



HOUSE 67TH DISTRICT

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

CARMIN "CHUCK" CAPUTO

Democrat
PO Box 222154
Chantilly 20153
703-476-4229
www.caputofordeldelegate.com

Transportation. We can no longer afford to allow regional politics to hinder efforts to reform how transportation is funded.

JAMES LEMUNYON

Republican
PO Box 220732
Chantilly 20153
703-264-1432
www.lemunyon09.com

Balancing the state budget while addressing important needs such as transportation, education, and social services.

2. How do you propose to address this challenge?

CARMIN "CHUCK" CAPUTO

Democrat

I plan to assemble a bipartisan working group now in order to prepare legislation in advance for the 2010 General Assembly session. I also believe that we must find a way to prioritize new construction projects according to traffic congestion relief. Mass transit and rail must also be incorporated into any plan that the Assembly passes, including continuing to ensure that Metro Rail to Dulles receives the highest priority. Local governments and the state must, in the meantime, work together to find ways to optimize our existing infrastructure while funding long-term solutions.

JAMES LEMUNYON

Republican

Work to establish a bipartisan consensus on specific priorities within and between budget categories, and make this list available to the public for review and input before budget decisions are made. Ensure that the highest priorities are funded first.



2009 BizVotes
Sponsors:



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?

CARMIN “CHUCK” CAPUTO

Democrat

First off, a recession is no time to raise taxes on anybody, including businesses. I continue to support a system of tax incentives to promote economic growth for businesses relocating to Northern Virginia, such as the Business Facilities Tax Credit. At the same time, I also support extending tax incentives to Virginia residents in order to promote economic health.

JAMES LEMUNYON

Republican

I don't agree with the premise that government can succeed in “stimulating” economic growth. Instead, government must ensure that our laws and regulations are clearly defined and predictable, and structured in a way that fosters an economic environment for growth, especially related to tax policy, business regulations, education policy, and transportation infrastructure. This is what it means to be a “pro-business” state. I propose a review of all state regulations for impact on business, with a view toward revising or discarding those that are out-of-date or are ineffective.

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

CARMIN “CHUCK” CAPUTO

Democrat

I support increasing the Governor's Opportunity Fund to attract more jobs to the area as well as performance-based fiscal incentives to increase Virginia's ability to compete for new business opportunities. I also think we need to seriously contend to be the #1 state for renewable energy business with targeted incentives to attract green opportunities and jobs. I also support legislation to allow small business to pool their resources to provide high quality, affordable health care. The state must also crack down on companies hiring illegal immigrants to ensure that all companies are able to compete in the market.

JAMES LEMUNYON

Republican

Implementing transportation solutions is a primary reason I am running. We need to establish a rating system for transportation infrastructure improvements so that projects can be ranked based on the amount of congestion that will be reduced for the dollars spent, and make this list public. This would create greater government transparency, and helps voters understand whether elected officials are working to fund the highest priority projects first, or political pet projects instead.



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?

CARMIN "CHUCK" CAPUTO

Democrat

Yes. There must be a state-wide solution to road and mass transit funding with dedicated, sustainable revenue streams for Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. I am not willing to take anything off the table in regards to finding a proper, long-term solution, including but not limited to sales taxes on vehicle sales, auto insurance premium taxes or privatizing some state transportation functions, such as rest areas, in order to generate more dedicated revenue for transportation. However, any solution must ensure that we do NOT take funding away from the core services under the General Fund.

JAMES LEMUNYON

Republican

Yes. We need to steer existing revenues toward transportation. Any increase in taxes directed toward transportation must be offset with tax decreases in other parts of the tax code. Taking inflation and population growth into account, Virginia's revenue collections from all sources is 40 percent more today than 10 years ago. The lack of funding for transportation is not due to a lack of revenue overall, it's because transportation has not ranked as a high enough priority. But funding alone is not sufficient. We need to change the state funding formula so that more tax dollars are returned to Northern Virginia.

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?

CARMIN "CHUCK" CAPUTO

Democrat

We must find ways to ensure that new growth does not overrun our existing infrastructure so that local governments are able to grow their revenues at a sustainable rate. As delegate, I would work with local governments to help achieve this goal.

JAMES LEMUNYON

Republican

I will work to ensure that redistricting of Virginia's House and Senate seats in the next General Assembly session is completed in a way that provides for a majority of votes from districts representing Virginia's urban and suburban areas, and major transportation corridors. This will enable the General Assembly to vote to return a greater share of the tax dollars to Northern Virginia that are derived from Northern Virginia.



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?

CARMIN "CHUCK" CAPUTO

Democrat

I would continue to promote creating a Virginia Affordable Housing Trust Fund, encourage developers to include plans for affordable housing, and help localities pursue their affordable housing goals. This past session, I sponsored a statewide study of affordable housing incentive options in order to help advise localities.

JAMES LEMUNYON

Republican

The root causes of the housing crisis are national in scope, and did not originate in Virginia. As a result, there is little Virginia's government can do to specifically "stimulate" the housing market in Virginia. I will refrain from creating expectations that the government can't meet. Virginia's housing market will improve as the national market improves. Maintaining a pro-business climate in Virginia is one way to minimize the impact of the national economic downturn. Also, the General Assembly should review the law as it relates to how much risk homeowners can assume with a mortgage.

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.

