



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

BULLETIN

Volume 42, Issue 4
October 25, 2013

P.O. Box 10133, Blacksburg, VA 24062-0133
<http://www.lwvmcva.org>



Blacksburg Town Council



Christiansburg Town Council



House of Delegates - 7th and 12th districts



County Supervisors - School Board

Share information:

The League's mission is to encourage informed and active participation in government. In addition to sponsoring public forums of candidates (co-sponsoring with other community organizations) we try to use many communication channels to make the information available.

Voter Guides

Available in the libraries and other public gathering places as well as printed and mailed to members and friends in the Bulletin (Board of Supervisors, School Board and House of Delegates in this issue; Blacksburg and Christiansburg Town Councils in previous issue.)

On the website - <http://www.lwvmcva.org>

Forums

YouTube videos are on the website to be viewed anytime and are broadcast by community channels.

Blacksburg Town Council Candidates Forum

On WTOB, Blacksburg Comcast Channel 2:
Tuesday 10am,
Friday 1 pm
Sun 4 pm

Christiansburg Town Council Candidates Forum

On Shentel and Comcast channels 190
Every day at 7 pm

House of Delegates Candidates Forum

On WTOB, Blacksburg Comcast Channel 2
Monday 3pm
Tuesday 12:30 pm
Sunday 5:30 pm
And on Shentel and Comcast channels 190
Everyday 3 pm

Vote411.org, a United States League of Women Voters website, offers State level candidate information (see previous Bulletin and our website).

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

Contact the League

President
Judy Snoke
552-5273
judy_snoke@comcast.net

1st V-P: (program chair)
Amy Mauldon
951-1534
amauldon@gmail.com

2nd V-P: (voter service chair)
Mary Houska
552-2717
mfdh@aol.com

Treas: June Schmidt
552-1590
schmidtj@vt.edu

Sec: Julia Lewis
961-2655
cisco@warmhearthva.org

Directors: (elected)
Bobby Littlefield (*action*)
951-1418
bobbilittle65@gmail.com

David Scheim (*publicity*)
320-8013
dscheim@comcast.net

Bev Fleming
951-1527
bev_fleming@hotmail.com

Directors: (appointed)
Darlene Allen
(*Facts for Voters editor*)
552-0279
dfallen01@gmail.com

Mary Ann H. Johnson (*Bulletin editor, Facebook*)
552-0133
jnayram@vt.edu

Alison Wilson (*membership*)
557-1253
alisonhwilson@verizon.net

Finance from Harriett Cooper Contributions always appreciated.

Member
Wayne Worner
Non-member
Jay Price

President's Message from Judy Snoke

Forums Successful - watch them on website; Some candidates didn't participate

The League will have managed four successful candidate forums by the time you read this bulletin. Our co-sponsoring organizations – Montgomery County, Radford City, Floyd County branch of the NAACP, the NRV Chapter Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, and the News Messenger – played active roles in promoting and staffing the events.

There was a concern when, after agreeing to participate, one candidate for District C, county board of supervisors informed us he would not participate. National League policy is that if a candidate does not participate, the opposing candidate cannot participate. After conferring with some state-level League leaders, the opposing candidate was allowed to participate. Another board of supervisors candidate did not participate because of emergency health issues; a school board candidate did not come to the forum.

In the local forums, we heard citizens asking the candidates about similar issues:

- What is the future of my town and my neighborhood?
- Will development be sustainable or will over building damage the quality of life?
- What about infrastructure like storm water control and sidewalks?
- Do we have enough financial resources to manage our debts?
- Can we work together?
- Can we provide for the least among us?

The questions posed at the House of Delegates forum were clear and direct, as were the answers. They covered a wide range of issues. Political controversy in Richmond this year has centered on such issues as the Affordable Care Act, transportation, and the social safety net. Political conflicts in Virginia over gerrymandering, voter ID Laws, women's issues, and ethics have been matters of deep concern to League members statewide and in Montgomery County. The House of Delegates forum covered most of these issues and illuminated the differences between the candidates.

