

NOVEMBER 2019 ELECTIONS – VIRGINIA SENATE AND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

League of Women Voters of the Richmond Metropolitan Area, Inc.

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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.

VIRGINIA SENATE

Description:

Duties - The Senate, with the House of Delegates, has legislative power to enact laws. The Senate has 40 members elected from separate districts.

Term - 4 years

Salary - \$18,000

Virginia Senate District 4

Ryan T. McDougle

Party: Rep

No response

R. Stanton "Stan" Scott

Party: Dem

No response

Virginia Senate District 9

Mark E. Lewis, Jr



Party: L

Biographical Info:

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Questions:

Q: *What do you believe is the top priority for your district and what is your plan to address it?*

A: The state government taxes and spends too much. In 2019, the legislature passed budget House Bill 1700, almost unanimously. It increases the 2018-2020 operating budget to \$121 billion. That's a 15% increase over the 2016-2018 budget. We should cut taxes and spending by 10% across the board. A \$12.1 billion budget cut divided by a population of 8.518 million people would come to \$1,420 per capita savings, money that individuals can spend the best way they see fit

Q: *What measures, if any, would you support to ensure the right to vote and election integrity?*

A: I support measures that make it easy and convenient to register and vote. Sometimes people have expressed fears that non-citizens are voting illegally, but I think cases of illegal voting are rare and we don't need a lot more government spending to fight a non-existent problem. I support ending the war on drugs which will reduce the number of felons and support allowing felons to vote. I've heard it said that people on average commit three felonies per day. Most just don't get caught.

Q: *Regarding fair redistricting (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission?*

A: I oppose the gerrymandering that's gone on for centuries and would support fair redistricting. We've heard about fair proposals for redistricting for years and it doesn't seem to ever happen in Virginia or most other states. The root problem is that government has too much power to force people to do things they don't want to do so people use gerrymandering and lobbying to get their way. The cure is to reduce the scope and power of government so that winning elections is less important.

Q: *Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment? If yes, what are you willing to do to ensure ratification by the Virginia General Assembly?*

A: I support equal rights under the law for women, minorities, the LGBTQ community and everyone. I support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and am glad most of its intended goals are already in effect. I'm wary of additional laws the U.S. Congress and Assembly might pass to further implement it and will carefully consider all legislation to ensure the rights of all people are protected. For example, I would not want private women's colleges to be forced to go coed.

Q: *That solutions would you support to curb gun violence in Virginia?*

A: I support the right to own guns for self-defense and to allow citizens to prevent abuse by a tyrannical government as is happening to the unarmed citizens in Venezuela and Hong Kong. I supported SB 1024 which would have allowed churches to decide whether to allow guns inside. Legalizing marijuana and tax cuts to spur better job opportunities will reduce gun violence. I'm against more restrictive gun laws.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginians 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 Virginia?*

A: Most high housing costs are caused by government zoning restrictions that prohibit increases in the supply of houses and apartments in existing neighborhoods. Lots of fine good people fight new housing developments and they need to be reminded that NIMBY policies hurt the poor the most, but also the middle class. Obviously, property tax cuts would help lower the cost of housing for everyone. I'm opposed to affordable housing schemes that involve more taxes and bureaucracy; they don't help.

Jennifer L. McClellan

Party: Dem

No response

Virginia Senate District 10

Ghazala F. Hashmi



Party: Dem

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Questions:

Q: *What do you believe is the top priority for your district and what is your plan to address it?*

A: As I speak with voters across the district, the consistent message that I hear is that we must make quality public education a priority. As an educator with nearly 30 years of experience in higher education, I understand this concern. I plan to address this priority by ensuring that we effectively fund our public schools, compensate our teachers with the salaries that they deserve, and support Virginia's institutions of higher education so that rising tuition costs do not impede opportunity.

Q: *What measures, if any, would you support to ensure the right to vote and election integrity?*

A: Ensuring the essential right to vote requires that we be vigilant against all efforts to suppress voting rights. These efforts include restoration of voting rights for individuals released from prison, accessible polling stations, absentee and early voting, automatic voter registration, and increased voter education. Election integrity and voter confidence in that integrity is absolutely essential. I support measures that restrict corporate spending in elections and that require transparency.

Q: *Regarding fair redistricting (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission?*

A: I support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission. The ugly history of gerrymandering in Virginia and across the country has disenfranchised minority communities and has allowed systemic, unjust representation to continue, decade after decade. I support legislation that establishes a non-partisan commission to evaluate and determine the boundaries of districts in an impartial and equitable manner.

