ELECTION '15 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



tion in 2013.

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

OUESTIONS: 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. tackle it? During my tenure in office I have spearheaded Population is more diverse.

stricting high interest lending including car title loans? Yes

make that happen?

Yes. Whatever compromise that is neces-

For complete Election Coverage, see www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on Elections in the navigation bar.

Senate District 32

Janet Howell (D-32)

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 transporta-

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

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

changes?

6. Will you support legislation re-

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

sary to make it happen.



Make certain taxpaver money is invested wisely * Increase funding for edu-

cation at all levels, from pre-K through higher education. Pass legislation to ex-

pand Medicaid or 400,000 uninsured Virginians

 Increase and improve programs for persons with mental illness

 Pass commonsense gun safety legislation such a 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 Medic-

aid 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.

Vote Nov. 3 In-Person Absentee Voting: Vote Early In-Person Absentee Voting Fairfax County Government Center

The election Nov. 3 matters here in Northern Virginia. What are your priorities? Do you think quality schools are essential? Do you wish for better transportation and traffic solutions? Is protecting the environment important to you? Do you care about police transparency? Do you think gerrymandering is a problem? Are you worried about how public money is being spent? These are all local concerns, and these and many, many others are the issues that will be affected by next month's election.

Especially in a Dillon Rule state such as Virginia, where localities have only the powers specifically granted by the state General Assembly, who is elected at the state level is critical.

An earthquake, hurricane, early snow, or just one of those cataclysmic traffic days could make it hard to vote on Election Day, Nov. 3. On that day, virtually every state and local office is on the ballot. In-person absentee voting begins is underway, and is a good way to ensure you have your say in this critical local election.

Virginia Law allows voters to vote absentee if they could be "working and commut-

14 * Reston Connection * October 28 - November 3, 2015

ing 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.

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

To vote on Election Day, you must be registered at your current address no later than Oct. 13, 2015. You can check your registration status online by going to www.sbe.virginia.gov.

ON THE BALLOT 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,

ment 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

priorities.

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 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.

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 governmentissued photo identification cards (U.S. government or Virginia); valid Virginia college or university student photo identification card; employee identification card containing a photo-

graph 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.

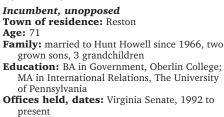
Any registered voter may apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office in the Commonwealth.

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

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



present Occupation and relevant experience: Former teacher, former legislative assistant, current state senator

Community involvement: Prior to election to Senate, I

Education Association, Northern Virginia Technology

Council, Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club

1. What is one issue that defines your call to

serve, why does it matter, and how will you

several multi-year efforts to reform our laws. I was chief

patron of the major family violence legislation, the men-

tal 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

2. What distinguishes you from your oppo-

3. Given the political makeup of the state leg-

As the Senate has shifted control back and forth, I have

islature, what examples from your own

experience suggests you can successfully bridge

consistently been selected by both parties as a budget

conferee and negotiator on the most controversial bills

4. In order, list your top 5 specific legislative

• Fairfax County Governmental Center Location, Conference Room 2/3, 12000 Govern-

(transportation, ethics, retirement plan reform. etc.).

the intense partisan differences there?

current practices are cruel and costly.

nent? Unopposed.

ELECTION '15

The Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is the only at-large member of the ninemember board. Every resident is represented by the Chairman and their district supervisor. Questionnaires are also available on our website, www.connectionnewspapers.com.

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

OUESTIONS:

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 chal-lenges. 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.

12 * Reston Connection * October 21-27, 2015

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

Community involvement:

-President, Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance since

-Member, Fairfax County Meals Tax Task Force (2014) -Member, Hunter Mill Citizen Budget Committee

-Treasurer, Fairfax Committee 100

-Member Fairfax Branch, NAACP

-Scoutmaster

Website: votepurves.org

Email address: Arthur@votepurves.org Twitter handle: agpurves

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

OUESTIONS:

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.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



-Past member of three Fairfax County Public Schools advisory committees

ELECTION '15

School Board Candidates for Hunter Mill District

Pat Hynes

Incumbent Town of residence: Reston Age: 56

Family: Two children Education: B.A. in Economics from the University of Virginia; J.D. from Vanderbilt University

Offices held, dates: Hunter Mill representative on the Fairfax County School Board, 2012 to now; current chair of the Fairfax County School Board

Occupation and relevant experi**ence**: teacher; former lawyer

Community involvement: president, F.B. Meekins Cooperative Preschool in Vienna; president, Louise Archer PTA; president, Malcolm Windover Heights Civic Association; founding member, Vienna Teen Center Foundation

Website: www.hynesforschoolboard.com Email address:

hynesforschoolboard@gmail.com Twitter handle: @VotePat

Name three favorite endorsements: Fairfax County Federation of Teachers; Fairfax Education Association: State Senators and Delegates who represent Reston and Vienna

OUESTIONS:

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

As an educator, my goal is that we meet students' needs every day in every classroom. That means closing achievement gaps and offering challenging, child--centered instruction to all. We must recruit and retain a well--trained, respected and competitively compensated workforce. We must replace the high-stakes test score chase with skills--based teaching and assessment that will prepare our students to communicate well, collaborate, and solve problems creatively.

