



League of Women Voters® of Montgomery County

2009 Voter's Guide

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.

Following each debate, the candidates will be sent a second survey which will include all of the questions, both asked and not asked, from their individual forums. Candidates will be invited to provide additional answers to the questions posed by the public. Candidates' answers to the second survey will be posted on the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County website at: www.lwvmcva.org.

Virginia House of Delegates, District 007

David A. "Dave" Nutter (R)

Biographical Statement: Dave Nutter is finishing his fourth term in the House of Delegates where he serves on the committees on Health, Welfare or Institutions; Militia & Police; and Science and Technology. He also serves on the Joint Commission on Health Care, the board of directors of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center; Explore Park; and board of directors for the Center for Rural Virginia. Dave Nutter has been recognized for his legislative accomplishments by several organizations. He was named Legislator of the Year in 2007 by the Career and Technical Educators Association and was named a champion of the Free Clinics of Virginia in 2004. Dave Nutter's re-election to the House of Delegate has been endorsed by the National Federation of Independent Businesses, Virginia Education Association, New River Valley Realtors, National Rifle Association, and the Farm Bureau. Dave Nutter is employed as an administrative faculty member at Virginia Tech where he works in the Office of Economic Development. Dave and his wife Jackie have been residents of Montgomery County for over 21 years. All three of their children have graduated from Montgomery County public schools and attend college in Virginia.

What do you see as the single most pressing issue facing Virginia and the residents of Montgomery County, the Town of

Blacksburg, the Town of Christiansburg, and the City of Radford, and what, specifically would you do to address or solve this issue? Providing economic opportunity for the citizens of the NRV is the most pressing issue confronting the region. Stimulating economic growth is a multi-faceted issue. First it starts with a comprehensive plan both at the state and regional level. The Governor is required to produce a state plan within six months. I am sponsoring legislation to require an update to the Governor's plan within two years of taking office. I have also participated in the development of the NRV Planning District Commission strategic plan that establishes a common goals. As a member of the board of the Center for Rural Virginia, we are working with both party gubernatorial candidates to establish a cabinet level officer as policy point on ways to enhance the economic vitality of rural Virginia. Workforce preparedness is another critical issue for the entire region. I serve on the study committee that looked at Virginia's workforce system and created the position of workforce czar on the Governor's staff. In the last 12 months important sections of those duties have gone out to the community colleges. I will be sponsoring legislation to strengthen that connection and continue to make it more responsive. I carried legislation that helped to create Virginia's new diploma in Career and Technical Education and sponsored budget amendment that added important new resources to CT education. Virginia has only about 25% of the people it needs to meet existing demand for plumbers, machinists and other skilled trades. Industry across the state is crying for a more skilled workforce. I have also carried legislation on behalf of the VCCS chancellor to support the career coaches program which helps young people identify career opportunities through the community college system. I was honored this summer by the president of New River Community College for my leadership and support for the Community Colleges and its mission. At the urging of the Va. Chamber of Commerce I have created the Tourism Caucus as tourism promotion is a critical link to industrial development. Also this year the GA increased the state's tourism fund by \$2.5 million for the first time in recent memory. At the urging of the local chambers of commerce I sponsored a study looking at establishing a regional tourism organization. The NRV chambers are holding an organizational meeting in the next couple of weeks to begin that discussion. Another critical issue affecting the region and state's workforce is substance abuse. I sponsored a workforce survey in the region and 75% of the respondents complained of applicant's inability to pass a drug test. Mandatory drug testing is increasingly common for industry today. In talking with officials from the Health Department, common estimates indicate that anywhere from 20% to 30% of the adult population has a substance abuse problem. Because of my leadership the Department of Substance Abuse came to me last year and asked that I sponsor legislation to look at the problem of prescription drug abuse. That study is now ongoing and I am serving on two study committees looking at problems and costs of substance

