

Taxing Fools in Virginia

“A fool and his money are soon parted.” So sayeth some Republican legislators and, apparently, a few candidates for state-wide office in Virginia. The only differences between selling magic beans to the peasant who fell off the turnip wagon coming into town and selling tax increases to Virginia’s voting peasants are the choice of words and the amount to be taken. The sales pitches are the same. It’s a great game to grift as long as you can get away with it.

Only six of seventeen tax-and-spend Republicans in the House of Delegates are being challenged by tax Conservatives. The apostate Republicans served the largest tax increase in Virginia history (over \$1.5b) to the better class of constituents who make their living from government spending. Follow the money from increased spending and quickly spent surplus to their government clients to the huge political funds for RINOs.

The top Republicans support all incumbents. So, the Republicans can spend the surplus and raise new taxes like Democrats – and stay in power. It may prove a point; if you take enough money from taxpayers and spread it around, you and your supporters get re-elected and rich. The poor and the principled just suffer in silence until a leader shows up.

Isn’t that why neither Republican Jerry Kilgore or Democrat Tim Kaine are calling for a rollback of the sales tax increase? That tax brought in about a billion last year and will grow and grow. It’s regressive; meaning it’s more painful for the poor. Poor people don’t give much in campaign contributions. The state-wide candidates are fussing about personal and home property taxes that rise with rapid growth in their value. Wrong state-wide issues.

Republicans need to convince Jerry Kilgore to modify his tax proposals. The Democrats and the Media will scream flip-flop, but the voters, those sullen peasants, won’t pay attention until September and, really, October. The candidate who runs as the most genuine, trustworthy, fiscal Conservative will win. That’s exactly why Kaine is running like Gov. Warner did – a faux Conservative. That’s why Kilgore should run as a Republican on taxes and Bolling and McDonnell ought to be shoo-ins in the June 14th Primary.

Fulfill the promise of the ‘No Car Tax’. Virginians spoke at the polls in ’97 and they meant it. Take some per cent of the Virginia income tax and return it directly to the cities and counties. Then, eliminate the tax from the Virginia Code – completely.

Don’t mess with property taxes from Richmond. A Republican plan to bribe the voters will always come out second to a Democrat plan. Any Commonwealth interference makes the government distortions of the marketplace more dysfunctional. Who doesn’t get this now? Quaint houses in Amsterdam have narrow fronts outside and high steps inside – to avoid what was taxed five hundred years ago. If the property tax increases are unreasonable, the elected officials in cities and counties are directly responsible, and the most responsive government. Trust The People to fix local problems locally.

Don't foist an un-elected Regional taxing authority for Transportation on Virginians again - even with the fig leaf that new taxes face referendums. Virginians decisively defeated the idea at the polls twice ('98,'02). Old Patrick Henry wrote in the Virginia Resolves that the General Assembly has the "only and sole exclusive right and power to lay taxes and impositions on the inhabitants" of Virginia. The Resolves concluded anything else was an attack on freedom and traitorous to Virginia. It's still true.

Do NOT create another taxing level of government. It hands over power to un-elected bureaucrats and the self-serving special interests who pushed the Transportation Tax Scam ('02) and pumped out \$2.2 million on The Peninsula alone. The 'regional' geniuses had the wrong plan, the wrong tax and administration promising corruption. Today, the same powers give thousands of dollars to Connaughton, Baril and the Democrats - whoever will serve them. Republicans can beat their money with votes, when they run on Conservative principles.

Virginia's financial 'crisis' was wrought by uncontrolled Medicaid spending busting a slower, but growing, budget. Why don't Republican candidates talk about how they will mitigate Medicaid costs in Virginia and get Federal officials to fix it?

Instead of passing the buck on Transportation and pandering on Property Taxes, why don't the candidates tell Virginians how to get illegal aliens out of the Commonwealth and keep them out?

Are politicians taxing the fools or are they the taxing fools? Or both? Virginians will figure it out eventually.

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