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

I was a classroom teacher in FCPS from 2003 to 2012, which gives me unique insights and strong connections to the classroom. My legal training is also an important foundation, as school boards work within many legal constraints. As a PTA and community leader for two decades in Vienna and Reston, I built broad networks and developed a good understanding of the community's goals and values. Finally, I have served on the FCPS school board for the last four years, this year as the chair of the board. This board has been active and productive. I hope to continue that good work with my colleagues and use my experience to tackle the challenges ahead.



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

FCPS must continue to provide resources to schools based on the needs of their students. But the school board should also be a more active voice in land use planning, to advocate for the kind of diverse communities that help schools thrive. With families from 200 countries

and all socioeconomic backgrounds, our diversity is our greatest strength. As a county, we must manage that so that all children benefit.

4. How will you address the achievement

gap? The FCPS Strategic Plan sets an appropriately bold goal: to close all achievement gaps. The critical next steps are to set measurable objectives and implement more equitable practices. We must be more intentional about expanding pre-K, integrating classrooms, and having high expectations for all. We should post an equity scorecard, prominently on the FCPS website, with updated achievement results broken down by socioeconomic, language and learning disability subsets. That transparency will help the community hold us accountable for real progress.

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 is spending \$1,000 less per student, in real dollars, than we were seven years ago. Those cuts have come from teacher pay freezes, class size increases and significant cuts in central office support. It is time to reinvest. I will not vote for a budget that freezes teacher pay or raises elementary class size. If we find that revenues do not meet needs for 2017, my priorities will be guided by the broad community input we have already begun to gather. Longer term, it is essential that the school board and county board budget more strategically and more collaboratively, and that we modernize and diversify the revenue base.

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

A world class school system like FCPS draws businesses and families to the county from all around the country and the world. Good jobs and higher property values follow. Great schools are the most powerful public investment we make.

Mark Wilkinson

Family: I've been married for twenty years. Our older daughter is a graduate of the University of Virginia and our younger daughter is a 2015 graduate of Westfield High School.

Education: Graduated from the United States Air Force Academy Occupation and relevant

experience: Currently I'm a technical program manager in Chantilly. Prior to this, I worked in federal service for over 35 years. Volunteer with the Diocese of Arlington as a Camp Contractor working with teens in

providing construction projects for underserved Virginia residents. Habitat for Humanity and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Website: markwilkinsonforschoolboard.com Email address:

WilkinsonforSchoolBoard@outlook.com

OUESTIONS:

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

As a dad, taxpayer, and citizen, I believe that the children of Fairfax County must come first with any decisions made by the school establishment, particularly the School Board. It is my goal to be an independent and non-partisan advocate for children, teachers, and the taxpayers of Fairfax County. My plan is simple - reduce class size, increase teacher compensation, and close the achievement gap - which will improve the lives of ALL FCPS children.

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

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is the 10th largest school system in the United States, and it requires strong leadership and people who know how to manage government programs, and who understand policy, budgets, strategy, and contracts. These are the key activities of a school board member. I have 35 years as a public servant doing just that - managing budgets 5 times the size of FCPS's budget. I will demand accountability and transparency, and ask the hard questions that are necessary to ensure that FCPS does not lose its status as a world-class school system.

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

I would start with the Office of Program Evaluation — it is their mission to determine the effectiveness of FCPS programs. Why is it that the achievement gap continues to widen, and yet we continue to pour millions of dollars (above and beyond the federal and state requirements) into programs designed to help our neediest students? We need a fresh look at why they are not working. Instead of asking parents what to save, we are



asked what to cut - year after year. We need strong leadership that will SAVE the most important programs those that have direct impact the classroom. In particular, our neediest students will benefit from additional funding for programs, like Project Momentum. Partnering with the community business on building maintenance, food services, custodial services have a potential for better value from competition and lower rates.

4. Address the achievement gap?

In addition to re-evaluating the programs designed to help our neediest students as described above. I believe that we need to offer competitive compensation for our teachers. The value of our public school system comes from great teachers. Talented teachers help motivate all kids to do their very best. Where is the funding going? Why is it not working? A teacher who recently quit from a Title 1 school said that he "gives up." He said he just could not connect and have educational success with his students. Someone needs to figure out why, and it should not be solely hoist upon our overstrained teachers.

