



BEARING DRIFT
VIRGINIA'S CONSERVATIVE VOICE

Mark Peake, Candidate, 22nd Senate District

2011 GOP Senate Candidate Questionnaire

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

A) We must always start with greater efficiency, and I believe that Governor McDonnell's audit is a great start.

Q) Do you think Virginia should embrace educational 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?

A) I have five children in Lynchburg public schools, and I am satisfied with the education they receive there. Everyone talks about the importance of parental involvement, but it is hollow to cry for involvement when the system seems to block parental control. Some form of tax credit that allows more parents to decide directly how and where their children will be educated would be a start. For our public schools it is important to see that dollars find their way into the classroom.

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

A) Look within existing funding first. There may come a time to look at a combination of tolls and private-public partnerships.

Q) Do you favor term limits for Virginia legislators?

A) Yes

Q) Explain why you are a better choice than your opponent.

A) I have more than 20 years experience in the private sector. I know how payroll taxes and regulations affect my ability to hire new employees. I know firsthand how new laws, such as Obamacare, make it challenging for me to offer my employees high quality benefits that I rely on to recruit and retain the best employees.

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

A) There have been budgets in recent years that spent too much. I believe Governor McDonnell has introduced welcome restraint that moves us toward just enough. One reservation: surpluses when they occur should not be treated as an invitation for increased spending.

Q) Name one law you would patron a bill to repeal?

A) One bill I am eager to co-patron is the constitutional amendment to restrict the power of Imminent Domain.

Q) When Virginia receives a surplus, what should it do with its revenues?

A) There are three clear acceptable uses today: rebate to the taxpayers, contribution to the rainy day fund, and replenishing the Virginia Retirement System.

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

A) Certainly health insurance.

Q) Do you consider the Virginia Constitution (as adopted in 1971 and amended since) to grant too much power to state government? If not, why not? If so, what powers given to Richmond would you propose be restricted or repealed by constitutional amendment.

A) My current priority with regard to the Virginia constitution is to support the amendment to roll back the effects of the Kelo decision on Imminent Domain.

Q) When does life begin? When should life be protected under the laws of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia?

A) Life begins at conception, and children should be afforded the protection of the laws.

Q) In Virginia, is there too much gun control or too little? What laws would you like to see changed and how?

A) Virginia has, for the most part, done a good job protecting the rights of gun owners. I would like to see the repeal of the one-gun-a-month law.

Q) Do you support the Dillon Rule?

A) Yes

Q) Would you support school choice legislation, including legislation to allow parents to receive a tax credit up to a certain amount if their children are not in a public school?

A) Yes.