

The Alexandria Democrat

Have a Happy (and Democratic) Thanksgiving

Alexandria
Democratic
Committee

"Throughout the Commonwealth, Creigh Deeds, Jody Wagner, Steve Shannon and our Delegate candidates have been receiving enthusiastic endorsements. **Now it is up to each of us to make sure that we turn out the vote.**

November 2009

The implications of losing are truly dire. If the Republicans control the 2010 re-districting, our incumbents will be harmed. If they control the legislative agenda, **everyone will be harmed,**" Susan Kellom, ADC Chair.

Talk with your neighbors, friends, family members, colleagues; urge them to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 3, and to vote for the most qualified, dedicated, slate of candidates—the Democratic slate.

To fortify your resolve in these last few days, read the following endorsements and get at least one other Democrat out to vote! On November 4, and beyond, you'll be glad you did.



**November ADC Newsletter, Part I,
November 3 Election Endorsements, and more...
ADC Reorganization Info and more in Part II**

Creigh Deeds for Governor Endorsement by the Washington Post...



If the current campaign for governor has clarified anything, it is that state Sen. R. Creigh Deeds, the Democratic nominee, has the good sense and political courage to maintain the forward-looking policies of the past while addressing the looming challenge of fixing the state's dangerously inadequate roads. The Republican candidate, former attorney general Robert F. McDonnell, offers something different: a blizzard of bogus, unworkable, chimerical proposals, repackaged as new ideas, that crumble on contact with reality. They would do little if anything to build a better transportation system.

There are plenty of reasons why Mr. Deeds is the better choice for governor in the Nov. 3 election. He has stood with Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, the incumbent, and his predecessor, now-Sen. Mark R. Warner, in support of the sane fiscal and budgetary choices that have made the state one of the best-governed and most business-friendly in the nation. Mr. McDonnell has generally spurned those policies, most notably by opposing Mr. Warner's landmark tax package in 2004, which attracted bipartisan support as it boosted public safety and education and protected the state's finances.

Mr. Deeds has compiled a moderate record on divisive social issues that reflects Virginia's status as a centrist swing state. Mr. McDonnell has staked out the intolerant terrain on his party's right wing, fighting a culture war that seized his imagination as a law student in the Reagan era.

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Deeds Endorsement, The Washington Post, Continued

Based on his 14-year record as a lawmaker -- a record dominated by his focus on incendiary wedge issues -- we worry that Mr. McDonnell's Virginia would be one where abortion rights would be curtailed; where homosexuals would be treated as second-class citizens; where information about birth control would be hidden; and where the line between church and state could get awfully porous. That is a prescription for yesterday's Virginia, not tomorrow's.

But the central challenge facing Virginia and its next governor is the deficit in transportation funding projected at \$100 billion over the next two decades -- and only Mr. Deeds offers hope for a solution. Following a road map used successfully in 1986, he would appoint a bipartisan commission to forge a consensus on transportation funding, with the full expectation that new taxes would be part of the mix. Mr. McDonnell, by contrast, proposes to pay for road improvements mainly by cannibalizing essential state services such as education, health and public safety -- a political non-starter. And rather than leveling with Virginians about the cost of his approach, as Mr. Deeds has done, Mr. McDonnell lacks the political spine to say what programs he would attempt to gut, or even reshape, in order to deal with transportation needs.

Mr. Deeds has been broadly criticized, not least by stalwarts of his own party, for putting too heavy an emphasis on negative ads about Mr. McDonnell and failing to make an affirmative case for himself. If so, it reflects a failure of campaign strategy and tactics, not a lack of raw material. In fact Mr. Deeds -- a decent, unusually self-effacing man who calls himself "a nobody from nowhere" -- has a compelling life story and an admirable record of achievement as a legislator from rural Bath County.

As we noted in endorsing Mr. Deeds in June's Democratic primary, his record in the legislature ably blended the conservative interests of his constituents with an agenda reflecting the prosperous, politically moderate face of modern-day Virginia. He has been a longtime champion of a more enlightened, bipartisan system of drawing voting districts, a stance to which Mr. McDonnell only recently gravitated. He has played a constructive role in economic development by shaping the Governor's Economic Opportunity Fund, which provides incentives for investors in Virginia, and he has stood for responsible environmental policies, including green jobs and alternative energy research. Despite his rural roots, Mr. Deeds has been ideologically flexible enough to support abortion rights; press for background checks on firearms buyers at gun shows; oppose displaying the Confederate flag on state license plates; and warm to equal rights for homosexuals."

