



Saturday, Oct. 24, hundreds of people lined Elden and Lynn streets in downtown Herndon to show how much they care about students and the Herndon community.

# Herndon Hosts Homecoming Parade

NEWS, PAGE 8

## Meet the Candidates

NEWS, PAGES 12-16



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# Every Vote Matters in District 86

Republicans pour nearly half a million dollars into the race.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

In the last week before Election Day, Danny Vargas (R) got one more huge infusion of cash from Virginia Republicans.

The Dominion Leadership Trust set up by House Speaker Bill Howell (R) to support Republican candidates has contributed a total of \$306,504 in 2015 to Danny Vargas, \$265,000 of it reported on Oct. 26. Howell also gave Vargas \$50,000 directly, recorded Aug. 19, according to Virginia Public Access Project.

The Republican State Leadership Committee also made a \$50,000 cash contribution in August.

Voters in the 86th district certainly noticed the \$50,829 that Vargas received from the Republican Party of Virginia in "in kind" donations of nine different political mailings.

Retiring Del. Tom Rust, whose seat Vargas seeks, also donated \$34,045 to Vargas.

**TWO YEARS AGO**, Jennifer Boysko lost her bid for the 86th district seat by just 32 votes, sixteen-hundredths of one percent, in a race against Del. Tom Rust (R). Boysko received 10,378 votes to Tom Rust's 10,410, according to vwap.org.

This election season, Boysko got last minute contributions of \$2,500 from Sen. Janet Howell and \$1,000 from Sen. Barbara Favola. Boysko had \$186,363 Cash on Hand as of Sept. 30, 2015 according to Virginia Public Access Project, VPA.org.

Overall in 2015, Boysko received more than 900 donations of more than \$100 for \$234,400; and more than 1,000 contributions of \$100 or less for a total of \$44,350.

Vargas had received 126 contributions of more than \$100 and 113 contributions of \$100 or less as of Sept. 30, 2015, according to vwap.org.

**THE 86TH** District is 87 percent in Fairfax County and 13 percent in Loudoun County. In the most recent statewide election last November 2014, U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D) took 58 percent of the vote vs. Ed Gillespie's 40 percent.

Republican Tom Rust, former Herndon mayor, has held the seat since 2002.

He won his last election two years ago over Jennifer Boysko by a margin of just 32 votes out of more than 20,000 votes cast.

"When I got into that race, people basically patted me on the head and said, 'That's cute of you to try. You'll never make any progress on that.' And then I came 32 votes short, said Boysko. "For me, running in that race, I was frustrated that the incumbent made some bad votes that I really disagreed with. I honestly had not expected to come



Jennifer Boysko at Chantilly High School.

that close."

"But I did learn that my voice can make a difference," she said. "Half the district came out for me against someone who had served us for so long and had done such a good job as a Mayor. I saw there was an opportunity for me in the future."

At Chantilly High School last week, when asked by a student how to get other students interested in local politics, she brings up the 32 votes as the message of the power of democracy, of the power of each and every voter has.

**VARGAS SAYS RUST** called him around the time the former Herndon mayor announced his retirement.

"Del. Rust asked me to run and succeed him," Vargas said. "The first thing I said was, 'I want you to be there forever.'"

"I'm humbled, I've got my family, I've got my business," said Vargas. "It probably took me a few weeks, I got advice from colleagues, I prayed, and I finally came to a conclusion that this a way to serve this community."

Vargas brings up his youth, growing up in a broken home in the slums of Brooklyn, with a mother who struggled to raise him and his sisters without an education.

"There were times we were homeless and times we were hungry," he said, grateful for the opportunities he has had to come back from what he calls the "humblest of beginnings."

"I don't need another title, but I do need to make sure I give back," Vargas said.

Boysko grew up in a neighborhood in Alabama, serendipitously in the same neighborhood as Mayor Lisa Merkel. She has worked as Dranesville Supervisor John W. Foust's legislative assistant in Herndon for eight years.

"He is there for the community," said Boysko of Foust. "His entire mission is in just making a difference ... and making the community a part of the decision making, especially in land use and transportation issues. And I was very lucky to have a role in that, in helping bring the folks together to make a lot of those decisions as we



Danny Vargas

planned, especially around the Silver Line Metro and other improvements in the Herndon area specifically."

**BOTH CANDIDATES** love Herndon and are residents.

"It's where our kids have been born and raised, and I love that it has that sense of community, of neighbors helping neighbors," said Vargas.

"I have been active in the Town and in the community for 20 years," said Boysko.

"I know my community well, I'm very very integrated and understand the needs of them and I think my role is to take their concerns and needs to Richmond so we make government work for our community," she said.

Both love campaigning.

Boysko said she has knocked on 8,000 doors herself while her staff has made it to 30,000 households this campaign season.

"I'm a grassroots organizer, I go door to door to talk, to have a quality discussion with voters. I think that's the most important thing that I can do," she said.

"If I can listen to what's important to a voter, they will realize that's where my main interest is," she said.

Vargas has also been out to visit voters.

There are a lot of families struggling to "make ends meet," he said, and he has found that "people appreciate that they have a representative that can relate to what's on their plate."

"I introduce myself, and say, 'But I'm here to listen to what's important to you,'" said Vargas.

**CAREER PATHS** do differentiate the two.

While Boysko has been involved legislatively, Vargas is a U.S. Air Force veteran and is the founder/president of VARCom Solutions and was a former vice president of global sales and vice president of Latin America for AOL.

He is the former chair of the Virginia Board of Workforce Development, a gubernatorial appointment, and former Chair of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and board member of the Fairfax County

Chamber of Commerce.

"I'm going to focus on increasing our economy," he said. "Because of my business background, I believe I can do that. I'm a private sector guy."

In his questionnaire, Vargas says his top five legislative priorities are to: grow and diversify the economy, strengthen education and workforce development, improve transportation, improve public safety and help our veterans.

Boysko says hers are to: "improve education and fully fund schools, including expanding early childhood education and reforming SOL testing; working with Governor McAuliffe and our local leaders to bring new jobs to expand our economy; bringing our fair share of transportation funding from Richmond and stop the initiative to toll I-66; expand Medicaid to cover the 400,000 Virginians without healthcare and free up the \$5 million per day we already pay in taxes in Federal funds to tackle our other underfunded priorities like schools, mental health and transportation."

**TOLLS ON I-66** might make a difference in this race, even though both candidates oppose them.

In Herndon, Boysko says she has heard nearly unanimous opposition to VDOT tolling on I-66.

"I have not met anybody who is in favor of that from the community, everybody including me, believes that we are already being burdened enough by our own toll road along the Dulles Toll Road," she said.

But Vargas campaign mailings infer otherwise. "Voters can't trust Jennifer Boysko to stop \$17 tolls," it reads. "Governor McAuliffe wants two things: \$17 tolls for I-66 inside the beltway and Jennifer Boysko in Richmond to help him enact his transportation agenda."

Boysko hopes the misrepresentation in mailers could turn into another way to get voters passionate enough to come to the booths on Nov. 3. "I've had people ask me my opinion on that and then people who have been very disgruntled, calling and saying, 'I know you don't support that issue.'"

Republican candidates have raised the issue of tolling on I-66 in all the local Dranesville races, including Supervisor Foust's re-election campaign against challenger Jennifer Chronis, and incumbent Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) who is battling Craig Parisot (R).

Both incumbents specifically said in debates they oppose the tolls only to hear their opponents claim they don't minutes later.

"I've never seen anything like this," Foust said, after the debates.

"Republican candidates are desperately trying to find an issue and they are claiming that their opponents support the tolling," Foust said. "I'm telling you, pay attention to the facts."

"They have to stop fabricating issues and start talking about real issues," said Foust.

Questionnaires for both Boysko and Vargas appear in this edition.



# Conservation Begins at Home

Three spots open to four running for key environmental and conservation board.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

Three of four candidates will be elected as directors to the Soil and Water Conservation District on Nov. 3.

Three of the four candidates, Scott Cameron and incumbents George Lamb IV and Gerald O. "Jerry" Peters Jr., debated at the Great Falls Grange on Monday, Oct. 19.

The Great Falls Citizens Association hosted and ran the candidate's forum at the recently renovated Grange, which is now ADA accessible.

"Real conservation, the important work in conservation happens on the ground, happens locally," said Cameron.

Peters, of Great Falls, is an incumbent on the Soil and Conser-

vation District Board. "I want to increase the sense of personal stewardship that people who own the land have for the land," he said.

Lamb has been the chairman the last four years. He thanked GFCA for hosting the forum and giving candidates in his race, usually overshadowed by races for supervisor, House of Delegates, state senator and the sheriff, among others, an opportunity to inform citizens of the board's work. Education efforts are top priority of the Soil and Water Conservation Board, he said.

Stephen L. Pushor, who is on the ballot, did not attend.

The three were asked questions about fertilizers, deer management, and the responsibility and partnership between urban, suburban and rural districts in Virginia.



Gerald O. "Jerry" Peters, Great Falls



Scott Cameron, Mount Vernon



George Lamb IV

PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

## Why This Matters

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District was founded in 1945 by citizens concerned about conserving natural resources. They were established to develop programs to conserve soil resources, control and prevent soil erosion, prevent floods and conserve, develop, utilize and dispose of water. The group collaborates with Fairfax County and other partners to provide conservation information, technical services, educational programs and volunteer opportunities to residents on many aspects of water quality, nonpoint source pollution and stream health.

See [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/)

**FOUNDED IN 1945** by citizens concerned about conserving natural resources, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 47 conservation districts in Virginia and approximately 3,000 nationwide. "Soil

and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) were established in the 1930s to develop comprehensive programs to conserve soil resources, control and prevent soil erosion, prevent floods and conserve, develop, utilize and dispose

of water," according to its website.

Although not a regulatory agency, the group collaborates with Fairfax County and other partners to provide conservation information, technical services, educational programs and volunteer opportunities to residents on many aspects of water quality, nonpoint source pollution and stream health.

They help connect residents with environmental initiatives and opportunities through the Watershed Calendar, Green Breakfast

SEE CONSERVATION, PAGE 20

## Jennifer Boysko.

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— REAL STORIES FROM THE EXPRESS LANES —

*"With my second child on the way and having to juggle doctor appointments and my son's school activities, you can't put a monetary amount on saving time."*

- Yvette M.  
Dumfries, VA



At eight months pregnant, Yvette has to juggle doctor appointments, work meetings and spending time with her son. Yvette works in Reston and lives in Woodbridge so she relies on the 495 and 95 Express Lanes getting to and from work. Yvette also loves that she's never late to pick her son up from school. Now she has more time for her family—and for herself. Her stress has decreased and she's able to enjoy a healthy pregnancy and being a mom while maintaining her career.