Q: *Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment? If yes, what are you willing to do to ensure ratification by the Virginia General Assembly?*

A: I am a firm believer in the Equal Rights Amendment, and I pledge to do all I can in Richmond to enact this necessary measure. I will co-sponsor the bill, speak on its behalf, and collaborate with advocacy groups to convince other legislators to support the bill's passing.

Q: *That solutions would you support to curb gun violence in Virginia?*

A: I support effective, common sense gun safety legislation: universal background checks, a ban on assault rifles and high capacity magazines, red flag laws, and closing the gun show loophole. Our state has been affected greatly by gun violence, and we have to increase the safety of our citizens through common sense gun legislation.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginians 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 Virginia?*

A: Quality, affordable housing that allows people to live within the communities in which they work is essential. I support policies that provide affordable mortgage options, that support mixed-income housing developments, and that provide incentives for individuals to live closer to work and reduce commute travel.

Glen H. Sturtevant, Jr

Party: Rep

No response

Virginia Senate District 11

Amanda Freeman Chase

Party: Rep

No response

Amanda L. Pohl



Party: Dem

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Questions:

Q: *What do you believe is the top priority for your district and what is your plan to address it?*

A: Healthcare. Even though we recently expanded Medicaid which has helped over 300,000 Virginians get access to healthcare, many for the first time in their lives, we still have a crisis in our healthcare system. We have middle class families paying over \$2,000 a month for premiums. We have people still avoiding the emergency room for fear of financial ruin. We continue to have hard-working Virginians who can not afford basic life-saving prescriptions. We must do more to help Virginian families.

Q: *What measures, if any, would you support to ensure the right to vote and election integrity?*

A: As a data systems director for a non-profit I know important it is to ensure the integrity of our voting systems, voter registration information and other data. I will fight to ensure we protect these system. I also believe we must ensure that everyone who is eligible has the opportunity to exercise their right. Therefore, I support no excuse early voting and automatic voter registration.

Q: *Regarding fair redistricting (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission?*

A: I am proud to have the endorsement of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee due to my strong support for non-partisan redistricting here in Virginia.

Q: *Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment? If yes, what are you willing to do to ensure ratification by the Virginia General Assembly?*

A: Absolutely. It is far past time we passed this in Virginia. I believe if we get a Democratic majority in the Senate this November that we will be able to pass the ERA next session.

Q: *That solutions would you support to curb gun violence in Virginia?*

A: It is past time for action to protect our children and our communities. We need common sense solutions like closing background check loopholes and red flag laws. I'm proud to have the endorsement of Giffords, Brady, the Coalitions to Stop Gun Violence and to be a Mom's Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginians 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 Virginia?*

A: We need to support and insist on mixed use development and an increase the minimum wage.

Virginia Senate District 12

Siobhan S. Dunnavant

Party: Rep

No response

Debra H. Rodman

Party: Dem

No response

Virginia Senate District 16

Joseph D. (Joe) Morrissey



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

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Age: 9/23/1957

Questions:

Q: *What do you believe is the top priority for your district and what is your plan to address it?*

A: The top priorities for the citizens of the 16th Senate District all deal with local issues, including aging schools, streets in need of paving, stormwater runoff, crumbling sidewalks and sky-high water bills. With regard to schools, I am going to encourage my Senate colleagues to join in and support Senator Bill Stanley's \$3 billion-dollar statewide referendum to improve and modernize all of our aging school stock in the Commonwealth.

Q: *What measures, if any, would you support to ensure the right to vote and election integrity?*

A: In the current election cycle, Virginia has witnessed "mischief" during some Democratic and Republican Primaries. Both political parties – as well as their respective candidates – have endeavored to “game” the system to their advantage. I will introduce a Bill that will require all incumbents and challengers to run in District wide Primaries. There will be no more firehouse caucuses or Saturday morning conventions where voters are disenfranchised because they are unable to participate.

Q: *Regarding fair redistricting (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission?*

A: i. Yes, I whole heartedly support legislation adopted in 2019 that supports a Constitutional Amendment to establish a 16-member Redistricting Commission. I will support this legislation when it comes up again in 2020. ii. I will introduce legislation that will make it a Class 1 misdemeanor for an incumbent legislator to contact any Redistricting Commissioner in order to influence the manner in which they draw or otherwise reshape a district.

