



**BEARING DRIFT**  
VIRGINIA'S CONSERVATIVE VOICE

Del. Dick Black, candidate, 13<sup>th</sup> Senate District

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## 2011 GOP Senate Candidate Questionnaire

**Are you satisfied with VDOT's efficiency and effectiveness? Do you think they need more funding or greater efficiency? What are your ideas for improvement?**

1. We must amend the Virginia Constitution to prohibit raids on the two transportation trust funds.
2. Funds need to be allocated according to highway usage, with more going to high-intensity traffic areas like Northern Virginia.
3. We need to take a hard, confrontational look at Metrorail in light its soaring costs. These benefit special interests at taxpayer expense. The General Assembly needs to create an audit committee to serve as watchdog over this project.
4. We can't fund Metro to Ashburn with higher tolls on the Dulles Tollway. We may need to consider whether Loudoun should pull out of the Ashburn portion altogether if costs aren't drastically reduced. We may be able to use bus mass transit from neighborhoods, connecting to the Metro at the Dulles Airport.
5. We always need to watch VDOT's efficiency but there is only so much to be gained there. We must keep VDOT operating professionally, and that requires steady funding and maintaining high morale among the staff.

**Do you think Virginia should embrace education reform? Is our current public education system sufficient, or do you think it needs a substantial rethinking and overhaul? If you support reform, what specific reforms do you favor?**

1. We need school choice—preferably tuition tax credits. Private schooling is sometimes superior at a small fraction of the cost.

2. Public schools need well-paid teachers and reasonable class sizes but the auxiliary and administrative staffs have become remarkably bloated. Cut the staff, and don't start with classroom teachers—start with excessively-paid bureaucrats.
3. Our nation and our Commonwealth face serious financial perils. Every part of government must engage in belt-tightening. We cannot gold-plate public schools when faced with waves of foreclosures and bankruptcies.
4. We need to shift teaching resources to core subjects. Slim down the curriculum so children can learn solid subjects. E.g. incorporate the few useful parts of "sex-ed" into a well-grounded study of biology. Replace environmental studies with hard sciences like chemistry and physics.
5. Loudoun County built a \$41 million dollar administrative building that doesn't teach a single child to read or write. Turn it into a school or sell it; it's a monumental waste.
6. Plus up technical education. Not every child will, or should, become a white collar worker. A healthy nation needs to produce tangible products; it needs heavy industry. We need to train plumbers, draftsmen, welders and brick layers. American educators need to get away from their one-dimensional mindset on education.

**Should new highways be funded through existing revenues, tolls, fuel taxes or some other method? Be specific.**

1. We need additional funding with a portion of sales taxes going to transportation.
2. Additionally, General Funds should be applied to roads when available. No one has ever satisfactorily explained why road building is not a valid "general" purpose for which to apply General Funds.
3. Virginia should vigorously exploit off-shore oil drilling and apply all revenues to roads. We should open up uranium mining in Pittsylvania with royalties going to the Commonwealth for roads as well.

**Do you favor term limits for Virginia legislators?**

1. All three statewide positions should be term limited.
2. I do not support extending the four-year term for Governor.
3. I would support a 12-year limit in office for members of the House and of the Senate.

**Explain why you are a better choice than your opponent?**

1. I am the only candidate who has served in the House of Delegates (four terms).

2. I am the only candidate who has represented a major portion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Senate District, (having represented as many as 120,000 residents in Loudoun County).
3. I am the only Loudoun County candidate in a district principally comprised of Loudoun residents (74%).
4. I am the only candidate who has won four general elections—twice the combined total of my two opponents.
5. My close relationship with Delegate Bob Marshall--my former seatmate in the House of Delegates—will help me make wise decisions on behalf of our Prince William residents.
6. Voters attach considerable importance to military service. Neither of my opponents are veterans but the Democrat candidate is. On the other hand, I flew 269 combat missions in Vietnam and served as an air officer with the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Regiment, defending a ridgeline against the 2<sup>nd</sup> NVA Division. My six-man air control team suffered five wounded and three killed in three weeks of intense fighting. I was the only legislator who held the Purple Heart Medal during my seven years of service. I began as a Marine private and ended as an Army JAG colonel on the general staff at the Pentagon.
6. I am the only candidate who has filled a wide range of senior positions in judicial, executive and legislative rolls. I have an extremely broad range of experience, unmatched by most legislators. I was responsible for preparing Executive Orders for the President's signature, responding to inquiries addressed to the President of the United States. I testified as an expert on foreign affairs and military law before committees of the U.S. Congress. I headed the Criminal Law Division in the Pentagon with worldwide responsibilities. I advised the Senate Armed Services Committee on issues of major national significance. I was statutorily appointed a Staff Judge Advocate (roughly the military equivalent of a United States Attorney), supervising three legal offices with 25-40 attorneys each. I operated a Marine heavy engineer company and rebuilt the Vieques Island Runway. I supervised the loading and offloading of the U.S. Caribbean Fleet at Moorhead City, N.C. I've supervised litigation in the United States courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court and am admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. I've operated a law firm and been a partner in an interstate legal partnership. I've been a pilot and Marine Corps flight instructor. I've been responsible for sensitive diplomatic contacts in Europe and the Middle East.

**Does Virginia government spend too much, too little or just enough?**

It spends too much. As government expands, it squeezes out private enterprise. We have become all things to all people, turning a safety net into a hammock.

**Name one law you would patron a bill to repeal?**

I blocked Red Light cameras for five years in the House of Delegates. The year I left the legislature, the cameras were approved by a wide margin. They are stupid and I would forbid their use.

**When Virginia receives a surplus, what should it do with the revenues?**

1. First, we should apply revenues to highway construction and maintenance.
2. Next, we should repay the state pension fund. (We balanced the budget by putting the state pensions on the credit card. This is a dangerous practice).
3. Then, we should reconstitute the Rainey Day fund and restrict its use so funds could not be withdrawn as carelessly as they were in recent years.
4. Afterwards, I would abolish the Car Tax.
5. Finally, I would make a one-time refund to taxpayers.

**What areas of government do you feel are best left to private markets or individuals to provide?**

Citizens should have the option of choosing the best education for their children, be it public, private or home education.

Health care should be left to the private markets. Obamacare is an abomination that threatens the free enterprise system and the economy itself.

I do support the state-run ABC liquor stores and do not think it wise to sell off this asset for both social and financial reasons.

I oppose private highways like the Greenway, which is a massive failure and an oppressive monopoly.