CARMIN "CHUCK" CAPUTO

Democrat

Strengthening the Community College Transfer Credit and preventing almost \$175 million in cuts to our education budget this past session were good first steps to making education both more affordable and higher in quality for Virginia's students. I also think that we must raise teacher pay to the national average in order to attract the best teachers, cap the number of out-of-state students accepted to universities that take state funds, and fully fund the Standards of Learning as required by the Virginia Constitution.

JAMES LEMUNYON

Republican

I'll mentioned two initiatives. I support a bill to establish a state school construction fund to help localities build or upgrade schools. My opponent voted against this bill in the Virginia House. I also propose public school open enrollment, similar to laws already working in 46 other states. As school boundaries change frequently, some families can be dissatisfied with the outcome. My proposal would allow students to attend the public school of their choice rather than their assigned school, if the family provides transportation and the desired school does not exceed its student capacity limit.



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.

CARMIN "CHUCK" CAPUTO
Democrat

I think that community colleges are absolutely vital to training today's workers for tomorrow's jobs. Workers must have access to affordable, high quality vocational training programs with additional incentives for businesses seeking continuing education.

I also believe that we must create public-private partnerships to invest in university research in growth technology, like the Bioscience Fund legislation I sponsored in the 2009 session. In addition, I support the Grow by Degrees campaign, an economic plan that includes generating 70,000 new undergraduate and graduate degrees by 2010 among other goals.

JAMES LEMUNYON
Republican

Virginia's public higher education institutions play a significant role. We need to increase the percentage of in-state students at Virginia's public universities to at least 75 percent, and ensure that any Virginia student who wants to study science, math, and engineering has the opportunity to do so at a community college or four-year university. I also propose a second Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Eastern Loudoun or Western Fairfax Counties, to help qualified students have better access to an advanced high school education.

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.

CARMIN "CHUCK" CAPUTO
Democrat

I continue to support a state version of the federal Health Insurance Marketplace & Affordability Act, which allows small businesses to pool their resources together for better rates on health insurance. I also voted in 2009 to allow health insurers to offer and sell to small businesses group health insurance policies that do not include state mandated health insurance benefits. I also opposed a pilot health insurance program for low-wage earners that would have increased insurance costs for many small businesses and duplicated existing state programs.

JAMES LEMUNYON
Republican

We need more health insurance choices. An example of a competitive insurance market is auto insurance, in which policy holders can change insurance easily if they are dissatisfied, and don't need to change insurance if they change jobs. This should be the model for health insurance. One specific idea I support is to allow Virginians to purchase health insurance from companies licensed in certain other states, but not Virginia. This would provide more choices and more competition, and therefore better service and rates.



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

CARMIN "CHUCK" CAPUTO

Democrat

For the long term, I strongly support growing Virginia's clean energy economy so that Virginia can become the nation's leader in renewable energies, such as wind, solar, and bio fuels while continuing to most efficiently use our current natural resources. In the near term, one of the best ways to generate energy is actually through conservation. That's why I sponsored a plan to give tax credits to businesses buying energy efficient equipment. I also propose that smart grid energy meters be installed in Loudoun County to upgrade our energy grid and save almost 4% in energy costs annually.

JAMES LEMUNYON

Republican

All types. While the goal of an economy based on renewable energy makes sense, it will not be technologically feasible for many years. I support incentives for use of renewable energy so that a greater share of energy production is based on renewable sources. In the meantime, all other energy sources should be "on the table" such as nuclear power, off-shore natural gas, and clean coal.

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?

CARMIN "CHUCK" CAPUTO

Democrat

I voted in 2008 to create the Office of Telework and Broadband Assistance and continue to support its agenda. In 2009, I also supported the creation of the Virginia Broadband Infrastructure Loan Fund, a program to reduce the cost for localities building broadband infrastructure and increase public-private partnerships in this policy area. In the future, I believe that a state grant program should be established to help localities become more economically viable by having the technological infrastructure they need to compete.

JAMES LEMUNYON

Republican

I support the Broadband Infrastructure Loan Fund proposed by Delegate Joe May, which would enable local governments to borrow funds from this Fund for broadband infrastructure development.





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

CARMIN "CHUCK" CAPUTO

Democrat

I have fought to protect our quality of life since my time as a home owner's association president in 1971. I took my personal and professional experience to Richmond four years ago and still continue to accomplish goals we never thought possible, which is why I should return.

JAMES LEMUNYON

Republican

I have started, grown, and sold a business in Virginia. We need more business people in the General Assembly to bring new ideas, imagination, and problem solving skills to government. I have also managed a federal government agency and reduced its budget while make the agency more effective.

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

CARMIN "CHUCK" CAPUTO

Democrat

I have worked to improve the quality of life for the people of the 67th District for over 40 years. From homeowner's association president to Thomas Jefferson High School PTSA president to member of the School Board to Delegate, I have made the citizens of the 67th district my top priority.

JAMES LEMUNYON

Republican

I believe that Virginia's government can be made better without making it bigger. I am also a proponent of Virginia's Right-to-Work law; my opponent is not. I am also committed to not taking a vacation while the General Assembly is in session, as my opponent has done, while missing key transportation votes.

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

CARMIN "CHUCK" CAPUTO

Democrat

www.delegatecaputo.com

JAMES LEMUNYON

Republican

www.LeMunyon09.com



2009 BizVotes
Sponsors:

