

VOTER GUIDE
NOVEMBER 2017 ELECTIONS - LOCAL RACES
League of Women Voters of the Richmond Metropolitan Area, Inc.
P.O. Box 25492
Richmond, VA 23260-5492
www.richmond.va.lwvnet.org

The information in this Voter Guide was obtained by the League of Women Voters (LWV) using www.Vote411.org
(Downloaded October 7, 2017)

The League of Women Voters of the Richmond Metro Area obtained information for all races and candidates. Questions for each race were formulated. Candidates were contacted by email and they submitted their answers electronically in their own words. No editing was done by the League. Follow up was done by both email and phone to all candidates. If a candidate did not respond, their name is still shown as being in the race.

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party. The League is nonpartisan. The League hopes this information is helpful to citizens as they prepare to vote on November 7, 2017.

Chesterfield Commissioner of Revenue

Description:

Duties - The Commissioner of the Revenue is the chief tax authority for the county. Duties include assessing all taxable personal and business property, administering tax relief programs, and processing state income tax returns.
Term - 4 years - This is a special election to fill an incomplete term.
Salary - \$124,175 minimum from Virginia Compensation Board not including any increase for certification or an optional county supplement

Candidates (choose 1):

Jenefer S. Hughes



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Address: PO Box 3871, Bon Air, VA 23235

Campaign Phone: (804) 539-9480

Web Site: <http://hughes4cor.com>

Email: hughes4cor@gmail.com

Age: 5/22/2017

Twitter page: @hughes4cor

Facebook page: @hughes4cor Jenefer Hughes for Commissioner of Revenue

Questions:

Q: *What is the most important responsibility of the Commissioner of the Revenue?*

A: The COR ensures that a locality's tax policies are fairly and accurately applied to the citizens of the locality. In Chesterfield, that means partnering with citizens and businesses to ensure they are filing information correctly, performing audits to detect any risk of errors and omissions and applying tax relief programs that support seniors and veterans. The COR also has the power to initiate criminal or civil proceedings, if deemed appropriate.

Q: *What is the biggest challenge facing the office and how will you address it?*

A: The COR has traditionally operated as a back office administrative function, which I believe is out of step with the needs of the County, There is a desire to transition from a largely suburban residential community to a center of economic growth in the Richmond Metro Area, and I can bring my experience over a 30 year career as a finance and

business leader in Fortune 500 companies to modernizing the office and becoming a strategic partner to facilitate this transition.

Q: *What will be your priorities during your term?*

A: My priorities are twofold: (1) Modernize the Office of the COR, by building a team that embraces innovation and continuous improvement and provides stellar customer service and (2) Become a strategic partner to County leadership to support economic growth and address the big issues facing the County now and in the future.

Timothy M. McPeters



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Address: 14514 Leamington Dr Chesterfield, VA 23832

Campaign Phone: (804) 516-5843

Web Site: <http://www.mcpeters4commissioner.com>

Email: mcpeters4comrev@yahoo.com

Age: 4/4/1966

Facebook page: Tim McPeters for Commissioner of the Revenue

Questions:

Q: *What is the most important responsibility of the Commissioner of the Revenue?*

A: As the chief assessing officer, the primary responsibility of the Commissioner of the Revenue is the accurate and complete assessment of local taxes.

Q: *What is the biggest challenge facing the office and how will you address it?*

A: I like to see challenges as opportunities, and I have a history of innovation and efficiency both in this office and outside (Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc.) that helps us meet any new challenges. Advancement in technology is one example where we have met the challenge with opportunity, and will continue to do so. I was a team leader and driver in the enhancement and implementation of the county's new comprehensive taxation system that has already reaped rewards in efficiency.

Q: *What will be your priorities during your term?*

A: 1) Continue producing accurate and complete local tax assessments. 2) Continue to provide excellent customer service and capitalize on efficiencies gained from our new taxation system. 3) Expand opportunities to reach out to community and business groups to ensure they have efficient access to resources of our office that are especially relevant to them. 4) Implementation of our new web portal, which will expand options for citizens and businesses to interact with our office.

