

## **LWV Pre-session Dec 6, 2017 Richmond**

### **Ric Brown, VA secretary of Finance**

Served 6 republican and 6 democratic governors

Finance underlies all policy

A few basic issues will drive this budget

1. **National economic situation.** 2nd longest expansion in US history; the longer it goes, the more risk. 2019-20. How long can it continue? Federal issues complicate: tax reform, health care; tax cut  
Hard to measure full employment, don't have a good measure; what effect will the stimulus have? If economy overheats Fed will try to control rise in inflation;
2. **Federal action:** Budget authorization. Dec 22  
Budget control act: sequestration. Not good for Virginia, especially NOVA; debt ceiling will hit later in the spring  
Programs wrapped up in these negotiations: CHIP not authorized, may shut down in January. 50% reimbursement, not 90%, through Medicaid  
Bond ratings Labor force connected to federal govt;  
Mandatory programs. Public education \$491 million. Medicaid \$671 million comes off the top; disability services; Mental health, etc are secondary  
lost \$400 million because no Medicaid expansion
3. **how much in reserve:** we need 8 1/2% cash reserves to weather inflation

### **Bob Brink, Legislative assistant to McAuliffe**

(In VA speaker of the house appoints all members of all committees)

2018 session begins January 10

Hope that near parity (parties) will make this GA productive. If 50-50 in GA, power sharing

Power sharing. 1998: proportional representation on committees. Now 15-7

Loss of institutional knowledge

In 1998 more than a third of delegates had been around for 15 or more years

In 2018 almost half of delegates will have been members for less than 4 years

12 republican incumbents defeated; avg is 3

Continuing trend of looking toward next redistricting

Shift of population from south side and SW Va to NOVA

Far SW counties are losers

28th district Fredericksburg people voted in the wrong district

Redistricting so fine tuned that some streets were split

A number of democrat sponsored bills failed by just a few votes

House rules have to be adopted by delegates

### **Garry Ellis, Virginia State Board of Elections. [sbe.gov](http://sbe.gov)**

Dept continually modernizing voter registration, voting

Update address etc. electronically through DMV

Registration: Voters more likely to enter data on someone's tablet than to give it to a stranger

Mid May for certification training

Voter fraud zero; VA not sending voter info to president's commission

### **Rev. Kim Bobo, Virginia Interfaith Center for public Policy.**

[virginiainterfaithcenter.org](http://virginiainterfaithcenter.org) [kim@virginia](mailto:kim@virginia)

4 areas

1. **Medicaid expansion.** Week of action Bulletin inserts for congregations etc
2. Strengthen enforcement against **wage theft**; remove Jim Crow exemptions in wage laws; strengthen protection against retaliation
3. **Welcoming immigrants, Muslims** Provide in-state tuition to all students including immigrants; driver licenses
4. **Criminal justice reform**; raise felony levels, school suspension

Sign up to get email alerts, bulletin inserts

Witnesses at capital

Social media team; 5 min presentation every morning

**Brian Cannon, One Virginia 2021.** [onevirginia2021.org](http://onevirginia2021.org)

“We’re going to get redistricting reform” but not this year

Listen to new members, organizing for 13 mo. Jan 2019

Lot going on: john miller had a referendum bill every year; non binding Monty Mason will carry

Interim redistricting bills

Constitutional amendments introduced but tabled

Study bill; use report this summer

California has prohibition on state employees serving on commissions

Split precincts: 224 in VA Cleaning up would look like redistricting

Give localities some flexibility about caps

\*bethunehill case. Racial redistricting. Affects 31 districts

Court will strike down 11 districts

Trigger special elections in 31 districts 2018

**Candace Graham ERA/women-matter.** [women-matter.org](http://women-matter.org)

Dedicated to ratification of ERA. Nevada ratified in March 2017

We have 15 new supporters among Delegates

New advocacy campaign. (Postcard)

Direct correlation between gender pay gap and violence against women

Nothing in constitution to prevent violence against women. Scalia

**Andy Goddard, Virginia Center for Public Safety** [vacps.org](http://vacps.org)

Doing nothing does not improve the situation

Background checks do not stop good people from having guns

If applied to all public sales, can stop some violence

Domestic violence: disarming the aggressor better than arming the victim

Police can’t act until there is a crime; take temporary possession when an owner is suicidal etc.

Lost and stolen guns: HB 43 reporting stolen guns

Public carry. A group of armed men wearing uniforms from Ohio in Charlottesville. A militia has to be controlled by state; otherwise an armed mob

Removal of concealed carry permit

MLK vigil 950 people killed by guns in VA past year (or 2?) Doesn’t count survivors with lead poisoning

**Tarina Keene NARAL Pro choice** [naralva.org](http://naralva.org)

Legislative priorities

Must be a medical necessity to impose restrictions on abortion care

7/10 Virginians and Americans support

Whole Women Health Act. Couldn't get a hearing in house last year

Targets unconstitutional acts on books today that restrict abortion

2011 law—close facilities. The criteria don't apply to any other health care facilities

Mandatory ultrasound Waiting period. Limitations on who can perform (high level medical procedures, not just physicians).

Reproductive health equity act. Oregon just passed a wonderful bill. Codifying the no-co-pay for birth control Vasectomies also

Paid medical leave act

Focus groups in Richmond: Trump supporters support paid family leave and sick leave

Pregnant workers (Something) act

Amend sex-ed curriculum (based on science etc.)

