

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

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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

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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

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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 a 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.

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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

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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.



Ilyong 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.

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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 opponent(s); 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

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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.

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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 opponent(s) 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.



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

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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)

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-



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 (Governatorial 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

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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 86th 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 86th 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?

In spite of my austere upbringing, I have always felt blessed to have been born in the one nation on Earth where anyone from any background can succeed; where the outcome may not be guaranteed but the opportunity is. I want to make sure that the chance to strive for the American dream remains alive for all my neighbors. Unfortunately, in an economy that has been stagnant for several years, that dream seems increasingly elusive for those who are unemployed or underemployed. I want to apply my leadership skills and business background to grow and diversify our economy to create more good paying jobs, and use my knowledge of the workforce system to ensure people are better prepared to obtain those jobs. And this can only happen in an environment in which the economy is growing and thriving, folks have the tools to succeed, jobs are plentiful and opportunities are abundant.

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

I've lived my entire adult life focused on service and solutions. My neighbors deserve to be represented by a proven leader who has had real positions of responsibility, with a demonstrated track record of bringing together people of all sides to solve tough problems and someone who truly understands their plight.

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 Chair of the Virginia Board of Workforce De-

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

See more election coverage and questionnaires at
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
Email: kenplum@aol.com
Twitter handle: @KenPlum1
Name three favorite endorsements: Northern Virginia Technology Council, NoVABiz PAC, Virginia Education Association, Equality Virginia

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

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.

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.

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
Email address: SenHowell@gmail.com
Name three favorite endorsements: Virginia Education Association, Northern Virginia Technology Council, Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club

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 67th 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.

- 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.

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
Email address: deljlemunyon@gmail.com
Twitter handle: @JimLeMunyon
Name three favorite endorsements: Fairfax Chamber of Commerce—NOVABizPAC; Virginia Education Association; Police Benevolent Assn.

QUESTIONS:

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

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 67th 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

Vote
Nov. 3

See more election coverage and questionnaires at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com Click on Elections on the navigation bar.

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

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.

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

QUESTIONS:

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

Virginia, and more specifically Northern Virginia, faces the increasing challenge of providing a steady source of jobs that are not reliant on the federal government. This includes attracting both new and expanding businesses — in Northern Virginia, the evidence of this challenge is clear — vacant office space and a continued reliance on federal spending are issues that must be addressed as we move forward. This issue defines my call to serve the people of Virginia's 31st district; for too long, our representatives have avoided tackling the difficult issues that affect a majority of our population. These economic challenges can be addressed with a variety of approaches, including lower taxes, decreased regulation, investment in infrastructure, and cultivating an overall business-friendly environment. The advantages of this approach are widespread and include lower individual taxes across all levels of income, and improved infrastructure, such as roads and communications systems, that will benefit everyone.

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

I have not spent my professional career in an elected position, and as such, my commitments are simple and unwavering — I will make sure that the people of the Northern Virginia are represented the way that they want to be represented, not the way that special interests groups and politicians would like them to be. To the people of this district: I promise to listen to you (yes, all of you — regardless of whether you are in the heart of Arlington or the neighborhoods of Fairfax and Loudoun Counties).

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 state legislature, much like Congress and the rest of Washington, faces challenges stemming from partisan differences and stubborn, self-serv-

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.

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

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.

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

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).

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



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.

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.

Stephen B. Hollingshed

Republican challenger in 33rd Senate District

No response received.

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.



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

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



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.

Candidates for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

Sharon Bulova (D)

Incumbent

Town of residence: Fairfax

Age: 67

Family: Married. Between my husband and I we have: four adult children and seven grandchildren.

Education: AAS Degree in Business Management from Northern VA Community College, attended business classes, UVA evening program, previously held Real Estate license

Offices held, dates:

Elected Braddock (then called Annandale) District Supervisor in 1987. In February 2009 elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Re-elected in 2011.

Occupation and relevant experience: I am a full time Chairman. Prior to elected office I held positions in business.

Community involvement: I came to local government through my work as Civic Association president of Kings Park West. I have been a member of the Annandale Rotary, how serving as an honorary member. I am a founder of Faith Communities in Action and collaborated on two community history projects: A Look Back at Braddock and the Asian American History Project.

