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**Delegate Landes' Legislative Report**  
**By Delegate R. Steven Landes**  
**August 10, 2015**

**Budget Surplus**



Virginia ended the fiscal year with a \$553 million budget surplus which is the direct result of the Republican-led General Assembly's conservative budgeting and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Getting to this point wasn't easy. Last year, the General Assembly took unprecedented action to convene a special session to close a projected \$2.4 billion revenue shortfall. And earlier this year, we adopted conservative budget amendments to keep spending in check.

We were also able to fund the core functions of government like K-12 education and public safety, providing a pay raise to teachers, state police officers and sheriff's deputies. Because we met our revenue projections, these pay raises will now kick in.

Most of the surplus, about \$477 million of it, will go back to the rainy day fund as the Constitution and budget requires. The remaining portions will go to the Water Quality Improvement Fund and for transportation projects.

I'm excited to share this news with you, but we also have to be cautious about the future. Virginia's economy is still struggling. We reported zero percent growth in the first quarter of this year and recently fell to 12<sup>th</sup> in CNBC's list of Top States for Business. Sequestration only adds to the uncertainty ahead.

That means we must continue to be conservative and responsible with our budgeting. It also means we have to avoid new long-term obligations like the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion. We simply cannot afford to create a new government-run entitlement program. That also means we must continue to remain focused on strengthening our economy.

### **Proposed State Board of Elections Changes to Voter Registration Form**

Proposed changes by the Virginia Department of Elections (DOE) to the voter registration form, if implemented, **will violate** the Virginia Constitution and the Code of Virginia. In addition, it will make the work of the state General Registrars more difficult in registering voters and keeping the voter lists up to date. Statewide Registrars have raised significant opposition to the proposed changes. As one Registrar commented, "This is an end run around the Code" and another has said this is "the politicization of the voter registration process."

The Constitution of Virginia, Article 2, Section 2 states very clearly, *"Applications to register **shall require the applicant to provide** the following information on a standard form: full name; date of birth; residence address; social security number, if any; **whether the applicant is presently a United States citizen**; and such additional information as may be required by law. All applications to register shall be completed by or at the direction of the applicant and signed by the applicant, unless physically disabled. No fee shall be charged to the applicant incident to an application to register....and whether the applicant has ever been adjudicated to be mentally incompetent or convicted of a felony, and if so, under what circumstances the applicant's right to vote has been restored".*

The new form says that citizenship, mental capacity, and felony conviction information are **NOT MATERIAL** if the voter affirms that he/she meets Virginia's requirements for those areas. The Virginia DOE is seeking to ignore both the VA Constitution and the Code of Virginia which require **a person to provide the information** outlined above. The form has the applicant "signing and affirming that they meet the requirements" while the law states the applicant must provide information whether they are a citizen or not.... 'Affirming' is not the same as 'Providing.' Nowhere on the form does it state that if you do not provide certain information your application **SHALL BE REJECTED**, it just says **MAY BE REJECTED**. Particularly for citizenship, the person is not saying whether he/she is a U.S. citizen, just that they meet the requirements, which any good lawyer could easily rip to shreds if their client was being prosecuted for voter fraud.

Why not leave in the two original questions which if answered “No” (or not answered), told you to stop filling out the application. The two questions are a) Are you a citizen? and b) Will you be 18 by the November election?

Again, both the VA Constitution and the Code of Virginia REQUIRE that the applicant provides information, not just affirm that they meet requirements.

VA DOE cannot rewrite the requirements of what the Virginia Constitution and the Virginia Code state must be provided. **If VA DOE wishes to change the requirements, then the voters must be asked through a constitutional amendment and the Code of Virginia must amended by legislative action.**

### **Planned Parenthood**

I am sure by now that many, if not all, of you have seen the very disturbing videos showing the callous conversation by Planned Parenthood employees discussing aborted babies. Regardless of one’s position on abortion, these videos should be hard for anyone to view.

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, Speaker Howell and House Republican leaders called on Governor McAuliffe to launch an investigation into Virginia Planned Parenthood chapters. At least nine other states and three congressional committees have started investigations. To date, the Governor has said he does not believe an investigation is necessary.

Every human life is precious. Virginia has specifically prohibited late-term and partial-birth abortions. We have strict regulations and reporting requirements on abortion clinics. We want to make sure all of our laws and regulations are being followed.

Just to be clear, Planned Parenthood does not receive any state appropriations in the state budget. Virginia prohibits taxpayer funding for abortion and includes specific language in the state budget every year to reinforce this law.

### **Valley Delegates Sponsor Annual Valley Business Summit**

Delegates Benjamin L. Cline (R-Amherst), Richard P. Bell (R-Staunton), Tony O. Wilt (R-Broadway) and I are pleased to announce the Valley Business Summit to be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2015, at the Robert E. Plecker Workforce Center at Blue Ridge Community College. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with the Keynote Address from Mr. Barry DuVal, President & CEO of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

The morning summit will include a business panel entitled “Growing Your Business” from three local business owners, a feedback forum with Delegates Landes, Bell, Ben Cline, and Wilt to listen and learn of business women and men’s concerns and suggestions, and the morning will end with a business resource fair.

The Valley Business Summit will be of interest to all business owners and those planning to start a business. In partnership with the local delegates are Blue Ridge Community College, Shenandoah Valley Small Business Development Center, Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce, Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce, Shenandoah Valley Partnership, and the Shenandoah Valley Technology Council. Representatives from our local and state governments will also participate.

This event is free but registration should be made by August 19. For further details and to register and see a detailed agenda go to <http://www.shenandoah-valley.biz/tools-resources/business-assistance-providers/valley-business-summit-the-path-forward/>.