All of the forums are available on the lwvmcva.org website for viewing on line. The schedules for the community cable broadcasts are on the first page of this bulletin. Be aware that there may be some "glitches" causing repetitions – these "glitches" are easily overcome by sliding the dot along the time line at the bottom of your screen. At the time of this writing more than 200 viewings of these YouTube videos.

This message would not be complete without thanks to Mary Houska and her committee and especially Bev Fleming, and Alvin Humes, Charles Warren, Beth Obenshain, and Dempsey Worner for moderating with skill, patience, and firmness.

Action from Bobbie Littlefield

Your Action Committee has been busy collecting information and setting up committees to focus our legislative efforts for the rest of this year and 2014. Six committees have been created and need members to assist in setting agendas, connecting with community collaborators, targeting legislators and communicating with the public.

Health Care – ACA, Medicaid Expansion in Virginia, Medicare & Medicaid, Quality of Care

Education – Funding issues, K-12, community college and university, early childhood education

Environment – Storm water control, climate change (?)

Agriculture – Land use, genetically engineered crops

Planned Growth – County and/or New River Valley process

Women's Right To Choose – a State LWV priority

Please pick an issue you would like to work on and contact Alison Galway at agalway@vt.edu to sign up. Committee work could involve research, education to community groups, providing state and national LWV Positions to legislators, writing letters to newspapers and responding to Action Alerts from state and national LWV offices about specific bills or committee actions. Each committee will have a Team Point of Contact to coordinate efforts and maintain communications.

Voter Guides

Candidates for the Montgomery County School Board:

District A:



Gunin Kiran

Mrs. Kiran has no opposition.

District D



Jamie Bond *



Thomas "Tom" Zuckerwar

Please note: The School Board seat from District C will also be vacant. No candidate officially is running for this seat. However, several citizens from District C have indicated they will be write-in candidates. The League only solicits Voter Guide responses from official candidates.

Biographies:

District A:

Gunin Kiran - I have been a Montgomery County resident since 2000. I have three grown children (all MCPS graduates). My formal educational background is in science and engineering with advanced degrees in chemical engineering. I am the past PTA President of HAE, BMS and BHS. I have served on many school search committees for school principals, assistant principals and band directors. I am a public school volunteer for 20 years (both in the State of Maine and the Commonwealth of Virginia). I am a Board Member of Montgomery County Educational Foundation. I have been working as substitute teacher for MCPS since 2007.

District D:

Jamie Bond - A Lifelong resident of Montgomery County. Graduate of Christiansburg High School obtaining a license in Cosmetology, which I have practiced for almost 30 years, 20 of those years being a business owner of a Barber/Hair Salon. My husband Wendell of 27 years also a graduate of Christiansburg High and lifelong resident, have 3 children. Wes 23, Winston 19 and Abbie 13. Wes and Winston were also Graduates of Christiansburg High continuing their education locally, and Abbie is presently a student at Christiansburg Middle School. We also have 2 Grandchildren Mason and Cassidy.

Thomas "Tom" Zuckerwar - "Zuckerwar" may not be a "local name," but my children were born here (and go to school here), my wife grew up here, and the New River Valley has been my home for more than twenty years. I will use my work experience in strategic development, product management, and manufacturing operations to focus on long-term planning, financial efficiencies, and using innovation and technology to drive continuous improvement and quality. I oppose Pay to Play, oppose school closings and consolidations, and will work to champion better board governance through data-driven decisions, key insight initiatives, and improved communications. I graduated from Virginia Tech and Radford University.

School Board candidates were asked to respond to the following question: What is your vision for the public schools of Montgomery County by 2020? Assuming that the County continues to grow in economic activity and population as it has done recently, consider the direction you would want to guide the public schools so that the County as a whole as well as the lives of its public school students are enhanced.

