



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

**2018
Voter Guide**

This Voter Guide features answers provided by the candidates. The questions are from the national League of Women Voters. All statements are directly from the candidate, not edited by the League. They are on the national League of Women Voters information website: Vote411.org along with information all the states.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates or political parties.

Virginia Senator



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What policies and resources do you propose to ensure election integrity and security in the United States?

Kaine

The recent Omnibus bill that passed earlier this year included an additional \$307 million for the FBI's work to secure the 2018 U.S. midterm elections and fight against future Russian cyberattacks. The bill also provided \$380 million for the Election Assistance Commission to increase cybersecurity for state voting systems and protect elections against foreign interference.

We need to ensure that we are doing everything we can to protect our elections systems from cyberattacks. In addition, we need to ensure we are protecting all critical sensitive information from being hacked, such as: health, education, and banking infrastructure. States hold the majority of sensitive information. Virginia has been at the forefront of ensuring that we are taking all steps necessary to protect our infrastructure from any potential attack. I also strongly support states and localities taking the necessary steps to back up their elections with paper ballots.

What policies, e.g. tariffs, taxes, tax cuts, do you propose to promote economic security for all Americans?

We must invest in Virginians, value diversity, and grow the talented workforce that makes our economy thrive. I introduced bills to support families, by increasing tax credits to lift families out of poverty, and increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 over a 7-year period. We lost an opportunity to pass a tax reform bill that would put middle-class families and small businesses first. Instead, Republicans jammed through a bill that will raise taxes on millions of Americans. We must give more of the benefits to the middle class instead of big corporations. I introduced an amendment to this bill to provide long-term middle class tax relief and reduce the amount the bill adds to the deficit. Republicans blocked my amendment. I also have strong concerns with the President imposing tariffs on our major allies, resulting in steep tariffs being imposed on Virginia products. I have urged the President to reverse course and make it clear to our allies that we are honest brokers.

What is your position on using a citizenship question on the 2020 Census survey?

I am opposed to asking individuals whether or not they are citizens on the 2020 Census survey because it will result in fewer people being counted or participating in the process. The rhetoric coming from this administration is sending fear into communities of color and this could lead to a distortion of who is residing in the U.S.

Data collected by the Census is essential in bringing federal dollars and determining the political representation of our communities. The federal funds are distributed to state and

Stewart

I fully support voter ID laws, which serve to prevent various kinds of election fraud: impersonation fraud; registration under fictitious names; voting in more than one state; and non-citizen voting. States that have enacted this commonsense reform found no depressing effect on voter turnout.

President Trump's tax cuts have already done much to promote economic security for all Americans – with black, Hispanic, Asian and youth unemployment now at all-time lows. I would vote to make these tax cuts permanent. I additionally support President Trump's efforts to renegotiate unfair trade agreements with other nations, in the best interests of American workers.

I support reinstating the citizenship question on the 2020 Census survey. Electoral seats should be determined according to the population of actual citizens, not total population size.

Waters

The Constitution is clear on the issue: 15th & 19th Amendments secure the right of citizens to vote. Congress has the power to enforce this via legislation.

One-hundred percent of US taxpayers income from January 1 to April 18 goes to local, state and federal government. The government takes 33% of our property on an annual basis--more than most Americans spend on food, clothing and shelter combined. The Libertarian Party believes taxation is theft; that the government's role is to do three things and three things only: protect our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness (or property). Personal federal income taxes were not allowed in the US until 1913 and the passage of the 16th Amendment. As Senator, I propose repealing the 16th Amendment, abolishing the IRS, and giving every American taxpayer a \$12,000 pay raise. This ultimate measure will lead to major reforms in the contract between government and the people.

This is entirely in the purview of the Congress according to Section 1 Article 8 of the Constitution.

Kaine

local government to support schools, health care, housing, and other vital public benefits. There are about 300 federal programs that use Census data to determine how and where the money is spent. The Census occurs once every ten years and it is critical that we get a complete and accurate count. For these reasons, I oppose including a citizenship question on the 2020 Census survey.