Website: <http://sharonbulova.com/>

Email address: sharonbulova@gmail.com

Twitter handle: <http://twitter.com/sharonbulova>

Name three favorite endorsements: FEA (Fairfax Education Association), Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club

QUESTIONS:

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

I love local government and feel strongly about community engagement. In my roles as Braddock Supervisor and now Chairman I have been committed to making sure our community is at the table with local government to participate in resolving issues and addressing our challenges. A major challenge right now is the sluggish recovery we are experiencing from the Great Recession. My goal is to strike the right balance between maintaining taxes that are affordable to our residents while investing what is needed to ensure a world class school system, safe streets and neighborhoods, compassionate human services, a clean environment and quality of life services like libraries and our fantastic park system.

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

I have the experience, the commitment and the enthusiasm to serve as Fairfax County's chairman. I believe I have the collaborative skill set needed to lead our Board and our community on an even, positive course.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

Education continues to be my highest priority. It is however, not my only priority. It is critical that we continue to be the safest jurisdiction of our size in the U.S. and that we maintain the quality of life our residents value. Beginning in January our newly elected Board will engage in a multi-year Lines of Business process to examine all of our services in order to identify opportunities for efficiencies and savings. We have invited the School Board to participate with us in this process. I am hopeful that, working together, we will find new ways to economize on resources and improve on the delivery of services to families and students.

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

I am a full time Chairman. I work well over 40 hours per week plus countless hours of community and regional activities.



Glenda Gail 'for Rail' Parker (I)

Town of residence:

Alexandria, Fairfax County

Age: 68

Family: Three grown children, four Grand-children

Education: MBA with a certificate in Software Engineering Administration

Offices held, dates:

Elected to Vice- Chair, Independent Greens of Virginia (2007 to Present); elected to COG TPB CAC (2007-2010)

Occupation and relevant experience:

Governmental Budget Analyst, Businesswoman
Community involvement: Fairfax Federation Civic Association Committee, Public Safety Chair (approximately 2009-2010)

Website: www.GailParker.US

Email address: ggailparker@cox.net

Twitter handle: @ggailparker

Name three favorite endorsements: Independent Greens of Virginia



QUESTIONS:

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

The Independent Green Party Green New Deal will get us on the right track. The Green New Deal means double- digit job growth in Eco jobs for the economy. Solar jobs. Wind jobs. Geothermal jobs. Rail jobs. The Green New Deal means Bike share for Fairfax County. Bikes, like rail, increase the value of our homes, businesses, and communities. The Green New Deal will bring Electronic VRE signs for commuters. The Green New Deal means New Tracks, More Trains, More often to More Places. The Green New Deal is solar panels, and geothermal heating and cooling for every public building. Renewable energy makes money for taxpayers.

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

My advocacy for Rail and renewable energy. Investments in Green Energy make money. The solar age is here and we want on-board! It is past time to bring the Green Revolution to Fairfax County.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

The infrastructure budget has too many subsidies to big oil, big asphalt, big auto, fossil fuels. Giving a half a trillion dollars in taxpayer subsidies annually worldwide to big oil is fiscal lunacy. Cut and reprioritize the infrastructure budget to invest in free solar energy and geothermal energy. Work harmoniously with the School Board to place money where it will do the most good, fund education costs and teacher salaries rather than administration costs. Build Rail: Rail will grow revenues by growing the economy. Rail increases the value of our homes, businesses and communities. Every \$1 invested in Rail returns \$20 to the community!

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

The new salary voted by the Board will allow me to devote full time to BOS duties.

Arthur Purves (R)

Town of residence: Vienna

Age: 66

Family: Married 42 years, two children, seven grandchildren

Education: BA, MS, MBA University of Pennsylvania

Offices held, dates: N/A

Occupation and relevant experience: Computer Programmer

Community involvement:

-President, Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance since 1996
-Member, Fairfax County Meals Tax Task Force (2014)
-Member, Hunter Mill Citizen Budget Committee (2013)
-Treasurer, Fairfax Committee 100
-Member Fairfax Branch, NAACP
-Past member of three Fairfax County Public Schools advisory committees
-Scoutmaster

Website: votepurves.org

Email address: Arthur@votepurves.org

Twitter handle: [agpurves](https://twitter.com/agpurves)

Name three favorite endorsements: Del. Tim Hugo and Loudoun Supervisor Eugene Delgaudio

QUESTIONS:

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

Only 59% of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) seniors are prepared for college, and the percent prepared varies from 75% for Langley High School to 20% for Lee and Mt. Vernon High Schools. In a quarter of a century FCPS has made no progress in closing the minority student achievement gap: only 35% of Hispanic and 20% of African-American FCPS seniors are prepared for college. Even if you don't go to college, being prepared for college makes you better qualified for a good job. The solution is better instruction in the basics; not more money. As county chairman I would hold the school board accountable for achievement when the school board makes its annual \$2B budget request.

