

## ELECTION '15

# Candidates for Mayor of the City of Alexandria

## Bill Euille

### Write-In

**Age:** 65 **Family:** Single **Education:** B.S. Accounting

**Offices held, dates:** School Board (1974-1984), City Council (1994-2003), and Mayor (2003- Present)

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Businessman

**Community involvement:** The William D. Euille Foundation, which he founded in 1994; the Alexandria Boys and Girls Club; the American Heart Association; 1998-2000 Chairman of the Alexandria United Way Campaign; INOVA Hospital Health System Board; Hopkins House Association; 2001 Chairman of the NOVA Urban League Board of Directors; Alexandria Community Trust; and the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria.

**Website:** billeuille.com

**Email address:** eric.williams@billeuille.com

**Twitter handle:** BillEuille

**Name three favorite endorsements:** NOVA Association of Realtors, Delegate Rob Krupicka & Former Mayor Kerry Donley



## Allison Silberberg

### Democrat

**Age:** 52

**Family:** Single

**Education including degrees and institutions:**

The American University, B.A. in History and International Studies.

U.C.L.A., M.F.A. in Playwriting from the School of Theater, Film & Television.

**Offices held, dates:** Vice Mayor of Alexandria, January 2013 - present.

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg is a writer with over 25 years of community leadership and public service. With an expertise in grant making, nonprofit sector, and civic engagement, she is the author of "Visionaries In Our Midst: Ordinary People who are Changing our World," which profiles individuals who are making a difference. She is the co-author of a forthcoming book about ensuring that women are included in medical research, clinical trials, and drug testing. She is also the commissioned author of a memoir for a philanthropic family about leading a meaningful life. Her writing has appeared on PBS.org, and her columns have appeared in The Washington Post and Dallas Morning News. She worked on Capitol Hill for Senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas.

**Community involvement:**

❖ Chair of Alexandria's Economic Opportunities Commission, serving as an advocate for our most vulnerable.

❖ Led EOC to focus primarily on affordable/workforce housing and job creation.

❖ Served on the EOC. (2004 to 2012)

❖ Initiated EOC's "All Hands on Deck," an annual day for the EOC to give back to a local nonprofit, including the EOC's one-day mini-makeover of the city's homeless shelter.

❖ New Hope Housing awarded her the Leadership/Servanthood Award in 2012.

❖ Launched and managed Lights, Camera, Action!, a nonprofit committed to helping youth in Anacostia. For this work, she received two awards.

❖ For nearly a decade, she led monthly charity events that gave all proceeds (over \$50,000) to local nonprofits focused on children at risk and families in distress. She received the Reatig Award for her community work.

❖ Appointee to The World Bank's Community Outreach Grants Committee, which gave \$1.3 million to local nonprofits.

❖ Volunteer tutor for two 4th graders at MacArthur Elementary School.

❖ President of the board of the Georgetown Senior Center. (2010-2012)

**Website:** www.allisonsilberberg.com

**Email address:** allison@allisonsilberberg.com

**Twitter handle:** @A\_Silberberg

**Name three favorite endorsements:** I am honored by all the endorsements, but I will list four: Congressman Don Beyer; Former Mayor/Formal State Senator Patsy Ticer; Alexandria Political Action Committee on Education (A-PACE) and Alexandria Committee of Police, Local 5



live in, whether it is in Old Town or the West End? We are a city of great neighborhoods. Throughout the city, I believe we must pursue thoughtful, appropriate development that fits in, is to scale, and protects our neighborhoods and quality of life. We must preserve all the Historic Districts of our beloved city and must safeguard them for generations to come. Historic preservation is a core value of our community, and it needs to be a core value of our elected leadership. I will never sell City Hall.

### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

Restoring the public trust is critical. We need more transparency and fewer executive sessions. The BRAC building is an outcome of executive sessions. BRAC is off the tax rolls and will cost our city over \$60 million over the next 20 years alone, and there was no vote, no accountability. It is an economic disaster for our city. Allison returns campaign contributions from people she knows have development proposals before the Council. Mr. Euille accepted over \$100,000 in contributions from developers with business before the Council. Allison's campaign finance reports are 100% in compliance with State law. Mr. Euille's reports averaged under 15%. It is time for change.

### 3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

❖ Encourage matching grants.  
❖ Partner with entities such as the National Science Foundation to help students with their core science and math skills.  
❖ To deal with part of our school capacity issues, we should utilize empty office space in the city as well as repurpose the Lee Center, which used to be a school.

### 4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

I envision a city where the citizens know that their elected leadership listens first and then takes action. When I am mayor, when citizens take the time to come to City Hall, they will be heard. I am an active listener and pay attention to the public's concerns. I listen to all sides before making up my mind and seek compromise where possible.

As Vice Mayor, I have hosted a monthly coffee called "Council on Your Corner," where citizens from across the city have joined me to share their thoughts, concerns and ideas. I will continue these monthly coffees as mayor. I am proud of my reputation as someone who respects the voices of our citizens. We must rebuild the people's trust.

### 5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

❖ Push back the timeline for certain capitol spending projects.  
❖ Cut the use of consultants.  
❖ Cut the use of a car from the City Manager's and City Attorney's compensation package. I would curtail the use of city vehicles in terms of employees driving city cars home.

### 6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

❖ Increase library hours and maintain the book collection.  
❖ Restore Ramsay Recreation Center's hours on Sundays.  
❖ Reduce the charge for children to use our public swimming pools.  
❖ Reduce charges for using the recreation centers.  
❖ Put \$150,000 towards beautification for planting trees and more mowing.  
❖ Create a fund for teachers, public safety workers, and city employees to apply for a down payment so they can reside in Alexandria. Upon selling the property, the employee would reimburse the fund.

### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Alexandria is my hometown. I grew up in public housing and the odds were stacked against me. I wanted to serve so that I could make a difference in our community, by ensuring the success of everyone, and I've served my community for more than 40 years. I will keep fighting and serving to see that Alexandria continues to move forward.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I have the experience as Mayor and proven leadership. I will not go quietly into the night when our jobs, kids' education, affordable housing, public safety and quality of life is at risk, due to novice hands and untested leadership. I've built consensus with my colleagues and together we've got things done.

#### 3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

We must continue to advocate for community and parental involvement. Also, we should be key spokesmen for our school system, voicing and celebrating at their successes.

#### 4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

By doing what I have always done, being accessible and meeting with citizens to discuss and address their concerns.

#### 5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

If there was any issue, our first priority is to exhaust every resource before making reductions. But my top three (in no specific order) would be Consulting Contracts, Vacant/Unfilled Positions, and Travel/Meetings and Conferences.

#### 6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I would spend it on funding pre-k initiatives, address homelessness challenges, donate to affordable housing, and provide assistance for our seniors.

## COUNCIL NOTES

## Transitway Update

Clocking in at just over an hour and a half, the Oct. 13 City Council meeting will probably go down as one of the shortest in recent memory, but one defined by a few key updates to the City Council. Yon Lambert, Alexandria's director of transportation, presented an update to the city's West End Transitway.

According to Allan Fye, principal planner for the West End Transitway, the city is looking into three alternatives for the project at various levels of scale. The least investment would be the no-build option, where transit services share lanes with traffic and no

improvements are implemented other than those already planned. Another proposal would add more transit services along Van Dorn and Beauregard streets, but would not invest in dedicated transit lanes. Finally, the build option adds transit services on Van Dorn and Beauregard streets with dedicated transit lanes along significant portions of the corridor. The total estimated cost of the project is \$140 million, with a mix of funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Federal Transit Administration, and Private Capital Contributions.

Councilman Tim Lovain noted that it's important to keep the total project cost and the federal contributions under certain

thresholds, which the project currently achieves, adding that the federal decision to add costs to the project was part of what killed the Arlington streetcar. Fye acknowledged a possibility that the cost of the project could increase, but said that the staff is continuing to try to push the costs down.

Throughout the fall and winter, city staff will continue public outreach on the project as they finalize the conceptual engineering plans and the economic analysis. During this time, staff will also refine the capital and operating costs of the project before presenting their findings to the City Council again in spring of 2016. Construction is expected to begin in 2018 with operations

starting in 2021.

## Free Clinic Day

As a result of work by the Special Advisory Panel on the Health Care Needs of the Uninsured, Mayor William Euille announced that Alexandria will be hosting a "Free Clinic" on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Francis Hammond Middle School. The event will be staffed by licensed healthcare providers who will provide a range of treatments, from health screenings to flu shots, to uninsured Alexandrians between the ages of 18 and 64.

— VERNON MILES



## ELECTION '15

# Candidates for Alexandria City Council

## Willie F. Bailey Sr.



**Democrat**  
**Age:** 51  
**Family:** Son, Willie Bailey Jr. and Daughter, Melondey Giron  
**Education including degrees and institutions:** T.C Williams High School

**Offices held, dates:**  
**Occupation and relevant experience:** Firefighter, Retired military, Community Outreach

Community involvement: Founder of Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue, coached Basketball and Baseball for Alexandria Youth Sports Program, serves on the board of Good Shepherd Housing, Volunteer Alexandria, First Night Alexandria, and Coats for Kids.

Website: bailey4council.com

**Email address:** w.baileyforcouncil@gmail.com

**Twitter handle:**

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Firefighters (Local 2141), Teachers (Educational Association of Alexandria) Alexandria Committee of Police (Local 5)

### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Having grown up in public and affordable housing, I have experienced the full range of housing services Alexandria can provide. My family didn't stay in public housing for long, but it did give us the chance to save up enough to eventually purchase a home. This opportunity to join the middle class is no longer possible for many in our city. The council is doing much to help promote affordable housing but I believe my experience makes me an especially strong advocate for promoting economic diversity in our city.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

I have been a community leader in Alexandria for many years, having coached several sports with the recreation department and having started my non-profit, Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue. For over 15 years I have organized events that donate school supplies, new coats, new shoes, backpacks, and winter coats to local disadvantaged youth. Working with Alexandria's recreation centers and the school system has given me a unique view of the struggle that too many of our families face financially. If blessed enough to serve on council, I would always fight to ensure the city works for all Alexandrians.

#### 3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

Working with Alexandria's less fortunate children has taught me the impact that a caring adult can have on a child's life. Alexandria is blessed with an abundance of great nonprofits that can do a lot for our schools. Bringing in programs like Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the National Capital Area will put more of our children on a path to success. The city government is uniquely positioned to bring ACPS and local nonprofits together to improve the student experience in and out of the classroom.

#### 4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

Being available outside of traditional City Council hours and events goes a long way towards building trust and an understanding between our elected officials and public. As a firefighter, military veteran, and sports coach, I know that most issues are not issues of Democratic or Republican ideas but just a matter of listening to the community and reaching appropriately.

#### 5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

If elected, I will be in a better position to speak to programs that are either inefficient or redundant and will target them for reductions. Sequestration and pay freezes by the federal government have shown that despite our efforts, Alexandria remains economically tied to the ups-and-downs of government spending. We need to diversify our revenue base so that a city like Alexandria does not need to cut vital services during tough times.

#### 6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

Reducing or eliminating city fees for use of recreation centers, sports leagues, and pools. Getting our kids involved in activities year-round gets them civically involved, promotes a healthy lifestyle, and keeps them out of trouble.

## D. Phil Cefaratti



**Independent**

**Age:** 51  
**Family:**  
 Wife—Deb Antonini-Cefaratti  
 Stepdaughter—Anna Antonini  
 Stepdaughter—Gina Antonini  
 Stepson—Nicholas Antonini

**Education:**  
 St. Anselm's Abbey School, Washington, D.C. (1982)

B.A. — The Catholic University of America (Major: English; Minors: Accounting/Philosophy), Washington, D.C. (1986)

MBA — Georgetown University McDonough School of Business, Washington, D.C. (1997)

Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA), Level II Certification in Government Contracts (1993)

**Offices held, dates:**

**Occupation and relevant experience:**

Lieutenant Commander, Supply Corps, USNR (Active: 1987-1994); (Reserves: 1994-2000)

Disbursing Officer, Ship Store Officer, Food Service Officer—USS Austin (LPD-4)

Contracts Officer—Defense Contract Management Command International (Dayton, OH)

Supply Officer—NAVEODTECHDIV (Indian Head, MD)

Contracts Officer—Deployable Contract Admin Team 4 (Fort Belvoir, VA)

Contracts Manager—Lockheed Martin, Washington, D.C. (1995-1996)

Aide to the CEO—Force Computers, San Jose, CA (1997-1998)

Independent Consultant, Palo Alto, CA; Washington, D.C.; Andover, MA; New York, NY (1998-2001)

Director of Business Development —Sentori, Inc., Laurel, MD (2001-2006)

Associate Broker and Managing Broker—Weichert, Realtors, Alexandria; Great Falls, VA (2007-2013)

President and Principal Broker—Potomac River, Realtors, Alexandria, VA (2014-present)

**Community involvement:** Alexandria Business Owner as President and Principal Broker, Potomac River, Realtors  
 Past President, Seminary Ridge Civic Association

**Website:** www.philcefaratti.com

**Email address:** philcefaratti2015@gmail.com

**Twitter handle:** PCefaratti2015

**Name three favorite endorsements:** In no particular order: Democratic voters; Independent voters; and Republican voters

### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

My professional career has been focused on service. I have a continued desire to serve my community and all Alexandrians. My call to action is to ensure our school system improves dramatically. ACPS are ranked 94<sup>th</sup> in Virginia, while our neighboring jurisdictions ranked first through fourth. Although many students excel, too many are left behind. This is not a condemnation of our City, residents, or teachers. Rather, it is a call to action. Today, I draw a line in the sand and say we will improve our schools and become competitive with our neighboring jurisdictions. We must give all children every opportunity to succeed.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

I have several unique characteristics. I am the only non-partisan candidate and will serve Alexandrians equally. Second, I am one of only two candidates with an MBA. I have the broadest range of private and public sector experience. I have served as a Navy officer; worked for high tech companies in multiple sub-industries; and I am currently a business owner in Alexandria. My functional experience includes commercial and government contract management, corporate strategy, mergers and acquisitions, business development, sales, corporate finance, and business modeling. My broad-based background provides a wide range of perspectives unique to me. I will bring this experience to bear for you when elected.

#### 3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

City Council needs to work cohesively with the School Board regularly to ensure we are working toward the same goal with the same vision of how to get there. Allocated funds must be spent efficiently and effectively to focus spending on programs and teachers' salaries, with the ultimate goal of providing ALL students the greatest opportunity for success. Additionally, the voices of teachers in the classrooms must be heard to properly understand how they can best educate our students. Finally, we must add a layer to include after-school programs through Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities, which should be offered at no charge.

