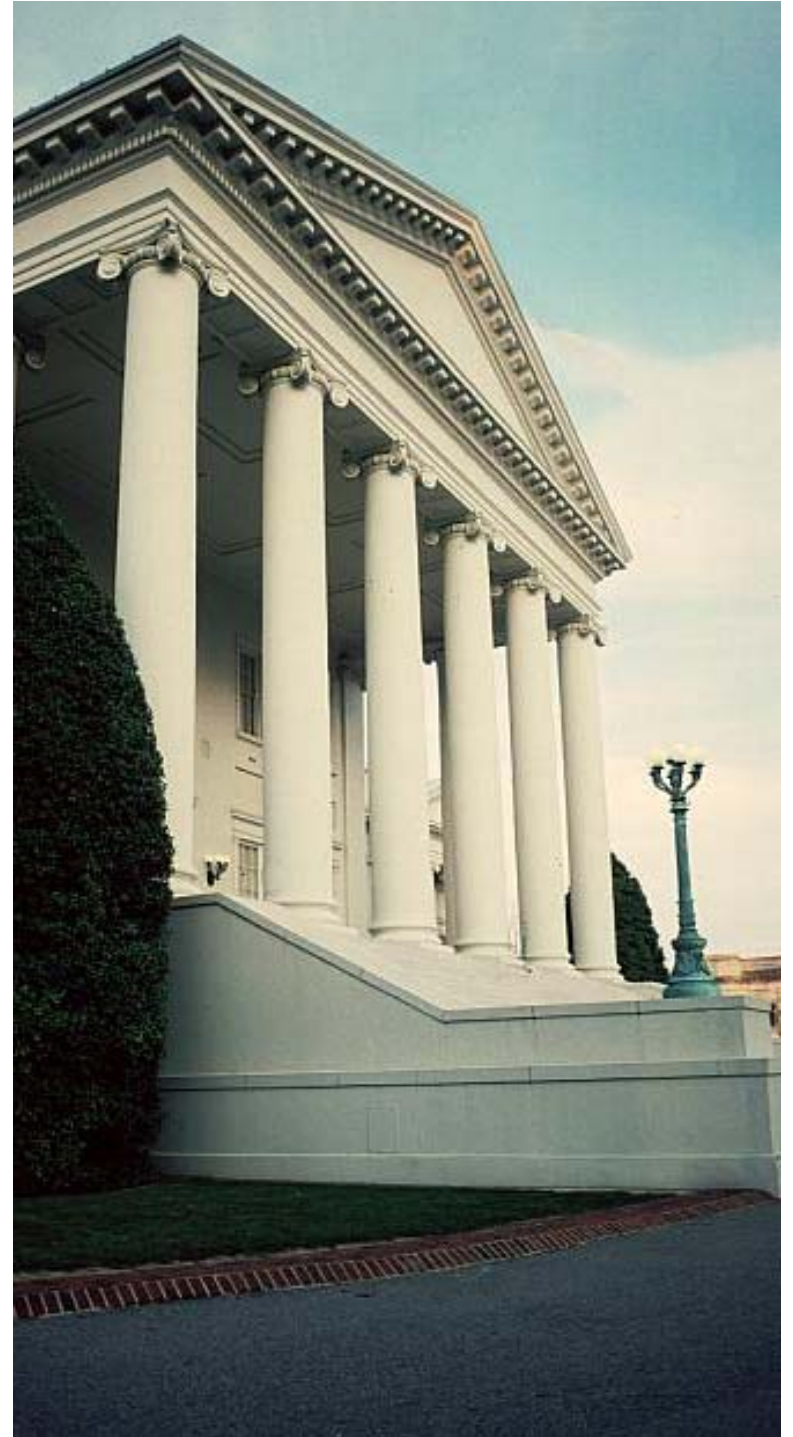


**2007 Session**  
**Town Hall**  
**Meeting**

**Delegate David Bulova**  
**January 27, 2007**



# Session Overview

- Convened January 10<sup>th</sup> in Jamestown.
- 1,599 bills introduced in the House.
- 692 bills introduced in the Senate.
- February 6<sup>th</sup> is “cross-over.”
- Session ends February 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Committee Assignments:
  - Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources
  - General Laws/Housing Subcommittee



# Voting and Accountability

- Session began with a vote on whether to modify House rules.
- A new rule was passed last year that allows bills to die in subcommittees without a recorded vote.
- HR 48 would have required a recorded vote in all subcommittees.
- The measure died on a 39Y-59N vote.



# Transportation

- **Northern Virginia.**
  - The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority estimates that an additional \$700 million per year is needed for system expansion and maintenance.
- **State-Wide.**
  - Virginia runs out of money for new construction by 2010, with all funds going towards maintenance; debt reduction, and federal match.

# Cooperation in Northern Virginia

- The Northern Virginia Delegation worked to put together a regional transportation package with broad support.
- The Rust-Albo-Watts Bill (HB2496) would raise about \$400 million annually.
  - All revenue would stay within the region.
  - Northern Virginia would be protected from any change in the State funding formula.
- Every Fairfax Delegate (save one) co-patroned the bill.
- More on funding later...