District A

Gunin Kiran - My vision for the public schools of Montgomery County by 2020 includes a plan for:

- **Education before school** - We know that children need a level of readiness for school in order to be successful when they are in school.
- **Equitable education** - Every child has the right to a great public education.
- **Community ownership in education** - Parents and community members should be fully engaged in education of the children with the understanding that the investment made in children is an investment made to the future of all stakeholders.
- **Technology integrated education** - Students should not only have an access to technology but also a full understanding of its applications.
- **Fine Arts integrated education** - Fine Arts should be sustained to raise well rounded future generations.
- **Language exposure in elementary education** - Elementary school age is the right time to expose the young minds to a second language.
- **Comprehensive education with high expectations** - All students should raise up to their full potential in a curriculum that encourages critical thinking and problem solving and is not being restricted by test taking.
- **All schools housing highly qualified well compensated teachers**- All the educators should have the resources and skills to educate the future generation and should have the best working conditions to feel cared and valued.

District D:

Jamie Bond - As a member of the Montgomery county School Board for almost 8 years I've seen many changes in our Schools and Buildings. Montgomery County has so many positive programs to help our students be successful. I am a supporter in all forms of education, for one style does not fit all. Some are College Bound and some will choose a Career and Technical Education path for their lives. The direction for our Student achievement is of utmost importance to me. My vision in making Students be more engaged, wanting to go to school I believe is imperative in learning. Extracurricular activities, Music and the Arts help students have a feeling of involvement as well, working along with classroom education will help with ensuring that all of our students graduate. We as a community have many new beautiful Schools that we are proud of. While not forgetting the schools that are still crowded and aging, I as a Board member want to see Addressed as soon as possible.

Thomas "Tom" Zuckerwar - My vision for MCPS is to be an innovative, effective, and efficient, high-performing school system in academics, athletics, and the arts by leading with the following:

A Better Formula For Governance

I will engage every policy vote through an evidence-based decision making approach. In short, evidence-based decision making is a logical and rational examination of actual data to fully understand problems and outcomes. It supports making well informed decisions about policies, programs and projects by putting the best available evidence at the forefront of policy development and implementation. I will promote evidence-based decision making to:

- ensure that Board decisions are addressing the strategic issues of MCPS, which in turn, can lead to better outcomes for students and staff in the long term;
- enable information sharing amongst the public;
- better allocate limited resources;
- improve performance.

Continuous Improvement

In today's environment of limited resources, and in the challenges to improve student performance in academic, athletics, and the arts, standardizing "what works" across the county can help us be both more efficient and more effective while

creating greater consistency in ensuring Montgomery County Public Schools is better operating as a unified school system. I will promote standardizing “what works” to:

- Promote consistent “ways of doing things”;
- Develop a more integrated and coherent MCPS across all strands;
- Encourage “year over year” improvements as part of a long term strategy of excellence.

Technology

As technology becomes more and more integrated into businesses of all sizes and industries of all types, the use and understanding of technology is becoming as essential as “reading, writing, and arithmetic.” As part of a long term vision, students should not just have exposure to technology, but a greater understanding of its integration and application. I will promote a technology vision to:

- Ensure technological resources are available, functional, and “tech-friendly”;
- Foster the use of “Bring Your Own Device” opportunities;
- Drive the greater use of technology already deployed in 21st Century Classrooms, including virtual learning opportunities;
- Use technology to replace outdated, expensive legacy systems where efficiency and cost-saving opportunities exist.

Art and Athletics

I fully support school sports and the arts as these opportunities better engage students in their entire learning experience and help build better, stronger student communities.

Candidates for the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors:

District C:



Gary Creed (R)*
*Incumbents**



Tacy Newell (D)

District D:



Michel 'Todd' King (R)

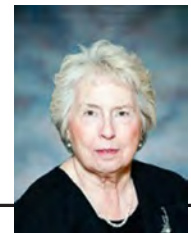


Michael Miller (D)



James Politis (I)*

Please note: Annette Perkins (D)* is the candidate for the Board of Supervisors from District A. She has no opposition. Mrs. Perkins did not respond to our Voter Guide questions.