See more real stories from the Lanes at [ExpressLanes.com](http://ExpressLanes.com)



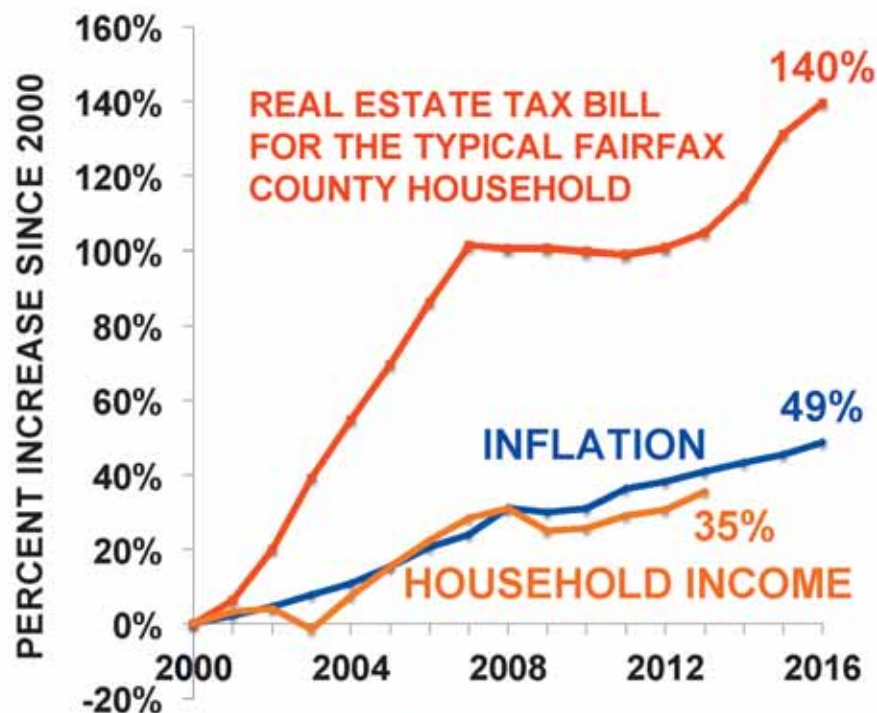
Yvette's story was one of our winning entries in our "Express Lanes Love Story" promotion.



## CAN'T AFFORD SHARON BULOVA'S TAXES?

On November 3rd vote for  
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Republican for Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



[WWW.VOTEPURVES.ORG](http://WWW.VOTEPURVES.ORG)

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## NEWS

### TechAwards Recognize Business Leaders, Innovators

The Northern Virginia technology community gathered at TechCelebration, the annual banquet of the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC), the largest technology council in the nation, on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

The event featured the presentation of the second annual NVTC Tech Awards, honoring groundbreaking companies/firms, leaders and innovations in our region's technology community.

Winners included:

- ❖ Silicon Valley Bank, NVTC Associate Member of the Year;
- ❖ Marilyn Crouther of HP Enterprise Services, Tech Executive of the Year;
- ❖ Virtustream, Innovative Use of Technology;
- ❖ Optoro, Tech Company of the Year (Under \$50 Million in Revenue); and
- ❖ Appian, Tech Company of the Year (Over \$50 Million in Revenue).

enue).

In addition to the Tech Awards, the event also featured David M. Rubenstein, co-founder and co-CEO of The Carlyle Group, who made remarks in accepting the Pinnacle Award for his "extraordinary generosity and commitment to improve the quality of life of the community, region, state and nation." Rubenstein, a financier and philanthropist, co-founded The Carlyle Group and helped it grow into one of the world's largest private equity firms. Rubenstein also is among the group of billionaires who have pledged to donate more than half of their wealth to philanthropic causes or charities as part of The Giving Pledge and has provided funds to many of the region's beloved institutions and universities.

NVTC also presented the Chairman's Award to Pete Jobse, president and CEO of the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT).



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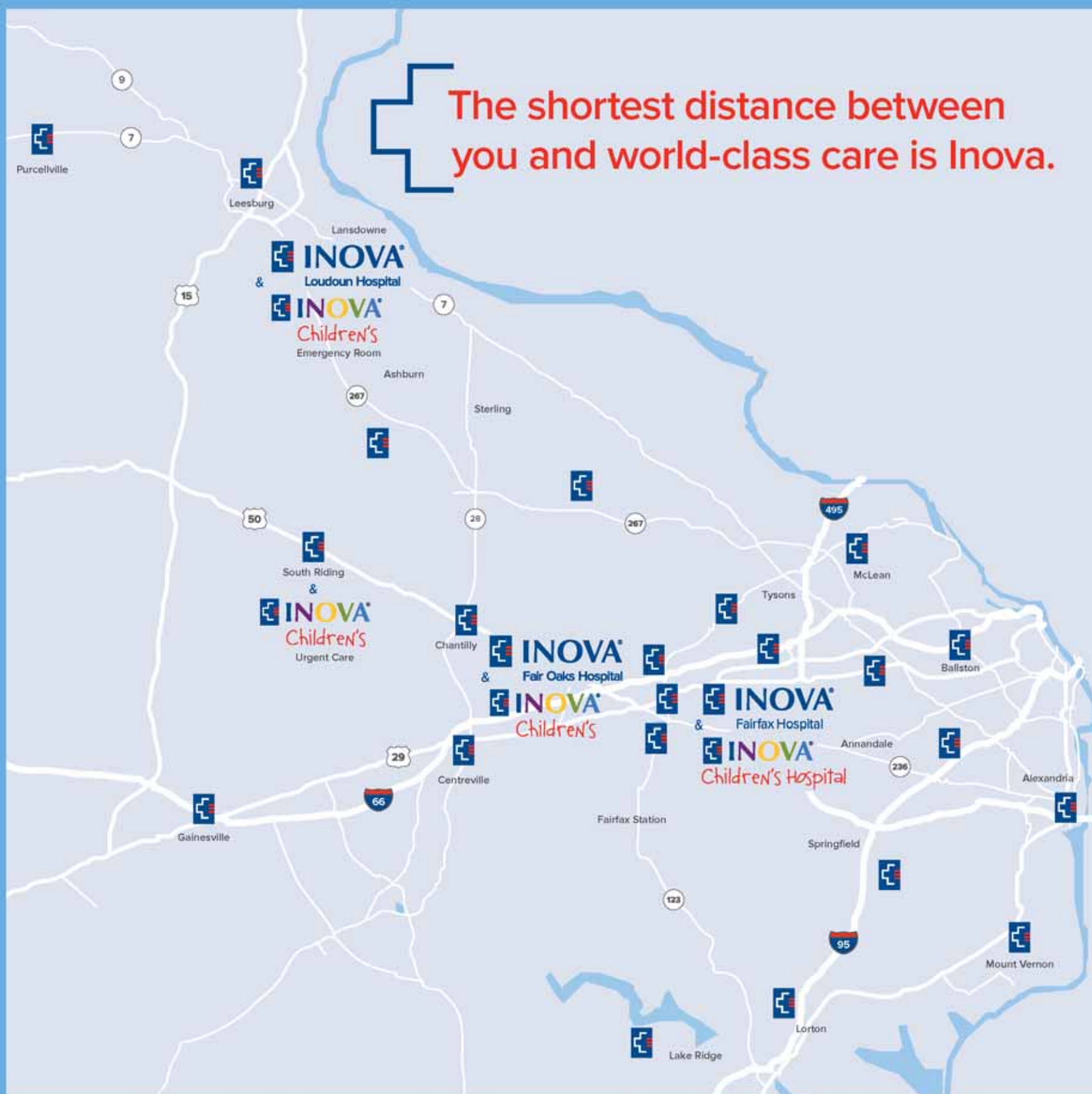
**During his 24 years of service  
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- Received recognition as a Virginia Leader in the Law (2015)
- Received a Freedom of Information Award the Virginia Coalition For Open Government (2013)
- Received recognition as the Public Official of the Year (2006)

**Vote Tuesday, November 3rd**

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*House of Representatives, District 86*



**VOTE TUESDAY, November 3rd**

Paid for by the Southern States PBA, Inc. PAC Fund. 2155 Hwy 42 S, McDonough, GA 30252. Chris Skinner, president; Dave Soderberg, senior vice president; Donald Scott, vice president, Joe Naia, secretary.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOWN OF HERNDON'S PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**The Herndon High class of 2017 had a float showing characters from the Marvel Avengers. The theme for this year's homecoming parade was superheroes.**

# Herndon Hosts Homecoming Parade

**Community joins in Herndon's Homecoming parade.**

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Herndon hosted its annual homecoming parade the morning of Saturday, Oct. 24. Mayor Lisa Merkel, the town council and police chief judged the parade. Homecoming spirit was evident as people lined Elden and Lynn streets to cheer athletes, performers, politicians, community groups and the Homecoming Court. "The Herndon Home-

coming parade is always my favorite day of the year," said Mayor Merkel. "Seeing so many friends and neighbors along Elden Street, cheering and waving is at the heart of what so many of us love about living in a small town, hometown Herndon!"

Videotaping the parade were volunteers with Herndon Community Television (HCTV), a nonprofit, cable access PEG station based in Herndon. Herndon High students Jack Norcross and Emily Yen reported on scene at the 2015 Herndon Homecoming Parade. The Herndon community enjoyed town-wide support for the treasured Herndon tradition. "It is a great small town experience. We really love the band," said Tami Savage, who watched the parade with her husband.

SEE HOMECOMING, PAGE 9



**Videotaping the parade were volunteers with Herndon Community Television (HCTV), a nonprofit, cable access PEG station based in Herndon. Herndon High students Jack Norcross and Emily Yen reported on scene at the 2015 Herndon Homecoming Parade.**

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# Homecoming Parade

FROM PAGE 8

**THE THEME** this year for the parade was superheroes. Members of the Herndon freshmen class of 2019 attended dressed as Power Rangers, and the junior class of 2017 had a float on the theme of the Marvel Avengers. The class of 2018 had a float which used the theme of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and the senior class of 2016 had a float designed on DC Comic characters. The senior class of 2016 won the award for Best Class Float and the Pride of Herndon band took the Best in Parade award.

"It is great to see all the kids. We have a senior in the school dance team. The marching band is always fun," said Reston resident Magnus Nylund, who watched the parade with his family. "We always come every year, it is a great time to meet people and friends," said Urania Rodrigues, a resident of Herndon whose daughter studied at Herndon High.

The parade had 48 registered units and nearly 1,500 participants marching. There were many creative and inspiring applications of the superhero theme, from tributes to heroes like our teachers, police and firefighters, to the role models sixth graders are for younger elementary students. Support from the community was outstanding as hundreds of people lined Elden and

Lynn streets to show they care about students and the Herndon community.

Highlights included the St. Joseph's School Cheerleaders, Herndon High School Dance Team, Herndon High School NJROTC, the Class of 2019 and several Girl Scout troops from around the region. Presiding over the parade were Herndon High School Principal William Bates, Mayor Lisa Merkel, Vice Mayor Jennifer Baker and Councilmembers Dave Kirby, Steve Mitchell, Sheila Olem, Jasbinder Singh, and Grace Wolf, and Herndon Police Chief Maggie DeBoard.

Trophies were presented to the first and second place winners in the Civic, Performing Arts, School, Show, and Class Float categories. In addition, the judges selected the Richard F. Downer Theme Award and the Major Robert C. Church Best in Parade winners.

"I heard from several parents, friends, and alumni how much they love coming out and watching such a great tradition. It is very rewarding for the parks and recreation staff to collaborate with the high school and so many of the youth-serving groups in Herndon to produce the parade! We are also proud to support the schools in our belief that All Children are Capable of Success, No Exceptions," said Cindy Roeder, director of the Town of Herndon's Parks and Recreation Department.



## A RECORD OF RESULTS:

- Began to reduce overcrowded elementary classes.
- Made full-day elementary Mondays a reality.
- Increased on-time graduation rates.
- Implemented later high school start times.

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The Washington Post

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# OPINION

## Vote Nov. 3

Read Election coverage at  
[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com).

If you live in a district with a hotly contested race, you definitely know from the contents of your mailbox that there is an Election coming up. Don't miss your chance to vote.

Many races in Northern Virginia offer very distinct choices between candidates with strikingly different views on topics that matter, like school funding, guns, social safety net, taxes and more.

You can find coverage of many races, plus short biographies and questionnaires completed by the candidates themselves on our website.

You'll find many interesting ideas in the can-

didate questionnaire responses, from incumbents and challengers including third party candidates.

Go to [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) and click on Elections on the horizontal navigation bar.

If you need information on how to vote, contact your electoral board.