What are your proposals for an immigration policy?

In 2013, the first major bill that I voted on was an immigration reform bill that was bipartisan and included a pathway to citizenship for many individuals living in the U.S. I supported the Senate's 2013 comprehensive immigration reform bill that would reform our visa system, protect Dreamers and TPS recipients, and protect our borders. This country is a nation of immigrants who have played an integral role in our society, have brought the skills and talents to make the U.S. globally competitive. Our immigration system has unfairly kept millions of people who contribute to the United States living in the shadows of our society. I have been a strong and loud critic of this administration's treatment of Dreamers, proposals to limit legal immigration, travel bans, and all attempts to separate families. Earlier this year, I worked with my colleagues in the Senate to find a solution to protect Dreamers, create a pathway to citizenship, while protecting our borders.

What do you propose to ensure high quality, affordable and accessible health care?

I believe that access to health care is a right for all Virginians and I strongly support the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid Expansion in Virginia. I have fought against "repeal and replace" of the ACA, and threats to Medicaid, Medicare, and CHIP (Virginia's "FAMIS" program). The ACA prevents individuals from being denied health insurance if they have a pre-existing condition, and provides access to preventive care that will help reduce the cost and incidence of chronic diseases. Since passage of the ACA, more than 300,000 Virginians have gained access to quality affordable health care through its federally-run exchange. I have supported legislation to continue to expand health care coverage and make important fixes to the ACA.

I also introduced the Medicare-X Choice Act which would create an affordable public option, so Americans could choose whether to purchase one of the existing private plans on the exchange or a Medicare-X public plan.

Stewart

Immigration should be managed in a way that benefits our nation. I would end the Visa lottery in favor of a merit-based system. We should have zero tolerance for illegal alien crime. I favor the prosecution of state and local officials who brazenly flout our nation's immigration laws by declaring "sanctuaries" for illegal aliens. Finally, I would vote to fund construction and maintenance of a true wall, to stem the flow of migrants and contraband across our southern border.

Obamacare has failed to deliver on its promises, as too many individuals and families have learned the hard way. I strongly favor health savings accounts, as well as the restoration of short-term and low-cost "no-frills" plans. We should allow insurance plans to be sold across state lines (more competition is healthy). Ultimately, we need a free market, consumer-driven health care system that puts the needs of patients first.

Waters

I support reforming the current Immigration system/laws and review the three major agencies responsible for Immigration: U.S. Customs and Border Protection ("CBP"); U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"); and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("CIS"). I support DACA. I do not support the Wall for financial and results oriented reasons (It won't solve the problem). I believe we need to change the laws on chain migration. 70% of all immigration to US are relatives coming to live here. I would advocate moving to a merit based system based on skills and America's labor needs. I support E-verify, and tighter border security. I also support renewable work permits for non-US citizens working in the US, as this will raise salaries of non-US citizens such that they would not undercut current worker salaries.

1. Since Obamacare was passed in 2014, the cost of insurance for self-employed has skyrocketed. I would join with the dozen governors who have sued the Labor Dept to allow small businesses and the self-employed to form association health plans (AHPs). 2. Promote Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) that put consumers in the drivers seat for current and future healthcare costs. HSAs eliminate the gatekeeper that tells the consumer what is allowed or not under their plan. These plans have shown to reduce overall health costs. Generally, I would advocate for the government to get out of the healthcare business. The government track record on health care is easily seen in the VA Hospital and impending bankruptcy of Medicare and Medicaid. I favor allow companies to compete for consumer business not unlike other businesses, and for customers to choose between multiple health care offerings, or none at all.

What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence?

Kaine

I was Governor of Virginia during the shooting that took place at Virginia Tech, killing 32 individuals, and injuring 17. I issued an executive order and signed a law requiring courts to report all involuntary mental health commitments to the database used to check the criminal records of gun buyers. I also signed other mental health reforms and vetoed bills that would have increased the presence of firearms in the public sphere. As a U.S. Senator, I support requiring a completed background check for every gun buyer who purchases a gun from a federally-licensed gun dealer. I am a cosponsor of legislation to close the gunshow and private sale loopholes, require private sales go through a federal firearms licensee, and penalize states that fail to make data available to the national background check system. I am also a co-sponsor of the Assault Weapons Ban, which bans the sale, transfer, manufacture and importation of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines.

