



League of Women Voters® of Montgomery County

2009 Voter's Guide

Statewide Offices

Introduction

The Voter's Guide is provided by the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County as part of the League's commitment to voter services and as a public service. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization, and the inclusion of candidates' statements in this Guide does not represent an endorsement of any one candidate or position.

This guide is organized by office and by candidate. Candidates were sent a short survey (three to four questions) based on the office for which they are running. All candidates for each office were asked the same questions. Their responses are reprinted in this guide. If a candidate did not respond to the survey, their non-response is noted under their name.

Virginia Governor

Job Description:

TERM: Four years (prohibited from serving successive terms)

SALARY: \$175,000

DUTIES: Authority over the day-to-day operations of state government. Commander-in-Chief of the state's armed forces; advises the General Assembly on the condition of the commonwealth by making specific legislative recommendations, including the state budget. Makes appointments touching every level of government. Signs enacted bills to become laws.

Robert F. "Bob" McDonnell (R)

Biographical Statement: Maureen and I have been married for 32 years and we have 5 children. I served for 21 years in the U.S. Army. I've been a business manager for a Fortune 500 company, a Virginia Beach Prosecutor, a member of the House of Delegates for 14 years, and Attorney General.

What will your top legislative PRIORITY be, if elected? I will be a jobs Governor! I will focus on growing Virginia's economy, creating new jobs, and re-training our workforce for 21st century jobs. Everyone will benefit from my vision of a reinvigorated private sector, more incentives for businesses locating and expanding in Virginia, and a government that lives within its means, allowing citizens to keep more of what they earn to invest and spend.

Do you believe that any changes are needed in the way the Commonwealth conducts its decennial REDISTRICTING? If so, please explain your proposals. I will ensure bipartisan citizen involvement in the redistricting process. Legislative districts must be drawn to maximize voter participation and reflect commonsense geographic boundaries and a strong community of interests. My bipartisan commission, comprised of citizens who haven't held elected office for at least 10 years, will provide citizens with access through public meetings, proposed maps online, and a website accepting public comment.

What will be your major emphasis, for both resources and spending, in developing the next state BUDGET? As Attorney General I cut my office's budget by 14%, took a pay cut and gave back my state car. Those are the kinds of tough decisions Virginians expect to see from their Governor. We must look for every opportunity to be creative in our budgeting, consolidate state functions, and implement innovation and budget prioritization in Richmond. We must focus on supporting policies that facilitate growth in the private sector, encourage entrepreneurship, allow Virginians to achieve their dreams, and expand our economy.

How do you propose to BALANCE economic interests with environmental concerns? I championed legislation to ban the use of phosphorus in household detergents and successfully filed suit to stop a wastewater treatment operator from polluting the Shenandoah River. I helped establish an income tax refund for contributions made to restore the Bay and supported the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Act and the Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund. As Governor, I am committed to protecting our environment using innovative technology, pollution prevention programs and holding polluters accountable. I will also establish "Green Jobs Zones" to incentivize companies to create quality green jobs.

Contact: www.bobmcdonnell.co

R. Creigh Deeds (D)

Biographical Statement: State Senator Creigh Deeds is an accomplished legislator, having served eighteen years in the General Assembly. He lives in Bath County with his wife Pam, and their four children: Amanda, Rebecca, Gus, and Susannah. He graduated from Wake Forest Law School and Concord College.

What will your top legislative PRIORITY be, if elected? As governor, I will restore confidence in Virginia's economy by fixing transportation, investing in education, and giving a tax credit to

any business that creates a job. I also have a plan to cut spending through aggressive performance reviews that reduce government waste and improve efficiency. And I will put Virginia on a path to be a global leader in clean energy, medical research, and cutting edge technology.

Do you believe that any changes are needed in the way the Commonwealth conducts its decennial REDISTRICTING? If so, please explain your proposals. Public policy in my administration will be based on science, not on ideology or partisan politics. For the past seven years I have proposed bipartisan redistricting legislation. As governor, I will sign such a bill into law. Transparency and honesty are my guiding principles.

What will be your major emphasis, for both resources and spending, in developing the next state BUDGET? I believe we must invest in education even in tough times and my budget will reflect that. I will create an additional 70,000 degrees over the next ten years and commit an additional \$40 million per year to financial aid and guarantee student loans up to \$15,000. Under a Deeds administration, all Virginians will have access to an affordable higher education. To fix transportation I will bring Republicans and Democrats together and pass a plan that connects every part of Virginia. I will consider all options so we can reach a bipartisan consensus on dedicated, long-term funding that does not drain funding from education and other core priorities.