## John Taylor Chapman



**Democrat**

**Age:** 34

**Family:** mother, Michelle and sister, Jennifer

**Education including degrees and institutions:** Saint Olaf College, c/o 2003, 2009 Graduate of Virginia Commonwealth's Minority Political Leadership Institute, 2010 Graduate of University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute Political Leadership Program

**Offices held, dates:** City Council, elected 2012

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Community Use Program Specialist, Fairfax County Public Schools

**Community involvement:**

❖ Boards and Commissions-

Eco-City Alexandria Environmental Action Plan Steering Committee 2013-present

Sister Cities Committee 2013-present

Eisenhower East Design Review Board 2013-present

Gang Prevention Community Task Force 2013-present

Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission 2013-present

Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP) 2013-present

Metro Washington Council of Governments—Human Services and Public Safety Committee 2013-present

Alexandria Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission, 2011-2012

Alexandria Youth Policy Commission, 2007-2011; Vice Chair, 2009-2011

Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS, 2005-2007; Chair, 2006-2007

ACPS Budget Advisory Committee, 2007-2008

ACPS Special Education Advisory Committee, 2011-2012

St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School Alumni Board Member, 2006-2012

Advisory Board Member of the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria, 2010-Present

❖ Non-Profit work-

NAACP- Alexandria Branch President, 2011-2012

Taylor Run Citizens Association, 2008-Present

Northern Virginia Urban League Young Professionals Network, Political Engagement Committee Chair, 2009

Board Member of First Night Alexandria, 2011-2012

Board Member of Volunteer Alexandria, 2008- 2012

Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership, University of Virginia, Class of 2010

Virginia Commonwealth University's Minority Political Leadership Institute, Class of 2008

Virginia Commonwealth University's Minority Political Leadership Institute, Program Advisory Board, 2008-Present

Alexandria Lacrosse Club, Coach, 2009-2010

❖ Political

Alexandria Young Democrats, 2005–Present; President, 2006-2008

Virginia Young Democrats, 2005-2010; Minority Caucus Chair 2007, National Committee Member, 2008-2010

**Website:** www.chapman4council.com

**Email address:** chapman4council@gmail.com

**Twitter handle:** @chapman4council

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Education Association of Alexandria, Alexandria Committee of Police, Local 5, Northern Virginia Association of Realtors

### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Affordable housing is the issue that has pushed me to run for city council. I believe that our community needs to continue to have housing options for all income levels, local government needs to work with the development community, non-profits and especially our faith-based communities to find creative solutions so that none of us are forced out of a community that we all love.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

My expertise and experience in the field of education and youth policy. I am the ONLY candidate who has served on both the school board's budget advisory committee and also the city's budget and fiscal affairs advisory committee. This is extremely important because school and youth funding makes up over 30% of the city budget, and we need someone on council that has an intimate knowledge of both, especially now when we are looking to deal with school capacity in a fiscally responsible way. I am also the only candidate that has worked full-time in our local schools, so I know the experience of

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# Candidates for Alexandria City Council

## Timothy Lovain

**Democrat**  
**Age:** 67  
**Family:** Wife Beth and daughters Isabella, Kathleen and Ava  
**Education including degrees and institutions:** BA, University of Chicago; MA, Princeton University; JD, University of Washington  
**Offices held, dates:** Alexandria City Council, 2006-2009 and 2012-present  
**Occupation and relevant experience:** I am a government relations consultant who has worked in transportation policy for over 30 years. I have also served as staff for a Congresswoman and a Senator and as an active-duty Coast Guard officer.  
**Community involvement:** Chair of the City's Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee, Board Member of Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, former Chair of the Alexandria United Way Campaign, former Wright to Read tutor, and former Board member and volunteer for several Alexandria non-profits  
**Website:** www.timlovain.com  
**Email address:** timlovain@gmail.com  
**Twitter handle:** @TimLovain  
**Name three favorite endorsements:** ACPS teachers, Sierra Club, Alexandria police officers



### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I want to continue to be a champion for Alexandria's kids. I am very proud of my three daughters and my wife's work directing the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. It isn't just a cliché that our kids are our future. I have fought for adequate and rationally-based school funding, safe routes to schools, more playing fields, and stopping child abuse, and I want to expand those efforts. I want to implement the Children and Youth Master Plan I helped shepherd to enactment.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

I am the proud father of three ACPS students, all at T.C. Williams. I am also a transportation policy professional and want to continue to use that expertise to help address transportation challenges in Alexandria and throughout our region. If I am re-elected, I will chair the Transportation Planning Board for the National Capital Region, where I am addressing transportation challenges facing our entire region. I also have a track record as a careful steward of taxpayer dollars.

#### 3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

We can ensure better cooperation and coordination among ACPS, City agencies and our non-profits, as promised in the Youth and Master Plan, e.g. "wrap-around services" for at-risk youth and City and ACPS programs at City recreational facilities. We can also attract more high-quality commercial development around our Metro stations to generate tax revenues for schools and other City needs while lessening the tax burden on Alexandria residents. We should also continue and intensify the cooperation between the City and ACPS on anticipating and planning for future development and demand for educational facilities.

#### 4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

I try my best to show citizens that I understand their concerns and arguments and treat them with respect. We have so many well-informed and engaged citizens that elected officials are well-advised to listen closely to them! In the end, I try my best to explain that it is my job to consider all the evidence and citizen concerns and then exercise my best judgment about what is the right course for Alexandria.

#### 5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

Our top priorities should be public safety, public education, public works and public health, but even those budgets should be scrubbed for efficiencies. We should take a harder look at other programs and focus especially on not filling certain staff vacancies. Finally, we should consider reducing spending on programs that duplicate services supplied by other levels of government and non-profits.

#### 6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I would probably spend it on a program that I coincidentally secured \$1 million for a couple years ago — more sidewalks and crosswalks to improve pedestrian safety and encourage walkable access to schools, transit stops, homes and shopping. These "complete streets" improvements can expand transportation choices, decrease household transportation costs, increase physical activity and make our streets safer for everyone.

## Monique A. Miles

**Republican**  
**Age:** 35  
**Family:** Shirley Miles, Charlie (mini poodle)  
**Education including degrees and institutions:** Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Affairs and Philosophy from the University of Virginia; Juris Doctor from the Regent University School of Law  
**Offices held, dates:** N/A  
**Occupation and relevant experience:** Attorney and Owner of Old Towne Associates, P.C.  
**Community involvement:** Mentor for at-risk youth, former member of Towing Advisory Services Board, member of the Board of Governors for the Legal Services Corporation of Virginia, which oversees pro bono legal services across the Commonwealth. I also serve on the Board of Governors of the Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference and the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Washington Employment Lawyers Association.  
**Website:** www.moniquemiles.com  
**Email address:** supporter@moniquemiles.com  
**Twitter handle:** MMilesAlexCC  
**Name three favorite endorsements:** Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, BlakPAC, NextGenGOP



### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I have been a public servant through community service and youth mentorship for many years. I was asked to run for office multiple times and decided that now I felt I could make an impact. I have a genuine interest in people and I care about our community. The best way to make a positive impact is to become an engaged citizen and run for public office. I would strive to create a close bond between Council and residents all across the City to restore their faith in government.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

I am a female, minority small business owner. I'm an outlier in the City and would be an outlier on Council. There are no small business owners on Council and that's why my perspective would be so valuable. I would bring that mindset to Council and put it toward solving the problems Council will face over the next three years. Parts of my small business plan have been praised by Democratic and Republican candidates.

Voters should choose me because I am one of the few candidates that say "I am looking forward to reaching across the aisle and working with the opposing party." We must move this City forward together and I'll do just that through strong leadership.

#### 3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

Children are the future of Alexandria. That's why I support providing all of the funds necessary for them to have the resources they need to learn. Beyond that funding, I would use the Maury School Initiative as an example of how to solve facility and capacity problems that schools encounter. The public-private model that was spearheaded by concerned parents and educators should serve as an example across the nation of how civic engagement can be successful. I would work with individual PTAs, form the important relationships necessary, and watch neighborhoods thrive with stronger schools.

#### 4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

Government is toxic when the representatives think they know best. I am imperfect and do not know the answer to every question. However, the key to a strong community, and something that I believe is lacking is respect and civility. Too many op-eds complain about the current Council's superiority complex.

As your Councilwoman, if we disagreed on something, I'd love to sit down with you and discuss why you feel a certain way and where we can agree. The only way citizens are to remain engaged is if their government remains responsive.

#### 5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

The most important part about re-ordering budget priorities is preserving the high- quality of life Alexandria residents enjoy. Budgetary cuts should not adversely affect any population in the City. That's why I would pursue cuts to the following: non-essential City personnel functions such as travel restrictions, conferences, and departmental discretionary spending; reducing redundancy through shared services like auxiliary services and facilities (a recommendation from BFAAC); and by paying our debt service we will pay less in interest every year our Council refuses to solve tough problems.

#### 6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I would put the \$1 million towards the Housing Affordability Trust Fund. Through market rate increases and council inaction, over 12,000 affordable units have been lost in the past 10 years. I've said I will bring real solutions to Council and this is the first example.

## Redella S. "Del" Pepper

**Democrat**  
**Family:** Husband: F. Jay Pepper, M.D. ; Son: Murphy Pepper (Soo) and 5 grandchildren  
**Education:** Bachelor's degree from Grinnell College and graduate work at the University of Wisconsin



**Offices Held:** I am currently a member of the City Council and in that role have represented the City on nine Council-related boards and commissions during this term. I chair the City's Facilities Naming Committee and represent the Council on the Alexandria Commission on Aging. I co-chair Alexandria Works! and until recently co-chaired the Potomac River Generating Station Monitoring Group. I serve as the Mayor's alternate to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, (COG). Previously, I served as the COG President. I currently represent the Council on COG's Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee and on their Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), where I earlier served as its chair. Presently, I serve as the Treasurer of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and chair of its Operations Committee.

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Long time civic activist/Member City Council/Homemaker

**Community involvement:** At the present time, I am a board member of the Senior Services of Alexandria and a member of the Optimist Club of Alexandria, the West End Business Association, and the Del Ray Business Association. I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, (Friendship Firehouse). I am a Life Member of the Urban League and the NAACP. I am a former First Vice President of the NAACP.

**Website:** www.delpepper.com  
**Email address:** delpepper@aol.com

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Alexandria Committee of Police, Local 5; Alexandria Political Action Committee for Education (Teachers Association); Securing Alexandria's Future

### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I am concerned that the needs of our at risk population (seniors, youth, disabled, unemployed, etc.) be addressed. Helping this group matters if the members are going to thrive and live healthy, productive lives. Housing, jobs, and support services are fundamental. I work to meet these needs by supporting programs that aim at maintaining and securing affordable housing units wherever possible. I represent the Council on the Workforce Development Center Group (Alexandria Works!) whose goal is job training. I work to ensure that needed support services are provided.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

My years of service on Council — two times serving as Vice Mayor — gives me unique experience, perspective, expertise, and vision, which I believe will be helpful to the next Council and to the community.

#### 3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

It is important for the School system and the City to work together to look for joint economies. The government (staff and Council) need to ensure that the whole community hears about all the good things that are happening in the school system. The City should continue to help with finding space wherever possible for pre-school and after school programs. The City, along with the schools, should also be encouraging parents to get involved with the schools and their children's homework. The City needs to promote volunteers to become mentors/tutors for the children.

#### 4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

I find the most effective way to show that you are really listening to a constituent is to TRULY BE listening. I carefully read the person's e-mail/letter to the editor/or any other correspondence. I listen to a presentation made at a Council meeting or during a conversation. I try to understand what that person is seeing or experiencing . If this is

SEE PEPPER, PAGE 24



## ELECTION '15

# Candidates for Alexandria City Council

## Paul C. Smedberg

**Democrat**

**Age:** 54

**Family:** Michael Molesky, Partner

**Education including degrees and institutions:** B.S. Economics & B.A. History, Allegheny College; Fellow, Sorensen Institute, University of Virginia

**Offices held, dates:** Alexandria City Council Member 2003 to present

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Director of Government Affairs & Advocacy, AAPM&R

**Community involvement:** As long as I have lived in the City, I have served on a number of community boards, which has bettered the lives of Alexandrians. I currently represent the City on several inter-jurisdictional commissions in a leadership role – VRE, Northern VA Transportation Commission & Northern VA Regional Commission

**Website:** www.PaulSmedberg.org

**Email address:** SmedbergforCouncil@gmail.com

**Twitter handle:** @Paul\_Smedberg

**Name three favorite endorsements:** A-PACE, Alexandria's Teachers; Alexandria Committee of Police, Local 5; Mt Vernon Sierra Club



## Fernando Torrez

**Republican**

**Age:** 34

**Family:** Kamila Lipowska-Torrez and Alexandra Torrez (wife & daughter)

**Education including degrees and institutions:**

United States Air Force Community College Associates Degree

Devry University Bachelors of Science in Business Administration

Microsoft Certified Professional CompTia

Network + CompTia

**Offices held, dates:** I am a candidate.

**Occupation and relevant experience:** NanoTech IT Support - Small business owner

Community involvement:

Board Member - Alexandria Regional Council, United Way

Board Member - Alexandria Sheriff's Office's Correctional Services Advisory Board

Board Member - Government Relations Committee, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

City Commissioner - Alexandria Commission on Employment, Department of Community and Human Services & Center for Economic Support

Member – American Legion Post 24

Member – West End Business Association

Member – Old Town Business Association

Member – Old Town Civic Association

Member – North Old Town Civic Association

Member – Alexandria Sportsman's Club

**Website:** fernandotorrez.com

**Email address:** friends@fernandotorrez.com

**Twitter handle:** torrez4council

Name three favorite endorsements:

Former City Council Frank Fannon

Former Virginia Governor George Allen



## Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet

**Republican**

**Age:** N/A

**Education including degrees and institutions:** BS Engineering, West Point; MS Public Administration, Shippensburg State College, PA

**Offices held, dates:** None

**Occupation and relevant experience:** President of Van Fleet Associates a Governmental Relations Company based in Alexandria; Company founded in 1981

**Community involvement:** President, Old Town Civic Association (3 years), Member Waterfront Commission (8 Years), Board Member of the Federation of Civic Associations (15 Years)

**Website:** www.vanisyourman.com

**Email address:** van@vanisyourman.com; vmgthehill@aol.com

**Twitter handle:** twitter.com/vanisyourman

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Bob Wood, Monique Miles and Fernando Torres



### QUESTIONS:

**1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?**

Since first being elected to serve on City Council, I have been single-minded in assuring the health and safety of the Alexandria community and I will continue to pursue this as a defining call to service. This represents to me the primary function of local government and I intend to remain committed to this goal. This can only be accomplished through a concerted effort to maintain fiscal soundness and efficient management of municipal resources. I believe that this can be achieved through disciplined determination that assures the continued financial security of the City.

