

# VOTER GUIDE FOR NOVEMBER 2016 ELECTIONS

League of Women Voters of the Richmond Metropolitan Area

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The League of Women Voters of the Richmond Metro Area obtained lists of candidates in all races from the Virginia Department of Elections. Questions were formulated by League members. 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 8, 2016.

## US House of Representatives

Representatives share responsibility with Senators for enacting the nation's laws as provided in the US Constitution. Revenue (tax) laws are initiated in the House of Representatives. There are 435 Representatives elected from Congressional districts that are reapportioned based on population after each decennial Census. Virginia has 11 Congressional Districts. A Representative must be at least 25 years of age and a citizen for at least 7 years.

No term limit

Salary - \$174,000

### Race: Virginia Congressional District 4

Candidates:

#### A. Donald McEachin



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Address: 213 East Grace Street, Suite 101, Richmond, Virginia - 23219

Campaign Phone: (804) 631-3781

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

Email: [info@McEachinForCongress.com](mailto:info@McEachinForCongress.com)

Age: 10/10/1961

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/A-Donald-McEachin-299511650083944/>

Twitter: [twitter.com/Donald\\_McEachin](https://twitter.com/Donald_McEachin)

Questions:

**Q: What will you do about economic challenges facing families such as minimum wage, equal pay, paid family leave, affordable housing, and childcare?**

A: Americans who work hard and play by the rules should never struggle to make ends meet. I'll support efforts to ensure that working families receive the support and opportunities they deserve. No one willing to work forty hours per week should be in poverty — and no woman should ever be paid less than a man for equal work. Children should not miss out on pre-K, or on college, for want of funds. Similarly, the US must join the rest of the developed world in mandating paid family and medical leave.

**Q: What will you do to ensure that post high school education and/or training is affordable and that a student's associated debt is manageable?**

A: No one should have to give up on his or her dreams for want of funds. Like Hillary Clinton, I'll fight for major new investments that enable working and middle class students to attend community college for free, and to graduate debt-free from in-state four-year schools. I'll also work to make existing debts less burdensome — for instance, by expanding income-based repayment options, opening new paths to debt forgiveness, and creating new opportunities to re-finance existing loans.

**Q: What measures would you support to ensure that all eligible voters can exercise their right to vote, for example, the Voting Rights Advancement Act? the Fairness and Independence in Redistricting Act? other?**

A: Our democracy is strongest when every voice is able to be heard. I support efforts to restore voter protections that previously existed under the Voting Rights Act (including the VRAA) and to prevent congressional gerrymanders (including the Fairness and Independence in Redistricting Act). I am also interested in exploring federal options for expanding access to early voting, instituting automatic voter registration, and ensuring that former offenders' rights are swiftly restored.

**Q: Do you favor ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and, therefore, support HJ Resolution 51 and SJ Resolution 15, which would eliminate the deadline for passage?**

A: A mountain of evidence shows that women still face widespread discrimination, and current law has obviously failed to prevent that discrimination. I strongly support the federal Equal Rights Amendment, and have co-sponsored efforts to ratify that amendment in the Virginia state Senate. I would back legitimate efforts to extend or eliminate the deadline for passage of that amendment.

**Q: What are your legislative priorities if elected?**

A: I want to be a voice for working families. I am committed to being a voice for the voiceless, and to putting Virginians first. We face many challenges as a nation, and Congress has a responsibility to address all of those challenges, but I expect to devote special attention to ensuring equal treatment and protecting all Americans' civil rights; creating economic opportunity, security, and jobs for working families; and addressing climate change and other environmental threats.

## Michael L. "Mike" Wade

Party: Rep

No response.

**Race: Virginia Congressional District 7**

Candidates:

## Eileen M. Bedell



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Address: 2315 E Broad St, Richmond, VA 23223

Campaign Phone: (205) 538-0341

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

Email: [grant@bedellforvirginia.com](mailto:grant@bedellforvirginia.com)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/EileenBedellforVirginia>

Questions:

**Q: What will you do about economic challenges facing families such as minimum wage, equal pay, paid family leave, affordable housing, and childcare?**

A: America fought back from the Great Recession of 2008, but we need to do more to support hardworking Americans. While the stock market may be setting new records, many in the U.S. lack opportunities for good paying jobs in growth areas such as manufacturing, research and technology, and

clean energy. Eileen supports raising the minimum wage, passing the ERA and paid family leave legislation, and is supportive of legislation that increases access to both affordable housing and childcare.