What are your legislative priorities?

My campaign is focused on access to good paying jobs, education, health care, and true equality for all. Virginia has a strong military presence and as the father of a marine, my priorities in the Senate are to ensure that the U.S. stays out of unnecessary wars and if we engage that we are successful. I along with Senator Corker are leading an effort to replace the 2001 and 2002 authorization for use of military force with an updated AUMF against al-Qaida, the Taliban and the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. I have fought against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and believe that we need to continue to improve access to affordable quality health care. I introduced legislation, Medicare-X, a public plan that would provide another option for low-cost health insurance choices and create more competition in the marketplace. Finally, career and technical education (CTE) has always been a passion of mine and I believe CTE can strengthen the links between the classroom and the workplace.

Stewart

Firearms themselves are not the problem, as John Lott has thoroughly documented in his book, *More Guns, Less Crime*. We can – and we must – do more to reduce gun violence, without trampling on the 2nd Amendment rights of lawful Americans. I strongly favor attacking the root causes of violence, through education, smarter policing, and improved mental health care. In addition, we should hire armed security personnel – perhaps retired police officers – to protect our nation's schools.

In the United States Senate, I will fight tirelessly to:

- Lower taxes, grow the economy, and bring back jobs
- Build the wall, end sanctuary cities, and crack down on criminal illegal aliens
- Defend 2nd Amendment rights, while attacking the root causes of violent crime
- Fully repeal and replace Obamacare
- Rebuild our military and support our veterans

Waters

For voters concerned about gun violence, I too share this concern. Of the 38,000 gun related deaths in 2016, 25,000+ are suicides by mostly white men, age 25-65. Black on black violence contributes to an additional 8,000 gun related deaths annually. Combined, these statistics represent over 87% of the gun related deaths in America.

If we desire to reduce gun violence in America, we must address medical depression and we review the War on Drugs policy (DEA) that may be a leading cause of violence in urban areas. As Senator, I will call for an end to the War on Drugs, and the elimination of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). This will help drive down black on black violence, and ultimately save lives. Regarding depression and other causes of suicide, this is an area that is best left to families, specialized non-profit organizations and the medical profession to treat.

We must stop out of control government spending. The \$22 trillion debt is the single greatest threat facing this country. We are adding \$1 million a minute to the debt. To eliminate it, we must enact 1. Reform Entitlements, 2. Cut Government Spending (military/domestic and foreign programs/agencies) and 3. Eliminate the personal federal income tax (this will force cuts in spending, and return property to the American taxpayer).

Virginia House of Delegates District Nine

Morgan Griffith

Morgan Griffith did not reply to the League.

What policies and resources do you propose to ensure election integrity and security in the United States?

What policies do you propose to promote economic security for all Americans?

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Election integrity, in my view, has at least three key elements: Ensuring that the voting process itself is safe and secure; Broadening, rather than restricting voting rights so that everyone of voting age can readily participate, regardless of age, race or zip code; and dramatically reducing the influence of big money donors and 'dark money' to restore faith in our electoral system. 1. Ensuring the safety and security of the voting process – Recently, the Virginia Board of Elections scrapped voting machines deemed vulnerable to hacking and other forms of manipulations. New voting machines do not appear to be vulnerable to such intrusion, a critical step. Additionally, a paper record of each vote will help build voter confidence and facilitate recounts when needed.

2. Broadening voting rights - The Supreme Court's decision overturning critical parts of the Voting Rights Act was an enormous mistake. I support re-instating the Voting Rights Act and taking additional steps that extend the franchise to all citizens of voting age. These include: a. Automatic voter registration connected to issuance and renewal of driver's licenses and other government IDs b. Making voting easier for working people by making Election Day a federal holiday c. Ensuring that polling places are accessible to students, the elderly, lower income neighborhoods and rural communities

3. Overturn Citizens United and efforts to restrict the influence of big money donors in our elections

While economic growth is important, we know unequivocally that growth alone does not lead to widely shared prosperity; forty years of tax cuts for the rich and the biggest corporations have not lead to 'trickle down' well-being for working Americans.