**2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?**

I pride myself on the ability to listen first and speak second. To me this is an earmark of an effective representative seeking to affect an interchange of ideas that will eventually lead to a viable solution or compromise. (A successful, effective dialogue between individuals is a result of the ability to listen and learn from others. I have demonstrated the ability to be forthright and straight talking in my conversations and dealings with the community. And this has served we well.

**3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?**

While funding is one of the keys to a quality school system there is no doubt that there are other methods whereby elected officials can assist in achieving excellence in education. The financial acumen and the accumulated experience of many City departments provide a resource to the school system on an ongoing basis. However, I believe that the continued cooperative dialogue between Council and the elected Members of the School Board provides a platform to address issues and emphasize to all residents that the School system is a highly valued component of a strong and stable community.

**4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?**

As I mentioned above in Question 2, I have demonstrated the ability to be forthright and straight talking in my conversations and dealings with the community. I approach my interactions with city staff in the same manner. I do not hesitate to ask tough questions and have frequently arranged meetings between residents and staff to discuss issues. Many of my questions to staff during Council work sessions and meetings are a result of communications from residents. This has earned me the respect of many with whom I share a different position.

**5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?**

We have been effectively dealing with this issue for a number of years and I can assure the voters that while these frequent "hiccups" have resulted in a wide variety of reductions we have done so with enlightened moderation across the board. I honestly cannot simply list three distinct areas to cut. That of course would be the simple approach just shut down this program, slash that budget, reduce that initiative by a whopping percentage, etc. Instead I would with the support of the public and working with my fellow Council members, city staff and boards and commissions seek ways to deal with the reductions that has the lowest possible impact on the health and safety of the residents of the city.

**6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?**

Given the importance of a strong preschool education and the statistics, which so amply bear this out I, would use this money to assure access to quality preschool for all children in the City. I believe in the overriding importance of this and would welcome a windfall of one million dollars to achieve this goal.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### QUESTIONS:

**1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?**

As a small business owner, Air Force Veteran, and immigrant I bring a unique perspective and set of skills. I believe in the American Dream and am proof that anyone in this great nation can achieve their goals if they join together work hard, work smart, and persevere. City Council has ignored the business community, city's infrastructure, education for far too long and it is time these issues are in the forefront of our city representatives. As a first time father, I have a greater desire to see the City of Alexandria in a better path. I want my daughter to receive an outstanding education and live in a vibrant area.

**2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?**

In 2008, I started NanoTech, a small IT business that supports small to medium business throughout the City of Alexandria. For the past seven years, I have been involved in the City's business community, which has allowed me to understand the struggles that small businesses have experienced in starting or expanding within city limits.

As councilmember, the first order of business would be to streamline the licensing, and permitting process. Relieving small business owners from burdensome regulations will make Alexandria business friendly. By bringing in new and expanding small businesses, Alexandria will be able to expand its commercial tax base.

As a military veteran, I want to focus on tapping into our veteran community, which is currently 8% of our population, and work to incentivize these "vetrepreneurs" to choose the City to locate their businesses.

**3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?**

My wife and I have recently become new parents and our daughter, Alexandra, will become a student in the Alexandria City Public School system in the next few years. Just like every parent, it is very important for us to provide our daughter the best education possible. ACPS's challenges come in many forms, including budget cuts, overcrowding and accreditation issues, as in the Jefferson Houston Elementary case. From my perspective, the City needs to work to increase community awareness, support creative instructors and administrators, and strengthen the relationship between City Council and the

SEE TORREZ, PAGE 33

### QUESTIONS:

**1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?**

Our debt has ballooned 300% in the past 10 years, from \$130 to \$540 million. We have a yearly debt service of \$66 million, which will jump to \$80 million when the Potomac Yard Metro Station development occurs. Our AAA bond rating could be in jeopardy, as we have massive infrastructure costs projected for our schools and for our combined sewer system. The City's Five Year Projection estimates that the debt will increase an additional \$128 million and property taxes will rise 21% by 2020. This is only sustainable if property values continue to increase. A complete efficiency and effectiveness audit of all the city's financial accounts is absolutely necessary.

**2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?**

I am a 30-year Alexandria resident. I am a 23-year Army Veteran. After graduating from West Point I served in a number of assignments throughout the US, Germany and Vietnam. I am currently the President of Van Fleet Associates, an Alexandria based governmental relations firm. I am very adept at reaching across the aisle and working with other parties and individuals representing the other side of the arguments on a vast number of issues. I have served 3 years as the President of the Old Town Civic Association, eight years as a member of the Waterfront Commission, and 15 years on the Board of the Federation of Civic Associations where I was served as the Vice Chair.

**3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?**

Council Members need to be proactive in pushing for excellence in our schools. Early education is an absolute must along with smaller classes and apprenticeship programs. The scholarship apprenticeship program my campaign instituted during this election cycle is a terrific model for teaching high school seniors how the inner workings of their local political system and government operate. In the future, all candidates for Council should consider using this program. When elected, I will work very closely with our School Board members to help insure that our Alexandria schools are academically on the top rung in all of Northern Virginia.

**4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?**

From my many years of being active participant in monitoring our local government, I have learned that the most effective and innovative ideas originate from the citizens. Alexandria is one of the most educated cities in the U.S. Our citizens possess a vast amount of knowledge on just about every subject matter imaginable. Therefore, It would be an extremely rare instance that I might disagree with the positions postulated by the citizens residing in one of our numerous neighborhoods. This Council has failed miserably to adequately address the many needs and desires of the citizens in almost every neighborhood thus making poor decisions regarding a myriad of issues throughout the entire city.

**5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?**

That is why an efficiency and effectiveness audit is so important

SEE VAN FLEET, PAGE 24



# Candidates for Alexandria City Council

Pepper

FROM PAGE 18

## Justin Wilson

**Democrat**

**Age:** 36

**Family:** Wife, Son (10) & Daughter (8)

**Education including degrees and institutions:** Bachelor of Science, Information Systems, Virginia Commonwealth University

**Offices held, dates:** Alexandria City Council July 2007 – July 2009; January 2013 - Present

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Director Infrastructure Program Management, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak)

**Community involvement:** Virginia Board of Juvenile Justice; Virginia Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice; President, Del Ray Citizens Association; Chairman Alexandria Transit Company (DASH Bus); Alexandria Budget & Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

**Website:** www.justin.net

**Email address:** campaign@justin.net

**Twitter handle:** @justindotnet

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Sierra Club; Education Association of Alexandria; Alexandria Committee of Policy, Local 5



## Lt. General (Retired)

## John R. “Bob” Wood

**Republican**

**Occupation and relevant experience:**

US Army (Retired), 36 years

Founder, Star Strategies Group, Alexandria small business, 2009 - 2013

Senior Executive, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, International, 2013 - Present

**Community involvement:**

Member, Alexandria Waterfront Plan Workgroup

Co-Founder, Capitol Post (Veteran Service center and Business Incubator, Alexandria)

Board member, Old Town Civic Association

Board member, The Fairfax Military Retirement Community, Fort Belvoir

**Website:** WoodforCouncil.com

**Email address:** woodforcouncil@gmail.com

**Twitter handle:** @woodcitycouncil

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Alexandria PAC for Education (Teacher endorsed); Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR); Carlyle C. “Connie” Ring, Former Member of Alexandria City Council, Former Alexandria School Board.



### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Ensuring every child has the opportunity to succeed is a central focus of my campaign, and my service on the City Council. During my tenure on Council, I have successfully worked to restore painful Federal cuts to Head Start, reduce the waiting list for early childhood education, and tackle growing student enrollment.

Far too many children start Kindergarten with no preschool experience. For many of our kids in need, we waste after-school and out-of-school time opportunities. Our education infrastructure is aged and in need of new investments, and our play-spaces are too scarce and not well maintained.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

As a current member of the Alexandria City Council, an ACPS parent, a state-wide leader in Juvenile Justice, champion of early childhood education and experienced civic activist, I believe I bring a unique perspective and collection of experiences to the City Council.

More than experiences, I bring a record of success on the City Council.

Instead of talking about how Alexandria grows and diversifies its economy, I've spent my tenure on Council doing just that, working to attract thousands of good jobs to our City, strengthening the City's municipal balance sheet, and removing the red-tape the can inhibit job growth.

Instead of just talking about the success of our children, I've worked to expand early childhood education, identify funding for school capacity needs and shepherd a plan to handle school capacity growth long into our future.

Instead of just talking about easing congestion, I've worked to revive the dream of a Metro Rail station at Potomac Yard, pushed for modern parking standards, and advocated for the first new transit on the West End in decades.

#### 3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

With the highest poverty level of any school system in Northern Virginia, Alexandria's schools have a unique challenge in ensuring the success of our kids. But we cannot make excuses, we must make results.

Yet in a tad more than 32 hours per week, our schools cannot ameliorate every challenge that faces our children outside of the schoolhouse. This is where the City must be an essential partner with our schools to create an environment where every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Whether it's pre-school, after-school, or out-of-school time, we have an opportunity to improve the coordination, rigor and results of how our kids are served.

#### 4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

Throughout my tenure on the City Council, I have worked to provide the kind of accessible and responsive government that the residents of this City deserve.

We are not always going to agree on every issue, but I work to ensure that every resident is heard, respected, and their concerns are addressed in some form.

#### 5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

Every budget tells a different story, with different emergent needs and priorities. I've served on Council during one of the most difficult fiscal environments our City has ever seen. Every year I've served, I've identified efficiencies and reductions to City spending to help our City adopt budgets that respect our wallets and reflect our values.

All of those proposals are available online in detail at [www.alexandriava.gov/budget](http://www.alexandriava.gov/budget)

#### 6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I believe there is no better investment that City government can make than in the future of our children. I would use an additional million to continue my efforts to clear the waiting list for pre-school services in our City and finally bring universal pre-school to Alexandria.

### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Restoring trust in city government. We need to rebalance perspectives, representation, and experiences in our City Council. We confront challenges to our collective future from debt, development, business, education, and environment. These challenges can certainly be solved, but not with the same, single set of voices and old set of assumptions and ideas. One way is no way to guide change in today's complex environment. Too many residents feel ignored, underrepresented, and underserved. The result is decreased engagement and ultimately loss of trust. We need the energy and involvement of our remarkable citizens in active and constructive conversation to evolve the city and build its future. I will listen, consider, understand, and represent all of our city's residents to the very best of my ability as a respectful, on occasion critical, but always productive member of council in support of our residents.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

In my 36 years of military service and, now, my 6 years in both small and large business, I've had the education and experience needed to help Alexandria solve its present problems and build its future. From lieutenant to lieutenant general (3 stars), I led small and quite large organizations, managed entire communities, resolved local to international disputes, and solved complex problems requiring judgment, tact, and innovation. As the Army's senior strategic planner, I helped change the Army to succeed in the post 9/11 world. I've been a School Board President, a University professor at West Point (Economics, Finance), and head of the Army's Command and General Staff College (staff training for U.S and international officers). In business, I've founded a successful small consulting business in Alexandria, a business incubator for veterans, and now manage the largest line of business and revenue for a major non-profit organization working in the Federal information technology space. I bring experience, education, and dedication to support our citizens and our city.

#### 3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

I see three issues facing our Public Schools and several steps to help solve them:

a. Serving the needs of a transient and extremely diverse student population while meeting and advancing education standards for all students.

b. Promoting excellence in education, across all functions, within available resources.

c. Convincing citizens that their “return on investment” of tax revenues in public education is not only sufficient but also increasing.

Diversity in our schools is a driving demographic fact. Understanding student needs requires outreach, counseling, and adaptable education programs. Celebrating excellence in education must match sports reporting in the press. The appearance and condition of our facilities must reflect the city's care and support for public education. Community contact, conspicuous commitment, and regular communications can affirm the value and quality of our schools. Ultimately, the performance of our schools must be at least as important to the city and its residents as any bond rating or other accolade.

#### 4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

The courtesy of an answer is an important first step. A sincere and thoughtful effort to understand the point being made is another step. I find I learn something from every conversation, every citizen, in every aspect of city and community business. If I disagree, it very often is in degree or in some aspect of detail. An explanation of my position is most often inclusive of citizen comments to the amount possible and not dismissive as just wrong.

#### 5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

a. Redundant management functions across all city entities and city services are natural areas to investigate for potential consolidations and cost savings.

b. Restructured debt obligations and/or reduction of borrowing

c. Delay or extend capital investments and capital intensive replacements

#### 6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I would invest it in Pre-K schooling, particularly to expand the facilities to support our non-profit educational partners who do so much, for so many, with so little.

a development issue, I will visit the site in question, attend a community meeting if possible, and seriously consider both sides of any issue. There are very few black and white issues. There are some worthy points on both sides of an issue. In the end, if I have to disagree with the citizen, I will explain why that is so.

#### 5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which areas would you turn to first?

(1) I would look for efficiencies (doing more with existing or reduced funding) in all departments. (2) If at all possible, I would look for capital projects that could be deferred without harming the essential services our residents expect. (3) I would ask all departments to look for possible service reductions for Council to consider if that becomes absolutely necessary.

6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I would give it to the Alexandria Food Center for future expansion, for the purchase of a walk-in freezer, and for food when needed. This is a food storage center whose activities are coordinated by ALIVE! The Center is made available to other non-profits who need a place to store food before distributing it to needy recipients.

In addition to helping the Center, I would share the funds with other food programs in the City. What could be more important than making it possible for food to be available for those in need?

## Van Fleet

FROM PAGE 23

tant. When former Governor Wilder chaired a commission to do a complete state-wide efficiency and effectiveness audit, his group was asked to identify permanent and sustainable savings. In response, the Wilder Commission pinpointed over \$3 billion in accounts receivable that were not collectible and \$1.3 billion in inefficiencies. On a smaller scale, Alexandria needs to replicate what the State has done. The purpose of the audit needs to be widely disseminated from the start, and the audit should include at least the following: identification of redundant and ineffective services; streamlining and consolidating agencies and programs; reviewing use of technology to improve service delivery and to reduce costs; and lastly, identifying and recommending management tools in order to make the services more efficient.

#### 6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

Our safety net is the most important city service provided to our citizens. At present the Alexandria Police Department (APD) is under staffed. That affects each and every one of us daily as we look to them to provide us with protection against not only against violent crimes but also in insuring our streets are safe and trafficable.