5. What steps would you take to manage the budge gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

We need a scalpel to identify inefficiencies within programs, rather than proposing to axe pro-grams like arts, music and sports. Such approaches only result in painful reductions in overall services provided to our school children. I propose that before we look at cutting programs, we should examine expenditures and their effectiveness.

We need fresh ideas to eliminate redundant, inefficient, and/or ineffective programs currently in the system. An online checkbook can improve transparency and accountability by showing the taxpayers where the money is going. A line item review, zero based budgeting, and tasking the auditor general to conduct performance-based audits will drive more dollars back to the teachers and into the classroom.

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

Fairfax County schools drive business, which increases home values. Fairfax County home prices are the highest in the region. The quality of schools in our community is a main contributor to home values. Importantly, about 53% of personal property taxes goes to the FCPS. This demonstrates the commitment that Fairfax County residents have to the education of their own children and to the common good.

Editor's note: These responses have been edited for length; the full version is available at www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Candidate for Hunter Mill District Supervisor

Catherine M. Hudgins (D)

Incumbent, unopposed. Town of residence: Reston Age: 71

Family: Two adult sons Education: Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education (University of Arkansan at Pine Bluff) and Masters of Public Ad-

ministration (George Mason University Offices held, dates: Elected four terms as

Hunter Mill District Supervisor-: 1999--present Occupation and relevant experience: Mathematics teacher and technology professional

Community involvement: PTA Website: cathyhudgins2015.com Email address: cathy@cathyhudgins.com Name three favorite endorsements: IAFF

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Local 2068, Northern Virginia, Realtors PAC, SEIU Virginia 512

OUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it? I continue to see two Fairfax Coun-

ties: one exceptional place to live for some; the other where many are unable to take advantage of all of the assets available in the community. One reason

for tl the struggle to ensure adequate oppor tunity for affordable housing. The lack of affordable housing affects the homeless and under-employed, seniors, and those newly entering the workforce. Fund the Initiative to Prevent and End Homeless and increase affordable housing stock in 60% - 100% of AMI.

2. What distinguishes you from your

opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

While unopposed, I would respond to any opponent that my years of experience on the Board and in the community equip me best to address the issues in the next four years. I understand the issues, have worked effectively to provide the services and support policies that enhance quality the lives of Hunter Mill District and Fairfax County residents.

3. More than half of the county budget 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.

Top priority must be for the School and County

Boards to set priorities to ensure the best outcomes for all children and families. Nearly 65 percent of General Fund goes to services to children and families: fifty--three percent to FCPS and eleven percent in Health and Welfare (H&H). While it may not be possible to directly combine these dollars for direct services, better coordination of service to children and families is necessary. Begin by addressing achievement gap, disparities and implementation pre-K, all related to better outcomes for FCPS and H&H. Success in these areas alone can make not only budget impact, but also better outcomes for youth, families and munity and warrant necessary increase to succeed and stay on target.

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

since elected in 1999 and serve fulltime.

Reston Connection & October 21-27, 2015 \$ 13

Town of residence: Herndon

ELECTION '15 School Board Candidates At-Large

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 in-



volvement: Co–organize youth basketball league, Assist in developing tutoring programs at local mosques

Website: www.fatehforschoolboard.com **Email address**: fateh4sb@gmail.com

Twitter handle: Fateh4sb Name favorite endorsements: Fairfax Education Association

QUESTIONS: 1. What is one issue that defines your

call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

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

2. Why should voters choose you?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 * Reston Connection * October 21-27, 2015

Jeanette Hough Town of residence: Fairfax

Age: 36 Family: Husband,



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

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

Website:jeanetteforschoolboard.comEmailaddress:

Jeanetteforschoolboard@gmail.com Name three favorite endorsements: Class Size Counts, Former Congressman Tom Davis, Congresswoman Barbara Comstock

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

will you tackle it? Responsibility to the community defines my call to serve. That responsibility comes with engaging the community members, being fiscally responsible and setting clear priorities. Authentic engagement includes holding office hours and citizen town halls throughout the year, not just showing up to ribbon cuttings and planned events. Our community deserves more transparency with FCPS' \$2.7 billion operating fund. I will prioritize reducing large class sizes, not with one-time fixes the way my opponents have, but with long-term planning. I will prioritize competitive teacher salaries. Our teachers' salaries have fallen behind compared to surrounding counties. Instead of making it a real priority, the Board raised their own salary by 60%. 2. What distinguishes you from your

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

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

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

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

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

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

Manar Jean-Jacques Town of residence: Fairfax

Age: 31 Family: My fam-

ily 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. Since starting there 8 years ago, I have been known as a solution-driven, out-of-the box thinker with creative solutions. In addition to my analytical skills, I bring a parent's perspective to the board. As a mom of two future FCPS students, my priority is ensuring the best education for children in FCPS.