abuse and we are identifying resources to begin the process of helping address this issue. In 2006 Pulaski County had the highest mortality rate in Virginia for prescription drug abuse deaths. The NRV as a whole also critical problem and statistics indicate the problem is moving eastward so no community is spared. I have long been recognized on both sides of the isle as a champion in the General Assembly for higher education. I have fought for additional resources at both the operational level and for the research mission. I have sponsored legislation to establish a more sustainable funding source for research. I have been a public spokesman for the two statewide bond campaigns in 1992 and in 2002 and the bond package in 2008 and 2009. Through my work I am helping to establish a nanotechnology park in Pulaski County that will work with Virginia Tech. This year I helped sponsor and shepherd legislation establishing tax credits to support the biomedical industry. The Roanoke and NRV has the opportunity to be center for a major biomedical industry cluster. I am sponsoring legislation in January to help moving the planning along for this important new industry segment. I have also been an advocate for the Return to Roots program that is reaching out to Southwest Virginia residents who have moved away and encourage them to return home.

What would you do to help adopt a non-partisan approach to redistricting? While I do not serve on the Privilege and Elections Committee, I would support legislation that approximates the Iowa model. Such legislation would have to offer a balanced approach that would include equal representation between the two major parties and those without any party affiliation or record and would have to mandate a process whereby information regarding existing office holders would be excluded. And such legislation would be fully in keeping with the spirit and letter of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its reauthorizations.

What should be done to solve our transportation problems in Virginia? First I believe that it is critical to do an outside audit of the Virginia Department of Transportation. The agency's cost accounting system is way off track and too many projects have to be reengineered after completion costing taxpayers millions of dollars. The bond package as part of the 2007 transportation bill is still alive and the General Assembly should be able to move forward on issuing bonds for transportation.

Peggy H. Frank (D)

Biographical Statement: Peggy Frank has served the people of the New River Valley for over 18 years as a prosecutor in both Montgomery and Pulaski Counties, where she currently works. Her deep commitment to service is reflected in her roles as a prosecutor, mother, and Scout leader. A Virginia native, Peggy Frank worked her way through college as a single-mother, earning a degree in Business Administration from East Carolina University and a law degree from Campbell University School of Law. As a prosecutor, Peggy Frank has obtained convictions in murder, sexual assault, domestic violence, drug, burglary, theft, and juvenile cases. In the case *Martinez Maynard Price v. Commonwealth* she became the first prosecutor in Virginia to secure a murder conviction using evidence of the battered child syndrome, setting a precedent for other prosecutors to follow. In addition to her work as a prosecutor, Peggy Frank served 13 years as a Girl Scout Leader. Other community activities have included serving as an Assistant Cub Scoutmaster, Kindergarten soccer coach, and volunteering at the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Peggy Frank is a member of the Montgomery County, Radford, and Pulaski County Chambers of Commerce. She is a

former Secretary of the Montgomery-Radford Bar Association, a member of the Montgomery-Radford and Pulaski Bar Associations, and previously served on the New River Community Sentencing Board. Peggy Frank and her family have lived in the New River Valley for over 23 years. Her husband, Marshall, is President of the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad. They have three children, their oldest son is a Deputy Sheriff, their youngest son attends Virginia Tech, and their daughter attends Radford University.

What do you see as the single most pressing issue facing Virginia and the residents of Montgomery County, the Town of Blacksburg, the Town of Christiansburg, and the City of Radford, and what, specifically would you do to address or solve this issue? Creating jobs and rebuilding our economy is the most important issue facing the New River Valley. Our area has suffered through over 1,000 announced layoffs since January of this year and the unemployment rate in the region is approaching 9%. As a prosecutor I have fought hard to protect New River Valley families, as your Delegate I will fight equally as hard in Richmond to create and protect our jobs. My jobs plan starts with creating more partnerships between our colleges and local businesses. We also need to expand incentive programs, such as the Governor's Opportunity Fund, which allow our region to compete against Northern Virginia and other states for new jobs. Additionally, we need to ensure that we have the infrastructure and technology, such as broadband Internet access, to successfully attract new, high paying jobs.