Annette Perkins (D)*

Candidates for District C:

District C – Biographies:

Gary Creed: I am a life-long resident of Montgomery County. I graduated from Shawsville High School in 1964 and have lived in what is now Eastern Montgomery all my life. I have been a Real Estate agent and a certified Auctioneer. I was employed by Shelor Motor Mile for 34 years with numerous responsibilities. My wife, Linda, and I live in the Village of Shawsville and we attend White Memorial United Methodist Church where my daughter, Niki, and I sing in the choir. Both of my children, Tim and Niki, graduated from Shawsville High School. I am very concerned that tax money be spent responsibly.

Tacy Newell: Previously served District C on School Board (2000-2005), including two years each as Vice-

Chair and Chair. Campaigned for Christiansburg Town Council in 2006, subsequently appointed to town's Board of Zoning Appeals.. Completed Virginia Certified Planning Commissioner Program.

Relocating to Fincastle from Asheville in 1985, worked for Botetourt County (Social Services, Parks/Recreation, Public Works & Engineering) before becoming VP at First Union/Wachovia. Moved to Montgomery County in 1998, restored historic building in Downtown Christiansburg with husband Michael Foutz (BHS '70). Worked as Undergraduate Advisor for VT Geography Department. Established two small businesses, served on boards of Montgomery Museum, LWV, United Way.

Candidates for the Board of Supervisors were asked to respond to this question:

What is your vision for Montgomery County by 2020? Assuming that the County continues to grow in economic activity and population as it has done recently, consider the direction you would want to guide the County in supporting public schools and County services so that the County as a whole and the lives of its citizens are enhanced.

District C responses:

Gary Creed: As a life-long resident of Eastern Montgomery County, I feel that I know more about the needs of Montgomery County now than I did twelve years ago when I first took office. As most of you know, the School Board receives approximately 80% of the tax monies received by the county. I am in support of school students receiving the very best of everything that we can possibly set aside for them. That is why the School Board should be held responsible for the monies they receive. They should not ask for one thing and then spend the money for something else.

I am in support of the county Joinder study so that everyone can have good, clean water. I do not however, believe that the citizens who are purchasing water now should be made to furnish the dollars for all the infrastructure for the entire county. There is just something absolutely wrong with that. That said, I would like to see all of Montgomery County be treated the same whether we appropriate money for schools, water, sewage or any other sound proposition that comes before the board. Let's do it by treating everyone equal.

Tacy Newell: 2020 is only six budget cycles away. If we are to assume continued significant economic and population growth, then also presume federal and state funding remains as tenuous as its been during the past 5-10 years. We must assume that will cause additional pressure on limited local revenue sources as have increasing utility costs, changes to workers compensation/disability insurance programs or contributions required to properly fund the VRS. We also know we've hit a limit on current debt obligations.

Today we see many unmet needs: generating an adequate Capital Improvements budget to maintain existing public facilities and services or preparing for additional growth, inadequate juvenile detention and animal control facilities. These past and current funding constraints expanded largely because of flat or declining state funding of education.

We know education, K-12 through college, is a major economic engine for Montgomery County and regionally. Education is vital to the quality of life for today and tomorrow's citizens, as well as being a path to financial prosperity. We're past due in stopping our slide on the list of national standing in how Virginia funds education.

A well educated workforce is key to economic development. That is the path we must focus on: increasing financial diversity and stability. Recent business recruiting in neighboring Pulaski provides excellent examples of available opportunities.

Every locality and elected official in Montgomery County must work cohesively to bring forth effective economic opportunities, which then leads to higher wages, increased housing and property values, and small business investment. Superior working relationships, aligning precious resources and goals, is now vital. We're competing with the rest the world, we cannot not be in competition amongst ourselves.

We all arrived by different boats - to America and particularly Montgomery County. But we're all in the same boat now. We *must* row together.

Candidates for District D:

District D - Biographies:

“Todd” King I am 51 years old and have lived in District D for over 39 years, I have 2 sons Michel and Matt King.

I have worked at New River Nissan for 25 of the past 25 years. And I am also a member of the Riner Vol Fire Dept for 11 years and hold the positions of Engineer and also an EMT.

I have coached sandlot football and t-ball for many years. I was the chapter 1 reading president at Auburn elementary school. I have been involved in Montgomery school systems for many years where I volunteered for many years and where I also received my education.