How do you propose to BALANCE economic interests with environmental concerns? I have a strong record of protecting the environment and balancing environmental and economic interests. In 1996, I authored the landmark Agricultural Stewardship Act, a bipartisan approach to reduce pollution that was supported by both farmers and environmental advocates. And in 1999, I sponsored a land preservation tax credit program that has helped Virginia conserve 500,000 acres.

Contact: <http://deedsforvirginia.com>

Virginia Lieutenant Governor

Job Description:

TERM: Four years

SALARY: \$36,321

DUTIES: Presides over the State Senate and casts a vote in case of a tie. Fills the office of Governor should the office become vacant by reason of death, resignation or disability.

William T. "Bill" Bolling (R, Incumbant)

Biographical Statement: Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling is the son of a coal miner and first in his family to graduate college. He and his wife Jean Ann live in Hanover and have two sons. He has 18 years of public service as Lieutenant Governor, State Senator, and in local government in Hanover.

How do you envision your ROLE, if elected? In a McDonnell/Bolling administration, I'll serve as Virginia's first Economic Development and Chief Jobs Creation Officer. As Virginia's Chief Jobs Creation Officer, I'll help coordinate all economic development and job creation initiatives across the various agencies of state government. Having the states second highest elected officer actively involved in recruiting new industries signals the importance of bringing new jobs to our state.

In addition, I'll work to find solutions to our current energy, education, and transportation challenges.

How would you influence the dynamics of the legislative PROCESS? Over the past four years serving as Virginia's Lieutenant Governor, I've promoted an aggressive legislative agenda, which I'll continue. In order to bring more jobs to our state, I co-sponsored legislation allowing more businesses to qualify for Economic Opportunity Fund money, which has brought \$125 million in new capital investments into Virginia. I have also worked to strengthen our education system by forcing the Senate to direct lottery proceeds towards education, and by seeking to pass legislation that requires that at least 65% of our education dollars be spent in the classroom. Finally, I'm very proud that during my time in the Senate, I was able to pass legislation providing health insurance for children in low-income families.

What do you see as Virginia's most urgent PROBLEM over the next two years? The most urgent problem today and in the near future is the need to bring new quality jobs to our state. Current unemployment rates are the highest in 20 years, and all regions of the state have been impacted by the recent economic downturn. In a McDonnell/Bolling administration, I will serve as Virginia's first Economic Development and Chief Jobs Creation Officer, and my number one focus will be on growing our workforce. Additionally, our state faces numerous challenges to our education and transportation systems. I've proposed detailed plans to confront these challenges, which you can find on my website, www.billbolling.com.

Contact: www.billbolling.com

Jody M. Wagner (D)

Biographical Statement: I'm the proud mother of four wonderful children. For 16 years, I was a practicing attorney in Norfolk. From 2002-2005, I served as Treasurer of the Commonwealth, and from 2006-2008, as the Secretary of Finance. In addition, I'm the owner of Jody's, a small popcorn business in Virginia Beach.

How do you envision your ROLE, if elected? I will serve as a key member of the state's leadership team, and a partner of the next Governor. I'll use my experience working across party lines to help reach commonsense, bipartisan solutions that improve the lives of Virginia's families. The most important role I can have is to help create new jobs and grow Virginia's economy. In addition, I would spend much of my time advocating for improvements in public education, such as raising the graduation rate, expanding funding for pre-Kindergarten programs and promoting mentorship and internship programs for at risk students. Finally, I would be a member of five important boards and commissions.

How would you influence the dynamics of the legislative PROCESS? In addition to presiding over the Senate, I would be active in the legislative process by helping to advance the goals of the next Governor, as well as priorities I consider to be important, like creating new jobs and improving education. I have a record of working across party lines to get things done as evidenced by the 2008 Education Bond Package that I negotiated (which passed unanimously) and I would continue to negotiate compromise in order to get things done.

What do you see as Virginia's most urgent PROBLEM over the next two years? Virginia's biggest problem is the global economic decline, and creating new jobs is the only way to confront the issue. We need to take a multi-faceted approach,

which involves attracting new industries; helping small businesses start and grow; improving education to ensure our students have the skills necessary to compete in the 21st Century economy; and solving the transportation mess that is threatening our economic viability. Virginians have suffered as a result of the recession, and while we have weathered the storm better than most other states, the top priority of the next Lt. Governor must be to lead Virginia out of the national downturn, and help direct the Commonwealth towards future prosperity.