What would you do to help adopt a non-partisan approach to redistricting? Virginia needs redistricting reform, the current partisan process does nothing except protect incumbents and strengthen the majority party in the legislature. I am open to both nonpartisan and bipartisan approaches to redistricting. To earn my support, a redistricting plan must remove the process from the hands of the General Assembly and utilize a citizen commission to draw new district lines. Additionally, the commission should be prohibited from using historical voting results or the addresses of current and potential candidates as factors in drawing district lines. Districts should be drawn to maximize geographic compactness, and whenever possible should avoid splitting towns, cities, counties, and communities of interest. A plan meeting these criteria has passed the Senate of Virginia but was defeated in the House of Delegates.

What should be done to solve our transportation problems in Virginia? Our Commonwealth is in the midst of a transportation crisis which affects all corners of the state, whether it is congestion in Northern Virginia, excessive truck traffic on I-81, or maintenance problems right here in the New River Valley. Our first priority has to be making sure that we use current funds for transportation wisely; maintaining our existing infrastructure has to take precedence over building new projects. Right now we must focus on creating jobs and getting our economy back on track, which will then increase the available sources of funding to further address our transportation crisis.

Virginia House of Delegates, District 012

James M. Shuler (D)

Biographical Statement: Jim has served the northern portion of Montgomery County in the General Assembly since 1993. His

diverse district also includes the eastern portion of Giles County, all of Criag, Allegheny, and Bath Counties, including the City of Covington. His is a native Virginian, a graduate of Virginia Tech, and received his doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Georgia in 1970, graduating cum laude. Jim and his wife Margaret settled in the New River Valley in 1974 where he founded Companion Animal Clinic and he remained owner until his retirement from practice in 1999. While a veterinarian, Jim had numerous civic leadership roles both locally and statewide and has continued his effective advocacy for the NRV since his retirement. He has served as a member of the Blacksburg Town Council, the Virginia State of Board Health, Presiden of the Kiwanis Club, chairman of the Blacksburg Baptist Church Board of Deacons, and is a past board member of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley. Currently, he is vice-chair of a local bank and holding company. Shuler's Legislative Agenda has included equitable, sustainable, quality transportation funding, non-partisan redistricting, verifiable voting systems, support for Mental Health Services, increased funding for law enforcement, increased funding for teachers, including k-12, community colleges, Radford University, and Virginia Tech. Jim Shuler will continue building bridges with other legislators and effectively address individual constituent needs while ensuring positive progress for all Virginians through his work in the General Assembly.

What do you see as the single most pressing issue facing Virginia and the residents of Montgomery County, the Town of Blacksburg, the Town of Christiansburg, and the City of Radford, and what, specifically would you do to address or solve this issue? The biggest issue is funding, or lack of, for education. Throughout my sixteen years in the General Assembly, I have strongly and successfully advocated for funding support for our universities, including Virginia Tech and Radford University, the two major economic engines in the New River Valley. Educational funding reductions negatively impact both the local and statewide economy limiting the educational scope in the creation of jobs, service, and research. I have, and will continue, to strongly oppose robbing the general fund, which is the primary state support for education, for other state responsibilities such as transportation, the second largest pressing issue. The effects of the recession have, and will continue for at least another year, severely reduced state revenue support for education. I have supported the use of Federal Stimulus Funds which will alleviate some reductions through 2010, at which time hopefully the economy will be rebounding. I support the Governor's 2010 budget proposal not to reduce state aid for k-12 education that would further negatively impact local funding support.

What would you do to help adopt a non-partisan approach to redistricting? For three years, I sponsored legislation to create a non-partisan approach to redistricting. Recently, bills sponsored by Sen. Deeds have passed the Senate of Virginia with broad bipartisan support. However, historically the ruling majority in the House of Delegates has given scant consideration to these bills, either killing them in sub- or full committee, never allowing such bills to come to the floor for a full vote of the House of Delegates. I will continue to be an advocate of non-partisan redistricting; however, passage of such likely will not occur until the ruling majority encompasses such bills and votes for their support.