Chesterfield Treasurer

Description:

Duties - The Treasurer is the custodian of all county public monies and is responsible for ensuring that local funds, including taxes and fees, are collected, received, invested, safeguarded, and properly disbursed.

Term - 4 years - This is a special election to fill an incomplete term.

Salary - \$124,175 minimum from Virginia Compensation Board not including any increase for certification or an optional county supplement

Candidates (choose 1):

Carey A. Adams

Party: Rep

Did not reply

Henrico Supervisor Brookland District

Description:

Duties - The five-member Henrico Board of Supervisors is the policy-making body of the county. It passes ordinances and approves the annual budget. Members are elected from the five magisterial districts and they choose a chair and vice chair each year. The Board of Supervisors appoints a County Administrator, who directs the county's day-to-day operations.

Term - 4 years - This is a special election to fill an incomplete term.

Salary - \$53,262 (Vice Chair \$58,588; Chair \$61,251)

Candidates (choose 1):

Courtney Lynch



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Address: 4100 Mountain Spring Terrace Glen Allen, VA 23060

Campaign Phone: (804) 264-7810

Web Site: <http://www.courtneyforsupervisor.com>

Email: courtneyforsupervisor@gmail.com

Age: 8/29/1974

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CourtneyForSupervisor/>

Questions:

Q: *What mix of public policies would you support to reduce poverty in the county?*

A: Reducing poverty in Henrico must be a priority. Our poverty rate is rising faster than any other jurisdiction in our region. I appreciate how this question recognizes that a mix of policies will be needed to stem poverty. We need positive economic development, affordable housing, strong schools and better transit to continue to improve opportunities for all in Henrico. I strongly support regional cooperation as we work to reduce poverty.

Q: *How would you increase housing opportunities for Henrico residents who cannot afford adequate housing near their work?*

A: We need more affordable housing in the County. To do this we need greater diversity of lot sizes and we need to allow increased housing density. By creating more affordable housing we can reduce the financial burden on Henricoans.

Q: *How do you envision regional transportation infrastructure, and how do you think it should be funded?*

A: We need effective regional transit that brings the area together and allows folks to move between the counties and the City. I support the Greater RVA Transit Vision Plan which seeks to have mass transit unify the area in a self-sustaining, efficient way by 2040. In the shorter term, I support extending the Bus Rapid Transit Line in Henrico, beyond Willow Lawn. Transit funding needs to come from a mix of local, state and potentially federal resources.

Q: *What should be done to make the county safer for pedestrians and bicyclists?*

A: We need to assess what we have and seek projects that can improve our pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure in cost effective ways. There are places where paving a simple 10-foot stretch could connect two neighborhoods for bikers and walkers. I would look for conservative ways to provide maximum return. We need to do some of the simple things - like crosswalks and safety lights. Sadly, Henrico County has the highest amount of pedestrian fatalities in our region.

Q: *What will be your priorities as Supervisor?*

A: My priorities will be to address what I see as the three most significant challenges confronting the Brookland District of Henrico: the need to keep our schools strong, creating and maintaining well-paying jobs and a skilled workforce, and revitalizing retail/business corridors in the District such as Staples Mill east of Parham as well as ensuring residential development meets community needs.

Robert H. "Bob" Witte Jr.



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Address: 10700 Brookley Rd Glen Allen, VA 23060

Campaign Phone: (804) 510-0909

Web Site: <http://brooklandsupervisor.com>

Email: bob@brooklandsupervisor.com

Age: 4/12/1952

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/brooklandsupervisor/>

Questions:

Q: *What mix of public policies would you support to reduce poverty in the county?*

A: I'll keep taxes low and support economic development. I'll back new and upgraded schools, competitive teacher salaries, reduced class sizes, and workforce programs to ensure jobs for high school grads who wish to forgo college. I'll make youth sports programs a major priority. Such programs develop good character, physical strength, team skills, and a good work ethic for their participants. These are all important components of productive citizens later in life.

Q: *How would you increase housing opportunities for Henrico residents who cannot afford adequate housing near their work?*

A: As planning commissioner, I've backed a wide variety of housing developments to serve a broad economic range of citizens. I've backed real estate tax relief for seniors on fixed incomes, and I've supported Board actions that ultimately dropped our tax rates to the lowest of Virginia's largest localities. Such actions serve to help homeowners and renters, and they attract and keep businesses that provide better paying jobs for citizens so they can afford better housing.

Q: *How do you envision regional transportation infrastructure, and how do you think it should be funded?*

A: I'm hopeful about the potential to expand train facilities on Staples Mill Road, since demand for that service is high. I'm open to expanding bus routes where unfilled jobs abound, like in the Innsbrook area. This can help Henrico citizens and employers alike, which is good for everyone. Ultimately, I will review transportation opportunities to ensure we make the most of them within the means we have available. While public support is needed, user fees must be part of the equation as well.

Q: *What should be done to make the county safer for pedestrians and bicyclists?*

A: I support 2017 budget items expanding sidewalks, increasing pedestrian paths and bicycle lanes. These are wonderful additions that are worthy of public support, but only where demand exists in areas where cyclists and pedestrians need and want them. I'm open to more of these improvements in the future, and I will also seek such considerations from developers when they are planning new subdivisions where residents would benefit from them.

Q: *What will be your priorities as Supervisor?*

A: I want to be a voice for citizens in County affairs, and to provide the kind of "full-time" customer service that Dick Glover did. I'll work to improve education, make neighborhoods more attractive, keep communities safe, expand parks and recreation, and back measures aimed at greater economic development and job opportunity in Henrico. Meanwhile, I will fight to ensure our tax rates remain the lowest of Virginia's largest localities

Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney

Description:

Duties - The office of the Commonwealth's Attorney prosecutes violations of state law and local ordinances in district and circuit courts and provides legal advice to local government.

Term - 4 years

Salary - \$137,774 minimum from Virginia Compensation Board, plus City supplement

Candidates (choose 1):

Michael N. Herring

Party: Dem

Did not reply

Richmond Sheriff

Description:

Duties - The Richmond Sheriff's office performs duties including jail operation, courtroom security, and service of process.

Term - 4 years

Salary \$130,104 minimum from Virginia Compensation Board, plus City supplement

Candidates (choose 1):

Antionette V. Irving



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Address: 3428 S Street Richmond, Va 23223

Campaign Phone: (804) 350-2554

Web Site: <http://www.irvingforsheriff.com>

Email: avirving@irvingforsheriff.com

Age: 12/16/1964

Twitter page: @irving4sheriff

Facebook page: Irving for Sheriff

Questions:

Q: *What qualifications make you the best candidate for Sheriff?*

A: I earned a BA in Criminal Justice from Shaw University, MS in Administration from Central Michigan University, Certificate in Non-Profit Management from VCU, and PhD-BA in Criminal Justice Management from Northcentral University. I have over 26yrs of experience with the Henrico Sheriff's Office supervising various areas within the office to include security and operations, court services, training, transportation, civil process, programs and services, as well as management and administration.

Q: *What is the biggest challenge facing the office and how will you address it?*

A: The challenge of improving the life, health, security and care within the jail by creating an environment of professionalism and accountability, and transparency. We will develop a transparent hiring and promotion process, along with enhanced standards of training for staff members. Building relationships with other agencies to ensure that we are providing the best possible care for the individuals in jail as well as to ensure excellence in training of staff members and volunteers.

Q: *What programs do you support to prepare jail inmates for re-entry into the community and to reduce recidivism?*

A: I support restorative justice, conflict management and conflict resolution programs, anger management, and mediation programs for inmates and their family members as well as innovative programs that provide alternatives to incarceration, medical and mental health programs, substance abuse education and treatment programs, domestic violence and parenting programs in addition to mentorship and internships work programs to assist with work readiness.