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

The incumbent chairman:
For 16 years has raised real estate taxes three times faster than household income, which is unaffordable, especially for seniors;
Does not hold the schools accountable for achievement;
Is indifferent to the disproportionate incarceration of Hispanics and African-Americans in the county jail;
Sat silent for 17 months while the police department refused to disclose the details of the shooting of an unarmed civilian by a police officer on August 29, 2013;
Neglected maintenance of the now unsafe and unreliable Metrorail system to build the Silver Line;
Since 2000 cut staffing of libraries and parks by 112 positions while adding 145 clerks to handle public assistance applications, for a total of 354 public assistance positions.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics job growth in Fairfax County was close to last of the 342 largest U.S. counties last year. I will grow jobs by cutting taxes; using the chairman's pulpit to advocate for higher achievement, including Hispanic and African-American achievement, through better curricula; being transparent; and making Metrorail repairs my highest transportation priority.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

For FY2017 the county and schools want to increase spending by \$240M while revenues are projected to increase only \$20M without a real estate tax hike. This predicament demonstrates the need for new leadership. Seventy percent of the spending increase is for raises (3.5% for county and 4% for school employees), Cadillac health plans, and pensions with retirement at 55. My opponent would raise real estate taxes 9%, pushing the typical homeowner's real estate tax from \$5,700 to \$6,200. She raised real estate taxes 8% last year. For 16 years the supervisors have been increasing taxes three times faster than household income. Since 2000, while school enrollment has increased 22%, the school budget increased 100%. County and school spending for health and pension benefits increased \$700M since 2000; that is \$400M more than needed to keep up with inflation, population, and enrollment. For 16 years the average annual raise for 30,000 county and school employees has been 4%. To pay for these raises and benefits, the supervisors have been increasing real estate taxes three times faster than household income. The revenue from the tax hikes was not enough to pay for the raises and benefits, so park and library staffing was cut and class sizes increased. And now teachers and police cannot afford the \$6,000 real estate taxes that were increased to pay for their own raises and benefits. To make Fairfax County affordable again, we need to cut taxes by reducing benefits and giving smaller raises, as is the case with private-sector employees.

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

I can retire and be a full-time chairman.



Candidates for Dranesville District Supervisor

Jennifer Chronis (R)

Town of residence: Great Falls
Age: 48
Family: Husband: Brian Dickson; Stepson: Riley Dickson, Stepdaughter: Jordan Principe
Education: BS, Commerce, University of Virginia
Offices held, dates: N/A
Occupation and relevant experience: Vice President, IBM; Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), US Army; Board of Directors, Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association, Washington DC Chapter; Information Technology Fellow, American Council for Technology-Industry Advisory Council
Community involvement: Northern Virginia Literacy Council Volunteer Tutor
Website: JenniferChronis.com
Email address: info@jenniferchronis.com
Twitter handle: @JenniferChronis
Name three favorite endorsements: Congressman Frank Wolf, Congressman Tom Davis, Congresswoman Barbara Comstock



27%, when we are keeping our teachers' salaries practically flat. This is not what I learned as leadership in my military and business career and I will make better decisions for Dranesville residents.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

My top priority is to ensure that our schools remain the best in the country. I will work closely with the School Board to focus resources on students and teachers first. We need to reduce administrative costs and invest more in our teachers, as many of our best teachers are departing Fairfax for neighboring school systems that offer higher salaries.

My second priority is to strengthen the County's fiscal and economic health. The Board has continuously raised property taxes, to compensate for weakness in our commercial property market. We must fill the 19 million square feet of empty office space in the County to grow our commercial tax revenue and relieve the tax burden on homeowners. We must make the County more business-friendly by streamlining our permitting and regulatory processes and partnering with our EDA to attract new industries like cybersecurity, healthcare, and IT to the County.