Endorsements for Deeds:

by The Virginian-Pilot – (Hampton Roads)...

"Deeds has a commendable record of moderate progressivism that the state needs to break loose from the turmoil of the recession. He has supported the prudent budgetary management of Govs. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine and promises to continue their sound policies. Well before they arrived in Richmond, Deeds recognized the value of strong economic development programs and passed legislation modernizing the Governor's Opportunity Fund. His plan for college scholarships tied to public service deserves consideration, although funding will be a challenge. He approaches offshore drilling proposals with proper caution and practicality. If Deeds has failed to win the hearts of most business groups, it is primarily because he refuses to play on their fears over union and environmental legislation pending in Congress, where he has no vote."

About Bob McDonnell: "The most redeeming quality of his transportation plan is its utter inability to win passage in the legislature. He proposes to funnel revenues now earmarked for schools, health care and law enforcement to road construction. He remains convinced the federal government will give Virginia royalties for offshore drilling, even though he seems breathlessly eager to give those rights away for free. He equates higher debt with new revenues.

Deeds Endorsement, The Virginian-Pilot (Hampton Roads,) Continued

On other matters, McDonnell's inability to resist divisive social issues could result in real harm to law-abiding Virginians with whom he should have no quarrel. He has promised to end an executive order prohibiting employment discrimination based on sexual orientation within the state work force. That's not just an insult to gay Virginians, but a threat to the careers of men and women who have depended on those legal protections for eight years and two administrations. His actions as attorney general suggest a troubling eagerness to water down gun control measures and interfere in private church matters.

McDonnell may be a more persuasive leader, but he is asking Virginia to follow him down a dead-end road. If he is governor, he will spend four years churning out spreadsheets with fantasy forecasts and writing stern letters to the president, Congress, state legislators and city councils demanding that they do something to save him from his own inertia."

"If Deeds is elected and breaks his promise to pass an adequately funded transportation plan, that failure will fall directly on his shoulders. He's not asking that accountability be passed to future governors or postponed for more prosperous times. He's willing to take on that responsibility here and now. In return for that commitment, we give him our support."

Another Endorsement for Deeds by The Roanoke Times...

"If the campaign to become Virginia's next governor is about which candidate is more articulate and slick, then Republican Bob McDonnell is the clear choice.

If the campaign is about who would better govern the state and face the extremely difficult choices the commonwealth must confront, then Democrat Creigh Deeds becomes the frontrunner. He is better prepared to position Virginia to meet the challenges of the future.

The difference is strikingly evident on the single most crucial issue facing the state: how to fund Virginia's crumbling and inadequate transportation infrastructure.

McDonnell boasts that he has a plan while Deeds only promises to work with the General Assembly to develop one.

McDonnell would have a point if not for one thing: His plan, as detailed as it may be, is a farce. It is a compendium of rejected ideas, supplemented by revenue from sources unlikely to pan out, topped off with money stolen from an already inadequate general fund. His plan would not work and would guarantee that Virginia will do nothing to make up for a widening gulf between transportation needs and available resources.

Deeds could have shown more political leadership by putting forth a specific proposal with clear sources of revenue. But he at least has the guts to tell Virginians the truth: Either the state's transportation system gets a large infusion of new revenue or the consequences will be dire.

Deeds endorsements, The Roanoke Times, Continued

In an interview with The Roanoke Times editorial board, Deeds made a compelling argument that the economic future of the state hangs in the balance. He also made clear why a statewide solution is so important even though the severest congestion is in the more populous regions. This part of the state cannot expect assistance developing the infrastructure needed here if our residents turn their backs on Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads in the time of their greatest need.

In many other important policy areas, from energy development to education, Deeds demonstrates a clearer understanding of the issues and specific plans to work to better Virginia's response.

McDonnell, who declined repeated attempts to arrange an interview with the editorial board, has tried to brush aside criticism of a thesis he wrote while attending Pat Robertson's Regent University, saying what he wrote 20 years ago is irrelevant to today's race. And it would be, if his record throughout his tenure in elective office didn't so closely reflect the principles laid out in the thesis.

Virginia voters should realize that, all his talk about jobs and the economy aside, McDonnell is an extreme social conservative -- one who, for instance, thinks abortion should be illegal even in cases of rape or incest.