For More Election Information

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<http://www.sbe.virginia.gov>

**Fairfax County Board of Elections**, 703-222-0776, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>

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**City of Fairfax General Registrar**, 703-385-7890, <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/general-registrar>

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### EDITORIAL

## Vote Yes for the Fairfax County School Bond Referendum

BY LEN FORKAS  
CHAIRMAN  
FAIRFAX CITIZENS  
FOR BETTER SCHOOLS

On Nov. 3, please vote Yes for the \$300 million in infrastructure improvements for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS).

Fairfax County residents enjoy the benefits of having one of the best school systems in the nation, but with over 196 schools serving over 187,000 students, its aging infrastructure is in dire need of improvements. Voting Yes on the school bond referendum will allow the county to maintain the "world class education system" which FCPS provides. This is a driving force behind our

region's economic success. Nearly 75 percent of high school graduates in Fairfax County schools attend some form of post-secondary education. Many of these students return to Fairfax County to find work after graduating.

FCPS is the largest public school system in the Commonwealth and the 10th largest school system in the nation. Recent significant increases in student enrollment have pushed some schools far beyond capacity.

Since the 2008-2009 school year, enrollment has increased by more than 22,000 students and continued strong growth is anticipated. On top of that, existing classrooms are in dire need of renovations to assure student safety.

FCPS facilities also act as community centers with nearly 2,000

community organizations utilizing FCPS facilities every year.

Bonds are the means by which we provide the funding necessary for our students' facilities. The use of bonds avoids diverting funds that are critically needed for classroom instruction. They also spread the financing of required school construction over the improvement's usable life, diversifying the contribution throughout several years.

In addition, it is important to note that the School Bond will not increase county taxes. The sale of bonds avoids taking funds that are critically needed for classroom instruction.

The use of bonds will not affect the county's coveted bond rating. Not only are interest rates for tax exempt bonds at a near all time low, but Fairfax County is also

among the top 1 percent of counties with the highest credit rating possible for a locality. Of the nation's more than 3,000 counties, Fairfax is among only 40 that have the highest credit rating possible for a local government from all three rating agencies.

Fairfax County is home to 10 Fortune 500 company headquarters, more than 300 trade associations and professional societies, and nine of Inc. magazine's 500 fastest-growing privately-owned companies. To continue the excellence in education and business that Fairfax County is known for, our schools need to be modernized.

Together, we can pass the 2015 School Bond to make the necessary investments for a brighter future for our students and our county.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The Most Negative Campaign

To the Editor:

The Republican Party of Virginia has launched the most negative election campaign against Jennifer Boysko and John Foust that I have ever seen in the 40 some years I've lived in the area.

I've looked and looked for the names of their opponents on the mailings, but it only states: "Authorized by + name." Furthermore, the mailings show extremely unbecoming photos of Boysko and Foust.

The strangest thing, however, is that nowhere, nowhere, is there anything about the opponents' opinions or plans. Neither does it say: "Vote for me." Instead it says: "Vote against ....". Consequently, voters have no idea

what the opponents stand for.

Both Boysko and Foust have

been endorsed by Firefighters and Teachers. They have a great background and will be excellent representatives for our area. The RPV should be ashamed of such negativity!

**Ruth Tatlock**  
Herndon

## Spreading False Information

To the Editor:

It is unfortunate that Graig Parisot, a newcomer to Fairfax County politics is reaching out to new lows of credibility in making false statements about Delegate Kathleen Murphy's position on I-66 tolls.

The toll proposals have become a hot issue since some state officials mentioned the possibility of using tolls on I-66 inside the beltway as a way to finance adding new lanes. Delegate Murphy,

the incumbent in the 34th District in the House has opposed such tolls. She has stated her position on tolls at the McLean Community Center debate on Oct. 18. Nevertheless, Parisot has launched robo-calls falsely implying that Murphy is supporting such tolls.

This is a total falsehood. Parisot should stop such unethical behavior. Perhaps he is doing this to distract voters from his record which is an extreme Tea Party agenda.

**J. Jay Volkert, PhD**  
Vienna

## Murphy Opposes Tolls on I-66

To the Editor:

Delegate Kathleen Murphy opposes tolls on I-66. She made an unequivocal statement at the McLean Community Center debate on Oct. 18 that she is opposed to

tolls on I-66—and has always been opposed to such tolls. However, in the race for the 34th District in the House of Delegates, Challenger Craig Parisot claims that Murphy stated otherwise. Parisot is either very confused or decided to misrepresent his opponent's position. Parisot's fabrication is typical of a trailing and tired candidate.

To make matters worse, I received a robo-call on Oct. 20 from Parisot that hyped his false toll claim using deceptive language to rouse the emotions of voters. Quite frankly, I know of no one who supports \$7 tolls or any tolls on I-66. Mr. Parisot knows this yet he continues to make false statements. Someone who makes such false statements should not be entrusted by voters to represent us in Richmond. I will vote for Delegate Kathleen Murphy.

**Nancy Hopkins**  
Vienna

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# School Board Candidates At-Large

## Dr. R. E. "Bob" Copeland

**Town of residence:** Vienna

**Age:** 68

**Family:** Sharol: Wife of 44 years: McLean H.S. graduate, two children, Both Marshall H.S. and JMU graduates. Seven grandchildren, all living in Fairfax County.

**Education:** Bachelor of Science Pharmacy, Doctor of Dental Surgery, General Practice Residency VA Hospital Washington DC.

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Dentist: I meet with the general public daily, diagnose their problems, and then solve them. Small Business Owner 1978 to present.

**Community involvement:** Falls Church Little League, Vienna Civic Association, Citizen Advisory Committee for Fairfax County Police Dept.

**Website:** [www.BobForSchoolBoard.com](http://www.BobForSchoolBoard.com)

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

**Name three favorite endorsements:** FCRC, Elizabeth Schultz, Carly Fiorina

### QUESTIONS:

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

We have one of the best school systems in the country. The present School Board has little interest in budget management and is leading us in a way that is unsustainable. Despite an increase in the budget of 107% and enrollment growth of 22% over the past 15 years, we are falling behind in many major categories. Class sizes are up. Teacher salaries are flat and so is the achievement gap. Seven schools are in danger of losing their accreditation just in one district. It is past time for an outside, transparent and meaningful audit so programs can be evaluated, fluff eliminated and core educational achievement can be maximized.

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

The School Board and Administration need to take responsibility for their failure to prioritize programs, eliminate waste and manage the budget.

I would not design an online budget tool whose purpose is to shield the administration and school board from criticism by creating cuts by popular demand. A real budget tool would engage parents by asking them what they would like to save. If cuts were actually needed, informed leaders would have to make the adjustment.

**3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?**

FCPS should use merit based instruction, with a focus on providing a quality education for all our students. The schools cannot change the economic conditions of families. All they can do is assure that every student has an educational opportunity that will allow each individual to succeed.

**4. How to address the achievement gap?**

The achievement gap is largely between English and non-English speaking children. It is a tragedy that non-English speaking children are kept in ESOL programs for years without progress. I would advocate for summer school for ESOL students to speed mainstreaming. Since the federal government has opened the door to illegal immigration, they should pay for the added costs.

**5. Budget Question**

I am confident that 2.3% of savings could be found in the present \$3 billion budget. One of my frustrations as a concerned citizen is the lack of transparency of the cost and effectiveness of programs. As presently structured, the number one item for elimination is athletics. Athletics is an \$11 million line item in a \$3 billion budget. What is missing in the analysis is athletics bring in an excess of \$100 million in non-taxpayer money to the School System. The take home lesson is: Never Never Never end athletics.



## Omar Fateh

**Town of residence:** Annandale

**Age:** 25

**Education:** MPA from George Mason University

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Former Campaign Finance Analyst at FEC, Former Academic Advisor/Assistant Instructor at Northern Virginia Community College

**Community involvement:** Co-organize youth basketball league, Assist in developing tutoring programs at local mosques

**Website:** [www.fatehforschoolboard.com](http://www.fatehforschoolboard.com)

**Email address:** fateh4sb@gmail.com

**Twitter handle:** Fateh4sb

**Name favorite endorsements:** Fairfax Education Association

### QUESTIONS:

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

The achievement gap. Our minority and economically disadvantaged students continually score 20-30 points below their peers on standardized tests. The dropout rate among economically disadvantaged students has nearly doubled in the last four years. First, standardized test scores should not be the main indicator of student progress or potential. Second, rather than having teachers teach to the tests, it is important for the School Board to give teachers the freedom to identify their students' strengths and interests. Finally, we must get parents involved, and to place responsibility on the students to succeed as well.

**2. Why should voters choose you?**

The qualities that separate me most from the other candidates for School Board include the perspective I bring as a member of some of the County's many underrepresented communities (including the Somali and Muslim communities), as a former Fairfax County Public Schools student, and also as a former advisor to countless area students at Northern Virginia Community College.

**3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?**

Many parents in Fairfax County must work multiple jobs, and are not able to provide the full support needed by their children, such as attending school meetings and checking their children's work. It is critical for us to get parents as involved as we can, in part by meeting them on their terms and as much as possible. I will ensure that I am easily accessible to the entire community. Having worked with my local mosque to develop a tutoring program for our County's youth, many people within our community are willing to donate their time and efforts to help both academically, and in developing them as professionals.

Increased funding is necessary to meet the needs of an ever-expanding student body.

**4. How to address the achievement gap?**

To begin addressing the issue in earnest, the School Board first needs compassionate representatives willing to understand and serve the needs of the full range of County students with new energy and ability.

**5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?**

Board members must also better engage their fellow elected officials to seek additional funding. The majority of the Board of Supervisors wants to fully fund our schools, but the dollars simply are not coming in from Richmond. We need to work with state representatives to bring back our tax dollars. We must work first and foremost to provide additional funding. We must get both Boards on the same page, and put education—in other words, our children—first in Fairfax County.



## Jeanette Hough

**Town of residence:** Fairfax

**Age:** 36

**Family:** Husband, Charlie (Oakton graduate '97); Ryan (4th grade), Keri (2nd grade), Ethan (Kindergarten), Vader (rescue puppy)

**Education:** B.A. in Economics; University of Virginia, Masters in Physical Therapy; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Physical Therapist (Senior Therapist – mentor and leader role)

**Community involvement:** Volunteer in children's elementary school, local homeless shelter, church, and with meals and holiday gifts through Our Daily Bread, volunteer with kid's sports and activities, Manna Meal coordinator, PTA member

**Website:** [jeanetteforschoolboard.com](http://jeanetteforschoolboard.com)

**Email**

[Jeanetteforschoolboard@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanetteforschoolboard@gmail.com)

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Class Size Counts, Former Congressman Tom Davis, Congresswoman Barbara Comstock

### QUESTIONS:

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

Responsibility to the community defines my call to serve. That responsibility comes with engaging the community members, being fiscally responsible and setting clear priorities. Authentic engagement includes holding office hours and citizen town halls throughout the year, not just showing up to ribbon cuttings and planned events. Our community deserves more transparency with FCPS' \$2.7 billion operating fund. I will prioritize reducing large class sizes, not with one-time fixes the way my opponents have, but with long-term planning. I will prioritize competitive teacher salaries. Our teachers' salaries have fallen behind compared to surrounding counties. Instead of making it a real priority, the Board raised their own salary by 60%.

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

My opponents either do not have children or have not had children in FCPS for a long time. As the mother of children in graduating classes of 2023, 2025, 2027, I bring a unique insight into our school system. I bring an Economics degree when we face a shortfall of over \$70 million for FY17 due to failing to enact budgeting best practices.

**3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?**

Part of the growing divide comes from parallel decisions made by the Board of Supervisors. It is imperative to have a new School Board that can build trust with the Board of Supervisors. With a better relationship, the two Boards can work together for our community and all of our children.