Finally, I will apply commercial best practices to county spending. We must consider implementation of shared services for administrative functions like HR, IT, finance, accounting, and contracting between the County and FCPS. Secondly, we must closely examine our pension system for new employees to determine the most financially viable system for the future. We should also consider eliminating duplicative functions; for example, Fairfax County is the only county in Virginia to operate a Consumer Affairs division, which largely replicates what the State Agency does. Responsibly managing the County's resources is a critical responsibility for our Board of Supervisors. Doing so more effectively requires fundamental changes to the way the County manages its budget. I would implement outcome-based program reviews every two years for all county programs.

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

I will be a full-time Supervisor. I will devote all of my talents to the residents of Dranesville.

John Foust (D)

Incumbent
Town of residence: McLean
Age: 64
Family: Married to Dr. Marilyn Jerome Foust. We have two sons, Matthew and Patrick
Education: BA in Economics (Univ. of Pittsburgh); Master's degree in Business Administration (W.Va. College of Graduate Studies); Law degree (George Washington Univ.)
Offices held, dates: Dranesville District Supervisor, January 2008 to Present.
Occupation and relevant experience: Current: full-time County Supervisor. Prior: 30 years in private law practice and 8 years as investment analyst with large public utility.
Community involvement: Current: County Supervisor since 2008 working 60 to 80 hours per week to represent my community. Prior: McLean Citizens Association (President); Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council (Legislative Committee Chair); Fairfax County Medical Care for Children Partnership Advisory Council (Advocacy Committee Chair); Cub Master of Cub Scout Pack 1134 (4 years); Chairman of the Change District of the Boy Scouts of America (3 years); McLean Planning Committee (President); Member of two Citizen Advisory Committees to the Fairfax County School Board; Youth Soccer Coach; Timberly South Homeowners Association Board Member.
Website: www.foustforsupervisor.com
Email address: SupervisorFoust@gmail.com
Twitter handle: @johnfoustva
Name three favorite endorsements: Fairfax Education Association ("Teacher Endorsed"); Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce's NOVABIZPAC; Fairfax County Professional Firefighters and Paramedics.



their lives, and deliver great results for them. I have a track record of working to strengthen, diversify and grow our local economy; fund essential services in a fiscally responsible manner; support our schools; and, deliver real transportation solutions like Dulles Rail and Route 7 widening. This election should not be about

partisan agendas and political ambitions. It should be about who has the best record serving our community. Fairfax County and the Fairfax County Public Schools face serious challenges. We need proven leaders who listen to their constituents and deliver results for them. I have proven that I am that leader.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

Budgets should reflect a community's priorities. Education funding has been the community's, and our Board's, number one funding priority — 53% of the County's budget funds our schools.

During my 8 years in office, I have handled the significant fiscal challenges caused by a terrible recession as well as significant state and federal budget cuts. As Chairman of the Board's Audit Committee and Vice-chairman of the Board's Budget Committee, I have saved us millions in spending and made government more efficient and accountable to taxpayers. I kept the tax burden on homeowners affordable while protecting the County's Triple A bond rating and ensuring that critical programs and services, like education and public safety, are funded.

I am Chairman of the Board's Economic Advisory Commission. To increase County revenues, I am working with the County's partners in the business community, civic leaders, academia, non-profits and regional partners to implement the County's strategic plan for economic success. As a Board, we are also working to generate more revenue for the County by advocating for the County's fair share from the state.

Regarding possible cuts, since the recession in 2008, the Board of Supervisors has cut many costs and increased efficiencies in county government. The School Board has done the same for the schools. Going forward, our best opportunities for significant additional cost savings will require both Boards working together to consolidate support functions found in both county and school departments. I have specific proposals to consolidate and cut costs by sharing systems for Human Services, computer operations and IT support, social work, mental health services, building maintenance, capital projects and transportation services.

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

None.

