders and planners should provide for more sidewalks (as we are doing) and walking areas/trails along bus routes when possible. Residents of localities of the future will have an expectation that there must be more safe pedestrian areas.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginia voters believe that people should be able to afford to live in the community where they work. What programs or policies would you support to promote workforce housing in your district?*

A: I support this research because future residents will have an expectation that their communities are in close proximity to where they live and work. I would fervently support basic and safe programs and policies to promote workforce housing in my district.

Q: *What do you think are the most important issues for the county and what will you do to address them?*

A: I believe affordable housing, continued improvement in public transportation, further enhancements in infrastructure, and economic justice are a few of the pertinent issues for the county. I will continue to be a positive voice to ameliorate many of these issues. Also, I will seek the input and creative ideas of the citizens of the Fairfield District as well as citizens in general.

**Henrico County Board of Supervisors Brookland District
Candidates (choose 1):**

J. Steven Burkarth

Party: Dem

No response

Dan J. Schmitt



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Address: 10286 Staples Mill Rd. Henrico, VA 23060

Campaign Phone: (804) 840-5567

Web Site: <http://www.brooklandsupervisor.com/>

Email: dan@brooklandsupervisor.com

Age: 2/5/1974

Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/SchmittVA>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/VoteDanSchmitt/>

Questions:

Q: *What are your priorities for managing residential and commercial growth in the county?*

A: Libbie Mill is a terrific example creating beautiful living communities w/ residential, commercial & recreation all seamlessly intertwined. To promote solid commercial growth, I approved an increase in the BPOL (Business & Professional Lic.) exemption to \$400k whereby 14k businesses now benefit, thus

making Henrico a terrific place to build a business. Business growth creates jobs and benefits our residents by keeping our tax rate low & our services high - a formula I work every day to maintain.

Q: *What, if anything, should be done to improve infrastructure for pedestrian safety along bus routes in Henrico?*

A: Safety for our residents is always a top priority. I approved the continuation of \$2.5 million in sidewalks, multi-use paths & pedestrian crossings & together with my colleagues on the Board, worked to ensure funding for 20 miles of sidewalks and/or multi-use paths over the next 3 years. I am a dependable ear & even stronger voice for safety initiatives and will always be a tireless advocate for residents who choose to bike, run, or walk as they enjoy the outdoors in our beautiful county.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginia voters believe that people should be able to afford to live in the community where they work. What programs or policies would you support to promote workforce housing in your district?*

A: I worked directly to hold firm on Henrico's low real estate tax rate, the first step in maintaining land value to our residents. I approved a budget that increased services for residents, while maintaining one of the lowest real estate tax rates in the region. To assist with affordability, I supported the REAP program (Real Estate Tax Advantage Program) & approved \$300k in additional funding to support an increase in the maximum income to qualify to \$75k & the maximum net worth up to \$400k.

Q: *What do you think are the most important issues for the county and what will you do to address them?*

A: We must provide a quality & well funded education for our children. I approved plans for 2 new high schools, a new elementary school & the largest increase in education funding in 13 years. I approved a 3% pay raise for teachers & allocated \$3.8m to address salary compression for veteran teachers. I funded additional positions to reduce class sizes & allow for more teacher planning time & funded plans that will reduce Brookland's use of mobile trailers by 68% and I'm not stopping there!

Henrico County Board of Supervisors Tuckahoe District

Candidates (choose 1):

Marques D. Jones



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Address: PO Box 42382 Henrico, VA 23238

Campaign Phone: (804) 912-5363

Web Site: <http://www.marquesjones.com/>

Email: marques@marquesjones.com

Age: 6/29/1981

Twitter page: @MarquesDJones

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MarquesforSupervisor/>

Questions:

Q: *What are your priorities for managing residential and commercial growth in the county?*

A: We need representatives at the local level that really understand the needs of our community. A proposed housing development may create a need for more roads, or a school, or a grocery store. When I'm on the board I will work tirelessly WITH developers to make sure those needs are met before I give my support. Through this relationship I will ensure they include sidewalks, a mix of housing, retail and office space, and more compact development adjacent to transit stops in these areas.

Q: *What, if anything, should be done to improve infrastructure for pedestrian safety along bus routes in Henrico?*

A: I have witnessed and personally experienced the difficulties with safe access to public transportation. As Supervisor I will work to increase county investment in sidewalks and bike lanes. I will also work to have covered bus stops with benches installed, as the current practice of having a poll in the middle of the grass is unacceptable. The current infrastructure makes it difficult for people to utilize public transit and that needs to be corrected.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginia voters believe that people should be able to afford to live in the community where they work. What programs or policies would you support to promote workforce housing in your district?*

A: This is a very personal question for me. As a small business owner who has a majority of my employees working in one end of the county but forced to live elsewhere due to housing costs, I see the impact on the community every day. As Supervisor I will work to promote the re-purposing of vacant land and underutilized space. I would also be open to examining current zoning practices throughout the county.