Q: *Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment? If yes, what are you willing to do to ensure ratification by the Virginia General Assembly?*

A: I will vote to support adoption of the Federal Equal Rights Amendment. Some say it is only symbolic. It may be – but it is important to take this pro ERA stand.

Q: *What solutions would you support to curb gun violence in Virginia?*

A: I am in favor of common-sense gun control measures including universal background checks, adoption of Red Flag Laws, and elimination of the Gun Show loophole. I favor the prohibition of all assault rifles including the AR-15 and AK-47 – these are weapons of war.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginians 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 Virginia?*

A: I have been, for over a decade, a strong promoter of workforce housing. There are some areas of my district including South Richmond, Hopewell, and Petersburg where there is a dire need for workforce housing. I have personally toured workforce housing projects which have beautiful facilities including workout gyms, swimming pools, granite tops, hardwood floors, modern plumbing and electricity, etc. Workforce housing does exactly what its name applies – it provides superb living accommodations

Waylin K. Ross

Party: I

No response

Virginia Senate District 22

Dakota S. Claytor

Party: Dem

No response

Mark J. Peake

Party: Rep

No response

VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Description: Duties - The House of Delegates, with the Senate, has legislative power to enact laws. The House of Delegates has 100 members who are elected from separate districts.

Term - 2 years

Salary - \$17,640

Virginia House District 27

Larry V. Barnett



Party: Dem

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Age: 9/11/1954

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Questions:

Q: *What do you believe is the top priority for your district, and what is your plan to address it?*

A: Ensuring that everyone in Chesterfield County has access to healthcare services is my top priority. As a Delegate, I will fight tirelessly to ensure that every Virginian has access to the healthcare they need, regardless of how much money is in their pocket. I will work to provide solutions for problems facing our healthcare industry in a way that keeps patients healthy and medical facilities open.

Q: *What measures, if any, would you support to ensure the right to vote and election integrity?*

A: I would advocate for policies that make it easier for all Virginians to vote, such as the expansion of same-day and online voter registration, and no-excuse absentee voting in person or by mail. Our democratic process will be better served if candidates and representatives are prohibited from accepting campaign funds from corporate PACs and I believe candidates and representatives should never be allowed to use campaign funds for personal use.

Q: *Regarding fair redistricting (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission?*

A: Yes, I support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission. Currently, elected representatives can choose their voters rather than voters choosing their representatives. I am a supporter of OneVirginia2021, a group that is working to create fair political boundaries in Virginia. I support an

independent commission as the best alternative for providing voters with districts that are compact, contiguous, and fairly drawn.

Q: *Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment? If yes, what are you willing to do to ensure ratification by the Virginia General Assembly?*

A: Yes. I am a strong proponent of the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. I have been vocal in my support on social media and at demonstrations. I will continue my efforts to speak out about the importance of the ERA until we achieve “Equal Justice Under the Law” for all regardless of sex. My pledge to fight for equality has earned me the endorsement of the Virginia Chapter of the National Organization for Women.

Q: *What solutions would you support to curb gun violence in Virginia?*

A: As a healthcare professional, I see gun violence as an epidemic and one of our top public health crises. I support commonsense efforts to reduce gun violence. This includes universal background checks whenever firearms are purchased and emergency protective orders that enable family members to temporarily remove firearms from loved ones during a crisis. I have been endorsed by The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, and Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginians 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 Virginia?*

A: I support policies that promote greater economic equality. I believe in the dignity of work and building an economy where all people have an equal opportunity to succeed. I am an advocate for unions, and I also want to fight for family-friendly policies that include paid sick and family leave.

Roxann L. Robinson

Party: Rep

No response

Virginia House District 71

Jeffrey M. Bourne

Party: Dem

No response

Peter J. Wells



Party: L

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Age: 2/10/1976

Facebook page: facebook.com/petewellsforliberty

Questions:

Q: *What do you believe is the top priority for your district, and what is your plan to address it?*

A: Criminal Justice Reform. We need to eliminate mandatory minimum sentencing for non violent crimes to reduce prison crowding. We need to ban police from searching a home without first producing a copy of the warrant to the occupants. As our immigrant population grows criminal suspects, defendants and inmates must be given access to competent interpreters for all interviews for the duration of their time in the system. We need to legalize Marijuana and refocus policing on violent crime.