QUESTIONS

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

Public service is central to my life. I served my Country and my community as a US Army officer for 21 years. As Supervisor, I look forward to continuing my life of service. Our greatest challenge in Fairfax County is the need for stronger fiscal management and prioritization of our County's resources. With property tax increases of nearly 17% in the last three years alone, over \$200M in projected 2017 deficits (\$100M in FCPS), and an economy that saw only .4% job growth in 2014, we face serious challenges to sustain our quality of life. Our Board needs strong leaders with business experience who can make tough decisions about how to prioritize spending while also growing our economy. I have both the military leadership and business experience to bring people together to address these challenges, and to hold the County and Board accountable for executing on actions and programs that deliver tangible results.

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

I am a military leader who knows how to make tough decisions, put the needs of others before my own, and get things done. I am also a business executive who understands the importance of achieving financial targets and delivering value for every tax dollar. I will bring a fresh perspective to the Board and a business-minded approach to solving our greatest challenges and ensuring that we deliver measurable results for taxpayers. Unlike my opponent, I would not have voted for tax increases amounting to 17% over the last three years while also underfunding our schools by \$100 million. And I would not have voted to increase my own pay by

Election Day Nov. 3

Election Day is Nov. 3, and on that day, virtually every state and local office is on the ballot. In-person absentee voting is underway. Virginia Law allows voters to absentee vote 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.

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

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, three members of the School Board At Large, one District member of the School Board, 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>

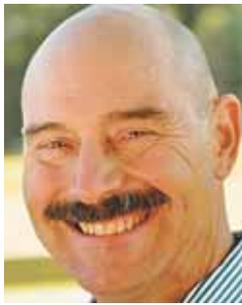
Voter Identification

Virginia law requires all voters to provide an acceptable form of photo identification at the polls. Voters arriving to the polls without photo ID will be allowed 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.

Virginia's photo ID requirements also apply to absentee voters who vote in-person in all elections.

School Board Candidates for Dranesville District

Pete Kurzenhauser



Town of residence: Great Falls
Age: 58
Family: Pete and his wife have lived in Great Falls for 20+ years. Their children attend Langley HS.
Education: U.S. Naval Academy '79 (mechanical engineering). US Naval Aviation School, 1980-81. Numerous continuing engineering education and professional education courses and seminars.
Offices held, dates: No previous elected offices

Occupation and relevant experience: Several decades of managing programs and working with budgets in Dept. of Defense, US Intelligence Community, and corporations.

Community involvement: Youth sports coach, Boy Scout Troop 673, Great Falls Citizens Assn., McLean Citizens Assn., Great Falls Freedom Memorial, FCPS parent volunteer, Haddad Youth Ballet, Great Falls Volunteer Fire and Rescue.

Website: <http://kurzenhauserforschoolboard.nationbuilder.com>

Email address: PetekforSchoolBoard@gmail.com

Twitter handle: None

Name three favorite endorsements: Class Size Counts; Steve Stuban, chair of the task force to revise the FCPS Student Rights & Responsibilities; supported by Congresswoman Barbara Comstock and retired Congressman Frank Wolf.

QUESTIONS:

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

I decided to run for the school board because I have children in school and have seen trends over the past 10 years that threaten the quality of education delivered by FCPS. Those include very large class sizes and excessive teacher turnover due to low pay and working conditions. I also was inspired by my AP Chemistry and AP Physics teacher at Fort Hunt High School, here in Fairfax County, 40 years ago. Like Colonel Jacoboski, I spent several decades serving our nation in the military and intelligence community. I now want to continue serving our republic in a different but equally important way — by ensuring that our public schools continue to prepare students for not just college, but also their adult lives and the responsibilities of citizenship.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you? I will ensure that all students in the Dranesville District get their fair and equitable share of FCPS resources. For over 20 years, the incumbent has voted for budgets that short-change the bulk of the students in our district, despite being a member and chairman of the audit or budget committees for nearly all that time. We have ended up with the largest

class sizes in the county. She started as an at-large School Board member in the 1990s, and she never made the transition to representing the people of this district. In contrast, I have worked with corporate and federal agency financial and budget documents for decades, and I

understand that getting a fair allocation of the budget requires fighting for it. I will have no difficulty parsing FCPS financial reports and budget documents quickly and asking incisive questions. That's what this district, and the School Board, needs.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools? The economic differences across the county are outside the control of FCPS. The county and state must improve economic growth and make Fairfax more attractive to businesses. FCPS can contribute by delivering well-educated and well-trained graduates to those businesses.