Q: *What do you think are the most important issues for the county and what will you do to address them?*

A: Education is one of the most important issues. I have pledged to raise teacher pay by 20% before the end of my first term. Having worked in corporate settings I know finding waste in the budget that can be redirected to address this issue will not be a problem. Districting and zoning policies also have an immediate impact on what schooling options are available. We need universal pre-k; this shouldn't be a function of which neighborhood a kid's parents live in. And as I said above, smart growth.

Patricia S. "Pat" O'Bannon



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Address: 8111 Rose Hill Rd. Henrico, VA 23229-8301

Campaign Phone: (804) 285-4728

Web Site: <http://www.votepatobannon.com/>

Email: pob@patobannon.com

Age: 5/3/1950

Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/PatOBannon2>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/VotePatOBannon/>

Questions:

Q: *What are your priorities for managing residential and commercial growth in the county?*

A: Growth & development are a partnership among property owners, businesses & land developers; the supervisor's job is to coordinate. In Tuckahoe, most land is already developed, infill & re-development are the issues. Henrico uses the Enterprise Zone designation, an area identified for incentives to stimulate business development and job growth. We also have the UMU zoning classification which allows greater density with a mix of business and residential zoning.

Q: *What, if anything, should be done to improve infrastructure for pedestrian safety along bus routes in Henrico?*

A: The concept of Complete Streets facilitates safe access for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists & transit riders of all ages & abilities. They make it easier to walk to retail areas & travel to work. I will continue to build on the countywide progress we've already made for sidewalk construction. Miles of sidewalks are added each year with annually earmarked money, at no additional cost to taxpayers. In Tuckahoe, I have added more than 5,000 feet of sidewalks in past the 4 years.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginia voters believe that people should be able to afford to live in the community where they work. What programs or policies would you support to promote workforce housing in your district?*

A: The Board established the HHAC to help address this. They will advise the Board on housing issues, strategies, goals, & policies that will improve our housing stock, affordability & neighborhoods. Each member of the committee has experience: homebuilders, developers, lenders, realtors, non-profit and private sector professionals. We are assisting the Maggie Walker Community Land Trust with their work on making housing more affordable.

Q: *What do you think are the most important issues for the county and what will you do to address them?*

A: We must keep Henrico on sound financial footing, maintaining the county's Triple-AAA Bond Rating, because a top financial rating reflects our measured fiscal actions. Any long-term borrowing will have payment terms at the lowest interest rate possible. This leads us to achieve another important goal, great county services for the lowest possible cost. By keeping taxes low, especially real estate taxes, residents' house or rent payments can remain steady, & they can afford to live in Hen

Henrico County School Board

Duties - The five-member School Board is the governing body for the Henrico County public school system, subject to budgetary approval by the Board of Supervisors. Members are elected from the five magisterial districts in nonpartisan elections. The Board hires the Superintendent, who is responsible for managing the system.

Term - 4 years

Salary - \$21,359 (Board Chair \$23,359)

Henrico County School Board Brookland District

Candidates (choose 1):

Kristi Briggs Kinsella



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 10307 West Broad Street #265 Glen Allen, VA 23060

Campaign Phone: (804) 404-2314

Web Site: <http://www.votekinsella.com>

Email: kristi@votekinsella.com

Age: 2/28/1970

Twitter page: @votekinsella

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/votekinsella/>

Questions:

Q: *What is the most important issue facing schools in the county and what will you do to address it?*

A: The most important issue in Henrico Schools is equity. I support proactive planning and budgeting that eliminates overcrowded classrooms and schools; recruiting, retaining and rewarding the brightest teachers and staff by empowering them with relevant curriculum and professional development, competitive compensation, increased support and reduced student testing; and equitable allocation of educational resources. All children deserve a first-rate education.

Q: *How can schools best give students the research tools necessary to understand issues and verify their sources?*

A: Henrico Schools can best give students the research tools necessary to understand issues and verify their sources by teaching them how to use school and county libraries and responsible internet skills from grades K-12. Students need to understand facts and have opportunities to apply that knowledge when finding solutions. Students also need to be taught how to avoid plagiarism and the written and verbal communication skills needed to accompany their research.

Q: *What education services do you support for students who are at risk of failing?*

A: I support quality Early Childhood Development and Response to Intervention (RTI) initiatives. By investing in Pre-K Programs for economically disadvantaged children earlier, they are provided social, developmental and cognitive skills that have proven more effective than trying to close the gap later. For elementary children through secondary, RTI provides remediation, collects data and tracks students on tiered levels based on the support necessary for success.