Q: *What measures, if any, would you support to ensure the right to vote and election integrity?*

A: Making State ID Cards free and automatically tie voter registration to state issued ID cards and driver's licenses.

Q: *Regarding fair redistricting (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission?*

A: I Support the proposal for a Redistricting Commission because it requires a 3/4ths Majority of commissioners to approve a plan. I would support a change to the current proposal to provide a voice for Virginia's independent and 3rd party voters who are currently overlooked by the 4 Republican and 4 Democrat requirements of the Commission. It is better than nothing but it still creates a privileged political class that sets barriers to ordinary citizens participating in electoral politics.

Q: *Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment? If yes, what are you willing to do to ensure ratification by the Virginia General Assembly?*

A: I do support the Equal Rights Amendment. If the bill comes to the floor during my term I will argue for and vote in favor of ratification.

Q: *What solutions would you support to curb gun violence in Virginia?*

A: Virginia's gun violence is largely a symptom of the war on drugs and poverty. We need to address Criminal Justice Reform, community policing, drug legalization and lack of opportunities in our cities.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginians 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 Virginia?*

A: Deregulating housing and zoning laws to allow more innovation and inventory of housing in dense communities as well as increase job opportunities in bedroom communities. Too often established privileged residents oppose affordable rental units that allow lower income residents to live in upwardly mobile neighborhoods. I believe that housing integration and diversity helps reduce crime and poverty.

Virginia House District 70

Delores L. McQuinn

Party: Dem

No response

Virginia House District 97

Kevin D. Washington



Party: Dem

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

Questions:

Q: *What do you believe is the top priority for your district, and what is your plan to address it?*

A: The top priority for my district is access to rural broadband. This is a key component for education, economic development, and health care services. The first step to solving this issue is to begin viewing rural broadband as a utility and not a service. We must understand how critical this resource is to our community. By passing legislation that would allow multiple corporations access to the infrastructure we can drive cost down and offer residents a choice in provider services.

Q: *What measures, if any, would you support to ensure the right to vote and election integrity?*

A: Every American should be confident in their right to vote being protected. We need to take every measure to eliminate voter intimidation at or around the polling precinct. Voters should feel free to voice their concerns and opinions without fear of repercussion.

Q: *Regarding fair redistricting (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission?*

A: I support fair redistricting and Virginia having a redistricting commission. It is important that all Virginians have a voice and have their voter rights protected. It has seemed in the past that groups enact forms of gerrymandering to control districts and voters. This often affects minority and women voters the most. Redistricting should be conducted in a fair and unbiased way that will serve all voters.

Q: *Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment? If yes, what are you willing to do to ensure ratification by the Virginia General Assembly?*

A: I fully support the Equal Rights Amendment. Women must have an equal stake in our country. I will be a strong advocate for ratifying the ERA in Virginia. It is long over due and women should have equal rights under the constitution.

Q: *What solutions would you support to curb gun violence in Virginia?*

A: Gun violence is a serious problem in our Country and in Virginia. We can begin to curb gun violence by enforcing red flag laws and by closing the gun show loophole. Giffords Law would help us to close these dangerous and deadly loopholes requiring unlicensed sellers to perform background checks. We must enforce common sense gun laws that can begin to protect our citizens and keep Virginians safe.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginians 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 Virginia?*

A: Workers need to have access to quality home ownership or rentals close to their jobs. This needs to be taken into consideration when planning and developing our communities. Lower income workers may be in a range of 60 to 100 percent of the areas median income. They provide valuable services to our communities and should be afforded the opportunity to live a high quality life.

Scott A. Wyatt

Party: Rep

No response

Virginia House District 74

Lamont Bagby

Party: Dem

No response

Virginia House District 73

Mary Margaret Kastelberg

Party: Rep

No response

Rodney T. Willett



Party: Dem

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Questions:

Q: *What do you believe is the top priority for your district, and what is your plan to address it?*

A: The top priority for my district, and for the entire Commonwealth, is to ensure everyone has access to affordable quality health care, and reasonably-priced prescription drugs. Medicaid expansion was an important first step but we must do more to ensure no Virginian chooses between food on the table and necessary medication. I am on the board of Rx Partners that helps provide affordable medication to families. I have seen the frightening decisions families face.

Q: *What measures, if any, would you support to ensure the right to vote and election integrity?*

A: We need to sufficiently fund election apparatus to ensure that we have sufficient precincts without exceedingly long lines, sufficient staff for those precincts and paper ballot back up. I also support no excuse absentee voting, and elimination of gerrymandering.