Q: *What will be your priorities during your term?*

A: I will work with local, community and faith based organizations to provide resources to improve health and welfare to reduce at risk behaviors, provide programs and services to non-violent offenders related to their crime to educate and treat the causes of behaviors such as domestic violence, substance abuse and anger management, provide medical services and health care, provide mental health treatment and release counseling resources for continued care after release and diversion treatment.

Nicole D. Jackson



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 3606 Chamberlayne Ave #11 Richmond, VA 23227

Campaign Phone: (804) 901-7417

Web Site: <http://www.nicolejacksonforsheriff.com>

Email: nicole1972@yahoo.com

Age: 3/31/1972

Facebook page: Nicole D Jackson

Questions:

Q: *What qualifications make you the best candidate for Sheriff?*

A: -Bachelor Degree in Accounting -3 years of service in the United States Army -6 Years of service in the Virginia National Guard -9 Years of experience working at the Richmond City Police Department as a patrolman, community intelligence officer and training officer -13 years of experience working at the Richmond City Sheriff's Office as a jail operations deputy, records room clerk, supervisor of civil process, training director and courthouse commander. Promoted thru ranks, resigned as a Major.

Q: *What is the biggest challenge facing the office and how will you address it?*

A: Mental Health Reform - I will partner with VCU Criminal Justice Program to assist in mapping out other strategies for mental health reform. -Provide Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) -Provide trained and qualified medical personnel to respond with the appropriate action during incidents with an inmate with mental health issues. -Implement proper management of medication and monitoring

Q: *What programs do you support to prepare jail inmates for re-entry into the community and to reduce recidivism?*

A: Community Outreach and Justice Center Programs -I would introduce a program called "90 Day Success Program". This program would be considered a wrap-around program with four phases: This program will focus on re-entry and the reduction of recidivism. -It would be my objective to develop Community Outreach programs that are "Family Focused." -Continuation of the REAL Program- A program that has proven to be effective in recovery and rehabilitation.

Q: *What will be your priorities during your term?*

A: -Safety and Security of the Jail and Courthouses -Partnerships with other Law Enforcement agencies to help reduce crime and provide more law enforcement visibility in our city. -Improve Inmate Health Care to reduce jail deaths -Improve Deputy/Employee Morale -Improve and enhance deputy training -Community Outreach and Jail Programs -Mental Health Reform.

Emmett Johnson Jafari



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: Post Office Box 34103 Richmond Virginia 23234

Campaign Phone: (804) 683-6630

Web Site: <http://facebook/Emmettjayforsheriff.com>

Email: OneCityJail@yahoo.com

Age: 4/22/1954

Facebook page: Emmett J Jafari AfrAm Tours Emmettjayforsheriff

Questions:

Q: *What qualifications make you the best candidate for Sheriff?*

A: Since starting in this field in the mid 70's I have worked entry, to steward, to administrative corrections levels; in secure, schools, and public settings; hiring, posting, and payroll; implementing programs; and assuring proper offender custody, visits, meals, counseling, grievance access, treatment, and service delivery. Additionally, I bring skills in homelessness outreach, work apprenticeship, and voc trades which can equip inmates for self-sufficiency and re-focusing ill-patterned behavior

Q: *What is the biggest challenge facing the office and how will you address it?*

A: Indications are that proper policy/procedural compliance and training s the biggest challenge facing the jail. I will address the challenge(s) by department to department operational assessments, transferal/removal of non-performing personnel, and re-training identified personnel accordingly. Other candidates have have either met with the incumbent and bought in to current program practices or are products of the current jail setting, and thus unlikely to have the immediate reform impact needed.

Q: *What programs do you support to prepare jail inmates for re-entry into the community and to reduce recidivism?*

A: . I will use my acumen to develop programs that address offender introspection, and increase exposure to marketable trade and work skills, with identifiable objectives and measurable outcomes. Inmates in programs shall enjoy confidentiality from random public exposure, which was not the case when one candidate was recently invited from the street into a setting involving active program participants and others, by the incumbent sheriff. Inmates will not be exploited or exposed for personal gain.