4. How will you address the achievement gap? Despite decades of our best efforts and large expenses, gaps between low-SES and high-SES students stubbornly persist. Unfortunately, most critical factors that influence achievement lie outside the school house. Schools will continue to engage parents as much as possible and provide extra services to students in need, but wisdom indicates that fixing the root causes of low achievement goes beyond the scope and charter of FCPS. These problems must be tackled by county and state polices and programs.

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? This needs much more response than the 500 word limit set for this questionnaire. However, we should first start by using the \$158M surplus cash in the operating budget carried forward from previous years. This can fund several years of "budget gaps" before we need to take actual cuts in expenses, and will give more time for economic recovery and business growth, which are absolutely necessary for long term budget stability.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools? More than half the taxes collected in the county go to FCPS. However, a reputation for excellent schools significantly increases property values. FCPS provides an increase in value in return for those taxes.

Janie Strauss



Incumbent
Town of residence: McLean
Age: 68
Family: Mother of 4 FCPS graduates, grandmother of 2 current FCPS students, mother-in-law of an FCPS teacher
Education: BA (GWU), Master of Arts in Teaching (Harvard)

Offices held, dates: School Board member At-Large, 1991-1993, Dranesville representative, 1996 to present
Occupation and relevant experience: former elementary teacher, PTA president, president of the FCCPTA, board chair, The Country Day School, board chair, The Cappies (a high school theater and journalism program)

Community involvement: McLean Project for the Arts, Healthy Families Fairfax

Website: www.janiestrauss.com

Email address: jkstrauss@cox.net

Twitter handle:

Name three favorite endorsements: Democratic Party, Fairfax Education Association, Fairfax County Federations of Teachers 10

QUESTIONS:

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

Our investment and oversight of our public schools is critical to the future success of our children our county, our state and indeed, our nation. With the challenges facing the next generation — from global instability and an integrated global economy to climate change and energy sustainability — our children's education is more important than ever. We must keep our highly regarded public schools strong. We must improve teacher pay, reduce class size, close achievement gaps, and emphasize high-level thinking, literacy and communication skills. We must maintain our rigorous programs for ALL students in the STEM fields, the arts, humanities and athletics. While we must continuously evaluate programs shedding what is no longer needed or effective, we must understand how to prepare our children for their future. Their success will come not from what they know but what they can do with what they know.

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

I have spent 40 years in the field of education. I understand teaching and learning, the use new research, budget prioritization, and the changes needed to prepare our children for success in a high tech globalized world.

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

All schools regardless of the socio economic background of the surrounding community must have the needed resources to sustain high standards, employ excellent teachers and offer

all students a rigorous well rounded, rich curriculum. We must also urge the Board of Supervisors to avoid as much as possible, housing patterns that tend to over-concentrate high poverty in certain regions.

4. How will you address the achievement gap?

Our schools must provide the expectation and needed resources for all children to succeed. We must continue weighted staffing formulas, provide targeted help to teachers, and insure all students are taught a rigorous well rounded rich curriculum. We must expand community-wide initiatives such as Communities at Hope in Herndon and Opportunity Neighborhoods in Mt. Vernon and Reston and continue the county/schools coordination of social services that provides wrap around help for families.

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?

The priorities must be improving teacher salaries, lowering class size in non-Title 1 schools and maintaining our rigorous well rounded programs for all students. We must work collaboratively with the Board of Supervisors to understand total county needs, listen carefully to citizen input and continuously look for efficiencies and cost savings. I agree with Supervisor John Foust that school needs must be considered at the very beginning of budget planning rather than toward the end in March/April when adjustments are limited and difficult.

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

Good schools sustain property values, attract businesses and jobs to the county which can increase the percent of commercial real estate and decrease the county's reliance on residential real estate for county revenues.

Voting Requirements and Information

Virginia law requires all voters to provide an acceptable form of photo identification at the polls. Voters arriving to the polls without photo ID will be allowed 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.

Virginia's 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 United States

Passport; Other government-issued photo identification cards (must be issued by U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; Valid college or university student photo identification card, must be from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; Employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business; 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.

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.

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, three members of the School Board At Large, one District member of the School Board, Soil and Water Conservation Board (vote for 3), School Bond for \$310 million, Public Safety Bond for \$151 million.

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; email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov