



**BEARING DRIFT**  
VIRGINIA'S CONSERVATIVE VOICE

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## 2011 GOP Senate Candidate Questionnaire

### Scott Martin, 39<sup>th</sup> State Senate District

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?

**VDOT and WMATA are broken, and have been for many years. The problems are not funding, but how the money is spent, and where. One of the biggest problems is transportation planning and local political influence into those decisions. Spot improvements, expansions, repaving seems to always occur around project redevelopments or new construction projects that benefit the supervisors' or council members project approval votes, rather than the areas the most need it. VDOT planning needs to be outsourced to the private sector so an unbiased priority and cost analysis can be done and shared with the citizens for their input. On simple example of bad planning is Clifton Road and Henderson where I live; each has been paved 3 times in less than ten years, and each time it was never needed, wasting close to \$16M. Also simple solutions like fixing the Silverbrook & Hooes Intersection (in the 39<sup>th</sup>), where a center area of northbound pavement is already there, but blocked by their striping. Restriping would provide a left turn lane, which would solve rush hour congestion: Costs \$1000.**

**WMATA is also a sinkhole. NVa has given WMATA almost \$500M since 2004 in bond money (I was a political appointee on the 2004 Bond Referendum Committee) for busses and subway cars mostly used in DC and MD. In 2004, when I asked WMATA's Director in a closed door meeting if Fairfax's \$110M from Bond money would be used for busses and cars in Fairfax, or even Virginia, he told me flat out, No, there are**

**needed in DC and MD. How about the \$600K a piece new hybrid diesel busses they just purchases, five years after they just purchased \$320K CNG busses, and less than five years after they purchased \$200K clean diesel busses? Good management of our tax dollars?**

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?

**Being an educator, financially restructuring education, both K-12 and higher education is my top priority when elected.**

**I'm a major advocate of school choice, using the Indiana model as one example. Funding and fiduciary responsibility should be removed from school boards and handed to the local governing taxing body (BOS, Town Councils), and school boards should focus on curriculum, textbook reviews and uses, and the general welfare of the students, not budgets. Textbooks drive the SOLs, and SOLs drive the POS. I would create an independent textbook review committee (volunteer) made up of educators, business leaders, education committee members from HOD and Senate, and Governor appointees to audit and review all K-12 textbooks for accuracy and integrity, honesty, and fairness.**

**Higher education needs a major financial overhaul. All boutique academic programs (like Queer Studies) that don't meet enrollment projections to fund them should be eliminated, and not subsidized by taxpayers. Enrollment acceptance rates for Virginia residents needs to be increased to 85% of available freshman classes. Administration costs should not exceed 10-12% of overall budget. Higher Ed. is extremely top heavy, even more so than K-12. Lastly, I will propose transparency for the admissions process for Virginians, so everyone knows what criteria is required to gain admission at each of our public universities. The admissions process has been a vexing and unfair process for too long for Virginia Citizens**

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

**There are enough taxes (not revenues- in government, a revenue is what is generated by the sale of a specific service or product from a company- not always the case when you pay taxes). Obviously if they are interstates, citizens pay enough taxes and fees to the Federal Government, and they should be funded by them. I'm an advocate of private or public –**

**business partnerships to build new highways. The Dulles Greenway, TRIP II, roads are impeccable shape, have a lower accident rate than route 28 or 7, they pay millions in taxes each year, and they donate hundreds of thousands of dollars to charity, each year. Can VDOT do all that?**

Do you favor term limits for Virginia legislators?

**Yes, and plan to propose legislation to do so. Three terms for the Senate, and six for the HOD.**

**If I accomplish most of my goals in my first term, I will not run for re-election.**

Explain why you are a better choice than your opponent?

**I am running to Financially Restructure Education (K-12 and higher education), cut and abolish small business taxes, and to make Virginia the most Veteran-Friendly State in the Nation, and I have real plans, the knowledge and experience to accomplish all three. My opponent has never mentioned in public why he is running in the first place.**

**I'm a Conservative Educator, not another lawyer or lobbyist, born in Dumfries, and have been at Mason going on 16 years. I scare the liberal democrats, and with my plans, ideas, and knowledge, I'm the most electable candidate to beat George Barker. Lastly, as an employee of the Commonwealth 100%, (as a tenured professor, assistant Dean of Technology and Research, and Director of Computer Game Design), when elected, I cannot receive any salary or benefit as a State Senator. I will be the first volunteer public servant in modern Virginia history.**

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

**The 2000-2002 Biennium Budget was \$46,805,961,842. The current 2010-2012 state budget is \$74,987,355,534 (<http://dpb.virginia.gov/budget/pastbiennia.cfm>). This represents over a 62% increase in less than a decade! To fund this historic state spending appetite, taxes and fees have also sharply increased during this same period. Too Much! I will cut, merge and consolidate programs and departments to return Virginia's budget back to 2006 spending levels to start.**

Name one law you would patron a bill to repeal?

**Where to start- I would repeal local units right to use Red-Light cameras**

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

**As I've heard the Governor himself say, a dollar in private sector hands is always more efficient than a dollar in government's hands. I would return it to the taxpayers. Governments are non-profits; they should end the fiscal year at \$0.**

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

**As I've mentioned, parts of transportation and transportation planning, road maintenance, IT (with better oversight from folks that know what they're doing), liquor stores, rest stops, K-12 education, trash collection, health care, and retirement financial management. When given a choice between VRS and a TIAA-Cref 401K 16 years ago, I chose a 401K, because I just don't believe in Conservative Principles, I live by them.**

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 to be restricted or repealed by constitutional amendment?

**I assume this question is asking should local governments have more control over local affairs.**

**Although I am a major advocate of local government rule, my concern with county and town governments having total control of all local jurisdictions is the same as Judge John Forest Dillon; that local governments, as structured are too susceptible to corruption.**

**Even with the Dillon Rule in place, look at the funding metrics from donors to all our supervisors in Fairfax, and you can chase the approval of projects and construction. It's called pay to play- corruption in my mind, not in others.**

**In addition, if the Dillon rule was abolished, and municipal home rule was established you**

would see a skyrocketing of taxes and fees (taxes by another name).

Local governments already skirt the Dillon rule by imposing taxes on water, cell phone use, cable television use, trash, recycling fees, and almost every aspect of daily life. Too many taxes

That said, I would still research a better option to institute local control over increasing aspects of government. Perhaps a limited municipal home rule allowance based on capped taxes.

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

**At conception, and I support protecting the life of the unborn with no exceptions. God makes life and death decisions, not State Senators.**

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

**Too much! I have made few promises in this election, but I have promised when elected to sponsor an extended Castle Doctrine bill (all personal property and family), and Constitutional Carry Bill**

Do you support the Dillon Rule?

See Above: **“Although I am a major advocate of local government rule, my concern with county and town governments having total control of all local jurisdictions is the same as Judge John Forest Dillon; that local governments, as structured are too susceptible to corruption.**

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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 public school?

**I will sponsor school choice legislation similar to Indiana’s School Choice Program, and will also patron a bill to refund tax dollars to home school parents. I will also patron a bill to give home school parents a tax refund for school supplies and books, materials, etc... they spend out of their pockets, similar to what public school teachers can currently claim.**