Q: *Regarding fair redistricting (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission?*

A: Yes, I support fair redistricting where voters select their representatives and not the other way around. I would support any legislation that ensure fair non-partisan redistricting and works to create compact districts with communities of interest and ensures minority voters get the voice they deserve.

Q: *Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment? If yes, what are you willing to do to ensure ratification by the Virginia General Assembly?*

A: Yes, I support the ERA and would be happy to introduce it, vote for it and advocate for it.

Q: *What solutions would you support to curb gun violence in Virginia?*

A: I believe in universal background checks, safe storage laws, and high risk laws (so-called red flag laws) to start. It is astounding that even the lowest hanging measures to address gun safety have been blocked time and again.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginians 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 Virginia?*

A: Affordable housing is very important to reduce the density of poverty. First of all, we need to ensure that all our public schools are top notch so people who can afford to cluster where there are better public schools do not feel compelled to do so. The state needs to give localities the tools they need to encourage affordable housing. Localities should be able to advocate for affordable housing from developers working in their jurisdiction.

Virginia House District 72

Gay Donna Vandergriff

Party: Rep

No response

Questions:

Schuyler T. VanValkenburg

Party: Dem

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Questions:

Q: *What do you believe is the top priority for your district, and what is your plan to address it?*

A: Education is the top priority for my district. Henrico has been expanding rapidly, as have its student populations, and the decline in state funding per pupil - 10% in real terms since 2008 - makes dealing with that expansion a heavier burden on the locality. The best way to deal with the issue is to prioritize long-term funding increases that aid localities who need it - not tightly focused one-time fixes like the teacher pay increase or tuition freeze only.

Q: *What measures, if any, would you support to ensure the right to vote and election integrity?*

A: First, Virginia must expand legislative restoration of rights to felons and not rely merely on the governor. Second, we must make voting easier by instituting no-excuse absentee voting - the process of absentee approval is overly complex and has little purpose, and often disenfranchises the very young (college students) and the very old. We must also expand voter registration, helping 18 year olds register in their high schools. In the longer term, more ambitious proposals, expansion of vote by

Q: *Regarding fair redistricting (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission?*

A: 1) I strongly support the current proposal and think a commission separate from the legislature is the only way to preserve fair, free, competitive elections. 2) The implementing legislation is very important in this process, because the Redistricting Commission Amendment itself is very short on details. The most important part of the implementing legislation will be to ban the use of political data beyond the demographics required to satisfy the Voting Rights Act in the process. Keeping that d

Q: *Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment? If yes, what are you willing to do to ensure ratification by the Virginia General Assembly?*

A: I absolutely think Virginia should ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. It will have my vote for ratification on the floor or in committee, and I consistently am an advocate for its adoption in caucus. My feelings on this issue are strong, rooted in the year I spent writing a Master's thesis in history on Virginia's first fight for ratification in the 1970s.

Q: *What solutions would you support to curb gun violence in Virginia?*

A: I support several tiers of solutions, some of which are immediately possible and others which would require more extensive legislative and administrative implementation. First, we must immediately reinstate the one-handgun-a-month law. Second, we must implement stronger safe-storage and child-access laws. Third, we must create a red flag program, especially given the number of veteran suicides by gun this would prevent in a state like Virginia with a large number of veterans. In the longer term

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginians 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 Virginia?*

A: Virginia's public housing agency is critically understaffed and underfunded, which complicates and hobbles its work to bring the benefits of federal housing policy to Virginians. We also don't strongly support regional planning and transit infrastructure - look at how long I-81 took to get funded, or the long struggle to expand Amtrak service. By focusing on a better-run state housing office, transit infrastructure, and regional planning we can improve housing affordability and access for Virgi

Virginia House District 68

Dawn M. Adams



Party: Dem

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Age: 11/6/1964

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

Questions:

Q: *What do you believe is the top priority for your district, and what is your plan to address it?*

A: Affordable access to healthcare across the lifespan remains a top issue. Specifically this means creating alternatives to poorly crafted low cost catastrophic insurance plans by exploring options for direct consumer services and creating opportunities for people to age in place with affordable wrap around supports providing individuals and families affordable alternatives to LTC facilities.

