



DELEGATE LANDES' NEWSLETTER
By Delegate R. Steven Landes
Week of September 19, 2011

VIRGINIA'S HEALTH CARE LAWSUIT

Even though I was hopeful for a different outcome, I must say I was not surprised by the decision of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals regarding Virginia's health care lawsuit. The decision was made by a three judge panel, consisting of two judges appointed by President Barack Obama and one judge appointed by former President Bill Clinton. It was their decision that Virginia lacked legal standing to challenge this federal mandate to require individuals to purchase health care.

Virginia's Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, who filed the lawsuit on Virginia's behalf, expressed great disappointment in the Court of Appeals decision. "Contrary to the court's suggestion, this suit has always been about vindicating the power of the Virginia General Assembly to legislate about a subject that has historically been viewed as falling within the areas the Constitution left to the states. Health, safety, and welfare issues have long been recognized as being part of the powers reserved to the states by the Constitution," Cuccinelli said.

So where are we? We are exactly where we expected to be. It has been said by many that an appeal to be decided by the United States' highest court, The Supreme Court, is the only way to decide this constitutional issue of whether individuals can be mandated to purchase health insurance.

Even though the decision has not yet been resolved, Virginia and the business community are making preparations for compliance with this law in the event it is not declared unconstitutional.

A quick resolution is needed as this is costly preparation and these cases should be expedited to The Supreme Court.

ABORTION CLINIC REGULATIONS

Many of you have been interested in the new regulation requirements for abortion clinics which were prompted by the passage of Senate Bill 924, patroned by Senator Ryan McDougle (R-4th) in the 2011 Session. As directed, the Virginia Board of Health, on a vote of 12-1, has now approved regulations which will require abortion clinics to meet hospital-type regulations that many other outpatient surgical centers are required to meet. The heart of these regulations is to protect the health and safety of women. Whether you support or oppose the right of a woman to have an abortion, all of us should be able to agree that health and safety is of prime importance in receiving such services.

APPROPRIATIONS MEETING

Just yesterday, I attended the September meeting of the House Appropriations Committee. Richard Brown, Secretary of Finance, reported that total general fund revenue collections rose 7.8 percent in August, driven by strong growth in individual withholding and non-withholding payments. Collections of recordation taxes also increased for the month, while receipts in the other major sources declined.

On a year-to-date basis, total revenue collections rose 8.8 percent, ahead of the revised annual forecast of 3.7 percent growth. Adjusting for the partial repeal of the accelerated sales tax program, total revenues grew 6.7 percent through August, ahead of the economic-base forecast of 3.5 percent growth.

Secretary of Health and Human Resources William Hazel updated us on children's mental health services as well as the Department of Justice settlement regarding the investigation of the Central Virginia Training Center and the Commonwealth of Virginia's compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS RETREAT

Preparations are being made for the annual House Appropriations Retreat to be held here in the Shenandoah Valley. The Stonewall Jackson Hotel will be the site of the November 15th and 16th retreat. At this meeting, staff will report on the various areas of state government and their needs for the upcoming budget deliberations.

I will be happy to give more details prior to the retreat, but I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity locally and think about attending the meetings.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Now that Labor Day has come and gone, the 2011 Campaign continues in full swing. I am very optimistic about this year's election, but we must continue to work hard to achieve success on November 8.

Fall Harvest Wine Tasting: I would like to formally invite you to an event in my honor with Congressman Robert Hurt as the Special Guest. This will be my last major event for the campaign season, so I hope that you can make it!

(picture of Pollak Vineyard here)

When: Friday, October 14

Where: Pollak Vineyards in Greenwood, Virginia

Private Reception starts at 6:00 p.m. and the General Reception starts at 6:30 p.m.

Sponsorship levels to attend the private reception are available. The cost for the general reception is \$35 per person or \$60 for 2. For further details please visit my website [here](#) or contact Emily Stewart at [804.814.9168](tel:804.814.9168) or via email at emily.stewart@comcast.net.

Football Games: I will be attending several high school football games in the upcoming weeks. Tune in to my Facebook Fan Page (<http://www.facebook.com/SteveLandesVA>) for details of which games I will be attending each week.

Yard Signs and Bumper Stickers: If you would like to receive a yard sign or a bumper sticker, please contact my campaign manager, Matt Wertman, at matt@stevelandes.com.

Volunteer: There are 2 months until the November election and we need volunteers! We need people who are willing to knock on doors and help spread our message. We can try to arrange for you to walk in your neighborhood, or other neighborhoods close to you. Please send an email to matt@stevelandes.com if you are interested in helping in any way.

CONTACT

As always, my legislative aide, Judy Wyatt, and I are here to serve you. Please use the contact information below to reach us in the District Office by phone, fax or email. Or, contact me by sending a letter to PO Box 12, Verona, Virginia 24482.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Delegate.

***** DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL *****
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