**4. How to address the achievement gap?**

Under current leadership, the achievement gap continues to be substantial. We cannot keep electing the same people and expect a different result. We need to provide a rigorous curriculum to all students and allocate resources for objective gains. We need to work with the community to provide wraparound services and empower parents to help their children at home.

**5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top priorities and what could be cut?**

FCPS' projected shortfall is 2.5% of the operating budget. The current School Board took five years to hire an auditor general and has refused to do a line of business review. My top priority is to ensure clear metrics and objectivity so we base cuts on educational impact and effectiveness, not on bias and popularity. We also need to look at FCPS' contract procurement practices. I will bring leadership to the Board so we cut waste and inefficiency, not proven programs.



## Manar Jean-Jacques

**Town of residence:** Fairfax

**Age:** 31

**Family:** My family is originally from Egypt and my wonderful husband, Thierry, is from Haiti. We have been married for 7 years and we have two children, Thomas is 2 and Mary is 8 months.

**Education:** I hold a B.A. in Sociology from George Mason University

**Occupation and relevant experience:** I work at the Refugee Processing Center as a contractor for the Department of State.

**Community involvement:** I participate in local volunteer opportunities though my church, I spent time on the ground in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina assisting in disaster relief efforts and I spent time helping at an orphanage in my husband's hometown of Port-au-Prince, Haiti after the devastating earthquake in 2010.

**Website:** [www.ManarForFairfax.com](http://www.ManarForFairfax.com)

**Email address:** [Manar@manarforfairfax.com](mailto:Manar@manarforfairfax.com)

**Twitter handle:** @Manar4FFX

**Name favorite endorsements:** GOP and Arab Community Radio.

### QUESTIONS:

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

As a first generation American, I cherish the importance of a government that listens to its people. I feel called to serve in my local government because the current school board is unresponsive to its constituents. I plan on involving the community in all board-related matters through regular town halls, PTA meetings, setting special time aside to meet with teachers and making myself readily available to the residents of Fairfax County via office hours, email and phone.

**2. Why should voters choose you?** As a mom of two future FCPS students, my priority is ensuring the highest quality education for FCPS students so that our children have the best opportunities to thrive and be successful. I understand the frustration parents have with class size disparity, the need for more rigor in the classroom and the need for parents of this next generation to be respected and recognized as the primary educators of their children.

**3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?**

It is important to keep rigor, class size disparity and staffing formulas at the heart of the conversation with the community. Working together, we can create solutions that address our county's challenges and needs. It is the responsibility of FCPS to educate all students in the county and shape them into productive members of the community.

**4. How to address the achievement gap?**

Coming from an immigrant family and working daily to bring refugees to the U.S., I understand what education means for those seeking a better future for themselves and their families in the U.S. I am very concerned that the needle hasn't moved on closing the minority achievement gap in years, despite \$65 million being poured into projects targeting the issue. I would begin addressing the achievement gap by engaging teachers in the conversation and seeking their expertise.

**5. Budget Question:**

If elected, I would like to put a motion before the board to vote on giving back the 60% raise they voted themselves in the midst of this budget gap. I would also like to look at outsourcing FCPS jobs that do not directly impact the education of children inside the classroom. Outsourcing gives businesses in the community an opportunity to thrive and frees up money that we would have been paying into pensions to now be redirected back into the classroom.





# School Board Candidates At-Large

## Ryan McElveen

**INCUMBENT**  
**Town of residence:** McLean  
**Age:** 29  
**Family:** Married  
**Education:** M.A. in International Affairs, Columbia University; B.A. in Anthropology and East Asian Studies, The University of Virginia  
**Offices held, dates:** School Board Member, At-large, January 2012-Present



**Occupation and relevant experience:** Assistant Director, John L. Thornton China Center, The Brookings Institution

**Website:** www.ryanfordschoolboard.com  
**Email address:** voteryanmc@gmail.com  
**Twitter handle:** @RyanLMcElveen

**Name three endorsements:** Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Fairfax Education Association, Fairfax County Democratic Committee

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

I will remain a voice for the voiceless who don't know how to best resolve their concerns with the school system. One of my first actions on the Board was to push for the creation of a system to allow community members to submit YouTube video testimonies to be shown at our meetings. I will continue engaging with the community in a transparent manner and with an open mind while working to improve our communications.

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

I have a track record of bringing significant and positive change to the school system in a short amount of time. I have focused on three major initiatives: improving school food, the internationalization working group, and the alumni networking action group which has helped us map a path to create FCPS alumni association.

**3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?**

FCPS is a tale of two counties, and this unquestionably has emerged as one of our biggest challenges. To address this divide, the School Board must maintain its long-standing practice of targeting these communities with needs-based funding. Co-location of school and human services facilities, as has been piloted in Mount Vernon, is another way to tackle this community issue without spending significant additional county resources.

**4. How to address the achievement gap?**

Our Board has remained steadfast in our support of needy students and those who speak other languages at home by directing budget resources to these at-risk populations. We have made expanding early childhood opportunities one of our priorities, because we know that investments in the education of students at an early age pay dividends later in their educational careers (thus saving our system money). We must continue working with the county to creatively fund and house these programs.

**5. Budget Question**

FCPS cannot remain the system it is today at current levels of funding, and we won't realize that we've hit the breaking point until it's too late. It is well past time to diversify local revenue streams.

Beyond Fairfax, the School Board must take advocacy to the next level by coalition building with similar, like-minded districts and umbrella organizations throughout the state to push for a change to our state funding mechanisms. Additionally, both Boards need to continue exploring legal recourse to obtain the education funding guaranteed by the Virginia constitution.

## Ilryong Moon

**INCUMBENT**  
**Town of residence:** Fairfax  
**Age:** 58  
**Family:** Father of 2 FCPS graduates  
**Education:** Harvard, B.A.; William and Mary Law School, J.D.  
**Offices held, dates:** At-Large School Board Member, 07/1995-12/1995 & 2004-present; Braddock District School Board Member 1996-1999; At-Large Planning Commissioner 2000-2003.



**Occupation and relevant experience:** Attorney since 1984; Member, Board of Directors, American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras, 2000-2010; Member, Board of Directors, Montessori School of Northern Virginia, 1994-1995

**Community involvement:** Youth soccer coaching, Fairfax-Falls Church Regional Council of the United Way, Police Chief's Diversity Council.

**Website:** www.moon4schools.com  
**Email address:** moon@moon4schools.com  
**Twitter handle:** @Moon4Schools

**Name three favorite endorsements:** My family, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, and Democratic Party

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

We should prepare our students for global competition. They will not only lead our country in the future, but must be able to compete with the students from the other nations. I want Fairfax County to be the best place to live, work, and raise children. We need good teachers and must support them. We should challenge our students to do their best, meet their individual needs, and provide them with a broad curriculum, including in STEM and foreign language education.

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

Experience and unique perspectives. I have served on the school board for 16 years, including 3 years as chairman and 2 years as vice chairman, and also chaired budget, governance, personnel, and policy committees. Furthermore, I bring unique perspectives as an immigrant grown up in poverty, an English language learner, an attorney, and a small business owner.

**3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?**

All students should have resources per their needs. We should work more closely with the parents to help their children succeed. For the parents with language, cultural, or employment barriers, we should reach out to them more proactively. All students should have adequate access to digital devices and internet capability. We must also work with the County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission on housing issues not to concentrate high poverty students on certain areas.

**4. How to address the achievement gap?**

Adequate resources, closer work with families, and high expectations for all students are needed. I support needs-based staffing. Resources should follow students' needs whether in opportunities, special education, or learning English as a second language. We need to equip, train, and educate parents to help their children succeed. Also, everyone should have high expectations for all students. We should expand early childhood education opportunities, working with the County, State, private sector, and community organizations.

**5. Budget Question**

A community consensus on the school funding level should be built. I support the superintendent's work with the budget task force to gather community input. Both the School Board and the Board of Supervisors need to know where the community stands. We should also review our programs, practices, and operations to find savings. My priorities are to increase teacher salaries, lower class sizes, and challenge all students to do their best and pre

## Burnette G. Scarboro

**Town of residence:** Alexandria (Fairfax County)  
**Age:** Over 21  
**Family:** Luther, husband; Children – Syreeta, Seneca and Stefanie  
**Education:** Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, NC; NOVA Community College; and George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.



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

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Fairfax County Public Schools – Family Engagement Representative; African Heritage Early Literacy Project Leader. Co-founder South County Youth Network a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Member, Lt. Governor's Commonwealth Council for Childhood Success

**Community involvement:** Northern VA District PTA Director; Member, VA State PTA Board; Member, Chairman Bulova's Ad Hoc Police Review Committee; Coordinator, West Potomac-Mount Vernon School-Community Coalition

**Website:** www.burnette4schoolboard.com  
**Email address:** friendsofburnette@gmail.com  
**Twitter handle:**

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Dr. Larry Bussey; The Faith Community; and Mattie Palmore, Community Activist

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

My desire to have equitable education for all students drives me to run, along with character education in all school pyramids.

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

Voters should choose me because I am embedded in the school system as an employee; family oriented and believe that students and families should not be judged by their geographical location.

**3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?**

First, we need to address the increase in families placing their children in private schools or homeschooling; second, the economic divide is a direct correlation of the type of businesses in a community, i.e., fast food establishments vs. Fortune 500; and, third – work on changing the mindset of judging others by zip codes.

**4. How will you address the achievement gap?**

The achievement gap should not exist. The history of public education clearly shows that that public education was not designed for people of color. The achievement gap came on the scene when schools were integrated. I can only address the problem when all stakeholders understand why the problem exists.

**5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?**

FCPS and the BOS must work together to develop strategies to bring more businesses into the area and reduce the reliance on real estate taxes. Teachers know where cuts can be made and that is the group that I would begin my inquiries.

**6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?**

A school system with a stellar reputation is sought by businesses and former school graduates to return and give back to the community. Taxpayers want to see "more bang for their bucks." Elect me to the school board and you'll see the plan in action!

## Theodore J. "Ted" Velkoff

**INCUMBENT**  
**Town of Residence:** Chantilly  
**Age:** 61  
**Family:** Wife, Dr. Patricia Velkoff; Daughters Catherine (South Lakes H.S. 2007), Elizabeth (Chantilly H.S. 2009)  
**Offices held, dates:** At-Large member of the Fairfax County School Board, January 2012 to present. Have served as Vice Chairman of the Board, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Budget Committee.



**Occupation and relevant experience:** Senior Software Architect at Integrity One Partners, Reston VA; previously with Lockheed Martin and IBM in Manassas, VA. M.A., Computer Science, Indiana University; M. Music, Conducting, Indiana University; B. Music, Composition, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

**Community involvement:** PTSA President, Chantilly H.S.; PTA Treasurer, Chantilly H.S., Rocky Run M.S., Poplar Tree E.S.; Treasurer, Pleasant Valley Preschool, Girl Scout Troup 2829. Volunteer, stage manager and occasional human prop, Fairfax Ballet.

**Website:** http://www.tv4sb.org  
**Email address:** ted@tv4sb.org  
**Twitter handle:** @TedVelkoff

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Supervisor John Foust, Senator Chap Petersen, Delegate Ken Plum.

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

Eliminate high stakes testing and replace with authentic assessments. We must restore the joy of teaching and learning that comes from projects, inquiry and communication. Recently inaugurated Portrait of a Graduate defines success not in terms of what students know, but what they can do with what they know.

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

I am proud of the work accomplished. We hired a visionary and transformational leader in Dr. Karen Garza. We made much-needed changes to student discipline practices; solved the high school start time problem; and instituted full-day instruction in elementary schools on Mondays. My opponents have seldom, if ever, attended school board meetings or work sessions, and appear to have been motivated solely by disagreement with one action of the board last May.