What should be done to solve our transportation problems in Virginia? The Commonwealth Transportation Trust Fund is a wholly separate budget whose operating funds for construction and maintenance are derived from fees and taxes associated with the purchase, licensing, operation, including fuel, of all motor

vehicles. By law highway maintenance takes precedence over construction. The trust fund is rapidly being depleted and major needed construction projects have either been deferred or canceled as funds have been shifted to maintenance. To solve this major problem I believe that it should be funded by those who use the highways, ports, and mass transit through user fees, the original intent of the Transportation Trust Fund. I will continue to strongly oppose robbing the General Fund which is the primary source for Education, Health, and Public Safety.

Paul M. Cornett (I)

Mr. Cornett provided no information for the Voter's Guide.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors

Annette S. Perkins (District A)

Gary D. Creed (District C)

James D Politis (District D)

The League of Women Voters submitted three questions to each of the candidates for the Board of Supervisors but received no responses. All three candidates are incumbants and are running unopposed.

Montgomery County School Board (District A)

Phyllis T. Albritton

Biographical Statement: Born: Binghamton NY; Lived in Boston MA, Charlottesville VA, Evanston IL, Louisville KY, New York NY, St. Louis MO, Vienna, Austria, Washington DC. 1962 established programs for low-income children: Churchwomen's Preschool Experience in Charlottesville VA when VA had not public kindergartens; after-school tutorials in MO and Charlottesville; summer program in MO. Helped found Boys and Girls Clubs of NRV and Valley Interfaith Child Care Center. Positions: Local president; VP for programs; District Director (Carroll, Floyd, Galax, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Patrick, Radford); SW Regional VP, VA Congress of PTA's. : MCPS At Risk Task Force, member of Pre-School Subcommittee. VP: League of Women Voter Charlottesville/Albemarle. Currently: Financial Advisor, Wells Fargo Advisors. Married to Clark Webb; Have two children, a step-daughter, foster son, and three grandchildren. being with family and friends, dancing, playing the piano, reading, swimming, walking in the woods. , Northwestern University, Evanston IL; Advanced Secretarial Degree from Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School, Boston MA. : Central America, Europe, Middle East, Nigeria, USSR since 1954.

What do you see as the single most pressing issue facing the Montgomery County Public Schools, and what, specifically would you do to address or solve this issue? Finances is our biggest issue. With the lack of moneys from the state; with no certainty of continuous stimulus money; with Montgomery County being able to tax only real estate, I believe we must build our

school system's Montgomery County Educational Foundation to start raising moneys for programs that need funding.

Montgomery County has a large number of school buildings which are currently or will soon be no longer in use, are under utilized, or have been decommissioned. What should be done with the school structures that are either no longer in use, are slated to be closed in the near future, or that have been decommissioned? Montgomery County has a large number of school buildings which are currently or will soon be no longer in use, are under utilized, or have been decommissioned. What should be done with the school structures that are either no longer in use, are slated to be closed in the near future, or that have been decommissioned? Old Blacksburg Middle School: As soon as a contract is signed for the new Prices Fork Elementary School, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, who owns the area, will determine what to do with the facility. Old Shawsville Middle School: This school is owned by the school system, which has plans to raze the building and use the grounds as an extension of the adjacent school. Cost to tear down the building is not cheap.

What should be the School Board's priorities in terms of capital projects? Currently priorities are Eastern Montgomery Primary/Elementary School and Prices Fork Elementary School. I believe our future needs are Auburn Middle School and Blacksburg High School.