Q: *Would you support a high school curriculum that focuses on the civic responsibility of voting?*

A: Yes, I support a high school curriculum that focuses on the civic responsibility of voting.

Q: *What are the best methods of evaluating and supporting teachers?*

A: The best methods of evaluating and supporting our teachers include formal and informal observations conducted by a qualified administrator. An authentic evaluation process should include pre and post conference expectations. Teachers' strengths and weaknesses should be supported with personal growth plans that include relevant professional development and mentoring opportunities. A growth-minded evaluation process is an asset when recruiting and retaining the best educators.

Jackson Carter Knox



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: Brookland

Campaign Phone: (804) 401-2338

Web Site: <http://knoxforschoolboard.com>

Email: jackson.c.knox@gmail.com

Age: 4/22/1990

Facebook page: facebook.com/knoxforschoolboard

Questions:

Q: *What is the most important issue facing schools in the county and what will you do to address it?*

A: The most important issue facing schools in Henrico is overcrowding. We cannot expect our students to excel in a global workplace if they competing for floor space with their peers. We need to strive for optimal learning environments that encourage student collaboration, leverage the latest technologies and support our overburdened teachers.

Q: *How can schools best give students the research tools necessary to understand issues and verify their sources?*

A: We can expand our involvement with our wonderful Henrico Public Libraries which is exactly what I am doing now as the Brookland representative on the Library Advisory Board, for both Glen Allen and Libbie Mill libraries. As your next representative, I will further work to connect our students with the advanced resources offered by our superb libraries.

Q: *What education services do you support for students who are at risk of failing?*

A: During my time on the Library Advisory Board, I was inspired to create an on-call mentoring program that would serve all students in every grade level in each one of our libraries. It's no secret that students that are at-risk lack strong mentors to help them succeed and achieve goals they would not think possible. When elected, I will further champion this program and see it through. Furthermore, I pledge to work with our PTAs to grow membership and support our students.

Q: *Would you support a high school curriculum that focuses on the civic responsibility of voting?*

A: Yes.

Q: *What are the best methods of evaluating and supporting teachers?*

A: As the son of an educator, I believe that the most effective methods in evaluating and supporting teachers includes student feedback, self evaluation, peer observation, and regular meetings with members of the Teacher Advisory Council. I vow to be an ally to our teachers and fight for the compensation and the benefits they deserve.

Henrico County School Board Fairfield District

Candidates (choose 1):

Roscoe D. Cooper III

Party: I

No response

Keith W. Hicks



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 224 Ashbury Hills Drive

Campaign Phone: (804) 869-3032

Email: KeithHicks4schoolboard@gmail.com

Age: 1/3/1967

Twitter page: KeithHicks@KeithHicksKeit1

Facebook page: Keith Hicks

Questions:

Q: *What is the most important issue facing schools in the county and what will you do to address it?*

A: In the Fairfield District the most important issue is the continuation of the same schools not establishing the minimum expectations for what students should know and be able to do at the end of each grade or course in English, mathematics, science, history/social science and other subjects. This has been and on-going issue for several years. I would introduce math, reading and science coaches along with mentors in the schools that fail to meet the states minimum educational requirements.

Q: *How can schools best give students the research tools necessary to understand issues and verify their sources?*

A: Continue to provide middle and high school students with Laptops to take home and also provide hotspots for students that do not have Wi-Fi at home. Each school can create a share drive site for students to save their information and it can be reviewed by the staff to verify their sources.

Q: *What education services do you support for students who are at risk of failing?*

A: Get parents involved as soon as possible, offer after school mentors and tutors, and offer the child an opportunity to reflect on their needs and structure an educational plan for them to follow. Work with principles and teaching staff on creating interactive mini-lessons and simulations about specific topics such and math and reading.

Q: *Would you support a high school curriculum that focuses on the civic responsibility of voting?*

A: I would support a civic responsibility for voting in high school as part of their curriculum. I think it is imperative to encourage our students to get involved in the rights and duties of citizenship. It is also equally important to educate our students on the roles of local government and what effects they have on their day to day lives.

Q: *What are the best methods of evaluating and supporting teachers?*

A: The best way to evaluate a teacher is to provide a coach to work with the teacher that will provide feedback and instruction when needed. Have the coach observe the teacher over time and include the principle with feedback after several weeks observation. The best way to support a teacher is to ensure that they have all the necessary resources that they need to be successful and ensure that they have adequate professional development and planning time .