Funding for LARC. Long acting reproductive contraception IUDs

Cover insertion and removal of IUDs. + health care counseling

### **Holly Sibold Women's shelter supplies. BRAWS**

Distributed 96K tampons + underwear, bras

Girls skipping school because they didn't have supplies

Not included in WIC Medicaid schools. 6% tax in VA

Federal bill. Menstrual Act for All

Del from Reston eliminate tax on pads and tampons; Rejected in subcommittee no recorded vote

HB 24, HB 25 Va Menstrual Equity

### **Quan Williams New Virginia Majority**

Work across variety of issues

Opportunities for immigrant families; try to invite people to table

Driver's licenses for all regardless of immigration status

Instate tuition

Criminal justice reform: punishment should fit crime. Felony for stealing phone

Police training in community relations. Mental health. Cultural sensitivity

Access to voting Redistricting. Voter ID laws

Economic opportunity, wages, raising min wage

Environmental justice

Don't want tombstone legislation wait until people die; coal dust

Higher education funding

Medicaid expansion

### **Jill Hansen HAV [havcoalition.org](http://havcoalition.org), Virginia Poverty Law Center. [vplc.org](http://vplc.org)**

Medicaid expansion, close the coverage gap, provide health care to low-income working families, mental health care Opioid addiction HAV=Healthcare for All Virginians

Use funding under ACA

300,000 Virginians low-income adults would enroll

By bringing in federal dollars VA would save state dollars

We wasted first 3 yrs when we could have had 100% match; 2018 94%

31 other states and DC have adopted coverage

Threats to ACA have been unsuccessful

State would save \$138 million net

All the new delegates ran on improving health care; main issue for 37% of voters exit polls

Now Medicaid eligibility for low-income families \$7000 for family of 3

Raise to 138% of poverty level. \$25,000

Not eligible for Medicaid in VA if you don't have children and in poverty unless have a disability determination

Money available to help, e.g., with opioid crisis  
\$5 billion

**Lisa Guthrie VA Transit Assn** [Vatransit.com](http://Vatransit.com)

Trade assns, nonprofit

Transit encompasses environment housing poverty; economic implications

Fiscal cliff: bond funding for transit funding is running out will drop 44%. can't reissue bonds;  
need new sources of funding

WMATA Washington metropolitan transit authority

Essential services underpinning economy

**Rhonda Thissen Natl Alliance on Mental Illness** of VA [namiva.org](http://namiva.org)

Support and advocacy organization 20% have Mental illness. 1 in 4 adults

National, virginia, 17 local affiliates 1900 members in va

Legislative and policy advocacy

Virginia's mental health system is underfunded \$90 per capita natl avg. VA \$50

We spend more on hospitalization than natl average

More than 10% of Virginians uninsured

Priorities

Juveniles transitioning to adulthood, Supportive housing, integration of primary care and  
mental health care, care coordination services, workforce development

Mental illness in criminal justice system

**Corinna Beall Sierra Club VA**

Climate change, energy. Efficient, regulation

Coal ash spill in Dan River 2014. 39,000 tons

24 million gallons toxic water

Duke Energy

Bottom ash: Heavy particulate matter,

Fly ash from smoke stacks can be captured by scrubbers

Heavy metals mercury lead cadmium

Right after garbage in quantity of waste but not regulated as garbage is

Coal plants near rivers, store ash near water

No regulation for liners of pit

Pattern has been to push cheap plan

Clean closure in state of VA

Recycle coal ash: concrete, asphalt Jobs, local revenue

VA imports coal ash from overseas

**Leslie Tourigny. AAUW**

VP public policy

170,000 members. 1000 branches

1881 advance equity for women and girls

Education, advocacy, research

Eliminate gender pay gap; Researching since 1894

Gap has narrowed; will close in 2119

1963 federal equal pay act

Impacts families, businesses, economy

2016 median avg earning 80% of men; worse for women of color

7% one year after college graduation

Bill to prohibit relying on prior salary to determine compensation

**Kathie Burcher Virginia Education Association** [veanea.org](http://veanea.org)

New delegates ran on supporting public education

Budget: no new money, just recalibration. Updating the numbers. Localities will still have a burden

95% of school children attend public schools

Crisis of teacher shortage. 1000 unfilled teaching positions but probably actually 3000

Petersburg: 6th graders, not a single day of instruction in math by a licensed math teacher

32nd nationally in nation in teacher salaries

Tax credit for teachers for non reimbursed classroom supplies

**Kenneth Gilliam The Commonwealth Institute**

Medicaid expansion

VA one of most restrictive

\$3.4 billion federal dollars will be forfeited

**Ian Baxter inspire Virginia**

No bills this session

High school voter registration, Peer-to-peer

**virginia21.org** Tim Cywinski

“Virginia21 is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that creates opportunity for young Virginians to influence the political process by providing information, leadership development, and coordinated action. We are driven by a non-partisan issue agenda because we understand that issues affecting the well-being of our generation transcend party lines.”

**Gina Baldwin Progress Virginia** [progressva.org](http://progressva.org)

Founded 2013; Nonpartisan; Progressive communication

Eyes on Richmond

VA one of least transparent state governments

Standing calendar of what committees are deliberating

Votes not recorded

Leagues can use their website as a tool

Highlight bills coming through

Streaming hearings and subcommittees

Pull groups together with messaging

WEC women's equality coalition