Q: *What measures, if any, would you support to ensure the right to vote and election integrity?*

A: All citizens should have the right to vote. I would support legislation that would provide end-to-end voting security: to find and plug holes in the current system. I support paper ballots, and if it was possible to truly secure electronic voting, I would likely support efforts to enable off site voting for Virginia citizens who are registered to vote.

Q: *Regarding fair redistricting (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission?*

A: (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? Yes, it is the best-supported effort to date to bring more fairness to the issue of redistricting. (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission? I would support legislation that ensures fidelity to the intent of the amendment particularly related to the non-partisan/bi-partisan lens for fairness.

Q: *Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment? If yes, what are you willing to do to ensure ratification by the Virginia General Assembly?*

A: Yes, I will vote for the ERA if we are able to have a vote on the floor of the General Assembly.

Q: *What solutions would you support to curb gun violence in Virginia?*

A: I support universal background checks, reporting lost and stolen weapons, one-gun a month limitations, and limiting the sale of high capacity magazines.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginians 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 Virginia?*

A: I will support fiscally responsible legislation for fair housing practices, non-discrimination policies and efforts to create more affordable housing; I think it's important to look at policies that might promote mixed/use and mixed income housing efforts.

Garrison R. Coward

Party: Rep

No response

Virginia House District 69

Betsy B. Carr



Party: Dem

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Questions:

Q: *What do you believe is the top priority for your district, and what is your plan to address it?*

A: My priorities for my district are making sure we have the strongest, top notch public education system, creating and maintaining good paying jobs, and ensuring access to affordable quality healthcare for all.

Q: *What measures, if any, would you support to ensure the right to vote and election integrity?*

A: I support non-partisan redistricting that would allow voters to choose their representatives, rather than the other way around, which would be an important step for election integrity. We also need no-excuse absentee voting, automatic restoration of voting rights, and to research voting by mail in order to increase voter access and to help ensure the right to vote.

Q: *Regarding fair redistricting (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission?*

A: Yes, I support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission as we are in need of reform. I would support legislation that ensures fair redistricting while also making sure all voices are heard.

Q: *Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment? If yes, what are you willing to do to ensure ratification by the Virginia General Assembly?*

A: Yes, I support the Equal Rights Amendment and have co-sponsored legislation for its passage in Virginia. I will continue to support and advocate for legislation in the upcoming session.

Q: *What solutions would you support to curb gun violence in Virginia?*

A: I support banning the sale of bump stocks and other high capacity magazines or devices that substantially increase the number of rounds fired per minute. I support universal background checks and high risk ("red flag") laws.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginians 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 Virginia?*

A: Public servants like nurses, public safety officers, first responders and teachers should be paid as the professionals they are and we should consider providing some housing allowance to encourage them to stay in this area and serve our community. Furthermore, I am a member of The Virginia Housing Commission which works to provide affordable housing for all Virginians. I look forward to continuing my work with the housing commission to support workforce housing and any other housing needs. I am

Virginia House District 65
Michael P. "Mike" Asip



Party: Dem

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Questions:

Q: *What do you believe is the top priority for your district, and what is your plan to address it?*

A: Access to affordable healthcare is difficult with skyrocketing prescription drug costs! Citizens deserve to learn about less expensive drugs, including generics. Consumer education is needed, but we also need more transparency about how prescription drug prices are determined through pharmacy benefit managers. We need to learn how Medicare and Medicaid could negotiate for lower priced drugs. Access to affordable healthcare is a critical need for all Virginians!

Q: *What measures, if any, would you support to ensure the right to vote and election integrity?*

A: I have advocated against any additional administrative requirements for citizens to access their right to vote, measures my opponent has supported. As we move further into the 21st century, we must explore secure, flexible options for voters, including fewer restrictions on absentee ballots. Virginia is fortunate to have paper ballot backup, but we must still ensure integrity of our systems to avoid hacking that would compromise the hallmark of our democracy, the right to vote!

Q: *Regarding fair redistricting (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission?*

A: 1. I fully support the proposal for a redistricting commission because I believe that rather than politicians choosing their voters, voters need to choose their politicians! We must have non-political redistricting so that every vote really counts! 2. If an amendment is adopted, I would support legislation that would include a panel of non-partisan election experts, along with some partisan members. State redistricting commissions create balanced redistricting and build trust in our elections.

