

2015 VOTER GUIDE

★ ALBEMARLE COUNTY ★ VOTE TUESDAY, NOV. 3 ★

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RIVANNA DISTRICT



NORMAN DILL (D)



LAWRENCE GAUGHAN (I)



RICHARD LLOYD (R)

SCOTTSVILLE DISTRICT



RICHARD RANDOLPH (D)



EARL SMITH (R)

WHITE HALL DISTRICT



ANN MALLEK (D)

AT-LARGE



JONNO ALCARO



DOLLY JOSEPH



CATHERINE LOCHNER

ALBEMARLE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

SAMUEL MILLER DISTRICT



MICHAEL BASILE



GRAHAM PAIGE



BRIAN VANYO

RIVANNA DISTRICT



JASON BUYAKI

SCOTTSVILLE DISTRICT



STEVE KOLESZAR

WHITE HALL DISTRICT



CAROL HATCHER



DAVID OBERG

This 2015 Albemarle Voter Guide has been co-produced by Charlottesville Tomorrow, the League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area and The Daily Progress. It is intended to help residents

make an informed vote on key quality of life issues in Charlottesville-Albemarle.

Charlottesville Tomorrow's website includes the complete audio and written transcripts of our interview with each

candidate. The interviews were used in the compilation of the voter guide and each candidate was given an opportunity to review their verbatim responses before publishing.

Neither Charlottesville Tomorrow nor the League of Women Voters endorse candidates or make contributions to political campaigns at any level. While The Daily Progress endorses candidates on

its editorial page, its editorial staff have not been involved in the selection of questions or candidate responses in this voter guide.

Charlottesville Tomorrow is a nonprofit organization

that provides the community in-depth information on land use, transportation, community design and public education issues. We believe informed citizens create better communities.



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DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!

BE PREPARED TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Last day to register to vote: October 13 by 5 p.m.

Polls open from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M.

Absentee voting begins September 18 and runs through October 31.

Complete ballot information can be found at <http://www.vote.virginia.gov>

**Albemarle County
Voter Registration Office:**
5th Street County Office Building
1600 5th Street
Charlottesville, Virginia,
22902
Regular Office Hours: 8:30
a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.
(434) 972-4173
Website: www.albemarle.org/vote

In addition to regular weekday office hours, the Voter Registration Office will be open on Saturday, October 24, 2015, and Saturday, October 31, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Saturday, October 31, 2015 at 5 p.m. is the deadline for in-person absentee vot-

ing for the November 3 general election, except for certain limited emergency situations.

Absentee Voting by Mail
Absentee ballot application must be received by 5 p.m. on October 27. Absentee ballot must be received by your local Office of Elections by 7 p.m. November 3

Absentee Voting in Person
For locations, days, and times contact the Voter Registration Office. In-person absentee voting ends at 4:30 p.m., October 31.

Identification at the Polls
Voters are required to present

a form of acceptable photo identification when voting in person. Acceptable forms of photo ID include valid Virginia driver's licenses; Virginia DMV-issued photo identification cards; U.S. Passports; employer-issued photo ID cards; student ID cards issued by an institution of higher education in Virginia; photo ID cards issued by Virginia, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States; and voter photo ID cards issued by the Virginia Department of Elections. If you are a registered Virginia voter but do not have an acceptable photo ID, free voter photo IDs are processed at all

of Virginia's 133 local general registrars' offices. For more information, visit: elections.virginia.gov.

Free Rides to Vote
CAR2Vote will provide free transportation to the polling places on Election Day. CAR2Vote also provides free rides before Election Day to the voter registration office to:
» Obtain a Photo ID (valid for voting purposes only)
» To vote absentee in person (for qualified absentee voters)

Schedule transportation by calling (434) 260-1547 or visit the website: <http://bit.ly/CAR2VoteFall2015>

2015 ALBEMARLE
**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**
CANDIDATE PROFILES

In some cases, the candidates' responses have been abbreviated in this Voter Guide. Their complete responses, as well as answers to additional questions, can be found on the Charlottesville Tomorrow website. Additional topics in our interviews included:

- Budget
- City-County-UVA relations
- Placemaking
- Rural areas
- Stormwater Utility Fee
- Transportation
- Comprehensive Plan

**WHAT DO THE
SUPERVISORS DO?**

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors sets the tax rate and determines the budget, including financial support for the school system. The board makes decisions about zoning and other land use regulations, and adopts the Comprehensive Plan.