**3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?**

We must insist on rigorous instruction for all children in all schools, whether wealthy or poor, gifted or disadvantaged. I am deeply opposed to the punitive accountability measures imposed by the state and federal government, which are counterproductive. I am just as deeply committed to the principle that we in FCPS must do everything we can to meet the needs of all children.

**4. How to address the achievement gap?**

The most important thing we can do is to achieve universal pre-school in Fairfax County. Nobel Prize economist James Heckman has demonstrated that high quality pre-school yields a 7 to 1 return on investment in less remediation and discipline issues over the career of a student.

**5. Budget Question**

The County Executive has told FCPS to "live within its means." In accordance with that budget guidance, the Superintendent will have to cut \$72M from the operating budget. The School Board has closed similar gaps by increasing class size and limiting employee compensation. This year I will not support a budget that is balanced on the backs of our employees.



## ELECTION '15

# Candidates for State Delegate in 86th District

## Jennifer Boysko (D)

Candidate for Delegate in District 86

**Town of residence:** Herndon

**Age:** 48

**Family:** Husband - Glenn Boysko, Daughters - Hannah and Sophie Claire

**Education:** B.A. Hollins University;

**Occupation and relevant experience:**

Former Aide to Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Legislative Assistant, Bayles Boland Madigan and Barrett; Staff Assistant US Senator Richard Shelby

**Community involvement:** Virginia Board of Real Estate- Citizen Member, Creating a Livable Community for All Ages in McLean, Great Falls Seniors Committee, Rt. 28 Working Group- Staff representative, Dranesville APR Task Force- Staff representative, Sugarland Run and Horsepen Creek Watershed WAG, Herndon High School Synthetic Turf Committee, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Town of Herndon Interjurisdictional Transportation Staff -Level Working Group, North County Human Services Team, Safe Community Coalition, Unified Prevention Coalition, McLean After School Child Care Committee, Herndon High School PTSA, Executive Board and Parent Education Chair, Herndon Fortnightly Club, Vice President, Eleventh District Democratic Committee, Dranesville Democratic Committee, Dulles Area Democrats- Founding Board Member, Delegate, Region V, Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, Radiant Child Yoga Teacher, Board of Trustees, Montessori Country School, Stephens Minister

**Website:** www.jenniferboysko.com

**Email:** jennifer@jenniferboysko.com

**Twitter handle:** @jenniferboysko

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Teachers (VEA and AFT); First Responders- (Virginia Firefighters and Police); Constituency groups (New Virginia Majority, CASA in Action, Emerge USA, Equality Virginia, Labor, Women's Health Groups)



pand early childhood education, reform SOL testing so that our students and teachers can focus on critical thinking and problem solving instead of high stakes testing; Work with Governor McAuliffe and our local leaders to bring new jobs to expand our

economy; Bring our fair share of transportation funding from Richmond - and stop the initiative to toll I-66; Expand Medicaid to cover the 400,000 Virginians without healthcare and free up the \$5 million per day we already pay in taxes in Federal funds to tackle our other underfunded priorities - like schools, mental health and transportation; Keep the government out of our most personal private affairs.

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

The 86th District sits in the heart of the Dulles Technology corridor. We've experienced significant growth in the past 10 years and the district continues to diversify both ethnically and socioeconomically. It's a microcosm of the region in the education, transportation and economic challenges that this kind of growth presents.

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

Yes, absolutely.

### 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 spent years working at the County level covering Health and Human Services issues. I know that all of our child advocacy programs in Virginia are under funded. We should honor our commitment to care for our most vulnerable so that they can grow up to achieve their full potential.

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

If we look at Medicaid Expansion in economic terms, we know that it would be a wise business decision for the Commonwealth. It would stretch our budget dollars, lessening the burden on our struggling hospital system and providing our residents with the economic flexibility that health care coverage gives. Currently we are giving up \$5 million per day because we refuse to expand Medicaid. If you take away the partisan perspective, and focus on this as a common sense business decision, the answer is clear. The business community, hospitals and public health professionals all agree, and current examples of expansion in states like Kentucky have proven the wisdom of this choice. Our approach to legislating should be based on these kinds of considerations — starting with the data — rather than based on an ideological foundation. I know there will be Delegates who would be open to civil discussion based on data, and that is how I would approach all of my work in the House of Delegates.

## Danny Vargas (R)

Candidate for Delegate District 86

**Town of residence:** Herndon

**Age:** 49

**Family:** Wife, Arlene, and two sons in Fairfax County Public Schools

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Management

**Occupation and relevant**

**experience:** Founder/President, VARCom Solutions; Former VP Global Sales and VP Latin America, AOL; Former VP Sales and Marketing – Americas, France Telecom; Former Director Corporate/Carrier Sales, Global One (Sprint/FT/DT JV); Former Manager, Raytheon; U.S. Air Force veteran

**Community involvement:** Former Chair, Virginia Board of Workforce Development (Gubernatorial appointment); Former Chair, Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce; Board Member, Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce; Commissioner, National Museum of the American Latino Commission (Congressional appointment); Former Board Member, Northern Virginia Family Services; Former Board Member, Fairfax Partnership for Youth

**Website:** www.VargasforVirginia.com

**Email:** Danny@VargasforVirginia.com

**Twitter handle:** @DVargas

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Delegate Tom Rust; Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce; Northern Virginia Technology Council



velopment, I worked with both Republican and Democrat administrations to reform our workforce system and create new jobs in Virginia.

When I was Chair of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, the federal government was poised to pull their portion of the funding for Rail to Dulles. I rallied chambers and civic groups, coordinated with elected officials of both parties at every

level and as part of a collective effort, we were able to get Rail to Dulles back on track.

I am able to bring that bi-partisanship to Richmond to represent the needs of all the citizens in the 86<sup>th</sup> District.

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

Grow and Diversify our Economy; Strengthen Education and Workforce Development; Improve Transportation, including stopping the \$17 tolls on I-66 Inside the Beltway; Improve Public Safety; Help our Veterans

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

The 86<sup>th</sup> District has changed significantly. The decline of Dulles airport and the stagnation of the economy due to our reliance on federal spending have hit our District hard. The District has also become more diverse and is now a minority majority District. I look forward to using my unique background to bring our varied residents together to focus on commonsense solutions to create jobs, improve education and solve transportation issues.

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

I have always focused on looking out for working families and would continue to do so, including making sure to curtail activities that prey on their finances.

### 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?

Growing up in challenging conditions and seeing firsthand how foster care and adoption can provide youngsters facing adversity with the stability and care they need, I have always cared deeply about helping them as evidenced by my services on nonprofit boards. Therefore, I would support this funding and the associated federal dollars that would support them to the age of 21.

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

I grew up on Medicaid and am familiar with its limitations. I am concerned about the potential for massive, unexpected cost increases associated with Medicaid expansion. However I recognize that we have an opportunity to help provide insurance coverage to those in need at a time when our taxpayers are sending billions of dollars to Washington for Medicaid expansion. I would be open to exploring private sector orientated solutions that would protect Virginia's taxpayers from future unforeseen obligations and help struggling families obtain health coverage.

### QUESTIONS:

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

Improving our education system.

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

I have a long history of working on the ground in our local community, solving problems and helping people with issues that are important to them. I've been able to bring people together to get things done regardless of what political party. Voters want more of that 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?

As I said above, I've been working my whole adult life solving problems in a nonpartisan or bipartisan way. I will continue to be a leader to find commonsense solutions to the problems that Virginians face.

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

Improve Education-Fully fund our schools, ex-

## In-Person Absentee Voting: Vote Early

**In-Person Absentee Voting Fairfax County Government Center**

• **Fairfax County Governmental Center Location**, Conference Room 2/3, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax, VA 22035  
Through Oct. 30: extended hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31: 9 - 5.

• **In-Person Absentee Satellite Voting** Through Oct. 30 - Weekdays: Monday - Friday, 3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Satellite Locations:**

• **McLean Governmental Center** - 1437 Balls Hill Road, Community Room, McLean, 22101  
• **North County Governmental Center** - 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Community Rooms, Reston, 20190

# Vote Nov. 3

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**www.ConnectionNewspapers.com**  
Click on Elections on the navigation bar.



## House District 36

### Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum (D-36)

**Incumbent, unopposed**  
**Town of residence:** Reston, VA  
**Age:** 73  
**Family:** Wife Jane, 4 children, 6 grandchildren  
**Education:** B.A. Old Dominion University; M. Ed. University of Virginia  
**Offices held, dates:** Delegate 1978-80, 1982-present  
**Occupation and relevant experience:** Retired. 30 years with Fairfax County Public Schools, Director of Adult and Community Education  
**Community involvement:** Chairman, Dulles Corridor Rail Association; Trustee, United Christian Parish  
**Website:** [kenplum.com](http://kenplum.com)  
**Email:** [kenplum@aol.com](mailto:kenplum@aol.com)  
**Twitter handle:** @KenPlum1  
**Name three favorite endorsements:** Northern Virginia Technology Council, NoVABiz PAC, Virginia Education Association, Equality Virginia



there?

I have been a part of every major compromise that has moved the Commonwealth forward including balancing the budget in 2004 and providing funding for transportation in 2013.

tion in 2013.

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

Increase funding for education; Make the Earned Income Tax Credit partially refundable; Expand Medicaid to close the coverage gap; Enact commonsense gun safety measures including universal background checks; Raise the minimum wage

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

Reston and western Fairfax have seen tremendous growth fueled in part by the Silver Line. The population has gotten younger even as the number of senior citizens is high. Population is more diverse.

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

Yes

#### 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

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

Yes. Whatever compromise that is necessary to make it happen.

#### QUESTIONS:

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

I believe education is one of the most important functions of government. Currently we are underfunding our schools K-12 and higher education. I will work with the Governor and members of the General Assembly to restore funding to education including a greater investment in preschool education.

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

I currently do not have an opponent. I work very hard as a full-time legislator serving my constituents throughout the year.

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

## Senate District 32

### Janet Howell (D-32)

**Incumbent, unopposed**  
**Town of residence:** Reston  
**Age:** 71  
**Family:** married to Hunt Howell since 1966, two grown sons, 3 grandchildren  
**Education:** BA in Government, Oberlin College; MA in International Relations, The University of Pennsylvania  
**Offices held, dates:** Virginia Senate, 1992 to present  
**Occupation and relevant experience:** Former teacher, former legislative assistant, current state senator  
**Community involvement:** Prior to election to Senate, I was a PTA president (Forest Edge Elementary), chair of the State Board of Social Services, president of the Reston Community Association, chair of the Reston Transportation Committee, and various other positions.  
**Website:** [JanetHowell.com](http://JanetHowell.com)  
**Email address:** [SenHowell@gmail.com](mailto:SenHowell@gmail.com)  
**Name three favorite endorsements:** Virginia Education Association, Northern Virginia Technology Council, Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club



- ❖ Make certain taxpayer money is invested wisely
- ❖ Increase funding for education at all levels, from pre-K through higher education.
- ❖ Pass legislation to expand Medicaid or 400,000 uninsured Virginians
- ❖ Increase and improve programs for persons with mental illness
- ❖ Pass commonsense gun safety legislation such as background checks

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

Redistricting took away 40% of residents in my previous district and added 40% in new areas. Now the district includes part of Arlington and parts of Oakton and Centreville. The district is more diverse ethnically and has greater disparities in income.

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

Absolutely. I have consistently voted to put a cap of no more than 36% on interest on loans. The current laws bring undesirable businesses into our state that prey on vulnerable residents.

#### 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 have been an advocate for this program and fought for it in budget conference. When the state takes children away from their parents, we have a heightened responsibility to those children. All parents recognize that children need support beyond age 18.

