

2012 Legislative Survey Results
Delegate Steve Landes

**1. Should the Commonwealth require that a certain percentage of local education funding be used for classroom instruction, which includes classroom supplies and teacher pay, as compared to non-instructional services?
 (599 Responses)**

<u>Option</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	422	70.5
No	177	29.5
Total:	599	100.0

**2. Currently, Virginia does not allow local school boards, absent legislation to the contrary, to begin the academic year prior to Labor Day in an effort to accommodate businesses that hire students as summer employees – the so-called King’s Dominion law. Do you support giving school boards the ability to begin classes before Labor Day and set their own academic calendars?
 (663 Responses)**

<u>Option</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	538	81.1
No	125	18.9
Total:	663	100.0

**3. Should the children of illegal immigrants who grow up in Virginia be eligible for in-state tuition at Virginia’s public universities?
 (655 Responses)**

<u>Option</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	278	42.4
No	377	57.6
Total:	655	100.0

4. Virginia continues to face budget constraints due to the lingering effects of the nationwide recession. How do you believe the General Assembly should address such budgetary constraints? [Please rank your responses 1- 5. 1 = First Course of Action, and 5 = Last Resort.] (687 Responses)

	Rating Scale					Average Rating
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	
Raise general or statewide taxes (sales, income, gas, and/or personal property)	115 (16.74%)	28 (4.08%)	31 (4.51%)	59 (8.59%)	395 (57.50%)	3.94
Increase certain fees to cover the actual cost of providing certain government services	52 (7.57%)	90 (13.10%)	66 (9.61%)	332 (48.33%)	88 (12.81%)	3.50
Cut needless government spending and eliminate earmarks	383 (55.75%)	98 (14.26%)	96 (13.97%)	37 (5.39%)	36 (5.24%)	1.84
Streamline, consolidate and/or eliminate state agencies and bureaucracy	128 (18.63%)	190 (27.66%)	207 (30.13%)	69 (10.04%)	51 (7.42%)	2.57
Cut outdated, duplicative and unnecessary boards and commissions	225 (32.75%)	188 (27.37%)	172 (25.04%)	37 (5.39%)	32 (4.66%)	2.18

5. What core services provided by state government are most important to you? [Please rank your responses 1-6. 1 = Highest Priority, and 6 = Lowest Priority.] (692 Responses)

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
Fostering Jobs and Economic Development	225 (32.51%)	115 (16.62%)	94 (13.58%)	90 (13.01%)	75 (10.84%)	65 (9.39%)
Supporting K-12 Schools and Higher Education	214 (30.92%)	186 (26.88%)	128 (18.50%)	72 (10.40%)	42 (6.07%)	32 (4.62%)
Keeping Virginians Safe from Crime	154 (22.25%)	123 (17.77%)	119 (17.20%)	108 (15.61%)	84 (12.14%)	87 (12.57%)
Providing Health Care and Other Services for Those in Need	94 (13.58%)	115 (16.62%)	115 (16.62%)	122 (17.63%)	128 (18.50%)	91 (13.15%)
Strengthening Virginia's Transportation System	50 (7.23%)	79 (11.42%)	131 (18.93%)	140 (20.23%)	141 (20.38%)	125 (18.06%)
Protecting the Environment	65 (9.39%)	71 (10.26%)	95 (13.73%)	98 (14.16%)	125 (18.06%)	209 (30.20%)

6. Should Virginia broaden its tax base by eliminating certain tax exemptions and exceptions, which would in turn allow the Commonwealth to lower the overall tax rate? (591 Responses)

<u>Option</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	475	80.4
No	116	19.6
Total:	591	100.0

7. Is it appropriate for state government to provide tax incentives to job-creating businesses? (630 Responses)

<u>Option</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	468	74.3
No	162	25.7
Total:	630	100.0

8. Regarding Virginia’s laws on firearms, which is closest to your view? [Only check one.] (661 Responses)

<u>Option</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Virginia needs more restrictive laws on firearms	294	44.5
Virginia needs less restrictive laws on firearms	89	13.5
Virginia’s current laws on firearms are appropriate	278	42.1
Total:	661	100.0

9. Assuming that key parts of the federal health care reform legislation are not found unconstitutional, do you support a Virginia Health Benefits Exchange – the entity that would serve as an insurance clearinghouse for uninsured and Medicare recipients - run by a public body (e.g. the State Corporation Commission) or a Virginia Health Benefits Exchange run by a private, not-for-profit entity? (601 Responses)

<u>Option</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Public Body	243	40.4
Private Entity	358	59.6
Total:	601	100.0

10. Do you support the privatization of Virginia’s system of Alcoholic Beverage Control and dedicating the proceeds to transportation or other state budget priorities? (648 Responses)

<u>Option</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	375	57.9
No	273	42.1
Total:	648	100.0

11. The Virginia Retirement System (VRS) administers retirement programs for state workers, public school teachers and various local workers and constitutional officers. At present, the VRS is underfunded. Which of the following alternatives would you support to help reform the current Virginia Retirement System? [Please check all that apply] (599 Responses)

<u>Option</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Moving from a defined benefit system (a traditional pension) to investment in a defined contribution plan (such as a 401(k) or an IRA)	341	56.9
Increasing the employee contribution share for VRS	404	67.4
Raising the age of eligibility for VRS	343	57.3
Total:	1088	100.0

12. Virginia is a Right-to-Work state, meaning in the Commonwealth no individual can be compelled to join a union in order to work. Do you support adding Virginia’s Right-to-Work law to the State Constitution, which would give it greater weight and make it more difficult to undo in the future? (665 Responses)

<u>Option</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	413	62.1
No	252	37.9
Total:	665	100.0

13. Though Virginia does not currently allow uranium mining, one of the largest uranium deposits in the nation is located in southern Virginia. Mining this deposit has positive economic potential and negative environmental potential. Do you support uranium mining in Virginia? (638 Responses)

<u>Option</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	352	55.2
No	286	44.8
Total:	638	100.0

**14. Do you support amending the Constitution of Virginia to prevent local governments from taking away a person’s property or home through the use of eminent domain – and using that seized property for private commercial development – strictly for the purposes of increasing tax revenues to the locality?
(669 Responses)**

<u>Option</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	508	75.9
No	161	24.1
Total:	669	100.0

**15. What single issue is most important to your area or community that you want the General Assembly to address in the 2012 Session?
(Top Responses Ranked)**

#1: EDUCATION

#2: TRANSPORTATION

#3: JOBS/ECONOMY