A clear look at both candidates, their records, the strengths and weaknesses of their positions, and their commitment to Virginia as a commonwealth makes it clear that Creigh Deeds is the best candidate for the job.

Virginia voters shouldn't let style win over substance."

Jody Wagner for Lieutenant Governor

Endorsement by The Washington Post...

"JODY WAGNER, Virginia's former secretary of finance, is the sort of Democrat that helped cement the Old Dominion's status as among the cleanest, best managed and most business-friendly states in the country. She is easily the better choice as Virginia's next lieutenant governor and would represent a sharp improvement over the incumbent Republican seeking reelection, Bill Bolling.

Smart, tough-minded and capable, Ms. Wagner would be among the best-prepared public officials to assume the job. A former corporate lawyer, she started a successful family business (making kettle corn) before going to work for then-Gov. Mark R. Warner (D). Then, as Mr. Kaine's finance secretary -- she resigned this year to launch her campaign -- she developed an authoritative command of state government, spending and income, critical knowledge for the challenges posed by the recession.

Unlike the usual run of officeholders in Richmond, she is more pragmatist and problem-solver than partisan political warrior. As the only one of the six statewide candidates to have had hands-on experience with the state's budget, she would be uniquely well placed to serve as a resource for whichever candidate is elected governor.

Mr. Bolling, by contrast, has been a politician for almost 20 years. He had every intention of running for governor this year, but was outmaneuvered by fellow Republican Robert F. McDonnell, the former attorney general. He is a quick-witted and affable fellow but more attuned to political expediency than the actual business of governance.

Wagner endorsement, The Washington Post, Cont.

A conservative lawmaker before he was elected lieutenant governor four years ago, Mr. Bolling voted for some of the more ambitious spending packages in the state's history, particularly ones proposed by Republican governors during the dotcom boom. Now he attacks Virginia's outlays as having been profligate. He opposed Mr. Warner's tax increase in 2004, a large chunk of which went to boost public schools. Now he talks about the vital importance of an enormous increase in teacher salaries.

Of particular interest to Northern Virginia, his ideas on transportation funding are patently unworkable. He proposes raiding already bare-bones core state services to pay for transportation but bobs, weaves and ducks when pressed to say which ones -- education? public safety? human services? health? -- he would target."

Steve Shannon for Attorney General

Endorsement by The Washington Post...

THE RACE for attorney general in Virginia is a face-off between a pair of youngish lawyers, each from Fairfax County, each elected to the General Assembly this decade, and each now running his first statewide race. The similarities end there. While the Democratic candidate, *Del. Stephen C. Shannon*, is a mainstream former prosecutor -- strait-laced, sober, earnest almost to a fault -- his Republican opponent, state Sen. Kenneth T. Cuccinelli II, is a provocative hard-liner who at times has struggled vainly to attract a single vote for his more far-fetched initiatives.

Mr. Shannon, who has a weakness for wonkish legalese, may not come across as a worldbeater, but there is no doubt he would run the attorney general's office, with its 166 lawyers, as a serious, nonpartisan agency. As a prosecutor in Fairfax County, Mr. Shannon focused on busting purveyors of child pornography. With his wife, he had previously founded the Metropolitan Washington Amber Alert program, a local chapter of a nationwide system for locating abducted children. As attorney general, Mr. Shannon would steer a responsible course on consumer protection, the environment and the advisory legal opinions that the office is frequently asked to render.

Mr. Cuccinelli is also smart and well-informed, and he has at times stood on principle, and against his own party's majority, in regard to law-and-order issues

However, there is reason to worry that Mr. Cuccinelli would treat the job of attorney general as an ideological crusade. We take him at his word when he says he intends to fight with the federal government over constitutional and legislative issues that stick in his craw.

He attacked the efforts of some Republican lawmakers to secure adequate funding for schools and roads. He doubts the science of global warming and casts aspersions on the motives of those who are concerned about it. He peddles outmoded, half-baked and prejudicial theories about homosexuals.

Given his sometimes bizarre and incendiary ideas, we worry that Mr. Cuccinelli would drive qualified and nonpartisan lawyers away, transform the attorney general's office into a staging ground for his pet peeves and causes, and make it an object of ridicule in a state where it has enjoyed a long run of respect.

Endorsement for Delegate David Englin, Dist. 45

by The Washington Post...

“David L. Englin, the Democratic incumbent, is in a cakewalk against Victoria L. Vasques, a former Bush administration appointee whose knowledge and experience regarding state and local issues are tissue-thin.”