Henrico County School Board Three Chopt District

Candidates (choose 1):

Michelle F. "Micky" Ogburn



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Email: mfogburn1@henrico.k12.va.us

Age: 9/21/1957

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Micky4SchoolBoard/>

Questions:

Q: *What is the most important issue facing schools in the county and what will you do to address it?*

A: The national teacher shortage is affecting students and schools every day. We are endeavoring to attract new teachers from all over the country. I have approved funding for frequent job fairs and mentors for our new teachers. New teachers need support and training to adjust to the school environment and the requirements of the job. I have approved increased funding for professional development and teacher pay raises that help our trained teachers stay in Henrico.

Q: *How can schools best give students the research tools necessary to understand issues and verify their sources?*

A: Providing current research materials and access to current technology is important to providing students with access to information. We have funded technology tools in our schools for many years. But, students need to be taught to use those tools responsibly. They then can use the skills to research an issue, evaluate slanted material and to find information from multiple sources. Often time internet sources need to be evaluated for accuracy and multiple sources aide in doing just that.

Q: *What education services do you support for students who are at risk of failing?*

A: HCPS provides intervention teachers to support students who are below grade level. As a former Intervention teacher, I see the great value in determining the causes of student failure and working with other teachers to create a plan for student success. I support guidance counselors and funding for increasing our counseling staff.

Q: *Would you support a high school curriculum that focuses on the civic responsibility of voting?*

A: Simply put, yes. I support efforts to teach students civic responsibility, the importance of the freedom that our country affords to its citizens and the importance of each and every vote. I do not advocate for teaching a slanted or particular voting agenda, but a presentation of the issues at hand with opportunities for discussion and learning. Students need to form their own opinions.

Q: *What are the best methods of evaluating and supporting teachers?*

A: I have advocated for a supportive and constructive evaluation process for teachers. Teachers should be observed multiple times while teaching in a variety of subject areas. The evaluations should include opportunities for peer evaluations, formal and informal evaluations, videos of the teacher at work, self-evaluation and improvement plans, if needed. New teachers need mentors to guide them as they adjust to the classroom setting.

Henrico County School Board Tuckahoe District

Candidates (choose 1):

Melissa M. Dart



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 2600 Gayton Grove Rd

Campaign Phone: (804) 467-2421

Web Site: <http://www.dartforvirginia.com/>

Email: melissa@dartforvirginia.com

Age: 5/17/1971

Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/MelissaMDart>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DartForSchoolBoard/>

Questions:

Q: *What is the most important issue facing schools in the county and what will you do to address it?*

A: Teacher shortages. Whereas just a few years ago, every teaching position was highly competitive because there were so many candidates, now there open spots all over the county. We are losing teachers to other professions because they are burnt out and to other counties as well. We must find innovative ways to attract and retain the best and the brightest or our schools and our students will suffer for it.

Q: *How can schools best give students the research tools necessary to understand issues and verify their sources?*

A: We are all navigating a climate where verifying the reliability of information is more crucial now than ever. Students need to be taught critical thinking from an early age. They need to look at a few things. What is the source? Can the information be verified in multiple places? What is the date of the citation? Students need to learn to evaluate the quality of the URLs and author credits. They are never too young to start learning these life skills.

Q: *What education services do you support for students who are at risk of failing?*

A: The key to successful intervention is identifying a student at risk of failing as early as possible. Students benefit from low-stakes assessments and regular feedback. Also, we need to look at the entire picture of a child's life and what might be happening outside of the classroom. Rather than focusing on deficits, we can focus on building upon and broadening their talents and strengths.

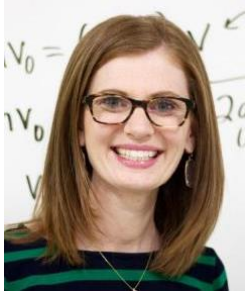
Q: *Would you support a high school curriculum that focuses on the civic responsibility of voting?*

A: If our public school system does not produce fully thriving adults who understand the importance of voting as one of many aspects of civic engagement, we have failed. We have a real opportunity to educate kids on why voting is so important. Their lives (more so now than ever) literally depend on it.

Q: *What are the best methods of evaluating and supporting teachers?*

A: We have to move away from making decisions about firing, promoting and paying teachers based upon student test scores. We need to develop teacher evaluation systems that include multiple measures of performance including student surveys and classroom observations by experienced peers. Test scores can be a piece of the evaluation but shouldn't be given undue weight.

Marcie F. Shea



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: PO Box 29911 Henrico, VA 23242

Web Site: <http://www.sheaforschools.com>

Email: sheaforschools@gmail.com

Age: 5/9/1985

Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/MarcieShea>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SheaForSchools>

Questions:

Q: *What is the most important issue facing schools in the county and what will you do to address it?*

A: Equity of access: Not all areas of the county have access to the same classroom resources and supports. We need to continue the work the Superintendent has started of drilling down allocation of resources. Not all areas of the county have access to appropriately sized classes. While the secondary average is 22, over 2000 classes last year were over 28 students. We must put a cap on class size to ensure all students in all parts of the county have access to appropriately sized classes.