Q: *Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment? If yes, what are you willing to do to ensure ratification by the Virginia General Assembly?*

A: I fully support passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, ensuring women equal treatment under the law, with Virginia becoming the 38th state to do so. I am willing to communicate with citizens my commitment to vote in favor of this amendment and dispel some of the inaccurate fears that have recently been promulgated reminiscent of the fears we heard back in the 1970s and 1980s. Virginia and our nation must move forward with passage of the ERA!

Q: *What solutions would you support to curb gun violence in Virginia?*

A: I am a strong supporter of the 2nd amendment. In my talks with citizens, including gun owners, they recognize that universal background checks will not result in their losing their guns. Those gun owners also accept that we can keep our communities safer if “Red Flag” laws can temporarily restrict gun access from a citizen who is deemed a threat to themselves or others. Responsible, law-abiding citizens will not lose their 2nd amendment rights with reasonable gun violence prevention measures.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginians 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 Virginia?*

A: To promote affordable workforce housing options, Virginia could support localities’ efforts to permit inclusionary zoning ordinances. Developers could be encouraged to provide some affordable housing units at lower cost, with the developers receiving a “density bonus,” allowing more housing units than existing zoning allows. I would also consider other initiatives toward providing lower cost housing for Virginians that could enhance our rural economic development and manage growth responsibly.

R. Lee Ware Jr.

Party: Rep

No response

Virginia House District 66

Sheila C. Bynum-Coleman



Party: Dem

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Questions:

Q: *What do you believe is the top priority for your district, and what is your plan to address it?*

A: Affordable health care, stopping gun violence, and reproductive choice are all extremely important issues that must be addressed. When it comes to health care, I have two children with preexisting conditions. I will always vote to make prescription drugs cost lower. I strongly believe in universal background checks and red flag laws. Finally, unlike my opponent who is one of the most anti-choice legislators in Virginia, I will make sure that people don't stand in between women and their doctors.

Q: *What measures, if any, would you support to ensure the right to vote and election integrity?*

A: As a woman of color, I understand the barriers to the ballot box and the remnants of Jim Crow that exist in our society today. We have some of the worst voting laws in the country -- I believe in early voting, automatic voter registration, same-day registration, and vote by mail.

Q: *Regarding fair redistricting (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission?*

A: My district wasn't even competitive because of racial and political gerrymandering. I strongly support a California-like independent commission that doesn't solely fetishize compactness, but instead makes the districts reflective of the communities they encompass -- irrespective of their partisan makeup.

Q: *Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment? If yes, what are you willing to do to ensure ratification by the Virginia General Assembly?*

A: I have constantly talked about how Virginia can be the final state necessary to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment and that we need to ratify it. I will be vocal in my support, and work to make it a priority to recruit and train other women to run for office here in the commonwealth. The fact that only 26.4% of our legislators in the General Assembly are women, which is below the national average, is unacceptable.

Q: *What solutions would you support to curb gun violence in Virginia?*

A: I just put out an ad on this. As the mother of a gun violence survivor, I strongly support universal background checks, banning bump stocks and assault weapons, and red flag laws.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginians 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 Virginia?*

A: As the first African-American on the Virginia Board of Contractors and someone who works in real estate, I fully understand the need for folks to have affordable housing. I even worked for years to build affordable housing in neighborhoods where people lived and worked. I believe we need to implement policies that put tenants first instead of landlords.

M. Kirkland "Kirk" Cox

Party: Rep

No response

L. K. Harris Sr.

Party: I

Biographical Info:

No response

Virginia House District 62

Carrie Emerson Coyner

Party: Rep

No response

Lindsey M. Dougherty

Party: Dem

No response

Virginia House District 63

Lashrecse D. Aird



Party: Dem

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Questions:

Q: *What do you believe is the top priority for your district, and what is your plan to address it?*

A: The top priority in my district is access to training and jobs. Since my election to the House of Delegates I have prioritized job training and access to credentials, leveraging our two-year and four-year institutions. In addition to job training, I have focused on and will continue to introduce and support policies that provide incentives and/or tax credits to attract new businesses, especially communities that are less fiscally sound.

Q: *What measures, if any, would you support to ensure the right to vote and election integrity?*

A: It is long overdue for the General Assembly to lift its ban on voting for people convicted of felonies, especially when we have a broken criminal justice system that adversely impacts minorities greater than any other group of people. Furthermore, once you have paid your debt to society, you should not continue to be punished. I support the automatic restoration of rights; have carried bills and continue to support no excuse absentee voting and the continued use of paper ballots.