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

Website: www.ManarForFairfax.com Email address: Manar@manarforfairfax.com

Twitter handle: @Manar4FFX

Name favorite endorsements: I have am officially endorsed by the 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?**

The incumbent at-large candidates either have children that have already graduated from FCPS or do not have children at all, the only way they take their decisions home with them is in their pockets. 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 ... that is a perspective needed on the school board and it is one that the incumbents cannot offer.

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. The current board continually changes the name of these projects (Excel, PSI, Momentum, etc), making it nearly impossible to

SEE QUESTIONNAIRES, NEXT PAGE

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,

2012-

January

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

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

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

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. We became the first public Board in the country to implement this kind of feedback mechanism. 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 (including the creation of a fresh food pilot kitchen and the system-wide study of our Food and Nutrition Services program), the internationalization working group (to help guide our work on implementing world languages and study-abroad opportunities), and the alumni networking action group (which has helped us map a path to create an FCPS alumni association). In my next term, I hope to see all of these efforts through to implementation.

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. In Fairfax, more than half of our elementary schools sit above the socio-economic tipping point, proving that Fairfax has moved beyond localized poverty. 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. 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

SEE QUESTIONNAIRES, NEXT PAGE www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

ELECTION '15

School Board Candidates At-Large Burnette G. Scarboro Theodore J. "Ted"

Ilryong Moon

INCUMBENT Town of residence: Fairfax Age: 58

Family: Father of 2 FCPS graduates Education: Harvard, B.A.; William and Mary Law School, J.D. Offices held,

dates: At-Large School Board Member, 07/1995-12/

1995 & 2004-present; Braddock District School Board Member 1996-1999; At-Large Planning Commissioner 2000-2003.

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

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

Website: www.moon4schools.com

Email address: moon@moon4schools.com

Twitter handle: @Moon4Schools

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

QUESTIONS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a signifi-cant 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?

A community consensus on the school funding level should be built. I support the superintendent's work with the budget task force to gather commu-



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 Dis-

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

Website: www.burnette4schoolboard.com

Email address: friendsofburnette@gmail.com Twitter handle:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. How will you address the achievement gap?

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

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

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

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

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

Velkoff

dence: Chantilly **Age**: 61 Family: Wife, Dr.

(South Lakes H.S. 2007), Elizabeth (Chantilly H.S. 2009)

nior 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.

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.

Delegate Ken Plum.

QUESTIONS:

Eliminate high stakes testing and replace with authentic assessments. We must the restore 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

opponents and why should voters choose

I am proud of the work accomplished by the board of which I have been a member for the past four years. 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. I have been an effective member of the school board by building relationships and brokering agreements on potentially contentious policy deci-

nomic divide in county schools?

We need to expand innovative programs in schools throughout the county, especially those in economically challenged communities. 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

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

devoted to the school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS QUESTIONNAIRES CONTINUED FROM Previous Page and This Page

Manar Jean-Jacques

evaluate the effectiveness of the programs. I would begin addressing the achievement gap by engaging teachers in the conversation and seeking their expertise.

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?

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.

Ryan McElveen

fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

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

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

Ilryong Moon

nity 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 prepare them for the postsecondary education and employment.

Ted Velkoff

and Fairfax County. What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

Because Virginia's antiquated form of government concentrates power in Richmond and marginalizes Fairfax County, the Board of Supervisors and School Board are pitted against each other by design. The Supervisors control school revenue; the School Board controls school spending. The County Executive proposes a revenue-based budget; the Superintendent proposes a needs-based budget.

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

Questionnaires have been edited for length. Full questionnaires are available at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com click on Elections

Neither Peter Marchetti nor Robert Copeland, both candidates for Fairfax County School Board At Large, returned their questionnaires for publication.

INCUMBENT Town of Resi-

Patricia Velkoff: Daughters Catherine

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: Se-

Community involvement: PTSA President,

Website: http://www.tv4sb.org

Email address: ted@tv4sb.org Twitter handle: @TedVelkoff

Name three favorite endorsements: Supervisor John Foust, Senator Chap Petersen,

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

2. What distinguishes you from your

you?

sions 3. How will you address the growing eco-

needs of all children.

4. How to address the achievement gap? over the career of a student.

5. More than half of the county budget is