Q: *How can schools best give students the research tools necessary to understand issues and verify their sources?*

A: In a society of retweets and sound bites, we have to teach our students to ask questions that go past surface content. To do that, we must ask them questions that go beyond regurgitation. In Henrico, every student grades 2-12 has a laptop. They have access to an infinite number of resources. When we ask deeper questions of our students that require them to synthesize those resources together, an inherently piece should be to require them to analyze the context and validity of their information.

Q: *What education services do you support for students who are at risk of failing?*

A: As I teacher, I know first hand that the best way to ensure success for all our students is to be proactive identifying/providing supports for our students before they are at risk of failing. Often remediation removes students from class and can cause them to fall further behind. Flex time during the school day provides opportunity for students to receive extra support without missing instruction (examples: RTI block in elementary, advisory block in middle, and common lunch in high schools)

Q: *Would you support a high school curriculum that focuses on the civic responsibility of voting?*

A: Programs of Project Citizen and We the People promote deep understanding of local law and the Constitution. I promote the expansion of these programs throughout Henrico County and with students at all levels. These initiatives require students to move past simple content knowledge and synthesize pieces together to identify problems, articulate defenses, and find solutions.

Q: *What are the best methods of evaluating and supporting teachers?*

A: Teacher evaluations need to be based on what is happening in the everyday classroom. This is achieved through genuine and regular observations, not through discrete checklists. To support teachers we must ensure they have appropriate class sizes, the resources they need, and daily unencumbered planning time. We must use a classroom lens to create policy that treats teachers like professionals and doesn't pile more "stuff" on their already overflowing plate.

Henrico County School Board Varina District

Candidates (choose 1):

Alicia S. Atkins



Party: I

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Questions:

Q: *What is the most important issue facing schools in the county and what will you do to address it?*

A: Our school board represents the public's voice in public education. Issues facing schools in Henrico County include student attendance, supporting teachers, stressors of the standards of learning testing, bullying, and successfully implementing the cornerstones of the Henrico County Strategic Plan. I will be our education watchdog, ensure we get the most for our tax dollars, be accessible to families, and continue to promote positive change.

Q: *How can schools best give students the research tools necessary to understand issues and verify their sources?*

A: Our schools should engage every single student in the kind of rigorous learning that prepares them for understanding issues, being a good citizen, college, work, and life. As the next School Board representative, I will assist with transforming the curriculum to meet the needs of our students and an innovative, global workforce.

Q: *What education services do you support for students who are at risk of failing?*

A: I support many services. This includes : (1) "Network of Care"-The key to effectively supporting at-risk students is to create opportunities for them to develop a trusting relationship with an adult. For example Boys and Girls Clubs, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and faith-based youth groups, (2) Professionals-psychologists, counselors, special educators, etc. (3) Parent-Teacher Association

Q: *Would you support a high school curriculum that focuses on the civic responsibility of voting?*

A: Volunteerism and civic engagement are driving forces for creating change and making a positive impact in Henrico County. I would support a high school curriculum that focuses on the civic responsibility of voting.

Q: *What are the best methods of evaluating and supporting teachers?*

A: Teachers face pressures in many ways. This includes limited resources inside the classroom and paying their bills outside of the classroom. I will continue to advocate for legislation that increases teacher wages, partner with the local and national companies to offer resources and promote family engagement in schools. Also, I will review teacher evaluation methods and partner with the school administration to make appropriate changes.

Joyce. L Davis



Party: I

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Age: 4/12/1957

Questions:

Q: *What is the most important issue facing schools in the county and what will you do to address it?*

A: HCPS have made great strides in formulating a strategic plan to decrease inequities/disparities in achievement. Far too many non-fully accredited schools still exist in the Varina and Fairfield districts. Far too many schools have low reading scores and low academic achievement in a county with a 90% rate of schools passing. I will advocate for allocations to create dedicated programs to improve student learning for these areas of low achievement to increase the literacy rate in K-12 grades

Q: *How can schools best give students the research tools necessary to understand issues and verify their sources?*

A: Use a learning model which would follow the steps and what is required of the research process. As a part of the education classes offered, librarians and media resource teachers could teach students methods of research, such as how to retrieve data, organize their findings, literature reviews and citation formats. Center lessons around a greater familiarization beyond Google search, with advanced google strategies, journals, meta-analysis studies and use of project based learning assignments.