## ELECTION '15

# City Council Candidates

## Cefaratti

FROM PAGE 16

### 4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

Most of my professional life has been spent in customer service and as a negotiator, requiring empathetic listening skills. When addressing issues with another party, I listen to their viewpoint, assess it, and provide feedback to confirm my understanding of their position. Creating a feedback loop may not result in agreement, but it will create mutual understanding and mutual respect. By taking the time to listen and explain my understanding of a position, I demonstrate I've listened, even if I do not agree with the position.

### 5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

First and foremost — regardless of economic hiccups — I will push for improvements in the operational efficiency of our

City government to maximize the effectiveness of our current tax dollars. Looking at specific budget cuts, I would focus first on an across-the-board cut for all external consultants, an expensive crutch used by the City for years. As I have stated before, I will turn to the following resources: students at local universities willing to work for credit; and local residents with subject matter expertise. The second target will be the Patrick Henry school project. Even Councilmembers Chapman and Smedberg have expressed apprehension about the project, which needs to be reconstituted as a renovation and expansion, rather than a rebuild. Lastly, Potomac Yard Metro poses a great financial risk as currently planned: requiring a special residential tax district of which I don't approve; forecasted business tax revenue; and no allowance for cost overruns. Any additional financial hiccups make the risks even greater.

### 6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

Simply put, I would use \$1M to enhance my existing plan to eliminate fees for children at recreation centers. Any additional monies would go toward improving maintenance of facilities and equipment and also increasing the number of free after-school programs offered.

## Chapman

FROM PAGE 16

students and staff, and understand the supports they need from the city.

I believe you should choose me because we should not have a governing body which does not have members that don't intimately know and understand 30% of its own budget.

### 3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

City government can support the school system by leading the community wide discussion on pre-K programs, after school programs and workforce training programs. By ensuring that the schools and community partners and non-profits all understand their own place in each of those three programmatic areas, this city can create a successful and seamless transition for our students throughout their lives and ensure that the proper supports are available for them so that they become successful students and then successful adults.

City government can also ensure that social service programs are available to ensure that we have healthy families and we need to continue to fund libraries and make sure our families have access to improve literacy and the love of learning.

### 4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

I believe that you have to take the suggestions of citizens, and explain the specifics of how or why a suggestion does not work, maybe because of lack of funding or other unintended consequences. I also believe that constant dialogue with citizens will allow for greater transparency with decision making, and also better align policy making with the will of the citizens.

### 5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

The first thing that I would look at is the city's equipment replacement policies, for things like the city's car fleet, because by slowing down how quickly we replace well maintained equipment, we would save money. I would look to adjust some of our partnership and funding formula with third party organizations such as WMATA and I would also look at city positions, such as in our courts, where the city is subsidizing jobs that are the state's responsibility to fund fully.

### 6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I am torn — For immediate impact, I would want to spend it on improving our road surfaces, but also I would want to use it to tackle one of our communities biggest issues — affordable housing, because we have seen that \$1 million, when loaned to one of our non-profit developers, can be used to retain affordable housing in the city.

## Torrez

FROM PAGE 16

School Board. These steps are best accomplished by electing members to each respective body of governance that bring a new and diverse representation. We can then look into its core: the teachers and school principals — those individuals that interact daily with our children and into whose hands we place the minds of our young. Their needs must be supported in order for them to achieve success.

### 4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

There will always be those who will agree to disagree. It is important that City Council members understand the reasoning or both sides of whichever issue is being discussed by the City Council. This is why it is important to have a diverse and energetic Council with new ideas. Communication between the Council and the citizens is a critical step in striking a balance. As a case in point, this past summer I was part of the A-frame and digital signage Ad-hoc committee which was assigned the task of considering the 'sandwich boards' that many small businesses display as a marketing tool, on the sidewalks just in front of their stores. It was important for me to make sure that the community at large understood this form of marketing helps attract customers and that not allowing them will hurt our business community, which is already a small 28% of our tax base. By communicating this point at several meetings of the Committee, I successfully convinced the committee of the importance of this marketing strategy.

Community engagement between City Council, residents, and small business owners is of critical importance.

### 5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

All business owners have gone through this before. However, it doesn't always mean that we need to constantly cut down on the budget. If anything, this is a warning sign to diversify our services, streamline procedures, and expand our reach to attract more clients or in this case more business into our city. I believe we have turned most pages except for the technology sector. I have reviewed some areas within our operational budget that without any further detail it made me question myself if we are really investing on scalable technology and maintenance. I have also brought this up during the first meeting for FY2016 at the Durant center this past week.

### 6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I wouldn't spend it right away. I would use this \$1 million to start a fund and promote public-private partnerships for one of the items below. The factor that would determine where the money would be allocated will be determined by the type of partnership and most advantageous deal for the city.

- Affordable housing
- Revamping our technology through the city
- After school programs or programs for kids with disabilities

## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

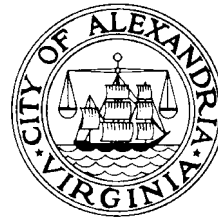
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## CITY OF ALEXANDRIA SECOND HALF 2015 REAL ESTATE TAX AND REFUSE FEE ARE DUE NOVEMBER 16, 2015

The second half 2015 real estate tax and refuse fee must be paid by November 16, 2015, to avoid late payment penalty and interest.

Pay in person at City Hall or at any SunTrust Bank Branch located in the City, or by credit card or eCheck on the City's website at [alexandriava.gov/Payments](http://alexandriava.gov/Payments). Real estate tax payments can be mailed to City of Alexandria, PO Box 34750, Alexandria, VA 22334-0750. Payments can also be made with cash only at approximately 70 Global Express Cash Payment Centers conveniently located throughout Northern Virginia. For a complete list of the available cash payment centers, please visit the City's website at [alexandriava.gov/Payments](http://alexandriava.gov/Payments).

Real estate tax information is available on the City's website at [alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax](http://alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax). Under Additional Resources on that webpage, there is a link for Real Estate Tax History and Payments, which provides detailed tax balances and payments. For payment questions or to request a tax bill, please call the Treasury Division at 703.746.3902, Option 8, or email [payments@alexandriava.gov](mailto:payments@alexandriava.gov). For assessment questions or to change a mailing address, please email [realestate@alexandriava.gov](mailto:realestate@alexandriava.gov). For refuse fee questions, please call the Solid Waste Division at 703.746.4410.

The Finance Department is open, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A drop box located on the Royal Street side of City Hall is available 24 hours a day. (Payments must be in the drop box by midnight on November 16, 2015 to be considered on time.)



## ELECTION '15

# Candidates for School Board District A

## William E. “Bill” Campbell

**Town of residence:** Alexandria

**Age:** 53

**Family:** Married 32 years-Ruby, Daughter-Janay, Son-Cameron, Son-Jaquan

**Education:** Bachelor of Science-Mechanical Engineer, West Virginia University

Master's Certificate-Paralegal Studies, Georgetown University

**Offices held, dates:** Alexandria City Public School Board, 2012-2015

**Occupation and relevant experience:** DoD Mechanical Engineer

**Community involvement:** Early Education Commission, Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission, Alexandria Citizen Police Academy, Parks & Recreation Youth Sports Coach, TC Williams Athletic Boosters, Parker-Gray Roundtable Taskforce, Braddock Road Implementation Committee.

**Website:** billcampbell4schoolboard.org

**Email address:** campbelw1@verizon.net

**Twitter handle:** None

**Name three favorite endorsements:** My wife, my children and the Education Association of Alexandria



## Hal Cardwell

**Town of residence:** Alexandria

**Age:** 50

**Family:** married 3 kids, parents in Alexandria

**Education:** TC Williams '82: B.S. Systems Engineering University of Virginia '86; Ph.D. Water Resources Engineering, Johns Hopkins University '92.

**Offices held, dates:** none

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Water Resources Engineer; expertise in collaborative processes / public engagement.

**Community involvement:** PTA president & board member – Mount Vernon Community School, Cub Scout leader.

**Website:**

**Email address:**

**Twitter handle:**

**Name three favorite endorsements:**



## Karen A. Graf

**Town of residence:** Alexandria City

**Age:** 45

**Family:** Husband and three children that are ACPS students

**Education:** Master's in Technical Communication

**Offices held, dates:** School Board 2013-15

**Occupation and relevant experience:** not employed, but worked in the technology industry in design, development, content development and management.

**Community involvement:** PTA, preschool resource parent

**Website:** www.graf4schoolboard.com

**Email address:** graf4schoolboard@gmail.com

**Twitter handle:** @KarenAGraf

**Name three favorite endorsements:** my husband, my kids and my parents. J



### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Alexandria has a “preparation” gap. This gap affects students before they enroll and when they leave our system. Too many students enter ACPS ill prepared sometimes emotionally and intellectually. This lack of readiness leads to achievement gaps, disproportionate suspensions and continuous intervention requirements. ACPS has historically struggled with necessary interventions and has continued to send students into the world unprepared to be self-supporting and positively contributing adults. Improving the outcomes for our Children with Disabilities, English Language Learners and Free and Reduced Lunch students is what calls me to serve. A multitude of improvements is required: enhanced professional development and support for teachers including quality cultural competency training leading to improved communications, higher expectations and higher efficacy; well designed and aligned interventions; and improved support from parents and our community.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I started school in the '60s, grew up in the '70s, became a college graduate in the '80s, a father in the '90s and a legal guardian in the 2000's. Having been a fatherless, poor student of color with a speech impediment, I can truly empathize with the struggles that many of our families and students are faced with. Having now served a term on the board, I know the true challenges facing our schools. Significant foundational elements have been put in place that have begun to move our district toward being high achieving. I want to continue our work toward that goal.

#### 3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

The board's interactions with Council and the work of the joint city/schools Long Range Planning Committee has led to improved trust and agreement as to Alexandria's capacity challenges. In the next 10 years we will need new schools at all three levels. We also need to modernize many of the spaces in our existing buildings. These realities force us to be creative with solutions. We need to look at things such as: moving PreK to independent centers; reprogramming schools perhaps to K-6 and 7-8 or 7-9 for middle school; additional academies for high school off of the main campus and/or a second high school.

#### 4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

I've been actively involved at JH for the past decade. This school board and Superintendent have clearly identified the primary deficiencies at JH and are addressing each with a systematic and proven approach. We've provided quality leadership; continuous training and support to teachers; using data to pinpoint interventions; provided outstanding learning spaces; and we have worked to garner more support from the existing as well as the gentrifying community. These efforts have led to positive achievement gains which have, in one year, moved JH two years forward in their three-year plan to become fully accredited. Our kindergarten capture rate has increased, enrollment is climbing and community support is on the rise.

### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I'm vested in ACPS. I grew up in Alexandria and went thru ACPS (TCW '82). After living in other states and countries I returned here in my 30's, and have spent the last 11 years as a ACPS parent with kids currently in elementary, middle and high school. I want to contribute to making sure that my kids and the rest of ACPS's students get top-notch education opportunities like I did a few decades ago. In terms of priorities, redistricting and facilities issues are probably at the top of current concerns with the system's schools bursting at the seams. How will we meet these challenges while remaining committed to meeting the various educational needs of an extremely diverse student population? My long history in Alexandria and within ACPS should help, as will my background in both collaborative processes and systems engineering, and as will my Spanish language skills.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

Three of us are running for three slots from District A. I look forward to working with Bill Campbell, Karen Graf, and the other members of the next board.

#### 3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

ACPS is already being creative at meeting the needs of its growing student population, but we need more space. The next school board will need to work with the council and with the community to develop funding and facility solutions — from building new schools to expanding existing facilities. My long history in Alexandria and within ACPS should help address these challenges, as will my background in both collaborative processes and systems engineering.

#### 4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

There are no easy solutions. We need to understand the needs of individual students, and work with the teachers and staff to develop interventions that work. We need to collect data on what's working in our schools and what isn't, and learn from best practices around the city and around the world. We need to make sure that our teachers have the resources and training to implement new strategies and follow-through rather than moving on to the next shiny idea-of-the-month.

### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

For these next three years, my top priority will be to continue pushing academic excellence for ACPS, while addressing our capacity and budget issues. I like to strategize around the improvement of academic support to help schools be effective. By looking at data to identify the division's needs, the budget and staffing models can become more aligned which will result in division-wide improvements in the state benchmarks like we have seen to-date.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

Process, Persistence, and Performance. With strong processes, members of the Board can be more effective to make decisions and communication the direction. I love building processes. Even with good processes, sometimes it takes a lot of work to get the decision realized. This is where persistence is imperative and I have a lot of it. I will stick with a problem until it is solved or completed. Lastly, whether it is the School Board itself or the division at large, performance is the result of working hard and functioning well. Alexandria City needs a high performing school division and I have the determination to work effectively with many types of people and issues to move towards excellence.

#### 3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

I do think this is a problem and it does need to be addressed. But I believe in the next three years that we will explore all type of ideas that will align capacity, academic advancement and budget in order to provide for future ACPS families. The most important concept is that our decision making has to advance our academic goals and to create a vision that the community can believe in for ACPS. During the redistricting for elementary schools, I believe we have the opportunity to carefully consider preschool, middle school and the high school crowding issues. I have a host of ideas for the budget and academic models that will be researched in the coming months. As for my skills, my experience in technical communications allows me the ability to play with data and concepts in order to find a solution that is right for Alexandria City. I enjoy researching information, developing strategy and planning communication methods.

#### 4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

In Jefferson-Houston's case, we are fortunate that Alexandria City has the resources to provide for the school. In the last three years, the School Board and Superintendent have analyzed the academic needs, the staffing models, the school leadership team, and community engagement methods. It has not been easy in the past three years, but this work led to the success we are seeing today. The School Board worked hard to help support that school community so they could get double-digit growth in most all the subgroups and in every subject. The progress made in the last school year exceeded the state's one year goals for the school and nearly all the two year goals. This school, now in a new building, is primed to be accredited this summer. The progress is occurring fast compared to average educational turnaround standards and I couldn't be more excited for the JH community.

# Vote Nov. 3

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and questionnaires at  
[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)  
Click on Elections  
on the navigation bar.



## ELECTION '15

# Candidates for School Board District B

## Cindy Anderson

**Town of residence:** Alexandria (North Ridge)

**Age:** 53

**Family:** husband: Mark Anderson (TCW '80), sons: Lee (TCW '11) and Henry (TCW '13)

**Education:** B.A. Computer Science/ Psychology, The College of William & Mary

**Offices held, dates:** Chairperson, Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, 2014-present, TC Williams PTSA President (2009-10), GW PTA President (2005-6), PTA Council President (2003-2004), George Mason PTA President (2001-2), Board President, Beverley Hills Church Preschool(1997-1999)

**Occupation and relevant experience:** co-owner, consulting firm; over 10 years experience in high technology sales and training including software training for adults and introductory computer programming skills for elementary school age children.