Contact: www.jodyforVA.com

Virginia Attorney General

Job Description:

TERM: Four years

SALARY: \$150,000

DUTIES: Chief legal officer of the Commonwealth, serves as counsel to the Governor and to all state departments, agencies, boards and commissions.

Ken T. Cuccinelli II (R)

Biographical Statement: An attorney and small business owner, Senator Cuccinelli grew up in Northern Virginia. He graduated from UVa. as a Mechanical Engineer, then received his J.D. and Masters degrees from GMU. Ken married his high school sweetheart, Teiro, and they live with their seven children (and many pets) in Centreville.

What do you think will be the major ISSUE facing the Attorney General's office in the next two years? Given current circumstances, the major issue for the next Attorney General will be helping to get Virginia's economy growing again in order to support job creation. In addition, the AG will also be looked to for leadership on public safety issues such as fighting gangs, sexual predators, drunk driving and mental health. These are all issues that I will continue to aggressively address, as I have in my 3 terms in the State Senate. I would also bring 5 years of juvenile delinquency prevention work and over a decade of working with mental health professionals and patients to the AG's office.

As Attorney General, what would be your major legislative PROPOSAL? Among my major legislative proposals as Virginia's next AG would be proposals to continue to improve our mental health system. Since the Virginia Tech tragedy, Virginians have awoken to how much more we need to do to improve our mental health system, and I will continue my leadership on this issue. Additionally, I will continue the work I've been doing in the Senate Courts Committee to toughen our laws addressing gangs, sexual predators and repeat drug dealers. Finally, I will continue my efforts to get property rights protected in Virginia's Constitution.

How do you envision BALANCING economic concerns with the enforcement of environmental regulations? The balancing of economic concerns with the enforcement of environmental regulations is similar to the balancing in any regulatory decision. First, an AG has to enforce the law, but may exercise such discretion as the law allows to factor in circumstances such as first offenses, technical (e.g., paperwork) violations vs. substantive

violations, in coming to conclusions about appropriate responses. We want our environmental regulations to be part of our stewardship of the environment, and like other Virginians, I want to preserve a clean and healthy environment for my children. I also want to undertake reasonable steps to preserve economic opportunities and jobs for Virginians.

Contact: www.cuccinelli.com

Stephen C. Shannon (D)

Biographical Statement: Occupation: Attorney; Odin, Feldman & Pittleman, PC – Fairfax, VA Education: Bachelors Degree, Fairfield University; Masters of Public Policy, Georgetown University; and J.D., University of Virginia Experience: Steve Shannon is a former Fairfax County Prosecutor who has a strong record on Public Safety. He and his wife Abby co-founded Virginia's first AMBER-Alert// program. Member of the House of Delegates, 2003 – present

What do you think will be the major ISSUE facing the Attorney General's office in the next two years? In the next two years, the Attorney General's office must be focused on public safety. As the economy gets back on track, we need to be sure that Virginia creates an environment that is attractive for people and businesses so that they want to come here and flourish here. By keeping Virginians safe, I will work to create that type of environment.

As Attorney General, what would be your major legislative PROPOSAL? My top priority as Attorney General is going to be keeping Virginians safe. I have outlined a number of policy proposals – available on my website at www.shannon2009.com – that will help protect Virginians from drunk drivers, gangs, drug dealers, and other public safety threats. As a father of three and helped found (with my wife, Abby) of Virginia's AMBER Alert system, I am particularly committed to protecting Virginia's children. Specifically, I am committed to keeping Virginia children safe from Internet predators. We know that there are at least 20,000 unique computers trafficking child pornography in Virginia. Law enforcement officials do not have the tools and resources they need to track these online offenders down and put them in jail. I will work with the Governor and General Assembly to find these resources.

How do you envision BALANCING economic concerns with the enforcement of environmental regulations? As Attorney General, my job will be enforcing Virginia's law. I believe we need to move towards things like energy efficiency and greater use of renewable energy in order to protect our environment. I also believe we must understand our current economic climate and make sure that as we make the move toward the use of efficiency and renewables, we are balancing the needs and economic constraints of citizens and businesses in Virginia.

Contact: www.shannon2009.com

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visit the League of Women Voters®
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new website:
www.lwvmcva.org**