Q: *What will be your priorities during your term?*

A: My priorities will be bringing an atmosphere of lawful compliance and procedures to the jail and all attendant ops; getting all personnel on the same page; and lifting the morale of personnel and inmate alike. Review and revision of all policies and procedures, and optimal placement and training of personnel will remain top priorities throughout my term. Additionally, I will explore lowering or removing ever increasing jail fees, i.e. phone, canteen, which are borne primarily by inmate families,

Richmond Treasurer

Description:

Duties - The Richmond Treasurer's office collects state income taxes, provides information and assistance regarding state and federal taxes, and sells fishing and hunting licenses.

Term - 4 years

Salary - \$89,577 minimum from Virginia Compensation Board, plus City supplement.

Candidates (choose 1):

Nichole Ona R. Armstead



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Address: 3605 Moss Side Ave. Richmond, VA 23222

Campaign Phone: (804) 938-5228

Web Site: <http://www.NicholeForTreasurer.com>

Email: NicholeForTreasurer@gmail.com

Twitter page: @nichole4rvatres

Facebook page: NicholeForTreasurer

Questions:

Q: *What qualifications make you the best candidate for Treasurer?*

A: I have 19 years of experience in the banking industry including 17 years at the Federal Reserve Bank. I am a native of Richmond, VA and graduate of VCU so I am in touch with the needs of our community. I have experience overseeing spending and procurement while at the Federal Reserve Bank. As a project manager I led process improvement upgrades and the implementation of new tools and strategies to benefit our customers at the Fed. These skills qualify me to serve our city with excellence.

Q: *What is the most important responsibility of the Treasurer?*

A: The Richmond City Treasurer is a constitutional office that provides a variety of customer service roles to the community. One of the more important duties is supporting the Commonwealth Attorney's office with payments, an example would be for individuals serving on jury duty. Processing these payments for the Commonwealth Attorney's office is the top function, however, with every duty performed providing excellent customer service to support the fiscal needs of our community is number one.

Q: *What will be your priorities during your term?*

A: The current duties of the Treasurer's office are not like most localities, and lends the opportunity to expand the current services to benefit our community. My priorities are to: 1.) Enhance current processes with efficiencies - automate where needed. 2.) Equip our citizens with tools and services to acquire financial stability - address debt in Richmond. 3.) Empower our future workforce through opportunities and education. 4.) Encourage our youth with financial literacy to minimize debt.

L. Shirley Harvey



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 1805 Stegge Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23224

Campaign Phone: (804) 232-4832

Web Site: <http://N/A>

Email: lshirleyharvey@hotmail.com

Age: 8/11/1946

Twitter page: None

Facebook page: L. Shirley Harvey for Treasurer 2017

Questions:

Q: *What qualifications make you the best candidate for Treasurer?*

A: No other candidate has an accounting background or has spent as much time working in and with federal, state and local government. I am an accountant who started with IBM . My best qualification is that I am honest. This position, as it is currently, is not that of a treasurer and should not pay \$100,000 per year. I will gladly forego half of the salary until I can work with the Virginia GA to assure that the duties match the title and we are all protected from unscrupulous city officials.

Q: *What is the most important responsibility of the Treasurer?*

A: The most important responsibility of the Treasurer is to assure the citizens of Richmond that the moneys they have paid to provide a thriving and honorable government are properly received and spent in accordance with adequate accounting rules and laws. As the situation currently stands, the duties have little to do with accounting and were changed back in the 1990's after the current Treasurer came aboard. I personally know that money is being stolen from the city and our citizens.

Q: *What will be your priorities during your term?*

A: During the initial term of four years, my priority is to work to make the Treasurer's duties commensurate with the definition of the position by lobbying the General Assembly to support an action that would require that Richmond's Treasurer has a background in accounting to become a candidate. Our citizens should be able to trust our government. A good Treasurer reports the truth with documentation and provides that assurance by speaking out whenever there are discrepancies.