Michael Miller I have lived in Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Montgomery County for more than 30 years. My two children attended Christiansburg schools, and my wife Leesa served in special education instruction in Christiansburg for ten years. I have worked in Montgomery County all my adult life. I consult for technology business companies across the US. I have served the County on many boards and commissions including the Economic Development Authority, the New River - Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee of the New River Planning District Commission.

James Politis My name is Jim Politis and I have been a resident of Riner since 1992. My wife Jan and I have three children, all graduates of Auburn High School. I have been a committed member of the Montgomery Board of Supervisors since 1998 and as Chair since 2011.

Jan and I have been in business since 1981. We began the Brush Creek Buffalo farm in 1993 and started the Brush Creek Buffalo store 1995. I served in the United States Air Force from 1966- 1970 and have been a member of Auburn United Methodist Church for the past 20 years.

What is your vision for Montgomery County by 2020? Assuming that the County continues to grow in economic activity and population as it has done recently, consider the direction you would want to guide the County in supporting public schools and County services so that the County as a whole and the lives of its citizens are enhanced.

District D responses:

“Todd” King – I would like to see the citizens of Montgomery county to be able to educate and raise a family, provide their children a college education and to graduate and move forth to well paying jobs.

We as a county need to bring in more industry, not only technical but industry jobs also. We need to start taking care of the citizens that make this county what it is and can be.

They live and work, raise families here and when the time comes to retire and relax most have to take a part time job just to pay taxes.

There are so many people in Montgomery county that struggle just to live here and they deserve better from us. To get grip on spending and taxing.

There are always places we can cut the budget and still have a thriving economy.

In just one department of the county, 1 in 3 workers live outside the county because of lower taxes, we as a county need to focus more on the citizens.

If we don't start taking care of the citizens when they get ready to retire they will take their experience and knowledge other places to live and that will hurt the county's economy and the county itself.

The people make the county's economy not just the buildings.

Michael Miller - Montgomery County has tremendous promise for regional leadership in a number of areas, but to fully realize our potential we need to shift to a more strategic mode of thinking. We have to make it happen, not hope it happens.

Bringing new businesses into the region is one key to providing funds for services without raising taxes. Nationwide, for each technology job created, 4.5 support jobs are also created. I would work to increase the role of the county in attracting new businesses and helping existing businesses expand.

Good schools are necessary to attract good jobs. Our population growth and aging schools require us to plan carefully and far into the future to address those needs while avoiding tragedies like the collapse of the BHS building. But schools are not just buildings. We need a focus on outcomes. I believe the County government and the School Board should focus on improving college entrance exam scores and in providing alternative education pathways for careers that do not require a 4-year degree.

Montgomery County should be the hub for regional tourism efforts. All points of interest from the Shenandoah Valley to Tennessee and from the ridges of West Virginia to Floyd and the Blue Ridge Parkway are within a 2-hour drive of Christiansburg. The County should take a more significant leadership role in the development and marketing of the region as a whole.

Working together is the only way to succeed. We need to understand that whatever is good for one group helps us all. In addition, we need to cooperate more with other counties, towns and cities in the region to enlarge our leadership footprint. Montgomery County should lead the way, and when we lead, the others will follow.

James Politis - First and foremost, the County's main responsibility is to provide public safety and education. Since my service on the board for the last 16 years I have supported both. Beyond that I have been and will continue to be a strong proponent of economic development and agriculture.

During my time on the board I have been successful in pursuing those goals. I like to look at other ways to get things done that will save money or create revenue without raising property taxes. Investing in economic opportunities is one way to do that.

My vision for 2020 is to have a strong economic base with opportunities for all levels and types of employment. We need to support our K-12, Community College, University as well as trades and technology areas. We have an excellent educational foundation; we need to continue on that path.

Education and infrastructure for our Christiansburg strand will be one of our next priorities. The Board has currently budgeted funds to address this need. The direction for these things will come from the School Board. We need to stay on task for increasing our recreational facilities such as ball parks and walking trails as well as community centers.