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

Yes, I have been a fervent supporter of Medicaid expansion and have worked across party lines in the Senate to find a solution agreeable to the House majority. So far, they have been unyielding in their opposition despite the moral, economic, and health arguments in favor of expansion. I helped craft the Marketplace Virginia proposal and am currently working on further refinements of it. The sad truth is that the opposition is unwilling to compromise or to produce their own proposal.

#### QUESTIONS:

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

During my tenure in office I have spearheaded several multi-year efforts to reform our laws. I was chief patron of the major family violence legislation, the mental health law reform efforts, and sexual abuse law revisions and the sexual predator registry. Currently, I am working to provide more services for those with mental illness and to divert them from our jails and prisons. Our current practices are cruel and costly.

##### 2. What distinguishes you from your opponent?

Unopposed.

##### 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?

As the Senate has shifted control back and forth, I have consistently been selected by both parties as a budget conferee and negotiator on the most controversial bills (transportation, ethics, retirement plan reform, etc.).

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

Beltway, and instead widening this road.

- ❖ Increasing funding for public education while reducing administrative burdens on teachers.
- ❖ Reforming Virginia's tax laws to encourage more job creation.
- ❖ Passing a public charter school amendment to the state constitution to give parents more choices in public education.

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

Like most parts of Northern Virginia, people change residence frequently in the district I represent. There are always new people to meet in the 67<sup>th</sup> district!

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

Yes, and I have voted for such legislation in the General Assembly.

#### 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 need to learn more about how this would work before offering an opinion.

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

The federal government ought to return the additional tax dollars Virginians pay under the Affordable Care Act without strings attached. I would direct these funds to additional care for people with physical and intellectual disabilities and mental health concerns, rather than provide healthy people with insurance.

## House District 67

### Jim LeMunyon (R-67)

**Incumbent, unopposed**  
**Town of residence:** Oak Hill  
**Age:** 56  
**Family:** Married to Robin; three grown children: Mark, Heather and Kristin  
**Education:** B.S. Physics and Mathematics, Valparaiso University, M.S. Meteorology, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
**Offices held, dates:** Virginia House of Delegates, 2010—present; Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce 1989-93  
**Occupation and relevant experience:** business person; co-founder of Sterling Semiconductor, now a unit of the Dow Corning Corporation; adjunct professor, George Mason University 1993-96  
**Community involvement:** I've participated in a number of organizations and activities over the years through schools, church, scouts and sports associations.  
**Website:** [www.LeMunyon.com](http://www.LeMunyon.com)  
**Email address:** [deljlemunyon@gmail.com](mailto:deljlemunyon@gmail.com)  
**Twitter handle:** @JimLeMunyon  
**Name three favorite endorsements:** Fairfax Chamber of Commerce—NOVABizPAC; Virginia Education Association; Police Benevolent Assn.



#### will you tackle it?

Increasing the mobility of people of Northern Virginia by improving our transportation network. In particular, the can be accomplished by directing funds to transportation projects that give us the “biggest bang for the buck” in terms of congestion reduction. I authored the law that requires this, and now work to ensure its effective implementation.

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

I do not have an opponent, but I hope voters will vote for me because I share the priorities of a majority of people in the 67<sup>th</sup> district.

#### 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 am a Republican, and I frequently co-sponsor legislation with Democrats. I'm scored as the most bipartisan member of the House of Delegates by the non-partisan Sunlight Foundation. This does not mean “moderate.” Instead it means that I work well with people who hold different viewpoints.

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

- ❖ Keeping Virginia's budget balanced.
- ❖ Stopping to proposed toll on I-66 inside the

#### QUESTIONS:

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

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## ELECTION '15

# Candidates for State Senate in District 31

## Barbara Favola (D)

Senate District 31 Incumbent

**Town of residence:** Arlington  
**Age:** 60

**Family:** Married to Doug Weik with one son, Donald Patrick

**Education:** BS, Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, CT 1977; MPA, New York University, New York, NY 1980

**Offices held, dates:** Arlington County Board Member 1997 through 2011; VA State Senator 2011 to 2015

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Government Relations and Community Outreach Consultant

**Community involvement:** Board Member of: Child & Family Network Centers, Arlington YMCA, Culpepper Garden, Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocate Program and the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind

**Website:** BarbaraFavola.org

**Email:** District31@senate.virginia.gov

**Twitter handle:** @BarbaraFavola

**Name three favorite endorsements:** Virginia Education Association; League of Conservation Voters and NARAL



**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?**

The fact that I successfully passed important pieces of legislation is an indication that I can effectively work across party lines.

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

Improving K-12 Education, Investing in Pre-School, Participating in Medicaid Expansion, Improving Workforce Training and better funding Higher Education.

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

My district has become increasingly diverse and the public school systems in Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun are struggling to ensure that high school graduation rates remain high and that higher education options are available to everyone.

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

Yes.

**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 have introduced this legislation for the past three years. In 2014, the General Assembly passed authorizing legislation to permit Virginia's participation. However, State funding was not made available. I am working with Governor McAuliffe to include this program in his budget.

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

Absolutely! I have been working to make Medicaid Expansion a reality in the Commonwealth for the past three years. I will work to build a strong coalition of support that includes Republican leaning organizations.

## George V. Forakis (R)

Challenger, Senate District 31

**Town of residence:** Arlington  
**Age:** 26

**Education:** University of Maryland; Robert H. Smith School of Business, B.S. Finance & Accounting

**Occupation and relevant experience:** Financial / National Security Consulting

**Community involvement:** Board of Directors – local environmental non-profit

**Website:** www.forakisforsenate.com

**Email address:** george@forakisforsenate.com

**Twitter handle:** @GeorgeForakis



ing agendas. While I hold true to many of my party's values, I am not afraid to share my perspective as a member of the next generation of leaders. My issue agenda reflects a conservative approach with a willingness to consider an evolving landscape, both in our state and in our country. I am committed to representing the people of this district and am prepared to bring common-sense leadership to

the legislature.

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

❖ Creating jobs through economic development initiatives ❖ Reduce the tax burden on the middle class by cutting waste and prioritizing spending ❖ Improving infrastructure to alleviate traffic/congestion, allowing for a better quality of life and positive secondary economic effects ❖ Invest in all levels of education, including higher education and high-quality vocational programs for students who do not want to, or are unable to attend four-year programs. ❖ Alternative energy sources and clean nuclear power

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

Until "sequestration" in 2013, the population in this district (and Northern Virginia in general) was growing at an incredible rate. The federal budget cuts and subsequent slow in growth that occurred two years ago, however, illuminated that fact that we are too heavily reliant on D.C.'s fiscal policy and are in desperate need of our own economy. Indeed, we will always be home to defense contractors and IT professionals — but we must ensure that we create an environment that encourages all types of businesses to participate in the economy.

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

Yes. Part of our job as legislators is to protect the people that we represent and we are obligated to prevent businesses from taking advantage of Virginia families, even if it means putting common-sense limitations on the free market.

**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. Assistance to these families, especially considering that they may be considering/already enrolled in higher education at the time of aging out, is critical in shaping the futures of our foster children.

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

Instead of Medicaid expansion, I support solutions that give Virginia citizens options and will work to support proactively-focused and less costly preventative care.

### QUESTIONS:

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

The need to provide each child with a quality education is the issue that calls me to service. I will work on increasing State funding for early childhood education, for K-12 services and for early special education programs.

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

I bring nearly 20 years of compassionate effective leadership. I served on the Arlington County Board for 14 years and I just completed a 4-year term in the State Senate. As a freshman senator, I passed over 20 bills and I continue to remain active in the community. My opponent moved to the district one year ago.

## In-Person Absentee Voting: Vote Early

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• **Fairfax County Governmental Center Location,** Conference Room 2/3, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax, VA 22035

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**Satellite Locations:**

• **McLean Governmental Center** - 1437 Balls Hill Road, Community Room, McLean, 22101

• **North County Governmental Center** - 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Community Rooms, Reston, 20190

# Information on Voting

Virginia Law allows voters to vote absentee if they could be "working and commuting for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day."

You're allowed to count your worst possible commute in estimating how many hours you might be working and commuting on Election Day. If you qualify, you can vote early in-person, see sidebar above.

On Election Day, Nov. 3, polls are open from 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

You can check your registration status online by going to [www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov).

Each voter in Fairfax County can make choices in one State Senate district, one

House of Delegates district, Clerk of the Court, Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, District member of the Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County School Board at Large (vote for 3); District School Board member; Soil and Water Conservation Board (vote for 3); School Bond for \$310 million, Public Safety Bond for \$151 million. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>

It's also worth noting that new, more restrictive voter identification regulations took effect last year. Voters arriving to the polls without required photo ID will be al-

lowed to vote a provisional ballot and will have until noon on the Friday after the election to deliver a copy of identification to their locality's electoral board in order for their provisional ballot to be counted. Photo ID requirements also apply to absentee voters who vote in-person in all elections.

Here are the "acceptable" forms of identification: Valid Virginia Driver's License or Identification Card; valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran's ID card; valid U.S. Passport; Other government-issued photo identification cards (U.S. government or Virginia); valid Virginia college or university student photo identification card; employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter; Virginia Voter Photo ID Card obtained through any local general registrar's office.

"Valid" is defined as a genuine document, bearing the photograph of the voter, and is not expired for more than 12 months.

Any registered voter may apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID Card will have to complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad.

### For More Election Information

**Fairfax County Board of Elections**, 703-222-0776, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>

12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205; email [voting@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov)



# State Senate 33rd District

## Jennifer Wexton (D-33)

*Incumbent State Senator*

**Town of residence:** Leesburg

**Age:** 47

**Family:** Husband: Andrew Wexton,  
Sons: Matthew (12) and Jamie (10)

**Education:** Undergraduate: University  
of Maryland; JD: William and Mary

**Offices held, dates:** Virginia State  
Senator, January 2014 - present

**Occupation and relevant**

**experience:** Attorney, Assistant  
Commonwealth's Attorney

**Community involvement:**

Community Services Board, Special  
Justice, Substitute Judge

**Website:** senatorwexton.com

**Email address:**

info@wextonforstatesenate.com

**Twitter handle:** @SenatorWexton

**Name three favorite**

**endorsements:** Washington Post;  
Virginia Education Association  
(teachers); Fairfax County Chamber  
of Commerce's NOVABizPAC  
(business).



experience suggests you can successfully bridge the intense partisan differences there?

In my 21 months in the Senate, I have focused on passing non-partisan, commonsense legislation that actually helps my constituents and people throughout Virginia. This is a key reason nine of my bills passed by both houses of the General Assembly and were signed into law in 2015. Among them, one guaranteed that women can legally breastfeed in public; another helped families with autistic children (Conner's Law); and others made it easier to investigate and prosecute online sexual predators and child abusers. These aren't "hot button social issues" but they make Virginia a better and safer place to live.

### QUESTIONS:

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

I am running for reelection to continue providing effective representation for the people of the 33rd Senate district. Voters want us to maintain the high quality of life that attracted them to Loudoun and Fairfax. For most people, that means quality schools and manageable commutes, so we need to invest in education and transportation. We must restore state funding for schools so that we can hire and retain the best teachers and keep class sizes small. We also need to reduce the number of SOL tests, to ensure quality classroom instruction time and reduce the amount of "teaching to the test." In transportation, money earmarked for NOVA should be spent first on projects that best reduce congestion. The new proposal for tolls on I-66 is a bad one for my constituents, and I will oppose I-66 tolls, just as I previously have worked to lower tolls on the Dulles Greenway.

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

As a working mom with two sons attending Loudoun public schools, I understand the concerns of most people in the district. My background as a prosecutor and an attorney gives me a good understanding of the law, and how to evaluate and improve proposed legislation. Putting these things together, I have earned a reputation as a thoughtful legislator who focuses on creating sound policy and who puts partisanship aside to pass good laws. My opponent, on the other hand, touts the rigid ideology of the Tea Party. He wants to weaken public education, repeal the bipartisan transportation legislation that provides hundreds of millions of dollars for transportation projects in Northern Virginia, and opposes even the most basic of commonsense gun restrictions, like universal background checks.