George R. Stills

Biographical Statement: I am a native of Pittsylvania County, Virginia. I also have family ties to Montgomery county, particularly Blacksburg and Virginia Tech. My grandmother is a Blacksburg native and my grandfather is a Civil Engineering Alumni. I have always considered this an extended home and I am excited to now be living here am a 1999 Tunstall High School Graduate. I attended Campbell University in North Carolina for my undergraduate and master's degree. I hold dual undergraduate degrees in French Education and Religious Studies. My Master's degree is a Master of Arts Degree in Christian Education. During this same time I worked for Campbell University as the Director for Community Living and Standards. It was while at Campbell that I developed my passion for education. leaving Campbell University in 2006, I attended Virginia Commonwealth University. I have 30 hours of coursework in Social Work and interned at the Richmond Department of Social Work. It was at VCU, that I realized I wanted to have a larger impact than direct practice. In 2007, I transferred to Virginia Tech to pursue a more research oriented degree. I am currently a PhD student in the Sociology Department. My research interests are: Work, Gender, Inequality, and Family. It is my hope to teach at a university while remaining politically active. I really strive to make an impact in my community. past two years, I have taught at Blacksburg High School in the Foreign Language Department. This experience has shown me the importance of including front line educators and families in the decision making process. Having served three years as a staff member at Campbell and being involved in the planning process, I realize the importance of making sure those we are serving have all they need to be successful. This is why I decided to run for school board. I am looking to help impact the decision making process and make sure we truly represent those that elect us.

What do you see as the single most pressing issue facing the Montgomery County Public Schools, and what, specifically would you do to address or solve this issue? I see better fiscal responsibilities as our most pressing issues facing the county. I

would like to see schools and the school system better use funds. As a teacher, I have seen a lot of wasteful spending. I would like for there to be more accountability for how money was spent and also how facilities are used. There are a few buildings that are not being maximized or even used at all, particularly the old middle school, but still county funds are being expended by the school system and county.

Montgomery County has a large number of school buildings which are currently or will soon be no longer in use, are under utilized, or have been decommissioned. What should be done with the school structures that are either no longer in use, are slated to be closed in the near future, or that have been decommissioned? First, I think better forward planning on the part of the county and school system is really important. Blacksburg Middle School is a prime example. Discussions about the future of that building should have been occurring prior to decommissioning it and letting the building deteriorate for more than ten years before the building has been turned over to the Town of Blacksburg and Montgomery County Administrators to decide the future of this building. also think that in a time of limited resources and maximizing the use of facilities is extremely important. Price's Fork Elementary is the next building slated to be built. I think finding ways of adding on to this building or a plan for the building once it is decommissioned is important before anything is done with the land purchased for this project. High School is also slated to be either remodeled or moved to another site. I know that additional land has been purchased near the new Blacksburg Middle School potentially for this building. However, I feel that maintaining the current site and building on would be a better use of funds. The facility still is in good shape. Having worked there for two years, I see the need for additional classroom and common space but I think these can be addressed at the current site and eliminate the need for a new building and keep this school in the community it serves.

What should be the School Board's priorities in terms of capital projects? I feel that I have explained most of this in the previous answer but I think dealing with school overcrowding is a major priority. Price's Fork Elementary, Blacksburg High School, and Auburn High School all are over capacity. These should be the first priority for the School Board. In a time of budget cuts and fiscal shortfalls, I feel that renovating as much as possible and maximizing the current space should be the first priority. These buildings need attention immediately and I think that we must be creative in finding ways of addressing these problems without making the quick choice, which leaves the county with more facilities that are not in use or underused.

Montgomery County School Board (District C)

Drema Foster (write-in)

Biographical Statement: I am a 39 year old lifelong resident of Montgomery County. I grew up in Ironto and attended Shawsville Elementary, Middle and High Schools where I graduated at the age of 16 in 1986. I started working at Virginia Tech in April of 1986 and have been there since. I am currently employed as the Hotel Controller at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center. When my husband, Tim, and I were married in 1990, I

moved to the Alleghany Springs section of Shawsville and have lived there since. We have one son, J.T., who is six years old and a first grader at Shawsville Elementary school. We have several nieces and nephews who attend four different schools in the county. I am very excited about the opportunity to represent the residents of District C.

What do you see as the single most pressing issue facing the Montgomery County Public Schools, and what, specifically would you do to address or solve this issue? The single most pressing issue in my opinion is the current economic conditions. With my experience in budget and financial planning I feel I would be able to provide valuable input in this area. It's hard to tackle important issues such as overcrowded classrooms and teacher to student ratios without the funding to address these issues.

