



HOUSE 86TH DISTRICT

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

TOM RUST

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The 2010 General Assembly session will be dominated by adoption of the '10-12 budget with revenue shortfalls in the magnitude of the current deficits.

STEVENS MILLER

Democrat
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Revitalizing the state economy is the biggest challenge facing Virginia in the upcoming term.

2. How do you propose to address this challenge?

TOM RUST

Republican

Every facet of the budget must be reviewed. A performance audit of every agency could result in savings estimated to be in the range of \$300-\$500 million per year. There are too many duplicate functions being provided by different agencies particularly in higher education, human resources, and job training. Working as I did in 2004, all options to close the projected deficit while keeping Virginia business friendly must be considered. Review the Wilder Commission for additional savings, including such items as centralizing distribution centers, remove Correctional Enterprises as a mandatory supplier, and eliminate Virginia as a power plant operator.

STEVENS MILLER

Democrat

We must reinvest state revenue in Northern Virginia, and eliminate pointless or antiquated barriers at the state and local level to economic development.



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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?

TOM RUST
Republican

I will continue to patron legislation such as I did to complete the deal to attract Volkswagen of America to Fairfax and the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund, which was a consideration in Raytheon's move to Loudoun. I will support an increase in the Governor's Opportunity Fund when justified. I will also continue to support funding for Wallops Island Spaceport to make it the space center on the mid-Atlantic coast and I will continue to support offshore energy exploration, both of which can create thousands of jobs. I will continue to support tax credits for job creation and workforce training.

STEVENS MILLER
Democrat

Growth of the commercial sector in NOVA by allocating more state revenues back where they originated. Modernizing municipal zoning ordinances by allowing administrative disposition of expensive legislative application that are routinely granted.

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

TOM RUST
Republican

I will support policies that keep me rated by Virginia FREE as the #1 business-friendly member of the House of Delegates. I will support a review of the State's regulations to insure that we are doing all we can to be business-friendly. I will support increased resources to promote Virginia business, tourism, wine, and film industries by increasing the Economic Development Partnership. Tax incentives for new job creation are another option. Education and training for the workforce are other critical components. Improvements to the transportation infrastructure are critical to the business community and quality of life.

STEVENS MILLER
Democrat

Rewriting the sign ordinance! Adding by-right uses to existing zoning districts.



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?

TOM RUST
Republican

Yes! With a \$1 billion annual shortfall in transportation funding and construction funds being diverted, the need for additional revenue is proven. A combination of revenue sources must be considered, including tolls, PPTA's, general funds, bonds, and new sources. Future revenues could include offshore drilling royalties and interstate tolling. Northern Virginia must be allowed to raise additional funds for transportation and those funds must remain in Northern Virginia. In order to get appropriate funding legislation passed, it must include both a statewide and regional component. New revenues must be evaluated for their impact on the general fund.

STEVENS MILLER
Democrat

Yes. Multi-modal transit generates productivity and, therefore, revenue.

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?

TOM RUST
Republican

I have supported the equalization of taxing authority between counties, cities, and towns, which would give counties a broader range of taxing authority to relieve the pressure on property taxes. If counties were to receive this authority, consideration must be given to each county's decision to maintain its own road system or not, as cities and towns (over 3,500 population) maintain their own roads. I have patroned legislation to allow NOVA jurisdictions to keep a share of the growth of the income tax revenues for transportation projects. These efforts have been successful in the House but unsuccessful in the Senate.

STEVENS MILLER
Democrat

If a new majority includes the NOVA delegation, we will be able to negotiate a fair state-wide distribution of revenues (at last!).



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?

TOM RUST
Republican

The 2009 Virginia General Assembly took a number of steps to stimulate the housing market, including reducing bonding requirements, extending the period of validity of plats and plans, and storm water offsets. Additional steps that can be taken include reducing the time required for land use approvals, allowing more flexibility in design standards, and offering tax credits for a limited period for home buyers. Currently, state storm water management regulations are being reviewed, which if implemented as currently written, will place severe restrictions on property and redevelopment opportunities. New job creation, such as VW & Raytheon, creates housing needs.

STEVENS MILLER
Democrat

Government must work to stimulate jobs that will allow citizens to return to home ownership. Incentivizing businesses to locate in the region, keeping taxes low for citizens and businesses alike, removing administrative barriers to business growth, and working to keep neighborhoods safe and up to community standards in appearance are just a few ways government can help stimulate the housing market.