**Q: What will you do to ensure that post high school education and/or training is affordable and that a student's associated debt is manageable?**

A: Investing in quality education, beginning with early childhood, all the way through high school, technical school and college is critical to the future of our nation. Unfortunately, the reality is that many Americans cannot afford advanced education and the use of burdensome loans at commercial rates has compounded the problem. Promoting and investing in job training is vital, as is expanding funding for federal scholarships and deferring interest and principal payments on student loans.

**Q: What measures would you support to ensure that all eligible voters can exercise their right to vote, for example, the Voting Rights Advancement Act? the Fairness and Independence in Redistricting Act? other?**

A: Ballot access is a central plank of Eileen's platform. She supports repairing and strengthening the Voting Rights Act by passing the Voting Rights Advancement Act as well as supporting the FIRA to kick the redistricting process out of the partisan political bodies of the statehouses. Our districts are increasingly gerrymandered and have reduced choices for voters.

**Q: Do you favor ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and, therefore, support HJ Resolution 51 and SJ Resolution 15, which would eliminate the deadline for passage?**

A: Yes.

**Q: What are your legislative priorities if elected?**

A: \*Equal Rights Amendment and Paid Family Leave

\*Protect and Sustain Social Security and Medicare

\*Gun Safety and Violence Prevention

\*Build Our Economy to Provide Better Jobs and Pay for All Americans

\*Immigration Reform

\*Access to Education and Healthcare

## David A. Brat

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Address: 10124 West Broad St, Suite H Glen Allen, Va. 23060

Campaign Phone: (804) 496-8214

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

Email: [hq@davebrat.com](mailto:hq@davebrat.com)

Age: 7/27/1964

Questions:

**Q: What will you do about economic challenges facing families such as minimum wage, equal pay, paid family leave, affordable housing, and childcare?**

A: As the only PhD economist in Congress I would address all of the economic challenges you mention in the same way and that is by following the free market course that has lifted our country out of poverty and has made us the richest nation on earth. Interestingly, China and India have made this choice over the past 20 years and they are lifting their people out of poverty as well. We all know wage rates are determined by worker productivity not by federal government policy. The only way to increa

**Q: What will you do to ensure that post high school education and/or training is affordable and that a student's associated debt is manageable?**

A: To ensure that high school and post high school education or training is affordable I would do the same thing- the only way to make something affordable is to increase people's incomes and to keep the cost of education down. It appears however that parents are demanding high cost education and so with that in mind the only way to pay for what people want is to increase incomes and that requires economic growth. The same thing applies to keeping debt under control- the best way to reduce debt is

**Q: What measures would you support to ensure that all eligible voters can exercise their right to vote, for example, the Voting Rights Advancement Act? the Fairness and Independence in Redistricting Act? other?**

A: The best way to ensure that all eligible voters can exercise their right to vote is to prosecute anyone who violates the law and those who discriminate against anyone who is protected under the law. I am absolutely in favor of the equal rights of all citizens in this country. We are all children of God with inalienable rights.

**Q: Do you favor ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and, therefore, support HJ Resolution 51 and SJ Resolution 15, which would eliminate the deadline for passage?**

A: I am not in favor of the ratification of the equal rights amendment and HJ 51 or SJ 15 because women currently have the full protection under the law across the board. This provision would actually end up hurting women in some unforeseen ways that have been examined in detail over the past decades and are fairly well known.

**Q: What are your legislative priorities if elected?**

A: My legislative priorities, if reelected, are to continue to pursue policies that will increase economic growth and to pay down the debt to reduce the burden on our children and to increase wage rates so that all of our citizens can live the American dream, have higher pay, take family leave, afford housing, and childcare and all the goods that they wish to pursue. Again the science on this is very clear there is no avenue to higher wages without lifting productivity and there is no increase in p