Q: *What education services do you support for students who are at risk of failing?*

A: Dedicated programs and resources for diverse learning needs with educational services are needed, such as supplemental instruction with tutoring supports to enhance learning. Successful interventions to ensure counseling for students who face problems preventing them from doing well in school (emotional problems, absent parents or substance issues). Evaluation of students to determine if more students could benefit (be identified) for an individualized education plan and the available services.

Q: *Would you support a high school curriculum that focuses on the civic responsibility of voting?*

A: Yes, I would support a high school curriculum focusing on the civic responsibility of voting. I would support activities in civics education starting in earlier grades with mock election voting in elementary, middle and up to early grades of high school to promote voting and to teach and instill the civic duty of voting. This civics education and activities would promote voters when they reach the 18 and 19 age range, to change the notion that young voters tend to vote less than older voters.

Q: *What are the best methods of evaluating and supporting teachers?*

A: In today's school districts, teachers are sometimes evaluated on student scores on standardized test. Teacher effectiveness can not be discerned from standardized tests, alone, but must include other traditional best methods, such as class observations, student feedback, peer observation and self evaluation for progress, praise and constructive action plans. Methods tied to standards of learning outcomes are controversial and have not been the best measure of evaluating teachers.

Michelle Roots Henderson

Party: I

No response

Kandise N. Lucas



Party: I

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Questions:

Q: *What is the most important issue facing schools in the county and what will you do to address it?*

A: The most important issue that is currently facing our schools throughout the Varina community is the issue of emotional and physical safety; specifically pertaining to the systemic trauma that our students, educators, and families are exposed to daily. As the next Varina school board representative, I intend to implement a plan that allows for mental health support in all schools to provide counseling, assessments, and additional services for all stakeholders. We have the resources to do so.

Q: *How can schools best give students the research tools necessary to understand issues and verify their sources?*

A: Our schools have severely under utilized technology and the internet as an exceptional and easily accessible research tool that is presently familiar to our students. In order to ensure that our students are provided with access to the best research tools, we must also provide the required training to our educators, support staff, and parents regarding the vast technological resources; many of which are at no cost or low cost, and provide step by step skill development in source verification.

Q: *What education services do you support for students who are at risk of failing?*

A: From birth to third grade, our children learn to read, from third grade on, we are life long students that read to learn. One of the essential interventions that we must provide access to for our under performing students is evidence-based intensive reading supports. In addition, we must provide intentional and curriculum-based instruction regarding social skills and career technical education that cultivates a love of life long learning early on, in elementary school, to interrupt the risk.

Q: *Would you support a high school curriculum that focuses on the civic responsibility of voting?*

A: I actually would support a curriculum as early as elementary school that focuses on civic responsibility and voting. If we truly have the goal of producing civic-minded, critical thinking, fully engaged citizens that have the capacity, skill, and will to actively participate in our democracy, we must begin the process early enough to allow our students to acquire and practice "citizenship" and "civic responsibilities."

Voting is one step. Active engagement as a citizen must be the goal.

Q: *What are the best methods of evaluating and supporting teachers?*

A: As a veteran licensed educator and administrator, I understand the challenges and needs of our educators, as well as how to best support them. Our educators are PROFESSIONALS. We must treat them as such, providing them with the classroom, curriculum, and technological resources that they say that they need to be successful. In addition, we must compensate our educators as PROFESSIONALS, which involves fair pay, benefits, and evaluation based on authentic student growth, not on test scores.

Henrico County Sheriff

The Henrico County Sheriff's Department provides court security, serves legal documents, and holds concurrent law enforcement jurisdiction with the Henrico Division of Police. The department maintains two regional jails serving Henrico, Goochland, and New Kent counties.

Term - 4 years

Salary - \$141,787 minimum from Virginia Compensation Board and not including any increase for accreditation or an optional county supplement.

Candidates (choose 1):

Alisa A. Gregory

Party: Dem

No response

Bob M. Matson



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

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Age: 1/11/1971

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Questions:

Q: *What qualifications make you the best candidate for Sheriff?*

A: A Sheriff controls more than just the jail, and must manage large lodging, food service, maintenance, medical, personnel and security operations. As a former Army officer and Iraq veteran, I have executive leadership experience leading personnel with diverse skill sets in challenging environments. As a police Detective with 23 years' experience, including time as a State and Federal Task Force Officer, I have worked with every facet of the law enforcement and Public Safety system.

Q: *What is the greatest challenge facing the office and how will you address it?*

A: The personnel shortage and continuing exodus of trained, experienced Deputies creates an environment that is unsafe for the staff, for the inmates, and for the community as a whole. It is also extremely expensive for taxpayers in overtime spending. I will form a retention panel from across all

ranks to provide insight on why personnel are leaving and what can be done to address that. I will increase recruitment efforts for new personnel and focus on improving the moral of current deputies.