**Community involvement:** School Board Budget Advisory Committee (2003-2006), Scholarship Fund of Alexandria Board (2010-present), classroom volunteer and tutor, soccer coach, AFS foreign exchange program host parent and volunteer.

**Website:** www.CindyAnderson4SchoolBoard.com

**Email address:** CindyAnderson4SchoolBoard@gmail.com

**Twitter handle:** @Cindy4ACPSBoard

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Education Association of Alexandria (EAA/APACE), and former board members (Mark Eaton, Yvonne Folkerts, Sheryl Gorsuch, Arthur Peabody and Charles Wilson)



## Kelly Carmichael Booz

**Town of residence:** Alexandria

**Age:** 36

**Family:** Husband, Hendrick Booz; Daughter, Madeline (2 – almost 3); Son, William (2.5 months)

**Education:** M.Ed. University of Virginia; BA Carleton College

**Offices held, dates:** Alexandria School Board, 2013 - present

**Occupation and relevant**

**experience:** Partnership Development Lead for Sharemylesson.com with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). Previous work: Director of Civic Education at the Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier; former civics instructor and Manager of Teacher Programs with Alexandria's Close Up Foundation.

**Community involvement:**

**Website:** www.kellycarmichaelbooz.com

**Email address:** kellycbooz@gmail.com

**Twitter handle:** @kellycbooz

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Alexandria Political Action Committee for Education, (A-PACE); Senator Adam Ebbin; Alexandria School Board Member Stephanie Kapsis



## Mimi Goff

**Town of residence:** Alexandria district B

**Age:** I feel young!

**Family:** married 34 years, two adult children

**Education:** BA in Economics Trinity College

**Offices held, dates:**

**Occupation and relevant**

**experience:** Dress Barn, Bradlee, Store Manager

**Community involvement:** Special needs student intern from TCW, Alexandria soccer Association age group co-ordinator and coach, softball coach, Wahoos swim team, Boy and girl scouts, PTO, CYO

**Website:** mimigoffforschoolboard@aol.com

**Email address:** mimigoff4@aol.com

**Twitter handle:**



### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I have had the pleasure to work with young ladies who were new to this country and I have seen the struggles they have encountered in ACPS. College opportunities were never discussed with them and I believe that all students should understand all the options available to them so they and their parents can make a choice as to which educational path to follow. Communication and guidance is so important for all ESL students to help navigate where they want to go and how to get there. Simple one on one meetings can begin the discussion and get the student thinking about their future after graduation. I am running for school board for those students that I have mentored on various subjects as well as helping them study for the SOL's and attempting to instill confidence so they can believe in themselves. They opened my eyes!

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I have attended most of the school board meetings in the past year and have learned a lot about the current issues and the budget process. The budget is the key to the whole educational process and as a business women I am comfortable with budgets. I am not afraid to make tough decisions and I am open to compromise. I also understand the time involved. I am a 30 year City resident that wants to make the ACPS the best school system for all students, a school system in which all students thrive and learn. Our role is to provide what ever is necessary for have all students to succeed. Great schools will also bring good businesses to our community, as business growth usually follows a community with great school systems.

#### 3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

Over crowding is a combination of increased population in our city as well as the school board's negligence in not providing maintainence to schools as well as not providing more classrooms to meet the anticipated growth of the student population which was initially cited in 2009. We will need to rebuild or update our current schools as well as build a new high school, middle school and elementary school to accomodate our increased student population. Land to build on is a major problem and the ability to provide hundreds of millions of dollars to complete such a project will be challenging. But with a City council more inclined to education as opposed to development anything is possible. The school board will have to make difficult budgetary decisions in order to update the schools and build new schools and will be forced to stop pushing larger projects to further years. The schools need it now, 2020 will be too late. Redistricting is a short term cure for its overcrowding. I am concerned about this issue especially in the west end because of the severe overcrowding and the anticipated changes that will happen to the Beauregard corridor. Patrick Henry as a K-8 will help but that project is several years away. It is the least expensive option for now.

#### 4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

Due to the lack of diversification at Jefferson Houston this school would benefit from re-districting. It is a K-8 school that was suppose to be an IB school that should have been full from day one. I don't know why it isn't full! Every school should be full and the answer is not to enroll students from cross town but rather concentrate on filling schools with children from the neighborhood. Busing students is an additional expense and such funds could be put to better use elsewhere.

### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Academic achievement for students at all levels remains my call to serve. In the past two years, Alexandria has made tremendous gains across the division. Previously accredited with warning, today Patrick Henry has made 20% academic gains across all subject areas in just two years and is now fully accredited. TC Williams was accredited with warning in mathematics last year and is now fully accredited. Jefferson-Houston made two years of academic gain in one year following the state turnaround plan.

While we have a lot to celebrate, we also need continuing improvement. Our special education and ELL test results were flat and remain a focus for us this coming year. We are implementing a new local special education plan this year with new leadership. In ELL, following the success of the TC Williams International Academy, we launched a new academy at Hammond and we are constantly revising our ELL staffing model.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

Continuity is vital to maintain ACPS momentum and gains made. I am the only incumbent running for reelection in District B and I am committed to continued progress. Education is my profession and I am one of only two current board members with an education background. I have spent the last 14 years working with students, educators, and administrators from every county in the Commonwealth and from all 50 states. Last year Governor McAuliffe appointed me to the Standards of Learning Innovation Committee where we have looked both at accountability and assessments. I want our schools to foster the greatness our children deserve and would be honored to have one of your three votes.

#### 3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

Capacity is a real issue in Alexandria. Our student population is growing at a rate of 4.3% every year as more families remain with ACPS in middle and high school. Today, our current 7th graders will not fit in Minnie Howard when they reach the 9th grade.

The board recommended a 10-year plan that addresses student growth and our aging buildings that require repair rather than a patchwork approach to fixing issues that is neither sustainable nor a good use of tax dollars. The new approach takes a school offline every couple years to upgrade it, modernize it and add capacity.

If I am reelected, I will work with the school board, city council and community to ensure that we secure space and quality educational facilities for our current and future students.

#### 4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

Last year, Jefferson-Houston made two years of academic gains in one year following the state turnaround plan and I am proud to say that the school is now on a path to regaining its accreditation status. We learned that a strong partnership with the state, a strong superintendent, and excellent teachers make the difference when turning around the school. I am confident that the right people are in place to make the gains necessary.



# ELECTION '15

## Candidates for School Board District B

### Margaret Lorber

**Residence:** Alexandria

**Age:** 69

**Family:** Married with 2 grown children, 1 daughter-in-law and a 6 month old grand-daughter

**Education:** 1968 BA Sociology University of Minnesota, Mpls, MN 1973 MA International Development Studies, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, MA

**Occupation and relevant**

**experience:** Public Policy Advocate in Early Childhood Development, Child Nutrition, and Parent Involvement in Education.

**Community involvement:** Directed 2 national coalitions promoting 1) expansion of National School Breakfast Program and 2) expansion of the Federal Infant Toddler Disability Program.

Directed a statewide collaborative in Maryland promoting implementation of a neuro-scientific approach to Early Childhood Care Giving.

**Website:** www.lorberforschoolboard.com

**Email address:** lorberforschoolboard@gmail.com

**Name three favorite endorsements:** 1) Dana Lawhorn, Sheriff of Alexandria, 2) Sharon Shackelford and Carol Keller, Early Childhood Educators, 3) Eileen Cassidy Rivera and Mimi Carter, former School Board members



### Veronica Nolan

**Town of residence:** City of Alexandria

**Age:** 40 years old

**Family:** Married. I have 2 children and have been an ACPS parent for the last 7 years and thanks to my Kindergartner I have 13 more years to go! I have 2 nieces and 3 nephews who are all future ACPS students.

**Education:** BA from University of Virginia, Masters in Art of Teaching from Trinity University and Nonprofit Management Certificate from Georgetown University

**Offices held, dates:** N/A

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Former classroom teacher.

As CEO led Urban Alliance, a nonprofit dedicated to providing training, mentoring and internships to over 2,000 students annually (including students at TC Williams). Have served on 7 boards of youth-serving organizations. Currently an adjunct professor at Trinity University.

**Community involvement:** For last 20 years I have served youth in the DC metro region and have received several recognitions for my community involvement including: Washingtonian of the Year, the Meyer's Exponent Award, Washington Business Journal's "Real Women Who Mean Business" and a finalist of the Washington Post Nonprofit Excellence Award. I'm in the 2010 Class of Leadership Greater Washington and also served on several boards including: Valley Drive Cooperative Preschool and currently serve on Urban Alliance's board (a program that provides internships to TC Williams' students.)

**Website:** www.veronicaforschoolboard.com

**Email address:** veronicaforschoolboard@gmail.com

**Twitter handle:** @vote4veronicaSB

Name three favorite endorsements:

- ❖ Education Association of Alexandria
- ❖ Stephanie Kapsis, Current school board member
- ❖ Kitty Porterfield, Founding Executive Director of the TC Williams' Scholarship Fund



## District C

### Ronnie Campbell

**Town of residence:** Alexandria City

**Age:** 59

**Family:** Mother of three: Erika, Crystal, and Wyatt, all ACPS graduates (Wyatt graduated in 2014).

**Education:**

**Offices held, dates:** Alexandria City School Board - Member, 2006 – Present

**Occupation and relevant experience:**

30 year USPS employee, all customer service related positions

**Community involvement:**

- ❖ Member of the Virginia State PTA board of Managers from 2005-06
- ❖ The 1st Assistant Director of the Fairfax District PTA (the regional PTA for Alexandria City) 2005-06

❖ President of the Alexandria PTA council 2003-04

❖ President of John Adams Elementary PTA 2001-02

❖ Alexandria City Intervention and Prevention Gang Task Force 2006-Present

❖ School Board Budget Advisory Committee 2004-06

❖ School Board Calendar Committee 2003-04

❖ School Board Health Advisory Board 2002-04

❖ Special Education Advisory Committee 1998-2006, Vice chair 2003-05

❖ Therapeutic Recreation Committee 2000-06

❖ City Before- and After-Care Committee 2004-06

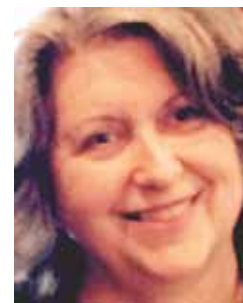
❖ Alexandria Soccer Association Certified Coach 2000-06

**Website:** www.RonnieCampbellCan.org

**Email address:** CampbellCan@comcast.net

**Twitter handle:** @rc\_cares

**Name three favorite endorsements:** The teachers (APACE, of the Education Association of Alexandria), Congressman Don Beyer, State Senator Dick Saslaw



#### QUESTIONS:

**1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?**

I deeply believe in the mission of public education to help all children reach their potential, a mission that is challenged by the diverse needs of our student population at a time of increasing enrollment. It is not sufficient to celebrate diversity in our system; we must make it work for all students by providing the learning environment and strong academic program that enables all our students to succeed. Schools must be in good repair, with sufficient space to accommodate all students; teachers must have the supports essential to respond to the needs of our diverse student population, and parents must feel welcomed and empowered so they can help their children succeed. To create this environment I would place a high priority on improved planning for capital and operational needs that include a new or expanded high school, renovated elementary and middle schools, classroom supports for teachers, and more intensive outreach to parents. These initiatives should be coupled with engagement of the entire Alexandria community to develop support for the financing needed to achieve the plan.

**2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?**

For 25 years, as a parent of two children who attended Alexandria's public schools and more recently as the bilingual parent liaison for our schools, I have been a passionate advocate and committed innovator to improve our programs, support our families, and promote equity and excellence in education in our city. I have been recognized for my success in improving communication between families and schools — which resulted in academic improvement — and creating a tutoring program at the high school, to support students who will be the first in their families to attend college. That leadership, combined with a track record of national advocacy for nationwide expansion of the school breakfast program and increased services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities, demonstrate that my background and experience have prepared me well to serve on the Alexandria City School Board.

**3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?**

We need to do three things: first, plan for maintaining current facilities while expanding capacity. Overcrowding is affecting all of our schools from K - 12. Piecemeal maintenance without comprehensive planning has resulted in schools that are overcrowded and sorely in need of repair; second, reach out to the larger Alexandria community to help citizens and the City Council better understand our budget and the needs of our schools; third, provide confidence to the community by engaging in rigorous budget oversight, including ongoing accountability to citizens through the revived budget advisory committee.

**4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?**

Jefferson-Houston has a history of educational challenges, but has made progress. It is now on a course to become accredited ahead of schedule. But Jefferson-Houston also illustrates the need to be more rigorous in our approach both to achieving academic excellence and to designing and maintaining our schools. The community needs to be more deeply involved than it was in the core policy decision to create a large K – 8 school at Jefferson-Houston. Strong and consis

#### QUESTIONS:

**1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?**

I am passionate about all children being provided with a top quality education that is differentiated according to their needs because I believe an education has the power to transform lives. I believe supporting and retaining quality teachers, principals and staff is paramount to all children receiving an excellent education.

**2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?**

I would be a strong school board member due to my work style and experience. With regards to my approach I am collaborative, have a servant leadership style and know how to identify a concern as well as a plan of action after listening to a variety of engaged stakeholders.

Moreover I have a unique background that differentiates me from other candidates. I'm the only person running in District B that has classroom teaching experience. On the other hand I also have a business and leadership background having been the CEO of Urban Alliance for 12 years, a high school internship program (that also serves TC Williams). Moreover I am the only candidate in District B that currently has children attending ACPS schools so I have a pulse on the existing parent perspective.

**3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?**

Research new streams of funding should at the very least be explored given the limitations the current budget and funding sources provide. We should also investigate public/private partnerships with the city council to see about creative space options that could exist throughout the city. We should also research what other districts have done in similar circumstances.

As a nonprofit CEO I successfully built more than 300 public/private partnerships which allowed more youth served and an increase in funding. Having led a nonprofit (that grew during the recession) I'm used to operating a lean budget that does not sacrifice quality. Moreover I'm used to using data (with context) to drive my decisions and being held accountable for such decisions.

**4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?**

For the past 20 years my professional background has been working in and alongside schools similar to Jefferson Houston. Jefferson Houston presents an exciting opportunity to soon be a model for schools that have rebounded from accreditation challenges and effectively serves diverse populations.