Montgomery County has a large number of school buildings which are currently or will soon be no longer in use, are under utilized, or have been decommissioned. What should be done with the school structures that are either no longer in use, are slated to be closed in the near future, or that have been decommissioned? With the current economic conditions, I realize some of these options are not feasible; however, I would like to see some of the vacant facilities turned in to "specialty" schools such as college prep or vocational education. There is also a great need for practice gyms and ball fields in the county. With the growing rate of childhood obesity, keeping children physically active should be a priority. The consistent complaint I hear from parents and students across the county is MCPS focuses on the special needs and gifted students and those who fall outside those two categories are left behind. Having facilities such as vocational education or college prep where every student could get the attention they deserve would give each student a better opportunity to succeed.

What should be the School Board's priorities in terms of capital projects? In my opinion we need to look at Auburn Middle and High schools. These schools are old and overcrowded.

Montgomery County School Board (District D)

Jamie M. Bond

Biographical Statement: My name is Jamie Bond, I am a native of Christiansburg. I Graduated from Christiansburg High School in the career and Technical field of Cosmetology, in which I have practiced for 25 years. I am the owner operator of a business for 14 years here in Christiansburg. I have been married for 23 years to a lifelong resident. We have 3 wonderful children, 2 boys 19 and 15, and one girl 9. All 3 of our children have been very involved with extra curricular activities. My sons have also enjoyed the experience of our present career and Technical programs at Christiansburg High School. I presently hold the School Board seat for District D which include Christiansburg and Auburn Schools and am running again to be able to continue positive support for our Parents, Students, Teachers and all the Faculty that makes our School Systems a success for Students.

What do you see as the single most pressing issue facing the Montgomery County Public Schools, and what, specifically would you do to address or solve this issue? We have many

classes that teach students life skills for living in today's society. Many of these skills are taught in our elective classes. An example of a class of this nature would be one that teaches applying for a job, dressing for a successful interview, and completing the resume. This class may also stress the importance of strong work ethic and the importance of maintaining a time schedule. Our students also need to learn basic knowledge of finance such as apply for a loan, interest rates and develop a household budget. I would like this type class required for a standard diploma and would support action to move in this direction.

Montgomery County has a large number of school buildings which are currently or will soon be no longer in use, are under utilized, or have been decommissioned. What should be done with the school structures that are either no longer in use, are slated to be closed in the near future, or that have been decommissioned? Montgomery County Schools have been very successful in utilizing buildings for Rivendell, Phoenix and Independence Secondary. Montgomery County Public Schools should work closely with our Board of Supervisors as well as our citizens to develop comprehensive plans so that identified need within our county may be addressed in a financially responsible manner.

What should be the School Board's priorities in terms of capital projects? We are growing as a county and our some of our schools are experiencing overcrowding. Currently, the Shawsville-Elliston School is underway and hopefully we will be moving forward with a new Prices Fork Elementary. Next, plans are being developed to address the needs of the Auburn Community. I strongly support our efforts to continue moving forward with the goals articulated in our Facility Use and Space Study and update the goals and document as demographics and identified needs change within our county.

Leonard H. "Lenny" Sessions

Biographical Statement: I am proud to be "an ARMY Brat" born in Wurzburg, Germany. My family returned to the United States in 1958 and moved to Ft. Myer, VA in January 1960. We lived on the military base at Ft. Myer until my father was ordered to Vietnam in 1964. Following his safe return in 1965, my parents moved to the home where they currently reside in Arlington, VA. In 1972 I graduated from Wakefield High School in Arlington, VA. That fall I began my Bachelor's program at VA Tech in the College of Education as an Industrial Arts Education major. During the same year, the former Marilyn Morgan began her Bachelor's program at VA Tech in the College of Arts and Sciences as a Political Science major. We began dating our junior year at VA Tech, and were subsequently married on January 1, 1977. Marilyn and I are proud parents of two grown sons, Bryan and Brandon. My wife and I started our careers as professional educators over thirty years ago. I began teaching Industrial Arts at Cave Spring High School in 1978. Five years later, I transferred to Glenvar High School where I continued teaching Industrial Arts for an additional eight years. In 1988 I completed a Master's Degree program at VA Tech in Vocational Education with a minor in Secondary Administration. In addition, I am "All But Defended" for a Doctorate at VA Tech in Educational Leadership. In 1991 I became the Assistant Principal at Blacksburg Middle School. After five years at BMS, I accepted a two-year grant funded position at the Montgomery County School Board Office for Truancy and Dropout Prevention/Retrieval for grades six through twelve. In 1998 I returned to Christiansburg Middle School as an Assistant Principal. One year later I opened Auburn Middle School as