Alternatively, I have seen how investment in local communities, family farms, small businesses and infrastructure creates more diverse

Flaccavento

and resilient economies, both rural and urban. This “bottom up” economic development builds more lasting and widely shared prosperity. Specifically, I support:

1. Major, sustained investment in infrastructure in the 9th district and beyond, including a bond-funded National Infrastructure Bank
2. Shifting economic development policy from a predominant focus on subsidies for big box retail and other outside businesses, to investment in existing businesses, start-ups, and other local businesses
3. Lifting the federal minimum wage to a livable wage standard, indexed and adjusted to regional cost of living
4. Pay equity for women, strengthening the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act
5. Support for entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial education and training, with increased access to affordable capital for young and lower income entrepreneurs
6. Investment in quality education for all students, regardless of school district, and in support services such as quality, affordable child and elder care

What should the government do to ensure that more people have access to quality, affordable health care?

I support Medicare Choice for All, that is a Medicare-type system available to everyone. Participation would not be mandatory, as those with high quality employer-based health care, or with the means for private insurance could opt out. However, such a system would insure universal coverage, while also helping to contain the growth in health care costs. I believe that the vast majority of people would participate in the system, increasing its efficiency and cost-savings. I support phasing in this system as quickly as possible, eventually to also include what is now Medicaid. While all people would be guaranteed comprehensive coverage under the system, regardless of income, I believe that we need to consider reasonable and affordable contributions to the system, based upon ability to pay. Further, I support fair compensation for physicians, hospitals and health care providers, but based more upon outcomes than procedures, and encouraging preventative care and patient health and wellness. While working for Medicare for All, I will pursue steps to stabilize rural hospitals in the 9th and beyond, and to invest in community clinics, which provide high quality care at low cost.

What should the Federal government's role be in social safety net programs, such as Social Security and Medicare?

I support a strengthening and expansion of Medicare, eventually encompassing a Medicare for All system. Additionally, the prohibition on negotiating prescription drug costs must be overturned to bring down the cost of medicines. I oppose cuts to Medicare or any efforts to privatize the system. I'll fight for lifting the payroll tax cap on payments into the Social Security system. At present, a hedge fund manager earning \$10 million/yr pays nothing into the Social Security Trust Fund on \$9,871,600 of his income. That's insane. Lifting the payroll tax cap would mean that everyone, including the wealthy, pay the same rate, and would help ensure Social Security's solvency for most of this century.

What is your position on using a citizenship question on the 2020 census survey?

I oppose this, as it will almost surely distort the results of the census, leading to an undercount of Hispanics in particular. A citizenship question will discourage even green card holders and others with legal temporary status to complete the census. The ensuing undercount of people would likely hit certain rural, agricultural counties, as well as border towns particularly hard.

Flaccavento

What specific changes, if any, would you make to current immigration policy?

I support a clear, straightforward pathway to citizenship for those currently under DACA. I also support a reasonable path to citizenship for the roughly ten million people now here illegally, so long as they have not committed felonies or serious crimes of any sort. Bringing people out of the shadows will also help many American-born workers who at present may be harmed by competition from low-wage immigrant workers who have no bargaining power due to their immigration status.

I vehemently oppose the separation of families and believe that the United States must once again become a place where refugees fleeing violence will have a reasonable chance of finding safe haven. I oppose the construction of a wall, as there are other, more effective and humane means to prevent illegal entry into the country through our southern border. Ultimately, the most effective means to reduce illegal immigration into the US is to help other nations achieve greater prosperity, fight violence and build representative governments, so that far fewer of their citizens have the need to flee.

What should be done to provide clean energy for our future?