The good news is Jefferson Houston has shown progress which

SEE NOLAN, PAGE 24

#### QUESTIONS:

**1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?**

To ensure ACPS students graduate prepared to be successful in life. Whether they started with ACPS in preschool or arrived in high school, plan to pursue continued education or begin working after high school, are receiving free or reduced school lunch, are English language learners, or have special needs, all students need to believe they can be successful in order to succeed. If students aren't properly prepared and supported, they may not graduate in the first place

SEE CAMPBELL, PAGE 27

### Daria Dillard

**Town of residence:** Alexandria (West End)

**Age:** 32

**Family:** Daughter, Sydney Dillard (9 yrs old)

**Education:**

❖ BA in Philosophy; University of Michigan

❖ MAT in Secondary Education and Mathematics; American University

❖ JD; American University

**Offices held, dates:** No previous elected office

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Alexandria City Public Schools (PS) Math Teacher, current; Fairfax County PS Math Teacher and Department Chair; Prince George's County PS Math Teacher; DC Public Schools Math Teacher

Community involvement:

❖ Alexandria Recreational U8 & U10 Girls Basketball Coach of the Rockstars!

❖ Alexandria City Public Schools Stakeholder Committee member 2014-15

❖ SCAN, Toast to Hope 2014 Volunteer Coordinator

❖ Samuel Tucker Elementary School PTA President, 2013-2015

❖ Samuel Tucker Elementary School PTA Vice-President, 2012-2013

**Website:** www.dariadillard.com

**Email address:** dillard4schoolboard@gmail.com

**Twitter handle:** @dillard4ACPS

Name three favorite endorsements:



#### QUESTIONS:

**1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?**

One issue that defines my call to serve is serving the needs of each and every child. As a teacher I understand what it means to meet each student where they are and provide them with the best education possible. Our children are our future. No amount of money is ever too much if we are investing in our children and doing what needs to be done to make sure they are all receiving a high quality education. With that, we also need to make sure our teachers are receiving the training and support they need because they are the ones in the classroom with our children every school day.

SEE DILLARD, PAGE 27



## ELECTION '15

# Candidates for School Board District C

## Ramee Gentry

**Town of residence:** Alexandria

**Age:** 41

**Family:** Married to Mike, mother to Nicholas and Nora, both in 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Education:** BA in History, MA in Museum Studies

Offices held, dates:

PTA President, Samuel Tucker Elementary 2011-13

PTA Vice President, Francis C. Hammond Middle School 2013-14

Chair, School Board's Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee 2013-2015

Co Chair, Superintendent's Honors Review Committee 2014

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Exhibitions Coordinator, US Holocaust Memorial Museum

**Community involvement:** Decade volunteering for young adults with intellectual disabilities, volunteer at local Food Pantry for low-income families

**Website:** rameegentry.com

**Email address:** rameegentry4schoolboard@gmail.com

**Twitter handle:**

Name three favorite endorsements:

Teachers! [Alexandria Political Action Committee for Education]; also community leaders including Gwendolyn Lewis, Dak Hardwick



## Patricia Hennig

**Town of residence:** Alexandria

**Age:** Not relevant

**Family:** Christopher John Hennig TC Williams graduate, his wife and 3 granddaughters

**Education:**

**Offices held, dates:** Member, first Alexandria City elected School Board 1992–1995

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Corporate controller and accounting professional

**Community involvement:** Over 34 years of community involvement as a parent, PTA officer at three (3) schools, member of four (4) School Board Advisory committees including: 7 years on the Special Education Advisory Committee; 10 years' service on the Substance Abuse Education Advisory Committee, including 8 years as Chair of this Committee, 4 years (1990–1992 and 2010–2012) as a member of the Budget Advisory Committee and PTA liaison from PTA Council in the 1980s

Member, Health Advisory Committee (previously Substance Abuse Advisory Committee)

Founding Board Member, Alexandria Police Youth Camp Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) entity. Served as Board Member and Treasurer.

Worked with the Alexandria Police Department on other citizen assistance projects like the Car Safety Seat Education and Installation program.

Leader, Cub Scouts, William Ramsay Elementary School and adult advisor to the Alexandria City Police Department Law Enforcement Explorers Post for 9 years.

William Ramsay Elementary PTA, Past President and Treasurer; Jefferson Houston Elementary PTA, Past Treasurer; Francis C. Hammond Middle School, Past President (two terms) and Vice President

In my second term as a member of the Virginia School Boards Association Federal Affairs Committee, representing the 8th Congressional District

**Website:** www.pathennig.com

**Email address:** pathennigforschoolboard@gmail.com or

patriciahennig2819@comcast.net

**Twitter handle:** N/A

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Education Association of Alexandria – I think that teacher approval is most important



## Christopher J. Lewis

**Town of residence:** Alexandria

**Age:** 36

**Family:** Single

**Education:** Bachelors Degree, Harvard University

Offices held, dates:

Alexandria City School Board - District C, January 2013 - Present

Vice Chair, Alexandria City School Board, January 2014 - Present

Occupation and relevant experience:

Vice President for Government Affairs at public interest nonprofit, Public Knowledge

Community involvement:

Board Member, ACT for Alexandria

Member, Alexandria Commission on Information Technology

Veteran Community & Political Organizer

Former Board Member, George Mason University Center for Social Entrepreneurship

Former Virginia State Director, Generation Engage, a youth civic engagement initiative

**Website:** www.Lewis4ACPS.org

**Email address:** chris@lewis4acps.org

**Twitter handle:** @Lewis4ACPS

Name three favorite endorsements:

APACE, Political arm of the Education Association of Alexandria

Congressman Don Beyer

State Senator Adam Ebbin



### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Communication. I am frustrated by communication breakdowns among school staff, families, and the community. Parents don't know who to contact with questions or concerns, or worse are rebuffed after an initial query and disengage. Teachers that create effective classroom strategies don't have the opportunity to share their ideas with colleagues. Alignment of expectations and curriculum from elementary to middle to high school is compromised. Fortunately, I've also been able through my work in schools to help bridge communication divides and see positive outcomes as a result. I have a passion for this kind of work and will strive to bring all of us together. We all want the same thing — excellent schools for our city.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

Leading division-wide committees and PTAs has taught me how to reach out to the wider community and build consensus. My volunteer work has given me knowledge of the unique needs of students with disabilities, ELL students, low-income families, and students identified for gifted/talented services. ACPS staff and families consistently name our schools' incredible diversity as our greatest strength and I concur. However, with this diversity comes the challenge of meeting the needs of many different students, and that includes the so-called "average" student. My dedication to all these different types of learners will guide my decision-making. I want every student to succeed and I want no family to feel neglected.

#### 3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

We must complete redistricting by the start of the next school year. Redistricting will not resolve our overcrowding issues, but it is a crucial step in identifying where the most urgent capacity issues will be. School Board and City Council must have more frequent and earlier discussions regarding budgets. Education funding makes up the bulk of any city's budget, so we must have consensus about our needs. It will require a combination of creative short term (renting vacant office space, installing temporary classrooms) and thoughtful long range construction planning. In my professional life, I am responsible for all projects in an exhibition space that sees over a million visitors a year. All work must be phased, due to budget constraints and the requirement to remain open to the public while work continues. Identifying needs, establishing priorities, tracking progress, and evaluating programs are the kinds of skills I can bring from my job to the board.

#### 4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

Jefferson-Houston was hobbled by a building with outdated features that hampered learning. It also suffered from a lack of urgency when scores initially began to drop. Once we reached "crisis" mode, the school experienced so many new programs and administrators it was impossible to identify which systems were working and which needed to be removed. In addition, some programs were allowed to continue despite less-than-favorable results, and/or evaluations were timed too late in the school year to implement course correction. With the significant gains we've seen in the last year, the best course forward for Jefferson-Houston is to hone in on the programs, personnel, and policies that can be tied to this success and ensure that sufficient supports are in place to maintain and expand these accomplishments.

### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

The main issue is that we continue to improve and enhance the academic achievements of our schools by assuring all programs are those that support and develop exemplary schools; having each school fully –staffed with the necessary number of teachers, paraprofessionals, psychologists, social workers and other support staff; ensure that each school is a first–rate educational environment.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

My service in the schools and the City has always been focused on education and improvement of the lives of our children and their families. I am the only currently serving member of the Board who knows the history of the system, past programs, successes and failures. And if we do not learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it.

#### 3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

Redistricting of the system is the first step to address overcrowding, but it is not the complete answer. The Board needs to work with City Council to create and implement a long–term plan for creative use of available buildings and space. This will require open and clear dialogue with the community fully involved.

#### 4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson –Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

Jefferson –Houston was accredited prior to the previous school administration. That can be confirmed on the Dept. of Education website. "New ideas" and "new education" made the school an experiment not a place of learning. Dr. Crawley has placed an excellent principal in that building, and while accreditation was not achieved in the first year, I believe that solid policy and practice will lead to that.

### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Our top issue is academic achievement for all students. Serving all students is the charge of a public school division. This begins with closing gaps for our priority gap groups: students in poverty, students with disabilities, minority students, and English language learners. However, to support achievement for all students we must provide a broad and rigorous curriculum with targeted supports to the individual needs of all students. While ACPS is committed to this in theory and policy, the Board must continue holding administrators accountable to this task while giving teachers the support to meet these goals, including addressing overcrowding to keep class sizes small.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

My voice as an independent advocate. As the only childless board member or candidate, I represent the majority of Alexandrians who don't have kids in the system but still demand a high quality school system. In 2012, I stepped up to run when we needed new leadership and few were willing. I have developed a reputation for open dialogue, accountability, and consensus building resulting in my colleagues electing me Vice Chair. I believe that to become a great school division, we must continue to rally support of the greater community which I represent.

#### 3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

To address overcrowding in the short and long term we must both redistrict to rebalance attendance zones across the city, and build new space to meet the agreed projections for enrollment by the city and school staff. Since my first month on the Board I led fights to preserve capacity building projects targeted in budget cuts. I've led the push to begin the difficult process of redistricting as soon as possible and to meet the capacity needs accurately projected in our CIP budget. Council must either work with the School Board to find new dedicated funds to pay for these needs, or agree to fall short of housing our students properly. All citizens, with or without children, must rally behind this goal and I will continue to work with City Council to build community support to meet these needs, with all funding options on the table. Our ability to meet this challenge will impact the City's reputation for years to come.

#### 4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

I'm proud our Board defended the rights of localities to control its own tax dollars in preventing the takeover of Jefferson Houston. Alexandrians must fix it, with support from the State Board of Education, and for 18 months this has been a model for success. As we learned in the successes at Patrick Henry and TC Williams, turnaround begins with leadership from the principal and a unified vision with staff and community over multiple years. Jefferson Houston has already begun these steps, hitting the two year benchmarks of a three year state-approved plan in one year. The school is on a path to full accreditation in the third year of the plan just as Patrick Henry did. We must see this turnaround to the end with full budgetary and community support.



# ELECTION '15

## State Senate District 30

### Adam P. Ebbin (D)

*Incumbent*

**Town of Residence:** Alexandria

**Age:** 51

**Education:** American University, BA, 1981; Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership, 2001 (University of Virginia); Senior Executives in State and Local Government, 2012, Harvard University Kennedy School

**Occupation, experience:** Consultant, former Virginia Chief Deputy Commissioner of Labor and Industry Alexandria Board of Zoning Appeals, former member;

Virginia State Central Democratic Committee, former member; Parent Teacher Leadership Institute of Alexandria, Advisory Board Member

**Website:** www.AdamEbbin.com

**Twitter handle:** @AdamEbbin

**Name three endorsements:** Northern Virginia Technology Council, Virginia Education Association, Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, Humane Dominion, AFL-CIO



#### QUESTIONS:

##### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Standing up for the little guy is the principle that guides my work as a public official. Most people with pressing needs don't have powerful lobbyists, including children in poverty, immigrants, LGBT people, seniors and the disabled, and lots of working people just trying to get by.

##### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I have been an outspoken and effective advocate for more than a decade and brought together leaders from both parties to deliver results.

##### 3. Given the political makeup of the state legislature, what examples from your own experience suggest you can successfully bridge the intense partisan differences there?

I have passed legislation to expand Medicaid to cover prenatal care for immigrant mothers, eliminate the punitive tax penalty on hybrid car owners, make it easier to vote absentee and see that more of those votes are fairly counted, and boost workforce development. Relationships I have built with colleagues from both parties have made these successes possible.

##### 4. In order, list your top 5 specific legislative priorities.

Use the Federal funds already available to offer health coverage to 400,000 poor Virginians; fight the tide of gun violence that is claiming the life of a Virginian every 10 hours; increase per pupil state education funding that has suffered since 2008; continue to diversify and strengthen Northern Virginia's economy; and enact provisions to protect government and private sector workers from discrimination.

##### 5. How has your district changed in the last 10 years? What caused those changes?

Since 2005, the 30<sup>th</sup> Senate District has seen significant population growth. Housing costs have dramatically outpaced incomes. Student enrollment has skyrocketed while state education per student spending has fallen, increasing budget pressures on our localities. New housing and employment patterns have added stress to our transportation systems, particularly on Route 1 in Fairfax. Our air quality has improved with the closure of the dirty GenON/Mirant coal plant in Old Town.

##### 6. Will you support legislation restricting high interest lending including car title loans?

Yes, I will continue to oppose these predators who gouge lower-income residents with exorbitant interest rates.

##### 7. Will you support funding for Fostering Connections which would result in an influx of federal funding for foster children aging out of foster care?

Yes, I will continue to support the funding needed to successfully transition foster children into adulthood.

##### 7. Will you support funding for Fostering Connections which would result in an influx of federal funding for foster children aging out of foster care?

I have voted in favor of a bipartisan effort to accept federal health care funds for 400,000 low-income Virginians, most of whom are in working families, including 21,000 veterans. I will continue to work with members of both parties to find common ground. It's important for voters to know that the Medicaid expansion offered under the Affordable Care Act is already being paid for with their payroll taxes and Virginia is turning away \$1.5 billion annually by not accepting these critical funds. Those who would be covered use the emergency room as their primary care center, causing health insurance premiums to rise for everyone else.

## Candidates for State Senate in District 35

### Terrence Modglin (D)

*Independent Green for Senate 35*

**Town of residence:** Falls Church (Fairfax County not City)

**Age:** 69

**Family:** Son Matthew and daughter Rachel, and five grandchildren

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service, Georgetown University; Masters of Public Administration, American University

**Occupation and relevant experience:**

Consultant; legislative experience - eight years U.S. House of Representatives Committee staff, involved in high-profile Panama Canal issue; public safety, health, and community involvement experience - 25 years working with youth, schools, and communities for crime-free and drug-free lives; level of responsibility - four years U.S. Army officer, including 20 months in the Republic of Vietnam.