Michelle R. Mosby



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 4805 Forest Hill Ave Richmond Va 23224

Web Site: <http://Mosby4Treasurer.com>

Email: Mosby4treasurer17@gmail.com

Age: 8/30/1969

Twitter page: @MsHelpMeHelpYou

Facebook page: Michelle R. Mosby

Questions:

Q: *What qualifications make you the best candidate for Treasurer?*

A: My experience as Richmond City Council President, Business Owner, and Non Profit Founder and service to Verizon(customer service) gives me the knowledge to improve the office of Richmond Treasurer. I have a relationship with the current administration, I have a relationship with council members, I understand the budget and I understands the needs of the finance department. I am equipped in every aspect to make the enhancements necessary for all Richmond residents through the treasurer's office.

Q: *What is the most important responsibility of the Treasurer?*

A: The responsibility of the Treasurer's office is it serve as a constituent hub for finance related concerns. Providing resources and services to Richmond residents...It is important to let the city of Richmond residents know the treasurer's office is open for business. .

Q: *What will be your priorities during your term?*

A: My priorities as RVA's next treasurer will be working cooperatively with the finance dept which gives the opportunity for expansion in services.Ensure our record keeping is conducive to 2017. I will add direct services such as notary and bilingual assistance, assisting the finance dept with real & personal tax payments, provide financial literacy resources and education to our youth as well as adults and among other things provide tax information and resources specific to seniors.

Richmond School Board – District Three

Description:

Duties - The School Board is the local governing body for the city's public schools. The Board hires the Superintendent, who is responsible for administration of the system. Nine School Board trustees are elected from districts in nonpartisan elections. The Board elects a chairman and vice chairman from among its members.

Term - 4 years - This is a special election to fill an incomplete term.

Salary - \$10,000

Candidates (choose 1):

Dorian. O. Daniels

Party: I

Did not reply

Kenya J. Gibson



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: PO Box 15001 Richmond, VA 23227

Web Site: <http://kenyagibson.com>

Email: kenya@kenyagibson.com

Facebook page: fb.me/KenyaGibson4RVA

Questions:

Q: *What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?*

A: I applaud the work of the Facilities Task Force. This collaborative effort took a comprehensive approach to outline a long term plan. The previous school board voted to adopt "Option 5" as outlined by the task force. The solution is to turn Option 5 from broad concept to reality. It should include redistricting, new construction and consolidations - if deemed necessary to align with current and projected student population. This work must be handled holistically, proactively, and with sensitivity.

Q: *What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?*

A: Disorderly classrooms, high dropout rates, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement are the outcome of a school district where 40% of its students live in poverty. There is no simple solution. We need policy and incentives at the federal, state, and local level to promote socioeconomic diversity in our neighborhoods and schools. We must also support teachers, school leadership, and parents by creating a culture where we can say yes, and the finding funds to make it happen.

Q: *What education services do you support for at risk students?*

A: We must take a progressive approach to reach every child. This requires a curriculum as diverse as our student population. We need vocational training, robust arts and athletics programs, and options for STEM learning. I also believe the best way to reach our at risk population is through truly innovative special education. This requires a cultural shift away from the fear of labeling a student, and towards the desire for early remediation.

Q: *Would you like to see restorative justice evidence-based practices available to public school students as a means of conflict transformation? Please explain.*

A: It's clear that the zero-tolerance discipline model failed our country by looking at our prisons. I fully support implementing restorative justice based practices in our schools. We let the pendulum swing so far on the side of accountability and testing that we lost sight that good schools should churn out more than good grades. Public education raises us as a nation if we aim to create generations of great citizens. We can't just kick out the bad kids so that good kids can learn.