Endorsement for Delegate Charniele Herring, Dist. 46

by The Washington Post...

“Sasha Gong, the Republican candidate has a compelling resume—a refugee from China, a Ph.D. from Harvard and, unusual for a Republican, a volunteer activist for Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign. Unfortunately, she’s a blank slate when it comes to most questions pertaining to Virginia; she literally hasn’t considered them much. That makes her a non-serious challenger to incumbent Charniele L. Herring, a Democrat with long, deep and broad civic experience.”

Note: There is no endorsement for incumbent **Delegate. Adam Ebbin, Dist. 49**, because his run for Delegate is uncontested.



Alexandria Festival of the Arts Great Outreach – Fabulous Volunteers

by Marianne Anderson

What a weekend of PR for the Alexandria Democratic Committee and the Democratic candidates it promotes. Many volunteers, all with their own special talents, greeted all those festival-goers and gave them what they needed and wanted to show their Democratic allegiance. Stickers, signs, bumper stickers all went flying off the ADC table. (Many of us were pleasantly surprised by the amount of interest in, and knowledge of, Creigh Deeds for Governor.)

Many thanks to these people who worked to make it all happen: Dak Hardwick, Max Stolper, Brigitte Guttstadt, Matt Harris, Ann Principato, Charles Chambers, Jack Sullivan, Bill Schreiner, Ellen Harmon, Suzanne Mead, Shirley Cherkasky, Liz Campbell, David Colton, Holly Wallace, Mike O’Toole, Lee Gurel, Linda Loy, Len Rubenstein, Cathey Bernhard, Beverly Rawlings, Mary Faber, Billie Schaeffer, Carolyn Lex, Hazel and Ron Rigby.

Labor Day Picnic: Long ago but not forgotten

How could we move into a new year without highlighting a few scenes from the Annual Labor Day Picnic:



Typical of camaraderie at the Labor Day Picnic, from left, John Biechman, Del. Charniele Herring, Rep. Jim Moran, Mary Lyman



Judged 2009 Winner of the Baked Beans Contest, Lana Cusick holds the empty pan. Dick Hobson, center, and Ben Kellom, right, share her moment.

For the Planet

by Carolyn Cason

Consumption costs us money and the simpler we choose to live the more money we can save. No matter how eco-friendly products that we buy may be, they still come with packaging, they still take energy to make, and they are nearly always still trucked or transported from somewhere else. Here are 10 easy ways to cut your consumption:

1. Bring a reusable bag wherever you go. Excess bags just add to the landfill.
2. Ditch the processed food. It takes unnecessary energy to produce it, as well as tons of packaging. Packaged foods usually are high in sodium, too.
3. Calculate your water footprint at <http://www.h2oconserve.org/home.php?pd=index> Can you know where you need to cut water usage if you don't know how much you're using and where you're using it?
4. Become a weekday vegetarian. Livestock consumes much of the land on the planet, whether for meat or dairy, and creates literally tons of pollution; estimates are in the 1/5th of all greenhouse gases range. By cutting meat out of your diet entirely you save 5,000 lbs of carbon emissions per year, so even reducing your meat intake to two out of seven days will still make a big difference.
5. Drink less bottled water, try to drink none. The U.S. sends two million tons of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottled water packaging to the landfill each year. Just drink from the tap or buy a filtering pitcher.
6. Wash your clothes in cold water. About 90 percent of energy used for washing clothes is for heating the water.
7. Brew your own coffee. Once we factor in the cost of gourmet coffee and the cost of driving to get it, each time we brew a cup at home, we save about the equivalent of a gallon of gas.
8. Shut down your PC. If every American worker remembers to turn off their computer at night, the nation's companies would prevent the release of 39,452 tons of carbon-dioxide emissions, save \$4.7 million in utility costs, and reduce energy consumption by 54.3 million kilowatt-hours per day.
- 9 Add insulation to your attic. The Rocky Mountain Institute estimates it will save you 2,142 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions--through the heat your home retains in winter and doesn't gain in the summer--and hundreds of dollars in lower energy bills.

From the Editor of the ADC Newsletter: It has been a privilege to bring you the monthly newsletter these past 28 months. My term ends in December, and other responsibilities beckon. Please continue to contribute — possibly even volunteer to be the new editor — and to read — “The Alexandria Democrat.”

Marianne Anderson

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