Q: *Regarding fair redistricting (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission?*

A: Although the Virginia Redistricting Commission is a hypothetical improvement of the current process, it does not allow for minority representation to be guaranteed a seat at the table. Losing the ability to guarantee representation, along with the fact that if the commission fails to come to a consensus, the maps will be decided but the strongly Republican-leaning Virginia Supreme Court, means that this commission could potentially disenfranchise more voters than our current system.

Q: *Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment? If yes, what are you willing to do to ensure ratification by the Virginia General Assembly?*

A: Yes, I completely support the ERA and its purpose to serve as a constitutional backdrop to more specific protections of gender equality, and as an ongoing basis for challenging discrimination in the courts. I will continue to work with citizens and my fellow elected officials to ensure that the ERA receives a floor vote in 2020 and that it passes the House of Delegates.

Q: *What solutions would you support to curb gun violence in Virginia?*

A: My district is a truly diverse district, with the largest portion being urban, then rural and also suburban. In the urban part of my district poverty is a direct linkage to gun violence and all of the factors that cause concentrations of poverty to exist, must be addressed. Furthermore, I also support universal

background checks, banning dangerous high-capacity magazine weapons and community-based violence intervention programs.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginians 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 Virginia?*

A: Along with the 82% of Virginian's, I agree that being able to afford housing near where I work is important. However, in my district where there is a significant concentration of poverty I choose policies that keep people in their homes, and have passed eviction reform laws, and I choose policies (min. wage and jobs) that strengthen the economic viability of individuals and families so they can afford the housing options in the community. I am open to learning more about workforce housing.

Larry C. Haake III

Party: I

No response

Virginia House District 55

H. F. "Buddy" Fowler Jr.

Party: Rep

No response

Morgan K. Goodman



Party: Dem

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Questions:

Q: *What do you believe is the top priority for your district, and what is your plan to address it?*

A: The top priority for my district is to strengthen our public school system. Teachers are our greatest resource for preparing the next generation to be successful in their endeavors and contribute to society. I will fight for competitive teacher salaries so we can attract and retain skilled educators. I will address the counselor-to-student ratio by increasing the number of counselors in our schools because they are the first step in addressing mental health and behavior issues in the community.

Q: *What measures, if any, would you support to ensure the right to vote and election integrity?*

A: I support eliminating the requirement that a person provide an excuse to vote by absentee ballot and I also support early voting policies. I also support a Constitutional amendment to establish a constitutional right to vote that cannot be abridged by law to prevent barriers to voting. I support

increased funding for the Department of Elections to ensure critical upgrades to election technology and infrastructure.

Q: *Regarding fair redistricting (1) Do you support the proposal for a Virginia Redistricting Commission and why? (2) If the constitutional amendment is adopted, what legislation would you support to implement the commission?*

A: I support passing the amendment to the State Constitution to establish a Virginia Redistricting Commission. I believe that every person should have an equal say in their government and to do this we must end gerrymandering, which creates unfair advantages. I support making partisan gerrymandering illegal and adopting criteria that includes protections for communities of interest including racial and language minorities and making the commission accessible to all.

Q: *Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment? If yes, what are you willing to do to ensure ratification by the Virginia General Assembly?*

A: I support the ERA because I believe that no Virginian should be treated like a second class citizen by the laws of our Commonwealth. My opponent voted to kill the ERA in subcommittee - preventing it from coming to a vote on the House floor. Not only do I pledge to vote in favor of ratification, I will fight to make sure it's one of the first items brought to a vote in the 2020 legislative session.

Q: *What solutions would you support to curb gun violence in Virginia?*

A: I believe that gun safety is a public health issue, not a political issue. I will fight to pass common sense gun violence prevention laws so our children can be free from fear in our schools and in our communities. I support red flag laws, safe storage laws, and universal background checks.

Q: *In a recent public opinion poll, 82% of Virginians 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 Virginia?*

A: Stable and affordable housing is essential for quality of life. I believe the first step in addressing this issue is to raise the minimum wage to ensure our working families earn a living wage. I support removing any zoning barriers to building affordable housing and encouraging localities to include affordable housing with new development. It is important for people to be able to live near where they work and the General Assembly needs to address this issue because it is a problem state-wide.

Virginia House District 56

Juanita Jo Matkins

Party: Dem

No response

John J. McGuire III

Party: Rep

No response

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

EMG 10/13/19