Q: *What measures do you support to prepare jail inmates for re-entry into the community and to reduce recidivism?*

A: For those with addictions I support comprehensive recovery efforts, including mental health, community corrections, medically assisted recovery, using community resources, and private-public partnerships. I support assisting inmates find employment and housing prior to release, ensuring they're released into a stable environment. This can include work release programs allowing inmates to earn money to pay off fines and back child support, so that they are released without those debt burdens.

Q: *What will be your priorities during your term?*

A: My first priority is increased recruitment and retention (which reduces overtime costs), as addressed above. My second priority is to take substance recovery efforts a step further than now and work with a variety of resources, including, but not limited to the current RISE and ORBIT programs. My third priority is fiscal responsibility. I never forget that tax money is actually money that someone worked hard to earn and pay in taxes, and I'll only spend what's necessary to keep Henrico safe.

J. T. "Tom" Wadkins III



Party: I

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Questions:

Q: *What qualifications make you the best candidate for Sheriff?*

A: I served ten years with the Richmond Sheriff's Office, rising to the level of Undersheriff and working with Sheriffs Winston, Mitchell and Woody overseeing the Finance and Computerization aspects of the Richmond Jail, one of the largest in Virginia. Developed a computer system for tracking all Inmate related issues. A Firearms Instructor who trained Deputies the to anticipate and deal with "real world" situations. A "hands-on" administrator involved in all aspects of running the Richmond Jail.

Q: *What is the greatest challenge facing the office and how will you address it?*

A: Work on solving the overcrowding by ensuring that as many of the "State Responsible" inmates as possible are removed from the Henrico Jails. This is the type of severe overcrowding I had to face while at the Richmond Jail and I reduced overcrowding by pushing the State to accept transfer of their inmates. Work on solving the high vacancy rate among the Henrico Deputies. A high number of vacant positions results in poor working conditions, increased stress and overtime pay.

Q: *What measures do you support to prepare jail inmates for re-entry into the community and to reduce recidivism?*

A: I plan to continue and build on the foundation of programs developed by the Sheriff of Henrico County over the past 20 years and make their results available to the public. I will make improvements to benefit the Citizens of Henrico, the employees of the Henrico County Sheriff's Office and the inmates entrusted to its care. Specifically, I want to examine the effectiveness of the ORBIT program and explore if Henrico Jails could benefit from the HARP program used by Chesterfield Jail since 2016.

Q: *What will be your priorities during your term?*

A: Work on solving the overcrowding by ensuring that as many of the "State Responsible" inmates as possible are removed from the Henrico Jails and returned to the State facilities. This number accounts for about 33% of the Henrico Jail population (June 2019 LIDS data). Work on solving the high vacancy rate among the Henrico Deputies. Review current areas of cost overruns to find constructive solutions to budget deficits affecting the taxpayers of Henrico County

Henrico County Soil and Water Conservation Director

Duties - Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) are subdivisions of state government responsible under state law for resource conservation. Activities include outreach, education, technical assistance, and conservation planning. The Henricopolis SWCD serves Henrico County. The District is Governed by a Board of Directors of local citizens who serve without pay. Three directors are elected. The Virginia Soil and Water Board appoints two additional directors. District staff provide technical assistance in cooperation with other government agencies.

Term - 4 years

Salary - None

Candidates (choose 3):

James E. Beckley



Party: I

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Age: 11/23/1976

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Questions:

Q: *What is the most important role of the Soil and Water Conservation District?*

A: Districts serve an important role that bridges education and voluntary participation to improve the environment specifically towards homeowners and farms. Districts were formed from the aftermath of the Dust Bowl to help farmers use smarter practices to reduce erosion and pollution. Unlike other

government agencies that rely on burdensome regulation, districts provide money to those who agree to install conservation practices and agree to keep those practices in place for 10 or more years.

Q: *What is the greatest challenge facing the District and how will you address it?*

A: Henrico County is becoming increasingly urbanized. While districts historically worked only with farmers, districts like Henricopolis must increasingly work with homeowners and businesses to reduce pollution such as untreated runoff of fertilizers and pet waste which washes into local streams. In the previous four years as a Henricopolis Director, the District is well head of the curve by helping to preserve local land from development and installing conservation practices at homes.

Q: *What will be your priorities in the next four years?*

A: In the next four years, I see the continued need to work more with homeowners and businesses to reduce runoff pollution. In addition, I want to increase the water quality monitoring done by Henricopolis volunteers to help identify pollution spills and discharges for cleanup and correction. Finally, work with Henrico County to incentivize smarter development polices such as the wider use of permeable pavers and preserve trees and topsoil from being removed during the construction of new homes

Nicole Anderson Ellis



Party: I

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Questions:

Q: *What is the most important role of the Soil and Water Conservation District?*

A: Really, we're translators. Policies may address "stormwater runoff," but we teach families how to stop the flooding. Headlines may reference the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, but we clean up creeks in neighborhoods. The DEQ may regulate erosion, but we help farmers pay for cover crops and other best practices. And whether we're standing in a Varina corn field, Short Pump classroom, or northside backyards, we interact with residents as neighbors.