Tourism is part of our future. One import piece of that is Agra-tourism. This can be both beneficial to our community and business that rely on retail such as hotels and restaurants.

The Board has developed strong partnerships with Virginia Tech, the towns of Christiansburg and Blacksburg in areas of health, public safety and economic development. I will continue to support and foster these relationships.

- The new 911 Authority
- New River Valley Water Authority
- Montgomery Regional Tourism Office

7th and 12th Districts of the House of Delegates

7th District

12th District



Michael Abraham (D)



L. Nick Rush (R)*



Joseph Yost (R)*



James D. Harder (D)

*Incumbents **

Please note: The 8th House District candidate, Gregory Habeeb, has no opposition and he did not provide information for this Voter Guide.

Candidates for the 7th House of Delegates District:

Biographical information:

Michael Abraham – Address: 295 Industrial Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073

Phone: (540) 392-1119

Website: <http://www.AbrahamForDelegate.com>

Education: Diploma, Christiansburg High School; Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, VirginiaTech

Age: 59

Occupation: Industrial Property Manager; Author

Experience: Varied career in engineering, sales, marketing, management, industrial property management, and publishing

L. Nick Rush – Address: P.O. Box 1591 , Christiansburg, VA 24068

Phone: (540) 382-7731

Website: <http://www.electnickrush.com>

Education: Christiansburg High School

Age: 45

Occupation: Virginia Farm Bureau, Agent.

Experience: Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, Chairman. (1990-2002), U.S. Army (Paratrooper, 82nd Airborne Division, 1986-89), Community Christian Church, New River Economic Development Alliance, Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, Floyd County Chamber of Commerce.

Candidates Responses to the Following Questions:

What are your views on Virginia’s current financial and gift disclosure laws for its elected state officials and candidates; what changes, if any, would you support?

Michael Abraham - The current state of affairs is completely inadequate to prevent serious ethical problems. Bribery of our public officials is practically legal. This has to change. Limits need to be put in place on gifts and campaign contributions. I would propose a ban on all lobbyist gifts to elected officials and candidates for office. And, I propose a common-sense set of standards and limits on campaign contributions from people, corporations, and PACs.

L. Nick Rush – Little has changed since I was first elected in 1991. It’s very important that people have confidence in

their government. I would support legislation that mandated real time disclosure for members and immediate family members.

Would you support changing the distinctions between cities, counties, and towns to provide for more uniformity of their powers and responsibilities?

Michael Abraham - Virginia has a unique system of independent cities and semi-independent towns within counties, sharing some but not all services. Towns have broader tax authority than counties, an authority counties should benefit from as well. There is a trend for smaller cities to revert to town status, which they should be able to do. But changing the distinctions between cities, counties, and towns is not a pressing issue for local government officials nor is it a campaign issue for me.

L. Nick Rush - I would not support doing away with the Dillon Rule, which has provided a level playing field for Virginia businesses throughout the state. But I would support a diversification of county taxes. Having served as a 12-year member of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, I realize that local governments are too reliant upon property taxes for their revenue source.

How do you propose to address the healthcare needs of Virginia's uninsured citizens?

Michael Abraham - We must pass Medicaid Expansion in this state. Virginia currently pays more out to the Federal government than we receive back from them. If we don't vote to do this, benefits that would come to the state of Virginia will be sent to other states. This is an economic issue as well. Studies have shown that workers who have access to health care miss less days of work and have higher productivity than those who do not.

L. Nick Rush - Having talked with physicians, nurses and other health care providers in my district and with the Affordable Care Act on the horizon, I do not support a new health care program in Virginia. This would cause more complications for patients and providers. As the majority of the citizens receive their health care from their employers, I will work diligently to insure that Virginia's economy is and remains one of the best states in the country to do business in.

What is your legislative priority for the next General Assembly?

Michael Abraham - My first legislative priority is a program called Pay it Forward Virginia. Nation-wide, Americans are cumulatively over \$1 trillion in student loan debt. In the Pay it Forward system, students attend college tuition-free with a contract to pay back to the state after graduation a predetermined percentage of their income. Over time, the system is self-sustaining and produces a better, stronger, smarter, and more productive work force, benefiting the state, society, and the student.