## Campaign Update

It's been a fun summer on the campaign trail. On Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, I joined Delegate Tony Wilt, Rockingham County Supervisor Rick Chandler, and an enthusiastic group of Rockingham County Republicans at the Grottoes Parade and the Lawn Party that followed.

Saturday I had a great time visiting the Albemarle County Fair at Ash-Lawn Highland. It was great to see Albemarle County GOP Chair Cindi Burket and some of the exceptional folks on the Republican ticket in Albemarle County, including Senator Bryce Reeves, Albemarle County Attorney candidate Robert Tracci, and Albemarle County Rivanna District Supervisor candidate Richard Lloyd, to name a few.

On Wednesday, I visited the Augusta County Fair in Fishersville. I enjoyed spending time with my colleague, Delegate Ben Cline, Augusta County GOP Chairman Georgia Alvis-Long and a host of Augusta County GOP members.



Finally, my County Fair Circuit wouldn't be complete without a stop at the Rockingham County Fair, which runs from August 17<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. I hope you'll stop by the Rockingham County Republican booth and say hello!

Displaying a lawn sign is a great and easy way to support my campaign for reelection. Would you like a yard sign for your lawn? If so, please contact my campaign manager **Will Wrobleski** at **(603) 660-8811** or email him at **will@stevelandes.com**. We'll let you know where you can pick one up, or if it's more convenient, we'll bring one to you! If you have a high traffic or high visibility location, we'd be happy to provide you with one of our larger signs as well. Just let Will know and we'll take care of it.

Do you enjoy the outdoors and enjoy talking about our great GOP candidates? If so, please let Will know and we'll get you plugged in to our door knocking efforts. This is a great way to raise

awareness about our GOP candidates and promote our Republican message. Our voter identification program will help get our GOP candidates elected this fall and lay the groundwork for future Republican victories, including the not too distant 2016 Presidential Election.

**Other Upcoming Events:**

**Augusta County GOP Headquarters Opening:** Please join me and the Augusta County Republicans for the Grand Opening of the Augusta County GOP headquarters, located at 207 Lee Highway in Verona, on August 15<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. We hope you'll come meet your elected officials and candidates for office in Augusta County. This is a great opportunity for you get involved to support the Republican cause! We'll also have free cookies and ice cream for you to enjoy. To rsvp or should you have any questions, please contact **Augusta County GOP Chair Georgia Alvis-Long** at **(540) 255-5527** or email her at [galong@polyrad.net](mailto:galong@polyrad.net).

**Upcoming Campaign Fundraiser in District:** On August 25th, Les Disharoon, Doug and Page Easter, and Peter and Carol Easter are hosting a cocktail reception fundraiser for me. It will be at Springhaven Farm, 2679 Free Union Road, Charlottesville, Virginia. The cost is \$50 per person. Sponsorship levels and invitation:



*Les Disharoon, Doug & Page Easter, and  
Peter & Carol Easter*

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM AT A

*Cocktail Reception*

IN HONOR OF

*Delegate Steve Landes*

SPRINGHAVEN FARM

2679 FREE UNION ROAD  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22901

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015

5:30PM - 7:00PM

Questions or to RSVP, please contact Emily Stewart at: (804) 814.916; [EmilyB.Stewart@verizon.net](mailto:EmilyB.Stewart@verizon.net)

\_\_\_ Yes! I/We will attend the August 25<sup>th</sup> Cocktail Reception at the following level:

- \_\_\_ \$2,500 **Platinum:** 10 reservations & special recognition
- \_\_\_ \$1,000 **Gold:** 6 reservations & special recognition
- \_\_\_ \$500 **Silver:** 4 reservations & special recognition
- \_\_\_ \$250 **Bronze:** 2 reservations & special recognition
- \_\_\_ \$100 **Friend:** 2 reservations

\_\_\_ Yes! I/We support Delegate Steve Landes, but cannot to attend. Enclosed is my/our most generous contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to show my/our support!

Please make checks payable to: **STEVE LANDES FOR DELEGATE COMMITTEE**  
Mail to: **P.O. BOX 12 VERONA, VA 24482**

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Political Contributions are not tax deductible. Paid for by Steve Landes for Delegate Committee. Corporate contributions are permitted. Virginia State law requires occupation and employer information for all contributions that exceed \$100 in a calendar year.

If you are interested in attending, please contact **Emily Stewart** at **1.804.814.9168** or **emilyb.stewart@verizon.net**.

**Republican Women of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Republican BBQ Fundraiser:** The BBQ will be held on August 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at the Giles Stone Family Barn, located at 2580 South Main Street in Harrisonburg. Join with me to enjoy good food (BBQ pork and all the fixin's), good music (Thompson Store Revival Band), and good company (Rockingham County Republicans). For more information or to RSVP, please contact **Jane Burner** at **(540) 282-7600** or by email to **[RWHRCo@gmail.com](mailto:RWHRCo@gmail.com)**.

### Contact Us

As always, my Legislative Director, Judy Wyatt, and I are here to serve you. If you need help with a state government agency or issue, we can be reached by phone at **540.255.5335** or by email at **steve@stevelandes.com**. Our address is **Post Office Box 12, Verona, Virginia 24482**. Please visit my website at **www.stevelandes.com** for my latest press releases and newsletters.

For campaign related events and information, contact Will Wroblewski, my Campaign Manager, at **will@stevelandes.com** or by phone at **603.660.8811**. Also, be sure to "like" my Facebook Fan Page or you can now follow me on Twitter @steve\_landes by clicking the buttons below:



Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Delegate.

Sincerely,

Steve Landes

**\*\*\*Please do not reply to this email address. Please send all inquiries to [steve@stevelandes.com](mailto:steve@stevelandes.com)\*\*\***

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