Q: *What is the greatest challenge facing the District and how will you address it?*

A: You've seen it yourself. Henrico County is changing from farms to suburbs. In the 8 years I've served on this board, we've worked to balance our traditional focus on agriculture with new urban challenges. We still work with farmers, and I'm thrilled to be founder/chair of our Land Preservation Committee, helping landowners protect private fields & forests. But I'm also a founding member of the Urban Committee, which helps homeowners/businesses prevent flooding & keep our drinking water clean.

Q: *What will be your priorities in the next four years?*

A: I'm running for re-election to keep working on 3 priorities: 1. Promote voluntary adoption of innovations (rainwater harvesting, native landscaping, permeable paving, etc) at homes and businesses. 2. As Chair of the Cornerstone Community Farm Committee (and co-author of the \$50,000 launching grant), make it a self-sustaining resource for Henrico students, and a model for school farms across the region. 3. Expand access to conservation easements so land owners can protect private green space.

Anne-Marie J. Leake



Party: I

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Questions:

Q: *What is the most important role of the Soil and Water Conservation District?*

A: The Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District is a subdivision of state government responsible for natural resource conservation. It is led by a 5 member Board, 3 of whom are elected. The District works with state, federal, and county agencies, other conservation organizations, and community partners to achieve its objectives. The District provides education and community engagement programs and oversees the distribution of funds through the The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program.

Q: *What is the greatest challenge facing the District and how will you address it?*

A: One of the greatest challenges facing the District is that only a very small percentage of voters knows what it is, what it does, and what benefit it can provide them. I feel called to the position of Soil & Water Director to combine my life-long passion for environmental protection, my 10+ years of non-profit Board experience, and my 20+ years of marketing communications experience to elevate the awareness of the District and increase community engagement in daily environmental stewardship.

Q: *What will be your priorities in the next four years?*

A: With environmental protections being diminished at the federal level, it is more important now than ever before that all citizens make a personal commitment to environmental stewardship. My priorities will be: 1. To elevate the awareness of the District throughout Henrico County and to increase community engagement in its programs. 2. To ensure that the District has adequate resources to advance its mission. 3. To maintain the transparency and accountability of the Board and its committees.

Michael A. Phillips



Party: I

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Age: 11/27/1985

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Questions:

Q: *What is the most important role of the Soil and Water Conservation District?*

A: I believe it serves two vital roles: effectively administering environmental conservation programs and educational outreach programs. Conservation programs help home and landowners implement best practices to reduce soil erosion and nonpoint source pollution in our rivers and streams. The district's educational programs are essential to educating the public and school-age children on the importance of environmental stewardship.

Q: *What is the greatest challenge facing the District and how will you address it?*

A: The increasing effects of climate change and suburban expansion into the more rural areas of Henrico, the district must continue to adapt to the challenges that come with this development. Increased severity of weather events and flooding in Henrico is a real threat to the health of our soil and water resources. The district must ensure that homeowners are aware of their impact on our environment as well as work with local businesses to help them reduce pollution from developed properties.

Q: *What will be your priorities in the next four years?*

A: Over the next four years, I want to see the district take a more proactive role in increasing the district's visibility outside of the environmental community and those currently engaged. I want to take steps to ensure that a greater number of county residents are engaged in the district's programs and taking advantage of the resources available. I believe that the district plays a vital role in our community and I want to make sure that it's impact continues to be both positive and meaningful.

Claiborne E. Yarbrough



Party: I

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Questions:

Q: *What is the most important role of the Soil and Water Conservation District?*

A: I believe that the most important role of the Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide all of our schools with strong educational programs that help our children understand the importance of storm water management, stewardship of our lands, water resource and all the other topics that are related to environmental education.

Q: *What is the greatest challenge facing the District and how will you address it?*

A: I think we are all aware that our climate is changing and so we will need to be agile in how we focus on local programs and policies to do our part to take care of our district's soil and water resources. I also think more people should be aware of the Soil and Water Board and the role that it plays in our government.

Q: *What will be your priorities in the next four years?*

A: Focus on environmental education including day camps and other programs. Focus on more information about the Soil and Water Board for the general public. Fiscal responsibility for the Board.

NOTE: Rep = Republican, Dem = Democratic, L= Libertarian, I = Independent

EMG 10/10/19