**Community involvement:** Vice-President, Woodlake Towers Condominium Association, Seven Corners; former Past President, Mid-Atlantic Chapter, 173d Airborne Brigade Association; Member, several Board of Directors; Knights of Columbus charity work; 28 consecutive years youth basketball volunteer coach, Falls Church Parks and Recreation Program.

**Website:** www.terrymodglinforvasenate.com

**Email address:** modglinforvasenate@gmail.com

**Twitter handle:** @TerryModglin



#### QUESTIONS:

##### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

It is difficult not to state that the unborn child's right to life is at the apex of issues, because it sets the parameters for whether a life can literally be taken, but it is also commands our attention that through policies we decide for our environment, we are setting the conditions today for the quality of life today and tomorrow — in the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat. If we do not change the direction of today's world, future generations will face catastrophic conditions. We will be most successful by using clean "green" technology for the goods and services we produce. More trains mean less traffic and fewer headaches. We should restrict fracking and be very careful about offshore drilling.

##### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

If there is one distinction between me and my opponents, it is the reference point from which we come. I am unconnected to lobbyists and Political Action Committees, and I am from and of the community, and therefore the decisions I make are more likely to build a better future than is suggested by the inertia of the present power relationships in Richmond that characterize my opponent's incumbency.

##### 3. Given the political makeup of the state legislature, what examples from your own experience suggests you can successfully bridge the intense partisan differences there?

First and foremost, the nature of an Independent Green candidacy is that we place people over party and we invite the exchange of ideas that lead to new policies rather than continually beating the party drum to stir up the base for more campaign contributions. I have been a bridge builder through my adult life. In college campus student politics, in a committee staff position on Capitol Hill on a high profile political issue, in my 25 years of work to build safe and drug-free communities, I was able to communicate with the most diverse of elements to find solutions. I take pride to say that I have seen the streets and the suites, and am able to understand diverse perspectives.

##### 4. In order, list your top 5 legislative priorities.

My legislative priorities are to help create a clean environment, to protect the lives of the unborn, to promote safer and stronger communities, to innovate in education and employment matters, and to maintain a reasonable state tax and state budget environment.

##### 5. How has your district changed in the last 10 years? What caused those changes?

The 35th Senate District has become a much more diverse place in the last ten years. It is an example of how the USA has developed and it provides us an opportunity right here in Northern Virginia to be leaders in a global age.

Consumer protection is very important to me. My relatively humble origins have shown me how adverse financial situations can be exploited by financial institutions.

##### 6. Will you support legislation restricting high interest lending including car title loans?

Fostering Connections has been one of the most important and successful of programs for young people that have had a more difficult life. We should find the funds to support it.

##### 8. Do you support expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and if so, what would you do to make that happen?

I support the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, but only under the condition that it can be financially accommodated without future tax increases. Healthy people are more productive people but state overspending can produce disastrous results for everyone.

### Richard “Dick” Saslaw (D)

*Incumbent*

**Town of residence:** Springfield

**Age:** 75

**Family:** Eleanor (wife)

**Education:** B S Economics

**Offices held, dates:** HOD

1976-80 Senate of VA 1980 -present

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Semi retired; small business owner

**Website:** www.dicksaslaw.com

**Email address:** vasenate35@aol.com

**Name favorite endorsements:** VA Education Association; NVTC; Benevolent Police



#### Statement from Senator Dick Saslaw

Thank you for this thoughtful community service when developing a voter's guide. As a long serving elected official, Senator Saslaw has a very extensive voting record on key issues. Serving as the Democratic Leader in the Senate (both as majority and minority leader as well), he has demonstrated a unique ability to work with both sides of the aisle as well as both elected bodies in the best interests of Virginians across the Commonwealth. Senator Saslaw is a pro-business, pro-education and pro-choice candidate with key endorsements from many sectors.

This November all 140 seats of the legislature will be elected to new terms. Once the members are sworn in and bills introduced, the Senator will access the best strategies for developing good public policy as well as thoughtful fiscal responsibility. You may find his voting record on line at [www.lis.virginia.gov](http://www.lis.virginia.gov).

## Veronica Nolan

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most recently was displayed by the increase in test scores. The staff and principal should be applauded for their work.

It's imperative that every school is assessed for both strengths and challenges and that the weaknesses are met with specific goals that address the concerns. With regards to Jefferson Houston, we need to provide classroom teachers the time to scrupulously review their students' academic gains and receive coaching from experts on how to reach struggling students. We also need to provide real differentiated learning so that students who are not struggling are being academically challenged. Moreover we need to support and retain top quality staff as well as provide them with tailored professional development training and coaching that meets the school's unique needs. If students are identified with struggles outside of the classroom that's preventing their learning, then we need to provide intervention services to ensure all children have access to Alexandria social support services they need in order to be successful inside the school.

As a non-incumbent what I wish had been done differently is that much earlier, an infrastructure was established where a robust data analysis was routinely set in place so that struggling students could receive tailored intervention services as quickly as possible.

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## ELECTION '15

# Candidates for State Delegate in District 46

## Charniele L. Herring (D-46)

*Incumbent*

**Town of residence:** Alexandria, VA

**Age:** 46

**Family:** Carolyn Herring, Mother

**Education:** BS in Economics from George Mason

University; JD from Catholic University of America

**Offices held, dates:** Virginia House of Delegates, 46<sup>th</sup> District 2009-present

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Attorney

**Community involvement:** Trustee, Hopkins House;

Former Board Member, Parent Leadership Training

Institute of Alexandria; Former Chair/Member,

Alexandria Commission for Women; Former President

West End Business Association.

**Website:** www.charnieleherring.com

**Email address:** info@charnieleherring.com

**Twitter handle:** @C\_Herring

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Virginia

Education Association, Virginia Sierra Club PAC,

Northern Virginia Association of Realtors

### QUESTIONS:

#### 1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Making the Commonwealth a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. We deserve to live in a place that has opportunity — opportunity for everyone to succeed. If you work hard and play by the rules, you should be able to share in the American Dream. To me that means making sure that we are attracting good, well-paying jobs to Virginia. It means that we should not discriminate based on race or sex or sexual orientation. It means that we fully fund our public schools and make sure college and job training are accessible to everyone. It means that we ensure the safety of our community and put programs in place that will deal with the root of problems — like mental illness and addiction, not focus solely on incarceration. Creating an environment where people have the opportunity to succeed, that is my call to serve. I went from homelessness to being a college graduate. If it weren't for a helping hand, I may not have had that opportunity, and if our region were not thriving I would not have had the chance to open my own small business.

I plan to keep working toward this goal. This means working across the aisle and standing up against policies that would take us backward. It means supporting Governor McAuliffe's call for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economy, not standing in the way. I plan to keep my voting record reflecting this goal, and will continue the work that I have already started as a member of the Virginia State Crime Commission and the Governor's Taskforce on Heroin and Prescription Drugs to make the Commonwealth a safer place.

#### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I have been honored to serve as your representative from the 46<sup>th</sup> District since 2009 when I won a special election to fill a vacant seat. Even before my election, I was heavily involved in our community through the West End Business Association, the Commission for Women, Rotary, and the Youth Policy Commission. Since my election I have been very successful in a very difficult legislature. With a long history of civic involvement, an understanding of the realities of the policy process, and a track record of successfully passing legislation, I believe I am the best candidate in this race to represent you in Richmond.

#### 3. Given the political makeup of the state legislature, what examples from your own experience suggests you can successfully bridge the intense partisan differences there?

Since taking office in 2009, I have passed numerous pieces of legislation. This has only been possible by working across the aisle. From restoring money to homelessness prevention programs in the state budget, bringing transportation dollars to the district, and advocating for women's healthcare, I have helped enact important legislation for the Commonwealth. Examples include making state contracting more accessible and competitive for women and minority owned small businesses, increasing the effectiveness of emergency protective orders, and updating missing persons search and rescue procedures to make them more effective. I also serve on the bi-partisan State Crime Commission, where I was appointed by the Republican Speaker of the House. I will never hesitate to stand up for our district



and our values, but that does not mean I cannot continue to work across the aisle to do good work for Virginia.

#### 4. In order, list your top 5 specific legislative priorities.

My main legislative priority is to help make Virginia a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. To me that means

making sure that educational opportunities needed to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century are available to everyone in the Commonwealth — adequately funding our public schools and ensuring access to higher education and career training. It also means making sure that we live in a safe place: combating the disturbing rise in deaths caused by opioids and ending the cigarette trafficking that is helping to fund organized crime and terrorism. It is also imperative that we preserve the integrity of the civic process to make sure voting is accessible to Virginians — that means enabling no excuse absentee voting and making sure that people's rights are restored when they have served their time and made reparations.

#### 5. How has your district changed in the last 10 years? What caused those changes?

Over the last 10 years we have seen any number of changes from development to demographic shifts. One of the most shocking and difficult was the addition of the BRAC-133 building at Mark Center in the middle of the district. While the decision to build it in its current location was before my time as an elected official, I am proud of the work we did as a community to ensure it did not negatively impact the Winkler Botanical Preserve. The impact this installation has on the district has required working with federal and local officials, while also bringing in additional money for transportation from the state. I will continue to work to alleviate the impact this building has brought to our home.

#### 6. Will you support legislation restricting high interest lending including car title loans?

Yes. Predatory lending is bad for families and bad for our economy. That is why it is a practice that I worked across the aisle to end in the bail bond industry in Virginia. There are places in Northern Virginia that are hotbeds of this kind of lending, and it is unacceptable. I support legislation that requires fair and honest lending practices in Virginia.

#### 7. Will you support funding for Fostering Connections which would result in an influx of federal funding for foster children aging out of foster care?

Creating a Virginia that gives everyone the opportunity to succeed is my top priority. That includes making sure that young people have the chance at becoming their best selves. This funding will allow a program to be put in place to help young people make the transition from the foster care system and receive the support they need to get education and training in order to become productive members of our society. Sometimes, all it takes is one program to make the difference in a person's life. I know from personal experience that without the STEP program at George Mason University, coming from being homeless, I may not have been able to attend college. STEP allowed me the opportunity to prove I could do the work. I was able to earn a degree in economics and then go on to get my law degree.

#### 8. Do you support expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and if so, what would you do to make that happen?

I support expanding Medicaid. As we watch millions of Virginia's tax dollars go to other states while nearly 400,000 people here at home are without insurance, I am astounded that there are those who are fighting against this measure. Expanding Medicaid is also necessary to shore up our medical infrastructure and lower costs for our hospitals. A healthier Virginia means a better workforce and a more stable medical infrastructure for all of us. I will continue to work with the Governor on his plans to make sure Virginians have the best possible access to medical coverage and vote for the measure whenever it comes to the House of Delegates.

## Sean Lenehan (R)

Republican  
Challenger  
for  
Delegate  
District 46

**Town of residence:** Alexandria

**Age:** 45

**Education:**

Bishop

Ireton HS

(Alexandria);

BA

Economics

from Hampden-Sydney College (Virginia)

and MBA through University of Maryland

**Occupation and relevant experience:**

Brand Manager

**Community involvement:** Years of active

leadership on boards and commissions

throughout the city: literacy, youth

sports, food bank, parks, Boy Scouts, my

HOA.

**Website:** www.SeanForDelegate.com

**Email address:**

Sean@SeanForDelegate.com

**Twitter handle:** SeanLenehan

**Name three favorite endorsements:**

Friends of Four Mile Run, Alexandrians

for Sensible Growth and Watergate

Working Group on Education



my strong business, personal and political ties throughout the Commonwealth from Tidewater to the Roanoke Valley from Southside to Northern Virginia.

#### 4. In order, list your top 5 specific legislative priorities.

(1) Economy: Enable a vibrant business environment.

(2) Education: Develop blue ribbon schools, including school choice for students in failing schools.

(3) Environment: Forward thinking environmental stewardship

(4) Health: Accessible mental health resources

(5) Infrastructure: Develop safe, modern infrastructure. Regional approach to traffic-defund the outrageous and foolish proposal from the Governor to tax I-66, strangle small businesses, tax working families and clog Alexandria streets with overflow and diversion traffic.

#### 5. How has your district changed in the last 10 years? What caused those changes?

We can do much better. Our schools have fared poorly compared to neighboring districts. We have lost local retail options such as Best Buy, Staples and several grocery chains. We have vacant building shells such as Landmark shopping center that undermine our tax base and depress residential real estate demand. In addition, traffic and congestion have reached staggering levels. Over the past ten years, residents of Alexandria have experienced a decline in the quality of life and services that they deserve in terms of the most meaningful metrics- schools, economy and traffic.

#### 6. Will you support legislation restricting high interest lending including car title loans?

I support individual, fiscal responsibility. The federal government currently caps interest rates on loans to members of the military. In addition, Virginia has consumer safeguards in place today on these types of loans.

#### 7. Will you support funding for Fostering Connections which would result in an influx of federal funding for foster children aging out of foster care?

Yes. President Bush signed this bill into law in 2008. I proudly stand with those that enable foster families to provide care to our most vulnerable citizens.

#### 8. Do you support expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and if so, what would you do to make that happen?

Medicaid expansion is one of the fastest growing items on our state budget, about 8% a year and consuming more than 20% of the budget and is simply not sustainable. Medicaid expansion is a deceptively inefficient approach as most of the additional funding will go to larger, profitable hospitals that can readily afford to provide charity care. I would propose that Medicaid be turned into a federal block grant with wide latitude for governors and state legislatures. This managed care approach must include competition, personal responsibility for costs, care coordination, and incentives payments based on outcomes.

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## ELECTION '15

# Candidates for State Senate in 39th District

## George Lincoln Barker (D)

*Incumbent Senate District 39*  
**Town of residence:** Clifton  
**Age:** 64

**Family:** wife Jane; son Erik and his wife Mahjooba and two grandchildren; daughter Emily and her husband Jeff

**Education:** Harvard College, A.B., Economics and Public Health; Harvard School of Public Health, M.S., Health Policy and Management

**Offices held, dates:** Senator, 2008-present

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Executive Director, Greater Prince William Community Health Center, 2015; Consultant, 2000-2015; Associate Director, Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia, 1975-2009

**Community involvement:** Member, Education and Health Committee, General Laws and Technology Committee, Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee, Small Business Commission, Housing Commission, Joint Commission on Health Care, Substance Abuse Services Council, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board, Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority

**Website:** senatorbarker.com

**Email address:** senatorbarker@gmail.com

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Fairfax Chamber of Commerce; Virginia Education Association; Virginia Police Benevolent Association

### QUESTIONS:

**1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?**

Mental health care. It matters because many Virginians with mental health problems suffer needlessly and sometimes die because we are not doing enough to help them. I worked on the issue before I was elected and have helped improve our system since I took office, but much more needs to be done. After similar bills had been repeatedly killed, this year I got a bill passed to help get immediate support to college students contemplating suicide. I serve on a legislative study committee taking four years to propose a revamped and adequately funded system that will meet the needs of people with mental health problems rather than putting them on a waiting list.