# What's Been Introduced?

- Speaker Howell has introduced a three-pronged transportation bill (HB3203) that includes:
  - VDOT reform.
    - Accountability.
    - Privatization of VDOT functions.
  - Transportation revenue.
    - State-wide component (new revenue and bonding).
    - Regional components.
  - Land use reform.

# HB 3203 – Funding

- \$250 million annually from General Fund (GF).
- 1/3 of existing insurance premiums (currently going to GF) would be dedicated to pay for new debt (peaks at \$154 million).
- 50% of any nonrecurring GF surplus.
- Increased motor vehicle registration fees.
- New abusive driver fees.
- Diesel tax equalization.
- Heavy truck registration fees.
- **Total is about \$700 million in funding.**

# HB 3203 – Bonding

- Proposed \$2 billion in State financed debt.
- Would incur 20 years of debt for \$300 million a year for 6-7 years.
- Bond proceeds would go through VDOT districts using the existing construction formula.
- The quandary is that there will still be a need for new capital improvements after the bond runs out.

# HB 3203 – Northern Virginia

- Locally raised, and regionally spent.
- Attempts to take advantage of tourism and business travel.
- Imposes:
  - Rental car impact fee of 2%.
  - Initial drivers license fee of \$100 (teens excluded).
  - Grantors tax increase of \$.40/\$100 value.
  - Commercial real estate assessment of \$.25/\$100 value.
- **Total is about \$400 million in new funding.**

# HB 3203 – Land Use

- Urban Development Areas
  - Encourages transit-oriented comprehensive planning.
  - Adoption is voluntary, but high growth localities that don't adopt can lose 50% of transportation funding.
  - UDAs don't address "stale zoning."
- Urban Transportation Districts
  - Encourages localities to take over maintenance of secondary roads.
  - A locality gets to keep the same funding level and get surplus equipment from the State.
  - Localities that adopt UTDs are granted authority to deny re-zonings if it is show that the transportation system will be overwhelmed.

**What is likely to happen with  
transportation?**

# Other Major Issues

- Transportation Lock-Box (Constitutional Amendment)
- Homestead Exemption (Constitutional Amendment)
  - Allows localities to exempt the first 20% of property from taxation.
- Universal Pre-School Initiative (Budget Amendment)

# Other Major Issues

- Illegal Immigration
  - Commission on Immigration.
  - Training for State Police to help federal ICE.
  - Increased penalties on employers.
- Utility Re-Regulation
- Prohibition of Cell Phone Use by Teens While Driving (HB1876 and SB1039)
- Minimum Wage Increase (HB2004)

# Other Major Issues

- Payday Lending (SB1014)
  - Attempts to reform payday lending practices but does not call for full repeal of the Payday Lending Act.
- Food Preparation For Homeless (HB2118)

# Other Major Issues

- Enhanced Penalties for Residential Overcrowding (SB 2261)
- Eminent Domain (HJ722)
- Data Breach Responsibilities (HB2140 and HB3148)
- Expansion of Off-Track Betting for Transportation

# David's Initiatives



- Northern Virginia strategic planning (HB2940).
  - Obtained commitment from the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and Fairfax County to discuss a process for developing a regional plan.
- Potomac River drought planning (HB 2487).
  - Passed House, awaits Senate approval.
- Compromised Data Disclosure Act (HB 3148).
  - Working with the Virginia Information Technology Agency.
  - Bill comes before Committee on Monday.

# David's Initiatives



- Photo red light enforcement (HB 2484).
  - Rolled together with four other bills for a single bill.
  - Reported from subcommittee last Wednesday.
- Single family construction limits (HB 2489).
  - Referred to Housing and Community Development Board for incorporation into the Building Code.
- Tree conservation during development (HB 2486).
  - Defeated in subcommittee 4Y-6N.

# What Are You Telling Me?

- Over 120 responses to the 2007 issues survey.
- Support new **State transportation** revenue?
  - 58% Support/Strongly Support
  - 20% Oppose/Strongly Oppose
- Support new **Northern Virginia** revenue?
  - 64% Support/Strongly Support
  - 15% Oppose/Strongly Oppose

# What Are You Telling Me?

- Support increased **funding for pre-school**?
  - 25% Support/Strongly Support
  - 48% Oppose/Strongly Oppose
- Support public indoor **smoking ban**?
  - 84% Support/Strongly Support
  - 11% Oppose/Strongly Oppose
- Support **two-term Governor**?
  - 72% Support/Strongly Support
  - 19% Oppose/Strongly Oppose

# What Are You Telling Me?

- Support extending use of **HOV by hybrids**?
  - 53% Support/Strongly Support
  - 25% Oppose/Strongly Oppose
- Support **paper validation** for electronic voting machines?
  - 56% Support/Strongly Support
  - 17% Oppose/Strongly Oppose
- Support training State Police for **immigration enforcement**?
  - 58% Support/Strongly Support
  - 28% Oppose/Strongly Oppose

# What Are You Telling Me?

- Support **homestead exemption**?
  - 59% Support/Strongly Support
  - 14% Oppose/Strongly Oppose
- Top Issues:
  - 69% put **transportation** in the top three.
  - 50% put **growth and development**.
  - 44% put **illegal immigration**.
  - 29% put **environment/open space**.
  - 29% put **health care costs**.

**Your input is very important to me and makes a difference in how I vote! Please always feel free to contact me.**

# Questions

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Call (804) 698-1037 during  
Session.