

Spring Is Primary Season

March is called the cruelest month in poetry. Yet, June can be the toughest month in Virginia politics – even more harsh than November. In June the Party selects candidates by primary, convention or caucus. If there are no challengers, then the incumbent slides from spring to the summer season of fund raising. This June will be a big deal for some Virginia Republicans. We have a three way race for the nomination for the 3rd Senate District.

Challenges are good. Many Party people hate them. Some elected officials are offended at the very thought. I disagree. No elected official owns an office. Every elected official should earn the office each election. Nominations and elections are the real term limits created by our Constitutions.

The People choose the future of the State - if they care to participate. Anyone who stays out of party politics or general elections gets what other people choose. It's just that simple.

We – locally here in York and Poquoson – have made a lie of all the conventional wisdom about special interests, money, and incumbency strangleholds on politics. We did that in nominations and elections in 00, 01 and 02. That's pretty neat to do it right here in the cradle of democracy for America. Way to go, neighbors.

Party nominations and party elections define political parties. So, a healthy contest is a good thing, as long as the losers kiss, make up and stay in the fold for the greater, common good. Have Sen. Tommy Norment, Paul Jost and Linda Wall pledged to support the winner – regardless?

The Virginia Republican Party Creed provides our basic standard for evaluating the candidates.

We Believe...

- 1 *That the free enterprise system is the most productive supplier of human needs and economic justice.* Who understands capitalism? Who will keep government intervention in the economy to the minimum essential for fair play, fair wages, and fair treatment for every individual? Who knows how to create jobs – not government bureaucracy?
- 2 *That all individuals are entitled to equal rights, justice, and opportunities and should assume their responsibilities as citizens in a free society.* Who understands individual rights, not group rights? Who will work for a color blind Virginia? Who will protect the right to life - all the time?
- 3 *That fiscal responsibility and budgetary restraints must be exercised at all levels of government.* Who understands limited government? Who will not expand government spending just because the tax money is there? Who will not make you vote to raise your own taxes?
- 4 *That the Federal Government must preserve individual liberty by observing constitutional limitations.* Who understands how Virginia should exercise our U.S. Constitutional sovereignty? Who will not impose regional government on us – like the Transportation Tax would – when we rejected that amendment to our constitution? Who can explain limits on Virginia's power?
- 5 *That peace is best preserved through a strong national defense.* Who will help Virginia do its part in the WW-T? What does Homeland Security mean to us? Who will work for Virginia to help the Feds identify and deport illegal aliens?
- 6 *That faith in God, as recognized by our Founding Fathers, is essential to the*

moral fibre of the Nation. Who understands what ‘Christian tolerance for religion’ in the Virginia Constitution means – and why are those words there? Who will defend against the tyranny of the minority and anti-Christian bias from public officials – especially in schools?

It’s going to be interesting to see how the candidates measure up to the Republican Creed. Thanks for running.

James Atticus Bowden