**2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?**

I differ from my opponent in the following ways:

I have a detailed knowledge of most issues addressed in the General Assembly;

I understand the different issues of people in different parts of the district;

I have a record of getting results, getting more bills passed than almost any other Senator;

I consistently work with Republicans to find common ground and compromise to get things done rather than simply spouting partisan platitudes;

I still run from house to house



throughout the district and ask voters what are their priorities and what do they want me to do; and

I show up, such as at a recent debate before Hayfield seniors, where I

answered their questions alone for an hour because my opponent reneged on his commitment to participate.

**3. Given the political makeup of the state legislature, what examples from your own experience suggests you can successfully bridge the intense partisan differences there?**

My record shows that I frequently work closely with Republicans, often jointly sponsoring bills, and bridge any partisan divide to get things done. Allowing Virginians to keep their health insurance, prohibiting censorship of sermons of chaplains, texting while driving, giving Virginians a tax refund check rather than a debit card, giving protective orders to those threatened by former intimate partners, and putting more money in the Rainy Day fund, and shared work programs are examples.

**4. In order, list your top 5 specific legislative priorities.**

Transportation, Education, Economy/ Jobs, Military and Veterans, Those Who Need Help

**5. How has your district changed in the last 10 years? What caused those changes?**

There is greater racial and ethnic diversity, with housing integration rather than segregation throughout the district. This has happened because we have opportunities here, people want to live here, and we appreciate both differences and our common humanity.

**6. Will you support legislation restricting high interest lending including car title loans?**

I will support legislation that restricts unfair lending practices and that provides people with limited options the ability to get loans, as we did with payday lending a few years ago.

**7. Will you support funding for Fostering Connections which would result in an influx of federal funding for foster children aging out of foster care?**

My wife and I were foster parents to 13 children over many years. I have already supported this legislation.

**8. Do you support expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and if so, what would you do to make that happen?**

I will support any reasonable proposal to get insurance for those eligible under the ACA, whether its expansion of our highly regarded Medicaid program or an alternative, such as a private insurance plan that we passed in the Senate. I am happy to help negotiate a deal that addresses concerns of some while getting coverage for those who are eligible.

## Joe Murray (R)

*Challenger, Senate District 39*

**Town of residence:** Alexandria

**Age:** 40

**Family:** Katie (wife), Ella (Daughter, 8 years old), AJ (Son, 22 months old)

**Education:**

J.D., Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, Washington, DC

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Minor: Economics), Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey

**Offices held, dates:** N/A

**Occupation and relevant experience:**

Current: Director of Government and Legal Affairs for a national rare disease non-profit called debra, the Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association, a disease that afflicts my daughter Ella.

Previous: 10+ years experience on Capitol Hill, including a wide array of legislative policy and leadership roles in both the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate with an emphasis in health care, entitlement, and educational areas.

Community involvement:

❖ Active member and former senior officer of our home civic association.

❖ Proud participant of my daughter's public school Parent Teacher Association.

❖ Deacon and Sunday school teacher at our church

❖ Co-Chair of our neighborhood's snow and debris removal association.

**Website:** www.murrayforvirginia.com

**Email address:** info@murrayforvirginia.com

**Twitter handle:** @MurrayforVA

Name three favorite endorsements:

❖ Congressman Tom Davis

❖ Delegate Tim Hugo

❖ Fairfax Co. Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity

### QUESTIONS:

**1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?**

Serving in the Virginia General Assembly would be the highest honor. It is the oldest, continuous law-making body in the free world, and I would never take for granted being a part of this body for the benefit of Northern Virginians. As a father of two young children coming up through the public school system, improving our school system is a top priority for me. There are a couple of improvements we can immediately enact. First, I think the local school board, not Richmond, should determine when the school year starts for testing preparation of our students; that's why I would repeal the "King's Dominion" law. I would also work to get more education funding directly into the classroom and give teachers the resources and tools they need to help our kids succeed. Furthermore, reducing red tape and streamlining the tax code, along with working to get our fair share of transportation funding would be high up on my to-do list given that 1/3 of the Commonwealth's population lives in Northern Virginia.

**2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?**

My family faces a lot of the same challenges as families throughout the district. I've felt the economic crunch from the high cost of living and a sluggish economy. I have spent too much time commuting to work on public transportation for years in gridlock, and I worry about the education my kids and all of those in Northern Virginia are receiving. Unlike my opponent, these problems directly impact my young family everyday, and I have the strong incentive to address and fix them and not just talk about these problems. There are real solutions to improve our communities but it's going to take the political will and bi-partisan leadership to make them happen. I'm ready to get to Richmond on behalf of all Northern Virginia families and get to work on their behalf.

**3. Given the political makeup of the state legislature, what examples from your own experience suggests you can successfully bridge the intense partisan differences there?**

I spent nearly a decade on Capitol Hill working with elected officials and staffers from many different and competing



political philosophies. My ability to forge agreements through compromise comes from growing up in a large family of seven siblings. I learned through experience that you can disagree with someone, and still respect their opinion. I know that's an uncommon practice in both Washington DC and Richmond politics, but it's true. Too often respect and common decency are lost as people fight to make a political point. I have a much different

personality. Through my work experience, legal education training, service to my community, and being a father to a special needs disabled daughter, I have demonstrated the willingness to listen to other people and respect their opinion while solving vexing problems that impact our lives.

**4. In order, list your top 5 specific legislative priorities.**

❖ Reduce government red tape to create more high paying jobs

❖ Repeal the "King's Dominion" law and give local school boards more control

❖ Encourage Public-Private Partnerships to expand the transportation grid and ease congestion

❖ Increase the number of charter school to improve education through competition

❖ Simplify and streamline our tax code

**5. How has your district changed in the last 10 years? What caused those changes?**

The district has seen an incredible amount of growth in the past 10 years, from the West End of Alexandria all the way down to Prince William County. People were drawn to the area for the same reason my wife Katie and I were, because it's a great place to raise a family. Unfortunately, that growth has side effects from congested roads to overcrowded schools. We need to deal with those side effects now to keep before they impact our quality of life any more.

**6. Will you support legislation restricting high interest lending including car title loans?**

On a bi-partisan basis, the Virginia General Assembly acted to reform the industry practices. If more work needs to be done to ensure the law is followed where consumers are protected from unlawful or immoral business practices, I will sincerely work with my colleagues on both sides of the political aisle to ensure protections are put in place.

**7. Will you support funding for Fostering Connections which would result in an influx of federal funding for foster children aging out of foster care?**

I am open to federal support for Fostering Connections. Providing a social safety net for those in need is an important role of government, and our foster care system is critical to the future development of our children's and community's well-being.

**8. Do you support expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and if so, what would you do to make that happen?**

As currently proposed under the ACA, I do not support expansion of Medicaid to able-bodied adults. There are better ways to reform our health care system to help increase health insurance access and affordability for able-bodied adults without implementing a polarizing and flawed federal law that one party in the United States Congress forced into law. One of my main priorities as a State Senator for Northern Virginia will be to craft a bi-partisan solution to this complicated public policy problem. As a health care public policy professional for a rare-disease non-profit organization and a father of a special needs daughter, I bring a unique perspective and background to the Virginia General Assembly on this important topic. From a funding perspective, studies show that expanding Medicaid under the ACA will require deep spending cuts to other critical General Assembly priorities such as our education programs, to pay for the expansion. I am not supportive of spending cuts to educational programs for our K-12 or Community College students as a trade off to expanding Medicaid.

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# ELECTION '15

## School Board District C

### Campbell

FROM PAGE 22

or, if they graduate unprepared, they may not have the tools needed to be successful moving forward.

I will continue to push for support for the whole child. Mental health is an area that needs our continued support — it isn't just about academics or test scores. Without proper support, the pressure to succeed can be too much.

The Youth Risk Behavior survey (a voluntary survey taken approx. every two years) results came out recently. From 2011 to the most recent (2013/14), results show three risk categories that have gone down- substance abuse, aggressive and violent behavior, & sexual behavior (ACPS is below national average). However, the percentage of grades 10 & 11 students who feel sad or hopeless went from 23% to 30%.

I advocate keeping classroom sizes down, the student to counselor ratio low, and for professional development for teachers and staff to understand & work with students with mental health issues.

**2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?**

As a single parent of three Hispanic children (one of whom received special education services and one of whom was in TAG), I represent a diverse population that may otherwise not be represented well. I understand what's needed and will listen & act on parent concerns, as I've experienced many of the same issues. Since I have been an ACPS parent from 1995- 2014, I know past and current issues. Additionally, I have more school board professional development than any other candidate and have received awards for my work on the board from the state.

**3. How can Alexandria address over-**

## Dillard

FROM PAGE 22

**2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?**

I am a teacher and a parent. I have been in the classroom with our Alexandria City students as well as in our neighboring school systems. I have worked with and/or taught all levels from K-12<sup>th</sup> grade. None of my opponents have been in a classroom so they have no idea how school board policies truly impact teachers and students in the classroom. With this experience, I am very familiar with the impact of school board policies on the students we are trying to educate and the teachers who are doing the hard work during the school day.

**3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?**

Alexandria is standing at a crossroads where the future of our schools depends more than ever on making smart decisions. At one direction is the rapid growth of our community and at the other is heavier than ever limitations on school funding. That said, we are on the right path.

Although, the current School Board has begun the process of redistricting, this has no impact on TC Williams High School as there is only one high school in Alexandria City.

Reducing overcrowding is a multi step process. A reduction in class size will have little effect without

**crowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?**

We have to think creatively and outside the box. Two schools began the school year with additional classrooms and more are planned. We're currently looking at buildings that can be convertible to classroom space and I have spoken with City Council members about converting city buildings and private vacant buildings to address capacity concerns.

This, with current redistricting efforts, would free up classroom space across our district. I have experience as a board member on this issue and with maintaining communication with Council members, also as an advocate for students prior to my service on the board.

**4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?**

Starting with what has been learned: There were far too many programs, and issues with implementation and alignment. We needed fewer programs and a better system for monitoring programs.

I'd like to change the negative discussion of continuing problems to continuing progress at Jefferson-Houston. With Superintendent Crawley, we have put into place necessary leadership to advance student achievement and the school has aligned itself with rigor to boost academic achievement. The instructional programs are now aligned with state standards. We are focused and this is evident by recent standard achievement results which show two years of progress in one year. Jefferson-Houston is on course to being fully accredited and enrollment has increased significantly.

well-qualified teachers and instructional supports. If we are to keep our outstanding teachers then we need to give them every tool necessary to facilitate optimal classroom learning environments.

We also need to have enough classrooms and teachers to teach in the newly created classrooms in order to reduce class size. This is where a change in perspective is needed. We need to think outside of the box to address facility needs today not just 20 years from now. Budget requests should support swing spaces during renovation, team teaching, utilization of unused commercial space and other creative approaches to address the increasing enrollment numbers.

**4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?**

I am a math teacher and a parent. The current School Board has only two members with education experience and only one of the two is seeking reelection. This education perspective provides a unique lens in which to view the needs, accessibility and inclusionary practices of diverse populations and how to better weave those into sustainable educational goals and policy that makes our community and future workforce strong, capable and innovative.

## News



PHOTO  
CONTRIBUTED

## Historical Marker Dedication

**The Parker-Gray High School 50th Year Reunion Committee, from left, are, first row, Lucky Elliott, Brenda LeVere Elliott, chair, Lawrence Carter, Keith Seay, Charles Sias, and second row, Sharon Jones Frazier, Sandra Bond Scott, and Nolan Dawkins. Missing is Gola Studevent Austin.**

## Marking Site of Parker-Gray High School

The Parker-Gray High School 50 Year Reunion Committee and co-sponsor the Office of Historic Alexandria hosted the dedication of the historical street marker for Parker-Gray High School Saturday, Oct. 17. Approximately 120 former students and faculty attended.

Parker-Gray High School was the only high school for Black students in the city until desegregation began in 1963.

Parker-Gray was closed as a high school in 1965.

On June 11, 1965 the last class graduated from Parker-Gray High School. The school became a middle school and was subsequently closed and torn down in 1984 to make way for new housing.

The marker is located in the 1200 block of Madison Street at the site of the old school building.

## Legion Seeks Oratorical Contestants

### Deadline is Nov. 8.

Alexandria's Post 24 of the American Legion is seeking applications for the National High School Oratorical contest. Deadline for submissions is Nov. 8 with the local contest tentatively scheduled for Dec. 6.

The National High School Oratorical Contest is open to junior high and high school students who are under the age of 20 and citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States. Applicants must prepare an oration on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the du-

ties and obligations of citizens to our government. Each individual state winner certified into and participating in the first round of the national contest receives a \$1,500 scholarship. Additional scholarships of \$100-\$250 will be awarded to the local winners.

Early registration is encouraged and the oratorical committee will only accept 10 valid applications.

For more information on the application process, contact Patrick Hawley, Post 24 Oratorical Chairman at Post24Oratorical@gmail.com or visit [www.valegionpost24.org](http://www.valegionpost24.org).

— JEANNE THEISMANN

## BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnews.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnews.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

### THURSDAY/OCT. 29

**Old Town North Small Area Plan Advisory Group Meeting.** 7-9 p.m. at City Hall, Sister Cities Conference Room #1101, 301 King St. In June 2015, under the Fiscal Year 2016 Interdepartmental Long Range Work Program, the City Council approved a planning effort to Update the 1992 OTN SAP. This upcoming planning process is anticipated to extend 16 months from October 2015 through expected adoption in January 2017. The planning process will be a collaborative effort between the City, a citizens Advisory Group, and the community. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/planning](http://www.alexandriava.gov/planning).

### THROUGH NOV. 10

**SolarizeAlexandria** is a program to make it easier and more affordable for residents to install solar power systems. The program provides a home energy efficiency check-up and solar site assessment; discount pricing through bulk purchasing; project facilitation and qualified installation; financing and federal tax incentive options; and qualification for the City's Solar Energy Equipment Tax Exemption. Free. Visit [www.solarizealexandria.org](http://www.solarizealexandria.org) for more.

### THROUGH NOV. 20

**Fall Coat Drive.** The Fund for Alexandria's Child invites Alexandria residents to help children in foster care or at risk of abuse or neglect keep warm this winter through its annual Fall Coat Drive. Call 703-746-5663 or email [thefundforalexchild@alexandriava.gov](mailto:thefundforalexchild@alexandriava.gov).

# Vote Nov. 3

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