**3. Given the political makeup of the state legislature, what examples from your own**

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

❖ Improving education by reducing class sizes and the number of standardized tests that students take.

❖ Transportation issues, including improving our local transportation infrastructure, reducing congestion, and opposing new tolls.

❖ Expanding Medicaid to cover the 400,000 working uninsured people who fall in the coverage gap in Virginia

❖ Commonsense gun restrictions, including keeping guns away from criminals and domestic abusers.

❖ Protecting our children by passing laws that make it easier to prosecute child abusers and predators.

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

Loudoun County has been one of the fastest growing counties in America the past 10 years. Many people moved from inside-the-beltway to the 33rd District suburbs in search of nice houses, safe neighborhoods and good schools at a more affordable price. This has led to unprecedented growth in housing development, public school enrollment, and traffic.

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

Yes

**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

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

Yes. I voted for the Marketplace Virginia plan that passed the Senate with bipartisan support in 2014, and will support similar legislation. That plan would cover 400,000 Virginians and bring Virginia more than \$1.7 billion of federal tax dollars.

## NEWS

# Promoting Dyslexia Awareness

And adopts two-hour delay for March Primary.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

Nine-year-old Maxwell Gebharts stood confidently on a stepstool to address the Fairfax County School Board Oct. 22. "My old school didn't know I was dyslexic," he said. "I was very sad and felt like I wasn't keeping up with everybody."

Maxwell was one of several individuals to speak at the board's Thursday night business meeting on behalf of Decoding Dyslexia Virginia, the local chapter of a national grassroots organization advocating for better teacher training and resources for dyslexic students, as well as connecting parents with existing resources.

"I hope you can make it so kids like me don't have to leave their friends, don't have to struggle," Maxwell said. Board members and dozens of Decoding Dyslexia members and supporters applauded him when he finished speaking.

High school senior Calvin Rizek spoke next, explaining that he's currently taking all his remaining classes at Northern Virginia Community College. "The way you have failed me is not approaching dyslexia properly," he said. Rizek's mother got him a tutor in elementary school after he was "not taught the correct way to learn to read" in Fairfax County.

The speakers came to the meeting to coincide with the board recognizing October as Dyslexia Awareness Month.

Board members typically don't respond to citizen participation, though chairman Pat Hynes has acknowledged professional development for teachers could be more focused in the area of dyslexia, and



**Kate Hanley called for delayed opening for the Presidential primary on March 1, 2016.**

that the school system's Strategic Plan calls for "getting tighter on early literacy."

Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza has taken action including requiring elementary school administrators and instructional staff be trained to recognize dyslexia symptoms and warning signs.

"I'm extremely excited to see the progress that we have going on not only in Fairfax County but in the Commonwealth of Virginia," Braddock District representative Megan McLaughlin before she read the proclamation.

A workshop hosted by the Office of Special Education Instruction for parents of elementary school students with dyslexia is scheduled for Nov. 13 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Dunn Loring Center, 2334 Gallows Road.

**WITH LOCAL ELECTIONS LOOMING**, the board voted unanimously to have schools start two hours late on March 1, 2016, to accommodate the presidential primary voting.

Kate Hanley of the of Fairfax County Electoral Board Office of Elections, formerly chairman of the Board of Supervisors and



**Nine-year-old Maxwell Gebharts (left) on Decoding Dyslexia Virginia**



**Calvin Rizek started working with an outside tutor in elementary school to help him overcome dyslexia and learn to read.**

School Board representative from the Providence District, spoke to the significance of the later school start times.

According to Fairfax County, 165 of the 196 schools and centers in the system are used as polling places.

"Voters must have free access to polls," Hanley said, adding that starting later "will mitigate many of our problems," such as parking congestion during pickup and dropoff times that coincide with heavy voting waves.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD



**Members of Decoding Dyslexia Virginia came out in support of the Fairfax County School Board recognizing October as Dyslexia Awareness Month at the Oct. 22 meeting.**

## Stephen B. Hollingshed

Republican challenger in 33rd Senate District  
No response received.



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**9:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
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Music: grades 3 - 7  
**10:25 a.m.** Sunday School Grades 3 to 6  
Music 4 years to 2nd grade  
**11:15 a.m.** Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
**5:00 p.m.** Come Just as You Are Contemporary Service  
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The Rev. James Papile, Rector  
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## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

### NOVEMBER

11/11/2015 ..... HomeLifeStyle

11/18/2015 ..... A+ Camps & Schools

11/19/2015 .. Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide I

*Thanksgiving is November 26*

11/25/2015 ..... Celebrating Gratitude, Thanksgiving

### DECEMBER

12/2/2015 ..... Wellbeing

12/9/2015 ... Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II

12/9/2015 ... HomeLifeStyle; Home for the Holidays

12/16/2015 ..... A+ Camps & Schools; Holiday  
Entertainment & Gifts Pages

12/23/2015 ..... Special Issue – Safe for the Holidays

12/30/2015 ..... Children's Connection

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- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

## CALENDAR

Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

#### ONGOING

**Expressions Portrait Competition Exhibit.** Through Sunday, Nov. 1. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. 25 diverse portraits in various mediums are selected from 125 submissions by 67 artists for the 7th Annual Expressions Portrait Exhibit. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information, visit <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/expressions-portrait-exhibit-2015/> or call 703-956-6590.

#### THROUGH SATURDAY/NOV. 7

**"Shrek the Musical."** Reston Community Center Centerstage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. It really is a big, bright beautiful world. And love can surely conquer lots, even if you are a big green ogre named Shrek with some bad habits or a spirited princess named Fiona. Add in tap-dancing rats, a 13-foot-tall magenta dragon, a smooth-talking donkey and fairy-tale characters, all to bring enjoyment. Tickets \$21-\$25. 703-476-4500. [restonplayers.org](http://restonplayers.org).

#### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 31-NOV. 1

**Reston Zoo's Zooboo.** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Reston Zoo, 1228 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Designed for a younger audience, Zoo Boo offers four days of scare-free fun. Join their safe zoo neighborhood of Halloween entertainment, with kid-friendly fun around every corner.

#### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 28

**Halloween Parade.** 10:30 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Stories, songs and activities, all with a Halloween theme. Join us for a Halloween Parade following storytime. Costumes are welcome. Age 0-5 with adult.  
**Spooky Tales of the Night.** 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Spiderella as she weaves her webs of scary stories just for you.

#### THURSDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 29-NOV. 22

**Deathtrap.** Time varies. NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Keep up with the twists and turns... if you dare. Deathtrap is a hysterical yet terrifying thriller sure to delight. Come in costume on Halloween weekend for fun and prizes. \$35. [www.nextstoptheatre.org](http://www.nextstoptheatre.org). 866-811-4111.

#### SATURDAY/OCT. 31

**Trick or Treat at Reston Town Center.** 12 - 4 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. On Halloween afternoon, costumed children can visit participating retailers and the Information Center for treats and goodies. Look for the pumpkin flyer in the window. Turley the Magician will perform a spooky, magical act for all ages at 1 p.m. in Fountain Square. [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com).

**Howl-o-ween at Lake Anne.** 1-3 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Lake Anne Plaza has gone to the dogs, cats and other furry critters. Come down to Lake Anne Plaza dressed in Halloween flair (adults + pets) for a howling good time. Dogs, cats, and all types of animal-friendly furry friends are welcome to participate



PHOTO BY TRACI J. BROOKS STUDIOS/COURTESY OF RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS

**Shrek (Paul Tonden) in rehearsal for Reston Community Players production of "Shrek the Musical," at Centerstage, Oct. 16-Nov. 7.**

#### HALLOWEEN CALENDAR

### Halloween events around town.

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**Howl-o-ween at Lake Anne.** 1-3 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Lake Anne Plaza has gone to the dogs, cats and other furry critters. Come down to Lake Anne Plaza dressed in Halloween flair (adults + pets) for a howling good time. Dogs, cats, and all types of animal-friendly furry friends are welcome to participate and join in on the fun. Activities include: Pet Costume Contest (starting at 1:30 p.m.) music, games, (Pets + Adults) "Yappy" hour at restaurants treats/tricks/prizes from Lake Anne merchants.

**Jazz and Art Masquerade Party.** 7-10 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon, VA 20170. The swinging Halloween extravaganza features some of the hottest female jazz vocalists, including Candice Bostwick, Rhonda Atkins, and YazooZazz, and they are accompanied by DC area's well known jazz pianist, Wayne Wilentz and jazz virtuoso bassist, Ralph Gordon. Design and wear an elegant mask or a spooky 1920's retro costume and you might win one of our fabulous prizes! Tickets: \$15. Registration required at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ebgifxch440d6d75&llr=uhpd6pcab>. For more information, call 703-956-6590.

and join in on the fun. Activities include: Pet Costume Contest (starting at 1:30 p.m.) music, games, (Pets + Adults) "Yappy" hour at restaurants treats/tricks/prizes from Lake Anne merchants.

**Jazz and Art Masquerade Party.** 7-10 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. The swinging Halloween extravaganza features some of the hottest female jazz vocalists. Design and wear an elegant mask or a spooky 1920s retro costume and you might win one of our fabulous prizes! Tickets: \$15. Registration required. For more information, call 703-956-6590.

#### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 31-NOV. 1

**Movies and Mimosas – "The Birds."** 11 a.m. Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market Street, Reston. See the classics how they were meant to be seen, on the big screen! This week, the 1963 Alfred Hitchcock classic: The Birds. Tickets: \$5.50 (\$1 off to loyalty members). For more information, call 703-318-1801 or visit [www.bowtiecinemas.com](http://www.bowtiecinemas.com).

#### MONDAY/NOV. 2

**Prospective Student/Parent Day.** 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Cortona Academy, 13505 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon. Still accepting transfers, Grades 7 - 11. Some scholarships Available. Spend the day, 3D print or paint. Graduates...up to \$110,000 college scholarships. RSVP only. Limited space. Free. Sharon Strauchs, Sharon@TLC-NV.com.

#### TUESDAY/NOV. 3

**Reston Garden Club.** 1-4 p.m. Nature House Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. November's program will be presented by Joseph Francis, certified Master Gardener and immediate past president of the Fairfax Master Gardeners, his program is called, "Do Orchids Have Bad Hair Days?" He will show how to grow orchid plants successfully in the home. Free. [sadill@cox.net](mailto:sadill@cox.net).



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# News

## Conservation Begins at Home

FROM PAGE 4

and Conservation Currents news updates.

**PETERS WAS APPOINTED** by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board in March 2015 to be a director; he has been an associate director since 2009 and has represented NVSWCD on the Fairfax County Tree Commission since 2012.

Peters is retired after a 30-year

career as an environmental scientist and engineer, including being the first full-time employee of the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory in 1972.

In retirement, he has focused on natural resource stewardship, he said. Peters is a Certified Master Naturalist and member of the Basic Training Committee of the Fairfax Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist program.

"I am also a Tree Commissioner," he said.

**LAMB HAS SERVED** on the board since January 2009 and is currently the vice chairman and treasurer.

Lamb, of Falls Church, serves as an at-large appointee on the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) and is the lead author on the Interrelationship between Land Use and Transportation chapter of the EQAC annual report. He was a co-founder of the Fairfax League of Conservation Voters, and represented the environmental commu-

nity on the Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force. He serves as the chairman of the IT Committee for the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

**CAMERON, A BIOLOGIST** who also has a M.B.A., has worked 36 years in environmental policy, including 20 years of federal service in natural resources programs at the Department of the Interior, Office of Management and Budget, Congress, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Cameron, of Mount Vernon, founded his own organi-

zation, Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition. He is an environmental policy advisor to the governor of California, director of Conservation Policy for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and serves on the board of advisors to the Wildlife Alliance.