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.

TOM RUST
Republican

Loudoun County has one of the best school systems in the Commonwealth. Improvement should focus on meeting the needs of students. Expanding pre-school and full-day Kindergarten, promoting career and technical education, enhancing Science, Engineering, Technology & Mathematics (STEM) courses, and making it easier for dual course enrollments for high school students at our community college institutions. Using virtual textbooks can also save funds. About 24% of the school budget comes from the state, mostly in categorical assistance driven by population. The state's local composite index needs to be revised to be fairer to Loudoun taxpayers.

STEVENS MILLER
Democrat

The composite index **MUST** be redefined, so Loudoun's taxpayers have more of their own money invested in our schools. Del. Poisson's amendment to appoint school boards would help.



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.

TOM RUST
Republican

Virginia has, arguably, one of the two best higher education systems in the country. The higher education system has played, and will continue to play, a major role in providing the education for our workforce. Accessibility and affordability are issues, particularly in Northern Virginia. To solve that, additional capacity must be created. One major step that I worked on was the articulation agreements between the community college system and the four-year institutions, which is a huge benefit for both accessibility and affordability. I was a co-patron of several higher education bonds to fund the system.

STEVENS MILLER
Democrat

More emphasis belongs on science and technology, particularly on areas related to skills that cannot be off-shored, such as architecture and construction.

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.

TOM RUST
Republican

Several positive steps have been taken to address this issue. I supported flexible benefits health insurance legislation that gives small businesses flexibility to offer health insurance plans through greater choice of levels of coverage. Small business insurance pools have also been created, which allow small businesses to create cooperatives to offer health care services. I will continue to support legislation that gives small businesses flexibility in choosing programs for their employees. I do not support changes to workers compensation such as 'gradually incurred' maladies and will continue to support tort reform to keep workers compensation fair and affordable.

STEVENS MILLER
Democrat

A means-based system of premiums for a state-wide pool with no refusals, combined with preventive care emphasis, would be cost-effective.



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

TOM RUST
Republican

Virginia needs to have a balanced program of energy, including clean coal, geothermal, nuclear, wind, solar, hydro, natural gas, and wave, to name a few. In addition to supply, the distribution system needs to be upgraded to meet our increasing demand for energy. We must continue to emphasize renewable energy and conservation in order to reduce our reliance on non-renewable fuels and to reduce our increasing demand. I have patroned legislation in both of these areas. Regulations should be revived to insure that there are no impediments to the use of individual energy systems such as solar, wind, and geothermal.

STEVENS MILLER
Democrat

Energy development calls for a mix of wind, solar, nuclear, biomass, tidal, and other sources, some with limited life-time tax incentivization to promote entrepreneurship and research.

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?

TOM RUST
Republican

I co-patroned the creation of the Broadband Council, which will review all policies pertaining to technologies and impediments to expansion of the broadband network. It will also provide advice on funding priorities and methodologies to reduce costs. I also supported the creation of the Broadband Infrastructure Loan Fund, which is a fund exclusive for broadband financing. Regulations must also be reviewed to insure that impediments to construction of the system are not present, since the system will most likely be satellite based.

STEVENS MILLER
Democrat

Confidential disclosure of coverage area data for use by local governments in developing telecom policies. Incentivize telework centers.





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

TOM RUST
Republican

I have lengthy experience as an elected official in local and state government. I have been recognized by many organizations as a responsive, effective, productive leader in the General Assembly. I am a business leader and a long-time resident of the district I represent.

STEVENS MILLER
Democrat

I'm an attorney, parent, and small-business operator with county government experience. My ability to support economic development, while protecting other community interests is a matter of record. I have the background needed for 21st century leadership.

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

TOM RUST
Republican

I am a recognized leader in the areas of transportation, education, and business issues, having received numerous awards in these areas. I was rated #1 in the House by Virginia FREE on business issues and am consistently ranked as one of the most effective members in the House.

STEVENS MILLER
Democrat

Follow-through. I choose my commitments carefully, and then I deliver on them, in a non-partisan manner.

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

TOM RUST
Republican

Yes, www.tomrust.org or voters can email me their questions and concerns at trust@tomrust.org and I will be happy to respond.

STEVENS MILLER
Democrat

Yes. www.stevensmiller.com



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