The most cost-effective and under-utilized 'clean energy' source we have is energy efficiency. Major investment in energy efficiency – in homes, public and commercial buildings, and transportation systems, including high speed rail – will create tens of thousands of jobs in the 9th district, reduce costs for everyday people, and dramatically reduce both energy use and emissions. I also support investment in renewable energy, including experiments with much greater deployment on abandoned strip mine lands, and in the form of community solar systems, which reduce costs and enable people of lesser means to have a stake in their own energy system.

Additionally, we need a major overhaul of our electrical grid to reduce its vulnerability (to storms, accidents and deliberate attacks) and to enable a more diverse mix of energy sources, particularly renewables.

Investment in regionalized grids is both more prudent and cost effective than spending billions of dollars on pipelines, such as the Mountain Valley Pipeline, which I oppose.

What are your legislative priorities?

1. Economic revitalization, especially in the coalfield counties, but also district wide. This will include investment in infrastructure, real support for innovative manufacturers, small businesses and family farms, and support for revitalization of downtowns, based on their historic, cultural and natural assets.
2. Economic fairness, particularly in the tax code, but also including reinvigorating anti-trust legislation and enforcement, and leveling the playing field for unions and workers who have been under attack from the courts, Congress and the White House
3. Medicare for All to reduce the cost of health care while greatly increasing access and quality of care.
4. Direct federal investment in underfunded public schools to improve the quality of education for students while fairly compensating teachers.
5. Support for farmers, ranchers and other land-based enterprises to improve prices, support new crops and enterprises, such as industrial hemp and medical cannabis, and to encourage the most ecologically sustainable production practices possible.

Two Proposed Constitutional Amendments

ARTICLE X. Taxation and Finance. Section 6. Exempt property.

Should a county, city, or town be authorized to provide a partial tax exemption for real property that is subject to recurrent flooding, if flooding resiliency improvements have been made on the property?

EXPLANATION

Present Law

Generally, the Constitution of Virginia provides that all property shall be taxed. The Constitution of Virginia also sets out specific types of property that may be exempted from taxation. For example, the Constitution of Virginia allows the General Assembly to permit localities to provide a partial exemption from real estate taxes as an incentive for property owners to make substantial improvements to existing structures by renovating, rehabilitating, or replacing those structures.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment would authorize the General Assembly to allow localities to provide a partial tax exemption for real property that is subject to recurrent flooding, if improvements have been made on the property to address flooding. The General Assembly and participating localities would be allowed to place restrictions or conditions on qualification for the tax exemption.

A “yes” vote will authorize the General Assembly to allow localities to provide a partial tax exemption for real property that is subject to recurrent flooding, if improvements have been made on the property to address flooding.

A “no” vote will not allow such a tax exemption.

Yes - For the Measure Proponents say that residents who are subject to recurrent flooding and have expenses for mitigating damage should have some partial tax exemption for real property.

No - Against the Measure Opponents say that taxpayers should not be responsible for the expenses incurred by those who make improvements on their property.

ARTICLE X. Taxation and Finance.

Section 6-A. Property tax exemption for certain veterans and their surviving spouses and surviving spouses of soldiers killed in action.

Shall the real property tax exemption for a primary residence that is currently provided to the surviving spouses of veterans who had a one hundred percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability be amended to allow the surviving spouse to move to a different primary residence and still claim the exemption?

EXPLANATION

Present Law

The Constitution of Virginia currently requires the General Assembly to exempt from taxation the principal place of residence of any veteran who has been determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability. This tax exemption is also provided to the surviving spouse of such a veteran, so long as the surviving spouse continues to occupy that property as the surviving spouse’s principal place of residence.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment would allow the surviving spouse of any veteran who has been determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability to continue to claim the tax exemption currently provided, even if the surviving spouse moves to a new principal place of residence that is owned by the surviving spouse.

A “yes” vote will allow these surviving spouses to move to a new principal place of residence that is owned by the surviving spouse and still claim the tax exemption.

A “no” vote will not allow such surviving spouses to move and still claim the tax exemption.