"We have 30 watersheds in Fairfax County, about a third are in good shape, a third are in really bad shape," he said, with the others in between.

"I've always wanted to get involved where it counts, locally," he said.



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## Herndon Police Highlights

### Incidents from Oct. 12-18.

**Arson** - 10/16/2015 100 block Herndon Parkway. A citizen reported he extinguished a small fire he found burning next to a vacant building. Investigation revealed that four juveniles had intentionally set the fire. The juveniles were returned to school and their parents were notified. There was no damage to the building.

10/13/15, 7:41 p.m., Narcotic Violation, Virginia Ave./Dakota Drive Center

10/12/15, 13:42 p.m., Drunkenness (DIP), 1100 Elden St.

10/13/15, 2:28 a.m., Larceny-vehicle Parts, 1100 Elden St.

10/17/15, 1:15 a.m., Drunkenness (DIP), 1100 Elden St.

10/17/15, 1:53 a.m., Narcotic Violation, 1200 Elden St.

10/17/15, 5:48 p.m., Drunkenness (DIP), 1000 Alabama Drive

10/18/15, 12 a.m., Trespass, 1100 Cypress Tree Place

10/18/15, 1:41 a.m., Drunkenness (DIP), 1200 Wilshire Drive

10/14/15, 12:36 a.m., Capias - Fail To Appear, 600 Clearwater Court

10/16/15, 4:12 p.m., Trespass, 600 Clearwater Court

10/17/15, 1:02 a.m., Larceny-all Other, 500 Early Fall Court/Herndon Parkway

10/17/15, 12:30 p.m., Larceny-all Other, 500 Early Fall Court

10/18/15, 2:03 a.m., Warrant-other Agency, 1000 Crestview Drive

10/12/15, 10:50 p.m., Trespass, 400 Van Buren St.

10/13/15, 8:32 a.m., Larceny-from Motor Vehicle, 500 Grove St.

10/16/15, 12:22 a.m., Larceny-all Other, 100 Spring St.

10/18/15, 12:01 a.m., Drunkenness (DIP), 700 Elden St.

10/18/15, 5:58 p.m., Larceny-Shoplifting, 400 Elden St.

10/12/15, 5:21 p.m., Identity Theft (Fraud - Use of ID), 1000 Tyler St.

10/13/15, 7:16 a.m., Warrant-other Agency, 900 Royal Elm Court

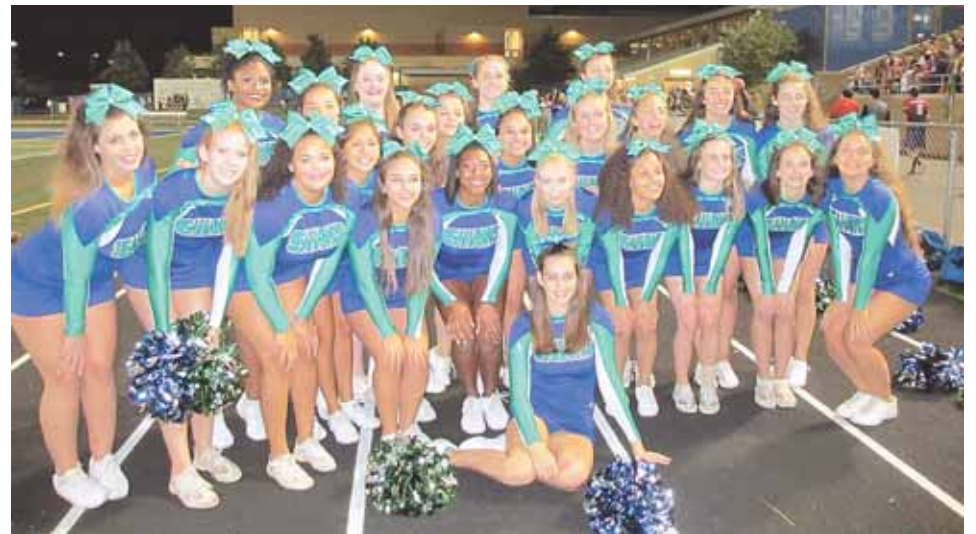
10/13/15, 10:33 p.m., Phone Calls-Harassing/Obscene, 1100 Casper Drive



# SPORTS



**The Reston South Lakes Cheerleading Squad made history by winning the Liberty Conference Championship. With a team consisting of 24 students, Cheer Coach Becky Slight is proud of the progress made by this year's cheerleaders.**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOUTH LAKES CHEERLEADING SQUAD

**The Reston South Lakes Cheerleading Squad at an evening game. Cheer coach Becky Slight said, "Teamwork and support of each other and overall routine have moved them forward," said Slight.**

## South Lakes Cheerleading Wins Liberty Conference

**Teamwork a component in Reston cheer squads progress.**

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Reston South Lakes Varsity Cheerleading Squad made history by winning the Liberty Conference Championship. The squad beat out 7 other teams in their conference, including Fairfax High School, which has dominated the title for upwards of 7-10 years. Four South Lakes cheerleaders (Olivia Liddle, Madison Carens, Devon Alessandrino and Anna Workosky) were named to the All-Conference team.

In addition, Cheer Coach Becky Slight was named Liberty Conference Cheerleading Coach of the Year. Coach Slight has coached cheerleading for 13 years at South Lakes and

gymnastics for 18 years. Slight remains focused on developing the talents of her team. "It's not about me, it is about my kids," says Slight. A graduate of South Lakes, Slight says she, "bleeds blue and green." The team will move on to the Northern Region Finals on Saturday morning at Battlefield High School in Prince William County. South Lakes High will be second in the lineup. Routines will be judged based on score sheets or rubrics, and victory will be guided by practice and repetitions.

This will be South Lakes High School second run at region finals, and many family members and friends are excited. "Cheer is a big passion of mine, and I could not imagine not coaching it," said Slight. "I tell people my kids are pound for pound some

of the strongest out there. I say come to our practice and see what we do, and you will see that cheerleading is a sport," said Slight. Cheerleading's competitive season ends on Nov. 7.

Olivia Liddle, a junior at SLHS, had a background in gymnastics and has since embraced the cheerleading team, becoming a valuable asset. "It was the team atmosphere which sucked her in," said Slight. Madison Carens, a senior is enjoying her second year in cheerleading with SLHS.

Devon Alessandrino, a freshman, is described as one of the most talented members of team. "It is great when you get an athlete like that. Devon is in it for the team, and she is very humble and sweet. She helps everybody else step up and come together,"

said Slight. As for sophomore Anna Workosky, "She is so humble and so grounded, you would not guess she has as much talent as she does," said Slight. Both Alessandrino and Workosky have experience working at Cheer Tyme, a cheerleading gym which offers a variety of instruction in cheerleading, tumbling and dance.

With a team consisting of 24 students, Slight is proud of the progress made by this year's cheerleaders. "Teamwork and support of each other and overall routine have moved them forward," said Slight. "They get the whole team aspect, that is what they are doing right now. They are amazing... This group is so special in so many ways. Each and every one of them understands what teamwork means. They work so hard together to create this team, and they have pulled together like no other team I have ever coached," said Slight.

### Herndon Football Falls to Robinson

The Herndon football team lost to Robinson 39-3 on Saturday, Oct. 24 at Herndon High School.

The loss dropped the Hornets' record to 2-6 overall and 0-3 in Conference 5. Herndon has lost four straight since starting 2-1.

The Hornets will travel to face Westfield at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30. Herndon will wrap up the regular season with a home game against Oakton at 7 p.m. on Nov. 6.

### Herndon Field Hockey Finishes Conference 5 Runner-Up

In a rematch of last season's Conference 5 championship game, the Herndon field hockey team once again faced



**Herndon quarterback Adam Kucik throws a pass against Robinson on Saturday, Oct. 24.**

Westfield in the conference tournament final on Monday. This time, however, the Hornets fell short.

Herndon lost to Westfield 3-0 in the Conference 5 tournament final on Oct. 26 at

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Westfield High School. The Hornets (13-5) will enter the 6A North region tournament as the No. 2 seed from the conference and will host Osbourn in the opening round at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28.

### South Lakes Football Defeats Langley

The South Lakes football team defeated Langley 48-42 on Oct. 23, improving its record to 6-2 overall and 4-1 in Conference 6.

The Seahawks will travel to face Hayfield, which is tied with Madison for first place in the conference with a 5-0 record, at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30.

### South Lakes Volleyball to Conclude Regular Season

The South Lakes volleyball team will wrap up the regular season with a road match against Washington-Lee at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 29.

The Seahawks defeated Hayfield in three sets on Monday, improving their record to 10-4 overall and 4-2 in Conference 6. The conference tournament will begin next week.



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## A Situation Continuing to Fester



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Nine days since my PET Scan, and no word, electronically or otherwise, from my oncologist. Not having had a PET Scan in six and a half years, I'm not sure what its results would indicate, currently or comparatively (it was requested that I bring a copy of my previous scan). I mean, I know I have cancer. Do I have more cancer? In more places? Nevertheless, I'm all ears and/or eyes waiting to see or hear something. Not that I'm obsessing about it, but I am thinking/wondering/hoping/praying for news with which I can continue to live.

Now this isn't the first time/interval when scan results have not been communicated quickly enough - for our sake/benefit. Obviously, good news/results we want to receive immediately, if not sooner. Bad news/results we don't want to receive at all (if you know what I mean), but in not receiving good news - within our preferred timeline - we then presume the news is bad. My oncologist has said previously that he'd rather wait and see us in person - which typically we do within a week's time or so, so that he can discuss/explain/strategize - as the case may be, in the event the radiologist's report requires some simplification and clarification. Having given us inaccurate/incomplete information once before - which in that one instance was bad news, he'd rather wait, thereby allowing him/the radiologist sufficient time to interpret the data and provide Team Lourie a correct assessment.

More often than not, however, when the news has been good, my oncologist has e-mailed advising us of the encouraging (I didn't say surprising) news. On the few occasions when the news has been bad (I'd rather call it discouraging), he has been inconsistent: sometimes he has e-mailed us, sometimes not; never a phone call though, regardless. This inconsistency has created an expectation that says good news we get, bad news not much, literally. And generally speaking, inconsistency in the flow of information between doctor and patient, especially between oncologist and cancer patient, needs to be consistent. If not, the byproduct is stress; the absolute last side effect a cancer patient needs - or rather never needs.

I understand, after addressing this communication breakdown with my oncologist, that he's happy to e-mail us results if we'd like, but when the news/results are bad, he seems to be a victim of his circumstances or the constraints of the system: he has no time to see us. His preference remains a face-to-face appointment - to minimize any misunderstanding on our part and perhaps to plan a new present/future for me - so waiting seems the only alternative. The problem is, as it is now, as it has been for over six and a half years: we're sort of receiving mixed messages - consistently. As a result, we never know if no news is good news; no news is bad news; or no news is simply no news (not to be interpreted in any way). After years of this back-and-forth/forth-and-back, my oncologist is very cognizant of our anxiety/potential misinterpretation of facts not yet in evidence. At this juncture, he must know that this cancer patient - who was originally diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV and who he gave a "13-month to two-year" prognosis, needs to be coddled a little bit (make that a lot) and maybe even accommodated (no "maybes" about it). To leave us (or any other diagnosed-as-terminal cancer patient) in the lurch is not exactly cruel and unusual punishment, but it doesn't make me long for "Addams Family" reruns either. But there is a similarity in our respective circumstances: it is "mysterious and spooky" and "all together ooky." Neither of which is helpful in the least.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.



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