



## HOUSE 32ND DISTRICT

### 1. What is the biggest issue/challenge you believe Virginia faces in the upcoming term?

#### DAVE POISSON

Democrat  
www.delegatepoisson.com  
207456 Eastlake Ct.  
Sterling, VA  
(703) 421-6899

Preserving the gains we've made in creating a business climate that continues to earn us recognition as the most business-friendly state in the nation.

#### THOMAS "TAG" GREASON

Republican  
www.vote4tag.com  
PO Box 651293  
Sterling 20165  
703-338-5431

The continued downturn in the economy, and adjusting State spending to align with realistic revenue projections is the biggest challenge that we face.

### 2. How do you propose to address this challenge?

#### DAVE POISSON

Democrat

Virginia's policies and budget priorities must reflect the fact that our region will continue to figure prominently in Virginia's economic recovery and its long-term economic growth. Restoring Virginia's economy will require that long-term investment not be sacrificed for the sake of short-term savings. Virginia must invoke innovative solutions and leverage public-private partnerships—and make sustained investments in transportation, economic development, higher education, and research.

#### THOMAS "TAG" GREASON

Republican

Like most Virginia families, the State must "live within our means" by exercising fiscal responsibility, avoiding higher taxes, and resisting the need to create more government programs. It is not fair to expect families and businesses across the Commonwealth to do more with less, and not make the hard decision required at the State level to reel in spending. We must also focus our attention on the things required to jump start the economy at the local level. Initiatives that will help businesses grow and create jobs must be a top priority.



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### 3. In view of the present recession, what specific state initiatives would you propose/support in order to stimulate the economy of Virginia in 2010–2011?

**DAVE POISSON**

Democrat

Enact a regional and statewide transportation plan to provide new, sustainable and dedicated revenues. Properly crafted, such a plan would create thousands of new jobs and produce economic development benefits that accrue from transportation. Preserve funding for Virginia's institutions of higher education and grant them ample latitude to deal with our current funding crisis. Promote greater innovation in the public schools by rethinking the way schools are run and education is provided.

**THOMAS "TAG" GREASON**

Republican

Helping businesses expand and create jobs is the key to economic stimulus and our recovery. We cannot further burden our struggling businesses with higher taxes in hopes of raising more State Revenue, as raising taxes will likely extend the downturn and stifle our recovery. We will do better to create a robust economy if we streamline administrative processes, provide incentives for job creation to local businesses, and protect our Right-to-Work status. These measures will help our regional economy grow, and help us move out of the recession more quickly.

### 4. What specific opportunities would you initiate/support to positively benefit Loudoun's business community in the upcoming term?

**DAVE POISSON**

Democrat

Promote greater access to affordable health care; make certain regulatory requirements imposed on the business community are no more than is absolutely necessary to ensure they satisfy the obligations required of them by law; and collaborate with businesses to make certain the higher education opportunities needed to train the workers on whom they rely for their success remain both plentiful and affordable.

**THOMAS "TAG" GREASON**

Republican

One of the most important things we can do at the State level is to help expand the local commercial tax base by attracting new business to come to Loudoun and existing businesses to expand in Loudoun. A larger local tax base will diversify the taxes more evenly between the commercial and residential sectors, help create more local jobs, which in turn will shorten commutes and take cars (potentially) off of crowded arteries like Route 7 and the Toll Road. With the proper incentives and lower tax burden, local companies can invest in new services and create more jobs.



**5. Do you believe that top priority should be assigned to securing new, sustainable regional and statewide transportation funding in the 2010 General Assembly session? If so, how? If not, why?**

**DAVE POISSON**

Democrat

Investment in transportation is essential. What needs to be understood is that infrastructure investment creates jobs and yields significant economic development benefits. Indeed, every \$1 billion of investment in transportation construction generates approximately 37,000 jobs. To achieve a solution, we must first accept, however, that the problem merits a significant response and that funding ought to be focused principally on those areas having the greatest need.

**THOMAS "TAG" GREASON**

Republican

Yes, we should make this a top priority. The transportation issues that we face are complex, and a complete solution will be required to improve the situation. We must address the disproportionate funding formulas, evaluate regional funding solutions, encourage businesses to become part of the solution, and find creative ways to take cars off of the roads during peak times. Based on future population projections, we can't just pave our way out of this problem. A focus on improving broadband access, improving public transportation options, and incenting businesses to allow employees to tele-commute must be considered.