Q: *What priorities for the schools do you have?*

A: The school board's main priority must be re-establishing trust. To that end, these three things are key: -Executing a facilities plan to give students, parents and teachers peace of mind that our buildings are safe and that their school will remain open. -Successfully onboarding a new superintendent and leadership team, and supporting their vision for the future of RPS. This process will set the tone for many years to follow. -Taking a methodical, paced approach - and delivering on promises.

Joann Henry

Party: I

Did not reply

Cindy A. Menz-Erb



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 1305 Bellevue Avenue Richmond, VA 23227

Campaign Phone: (646) 261-4845

Web Site: <http://cindymenz-erbforschoolboard.com/>

Email: Cindy@cindymenz-erbforschoolboard.com

Age: 9/11/1976

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CindyMenzErbforSchoolBoard/>

Questions:

Q: *What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?*

A: As Chair of the Facilities Committee, I am working to ensure all kids in RPS have a safe, nurturing and thriving learning environment. I support updating the Option 5 facilities plan which includes building and renovating schools, consolidating and closing buildings and redistricting. It was created through a comprehensive analysis of our facility needs and included significant community input. I will collaborate with city council and the Mayor to ensure we find funding to support this plan.

Q: *What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?*

A: I support programs like Richmond Public Schools Resiliency Partnership and Communities in Schools and expanding funding for trauma-informed programs and supports. I will work to create 21st-Century schools, advocate for universal and affordable after-school care and for full-time Parent Coordinators in every school. I will also push to revolutionize our human resources department and create a strategic approach to recruiting, supporting and retaining highly qualified teachers and principals.

Q: *What education services do you support for at risk students?*

A: The most effective way to support at risk students is to ensure they have highly qualified, stable and caring teachers. RPS started this school year with over 60 open teaching positions, 26 of which were Exceptional Education teachers. We need strategic and creative approaches to recruiting and retaining teachers. Also, at risk students frequently struggle with reading because of a lack of early education supports and interventions. I support early intervention, evidence-based reading programs.

Q: *Would you like to see restorative justice evidence-based practices available to public school students as a means of conflict transformation? Please explain.*

A: Yes, I am very committed to overhauling our discipline practices. Restorative justice offers a more sustainable, equitable, and respectful alternative to traditional school discipline practices. It is also a proactive strategy to improve school culture and climate. It is imperative that we explore and implement evidence-based restorative justice practices that keep kids in school, teaches coping skills and keeps them on track for obtaining a career or college-ready diploma.

Q: *What priorities for the schools do you have?*

A: My top priority is ensuring that all RPS students have equitable opportunities for success. That means improving outcomes so that we have 100% of our students graduating from high school with a career or college-ready diploma. To accomplish this I will work to create 21st century schools; improve culture and climate; provide universal, low-cost after school programs; revolutionize RPS human resources and support the work of the Education Compact. Read my full policy brief on my website.

Kevin A. Starlings

Party: I

CANDIDATE WITHDREW FROM RACE

Richmond Charter Change on School Modernization

If the change is passed by Richmond voters and approved by the General Assembly, the City Charter would be amended to require the Mayor to submit to City Council within six months a fully-funded plan to modernize the City's K-12 infrastructure, or inform City Council that such a plan is not feasible. There can be no new or increased taxes for this purpose.

Sources: School Modernization Charter Change Campaign at <https://putschoolsfirst.org/>
Richmond Times-Dispatch, Lavar Stoney, Back to School: Make this the year for RPS success, September 5, 2017.
Richmond Times-Dispatch, Mark Robinson, Charter change to modernize Richmond schools to go to vote, August 16, 2017 and City attorney: Fight referendum, August 24, 2017.

Yes - For the Measure

Richmond schools have been allowed to age into obsolescence over many years. The physical condition of the schools can be such as to deny the fundamental right to an equal education. More than 15,000 people signed petitions to put this referendum on the ballot.

No - Against the Measure

According to the City Attorney, the change does not "pertain to the structure or administration of city government," as required of voter petitions for charter changes. The Mayor, Council, and School Board are already working on a facilities plan and other school issues through the Mayor's RVA Education Compact. New or additional revenue may be necessary.