L. Nick Rush - I will work to insure Virginia is a transparent, responsive and solvent government for my constituents. I will support legislation that will focus on veterans' issues, keep Virginia's unemployment rate the lowest in the Southeast and will work to keep the Southwest Virginia Training Center open. I will also work to improve Virginia's SOL testing regiment so that we measure progress in problem solving and critical thinking skills instead of rote memorization.

Candidates for the 12th House of Delegates District:

Biographical Information:

Joseph Yost – Candidate has not responded.

James D. Harder – Address: P. O. Box 494, Blacksburg, VA 24063

Phone (540) 212-4131

Website: <http://www.harderforthehouse.com>

Education : PhD Candidate Virginia Tech, MPA UNC Wilmington, BS UNC Wilmington, AA New River Community College

Age: 31

Occupation: PhD. Candidate

Experience: Legislative staffer for Congressman Rick Boucher.

Candidates Responses to the Following Questions:

What are your views on Virginia's current financial and gift disclosure laws for its elected state officials and candidates; what changes, if any, would you support?

Joseph Yost - Candidate has not responded.

James D. Harder - There needs to be much stricter gift and disclosure laws for elected officials in Virginia. I believe no elected official or immediate family member should be able to accept a gift from an individual donor over \$100. Also, registered lobbyist along with companies with registered lobbyist or companies with business before the state should not be able to give any gifts other than informational materials with a value of less than \$50.

Would you support changing the distinctions between cities, counties, and towns to provide for more uniformity of their powers and responsibilities?

Joseph Yost – Candidate has not responded.

James D. Harder - It is important to evaluate the benefits of creating uniformity in the power and responsibilities of local government entities. The performance of our Commonwealth's schools and local economies is directly linked to the quality of our local governments. We must empower them with the authority to achieve excellence in these activities. As a legislator I will remain open to any changes that would benefit our schools, local economies and the quality of governance at the local level.

How do you propose to address the healthcare needs of Virginia's uninsured citizens?

Joseph Yost - Candidate has not responded.

James D. Harder - Medicaid expansion is a great opportunity for increasing Virginians' access to health care. I believe it is imperative the Commonwealth implement the available Medicaid expansion in 2014. Not only does it provide a projected 400,000 new Virginians with coverage, but it also brings in more than \$2 billion in new money and could add 33,000 in new healthcare jobs. I will fight to ensure the underserved get the care they require and make implementing Medicaid expansion, without delay, a priority.

What is your legislative priority for the next General Assembly?

Joseph Yost – Candidate has not responded.

James D. Harder - My legislative priority will be stimulating the New River Valley's economy. This starts with promoting Virginia's education system, which provides citizens with employable skills and delivers programs like Virginia Tech's Corporate Research Center. I will work to make Virginia a national leader in efficiency and green-energy businesses. Lastly, I will support Virginia businesses by allowing them first crack at state contracts keeping jobs, and our state expenditures, in our local economies.

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS®
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Nov. 5

Calendar

Nov. 5, 11:45 a.m., First Tuesday Luncheon, Famous Anthony's Restaurant,
Dec. 4, 9:30 a.m.- noon, Women's Legislative Roundtable Pre-session Forum
May 15, 2014 Annual meeting, Warm Hearth

Bulletin Sponsors

Warm Hearth Village, Blacksburg's Retirement Destination - (540) 552-9176

Runabout Sports – A Great Place for Shoes (540) 552-9339

Education Programs & Services LLC – Wayne “Dempsey” Worner (540) 552-8807

Companion Animal Clinic, Inc., Blacksburg (540) 552-6800

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TODAY

Become a member of the League of Women Voters. The annual membership fee is \$50. This payment includes local, state, and national membership dues. Members receive The National Voter, The Virginia Voter, and The Montgomery County Bulletin. Email: Membership@lwvmcva.org. Or email Alison Wilson at alisonwilson@verizon.net