**6. For the past decade, northern Virginia's economic growth and job creation has generated significant tax revenues for the Commonwealth. Meanwhile, northern Virginia's local governments have become increasingly dependent on local property taxes to fund the increased needs of a growing population, such as schools, public safety, human services and transportation. How would you propose to help high growth jurisdictions, like Loudoun County, to diversify their revenue sources and/or gain access to additional broad-based revenue sources to support the increased costs of a growing population?**

**DAVE POISSON**

Democrat

Loudoun County will continue to be at the leading edge of economic development in Virginia, mostly because of its formidable talent pool and robust technology presence. To keep its edge, however, it must capitalize on its current strengths, such as by combining HHMI, the soon-to-launch One Loudoun project (and its World Trade Center designation), and the presence of multiple higher education institutions to create a university research park or similar enterprise.

**THOMAS "TAG" GREASON**

Republican

The explosive growth and prosperity in North Virginia over the past decade, has created a disproportionate distribution of collect taxes throughout the state. These formulas are out of date and in need of change. As an example, the current funding formula for roads is largely based on income, wealth, and the "ability to pay." These metrics put Loudoun at a disadvantage, and a send a disproportionate amount of money to the rest of the state. The formula should based on a more direct needs assessment, using population and road miles as the primary metrics to determine the allocation of money.



**7. The current economic crisis started with housing and some argue that the economy will continue to suffer unless something is done to stimulate the housing market. What ideas do you have to repair the housing crisis in Virginia?**

**DAVE POISSON**  
Democrat

Consideration should be given to building higher-density housing in order to lower overall costs. More must also be done to make public transportation more widely available, thereby lowering the cost of getting to and from work. Use of publicly-owned land to develop housing cooperatives for workforce personnel should also be investigated.

**THOMAS "TAG" GREASON**  
Republican

I think that the current economic crisis was started by much more than just "housing" and I don't agree that the government (State or Local) can appropriately stimulate the market. There may be a few artificial / temporary things that can be done, but a natural correction from this point further is the best way to ensure a stable, and long term recovery.

**8. Please briefly describe what specific policies/initiatives would support to promote improvements to the education of Loudoun's children and how you would fund these policies/initiatives.**

**DAVE POISSON**  
Democrat

New approaches to identifying, recruiting and retaining well-qualified teachers, especially in mathematics and science, must be explored, including job-sharing arrangements with locally-based technology and professional services firms.

**THOMAS "TAG" GREASON**  
Republican

1. We need to increase our focus on STEM. 2. We need more coordination between K-12, Higher Ed, and the business community. Our students must be prepared to succeed in an increasing global market place, and input is needed from each group. 3. We need to push more authority to the local school boards to make decisions that are best suited for their unique locality, and then as voters, we need to hold them accountable. Where additional funds are needed, we must change the Composite Index to more appropriately address the needs of rapidly growing jurisdictions.



9. Between the economic recession and the change in industries, Virginia residents are faced with a significant challenge to ensure they and their children have the skills to succeed in the global workplace. What role do you believe Virginia's public higher education institutions play in addressing these challenges and what programs/initiatives are you willing to propose to help them fulfill that role? Please address both community college and four-year institutions.

**DAVE POISSON**  
Democrat

Virginia must increase funding for both its two-year and four-year institutions of higher education. Virginia students should be provided increased funding for need-based financial aid and tuition assistance grants. Support for the Virginia Community College Transfer Grant Program, which I cosponsored, should be increased to enable more students with associate degrees to transfer to four-year institutions.

**THOMAS "TAG" GREASON**  
Republican

I believe strongly in continued education. Higher education must be affordable, available, and structured to prepare our students to succeed. Affordability: I support tuition assistance for those who qualify, but I also know that colleges and universities must be free to adjust tuition based on market and economic conditions. Availability: we must work to create more Associates and Bachelor's degrees over the next decade. Prep for the future: a concentrated effort on STEM is the best way to compete globally. Lastly, we must expand our community college system to support their effort in workforce training and retraining.

10. Access to affordable health care for all businesses, including small businesses and sole proprietors, continues to be a top priority of the Loudoun County Chamber. Please describe what specific policies/initiatives you would support to help address this challenge.