Principal where I remained for seven years. I am currently a Communications Officer with the VA Tech Police Department. Activities and Hobbies The morning wake-up DJ at WUVT-AM radio station at VA Tech from 1972 through 1975. VHSL Basketball Official for ten years. Life-long Woodworker. Avid Gardener/Landscaper . Stained Glass Artist. Collecting Antique Tools and Pocket Knives.

What do you see as the single most pressing issue facing the Montgomery County Public Schools, and what, specifically would you do to address or solve this issue? In my opinion, the most pressing issue facing MCPS is protecting jobs in light of increasing fiscal uncertainty. In anticipation of minimal, if any, increase in local revenue, the absence of federal stimulus incentives, and a significant decrease in state funds for education, the School Board should provide leadership in the following points of emphasis: 1. The School Board must look at pupil-teacher ratios at every school throughout the division to ensure fair and equitable teaching assignments and utilization of other human resources. 2. The School Board must reduce our energy consumption in both facilities and transportation. 3. Every new construction or renovation project must incorporate some form of "Green Technology" in order to moderate our existing operational costs and reduce our "environmental footprint". 4. The School Board must continue to support co-curricular and extra-curricular activities while considering how to make them more self-sustaining. 5. Finally, all new School Board initiatives will have to be grant funded.

Montgomery County has a large number of school buildings which are currently or will soon be no longer in use, are under utilized, or have been decommissioned. What should be done with the school structures that are either no longer in use, are slated to be closed in the near future, or that have been decommissioned? The old Price's Fork Elementary building can be converted to a community center and museum dedicated to capturing and commemorating the coal-mining communities of

McCoy and Wake Forest while providing additional recreational real estate for Parks and Recreation. The completion of the renovation and construction project in the Auburn community will more than likely not include the existing Auburn Middle School building. Riner is the lone remaining community without a public library and community center. I believe a cooperative effort between the School Board and the Board of Supervisors to convert the existing Auburn Middle School building into a public library and community center will have similar results to that of the Meadowbrook conversion project in Shawsville. The existing Shawsville Elementary building should be sold to the Cardinal Police Academy as a training facility. The Academy initially requested the use of the old Shawsville Middle School facility for the same purpose. I believe the old Shawsville Elementary building is more suitable to this type activity while providing easy access off Route 460. The unanticipated surge in new home construction throughout Christiansburg will force the School Board to re-evaluate its attendance lines within the near future. Utilization of vacated and decommissioned buildings in Christiansburg cannot be determined until this question is resolved.

What should be the School Board's priorities in terms of capital projects? 1. Completion of the new Elliston and Price's Fork Elementary Schools. 2. Construction and renovation project of Auburn High School and Auburn Middle School. 3. Renovation of an existing facility for an Achievement Center for the Arts and Applied Technologies.

Christiansburg Referendum

The Christiansburg Referendum concerns the timing of local elections in Christiansburg. Specifically, the question on the ballot asks whether Christiansburg residents would like to move the mayor/town council election to November in order to encourage more participation and reduce costs (Vote Yes) or maintain the current policy of holding all local elections in May (Vote No).

For More Information on the Election,
including:

online videos of the four candidate forums,
additional information on the candidates and
on the election, and other voter information,
go to the League of Women Voters® of
Montgomery County Website:

www.lwvmcva.org