**DAVE POISSON**  
Democrat

Small business health plans, which I have consistently supported, help make health care more affordable by enabling employers to pool their purchasing power. Opportunities to bring greater flexibility to the types of health plans insurers are able to offer ought also to be explored.

**THOMAS "TAG" GREASON**  
Republican

Being a small business, I know the struggles of affordable health care. My company costs went up overall in 2009 by 18%. As a relatively small organization we don't a lot of leverage to negotiate, and it is impossible for us to have a Cafeteria Plan option. This limits the options that my employees have when choosing coverage. If we could help small companies get more flexibility when choosing the components of their plans, costs could be controlled more easily, as we would not have to pay for coverage that we don't need.



## 11. What types of energy development should Virginia promote to ensure that businesses have reliable, affordable and environmentally sound energy supplies in the future?

### DAVE POISSON

Democrat

Polls show vast majorities understanding that creating a new energy economy that uses 21st century technology is key not only to stabilizing our climate, but also to enhancing our national security, rebuilding our industrial job base, and improving the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink. Virginia must become the preferred location for green technology companies and green jobs through public-private partnerships and incentives designed to spur commercialization.

### THOMAS "TAG" GREASON

Republican

I am an "all of the above" energy guy, and believe we should be evaluating and where appropriate investing in clean-coal, nuclear, off shore drilling, and natural gas. We also need more attention on wind, solar, and bio-fuels, and we must incent businesses to continue to research and make each of these technologies more commercially viable. Environmental protection must be a large part of this discussion, but it should not be the ONLY part of the discussion. Alternative energy sources will help our environment, create jobs here in Virginia, and end our dangerous and costly dependence on foreign oil.

## 12. The Chamber believes that there is a state role in ensuring the availability of technology infrastructure in Virginia. That being said, what funding and/or policy initiatives would you support to expedite deployment and reduce the cost of broadband access in Virginia in under-served areas, such as western Loudoun County?

### DAVE POISSON

Democrat

Loudoun County has long been recognized as being at the epicenter of Northern Virginia's technology community. But if broadband access is to become a reality for every business and citizen in Virginia, greater attention must be given to identifying and focusing on underserved areas like western Loudoun County; greater use must be made of tax incentives to fuel adoption of broadband use in rural areas; and greater support must be provided the Office of Telework and Broadband Assistance.

### THOMAS "TAG" GREASON

Republican

With an emphasis on broadband access as it relates to education and preparing our children to compete globally, and as it relates to improved efficiency in our fast paced economy, I would support including broadband as a universal service, as defined in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Providing broadband service to low-income households and high-cost areas is a goal we should strive for in Virginia. It is important to work closely with the communications providers to find the least burdensome way to accomplish this, while understanding that both private and public entities will benefit from increase broadband access.



### 13. Please briefly describe what best qualifies you to hold the office for which you are running.

**DAVE POISSON**

Democrat

With Virginia FREE ratings consistently among the very highest in the General Assembly, I have made clear my commitment to the important role business plays in Virginia. I have also demonstrated my ability to work successfully across party lines.

**THOMAS "TAG" GREASON**

Republican

With over 15 years of proven business experience, I know how to create jobs, stimulate growth, and jumpstart an economy. To succeed, I must solve problems everyday for my customers, my partners, and most importantly my employees. Leadership and efficiency define my success, at Current Analysis or in Richmond.

### 14. What is the chief factor that differentiates you from your opponent(s) (if you have one)?

**DAVE POISSON**

Democrat

My agenda as a legislator is unswervingly focused on the issues that matter most to my constituents, such as transportation, job creation, and education, not on narrow divisive issues.

**THOMAS "TAG" GREASON**

Republican

Business Experience. I have lead hundreds of people in the military and the private sector, turned an almost bankrupt company around, created a profit, and created a job. My opponent has been a lobbyist, lawyer, a staffer in the U.S. Senate, and a state legislator. Businessman versus lifelong politician.

### 15. Do you have a web site where more information about you is available? What is that web site address?

**DAVE POISSON**

Democrat

Yes, the URL is [www.DelegatePoisson.com](http://www.DelegatePoisson.com).

**THOMAS "TAG" GREASON**

Republican

Yes, [www.vote4tag.com](http://www.vote4tag.com).