Charlottesville Tomorrow's website (www.cvilletomorrow.org/countyvote) features comprehensive coverage of the local elections including news, candidate interview transcripts, audio recordings of the candidate forums, and downloadable copies of this Voter Guide.

**NORMAN
DILL (D)**

Rivanna District

Norman grew up in a large family and worked in his family's retail lumberyards before leaving for college. An active volunteer, he served as president of Charlottesville-Albemarle Recycling Together in the 1980's, and has served at several nonprofits since. He is currently finance chair at Twice is Nice Resale Shop which supports Mountainside Senior Living, and is Vice President of Virginia Foodworks. In addition to Rebecca's, he has operated Harlowe-Powell Auctions and the Ruckersville Gallery. Norman has taught classes at PVCC on starting one's own business and has informally assisted many local people with their entrepreneurial ventures.

Education: B.A., Sociology, University of Pennsylvania; M.B.A., Harvard Business School

Occupation: Founder and President of Rebecca's Natural Food

Previous Political Experience: None

Age on Election Day: 61

Neighborhood: Ashcroft neighborhood on Pantops

Hometown: Carmel, NY

Family: 5 children, who all graduated from Albemarle County schools, and 4 grandchildren. He is married to Sue Davis-Dill.

Other interests and experiences: I like to be outdoors, travel, read, and try to keep up with my grandchildren.

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NormanDillForSupervisor.com



**LAWRENCE
GAUGHAN (I)**

Rivanna District

Lawrence Gaughan was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 1966 and graduated from Albemarle High School in 1985. In 2011 Lawrence earned his Master's Degree in Social Entrepreneurship and Change at Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Education. He is nationally recognized for his work in community engagement and voter participation. He is the founder and executive director of the non-partisan, non-profit voter engagement foundation, GOV360. Lawrence was a candidate in the 2014 election for Virginia's 5th Congressional District garnering nearly 73,500 votes, including over 21,000 votes in Charlottesville and Albemarle County.

Education: B.F.A, University of Montana (1994); M.A., Pepperdine University (2011)

Occupation: Executive Director of GOV360 (GOV360.org) since 2009 Actor/Director Entertainment industry (since 1985), Consultant/Fundraiser (Since 2004)

Previous political experience: Winner of Democratic Nomination for VA 5th District Congress (2014)

Age on Election Day: 48

Neighborhood: Rivanna District

Hometown: Charlottesville, Virginia

Family: Lawrence D. Gaughan, 82 (father), Margery D. Gaughan, died 1986 (buried with grandparents at Monticello Gardens, Charlottesville, Virginia)

Other interests and experiences: Lawrence Gaughan is an avid gardener and outdoorsman. He enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, swimming, and camping. He is also a prolific musician, recording over three albums worth of rock and roll material in the past three years. He has a YouTube channel (LawrenceofVA) with well over 1 million views and he is a Freestyle Lego builder.

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RICHARD LLOYD (R)

Rivanna District

Richard was born in Greenwood, Albemarle County, and later raised in Hopewell, Virginia. He earned his degree in Mechanical and Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech and has attended executive programs at the Wharton School. He held executive positions at Ingersoll-Rand & Co., and he also founded a successful private business, based in Seattle, Washington. After 12 years of successful operation, he sold his business and retired. Dresser-Rand Co rehired him as they became a public company. After serving for 4 years he again retired in Albemarle County, where he lives with his wife Christy.

Education: Two degrees from Va. Tech; Mechanical and Civil Engineering

Occupation: Retired Business Owner and Executive

Previous political experience: For six years, involved as an engineer in the Citizens for Sustainable Water Plan and addressed the Charlottesville City Council and County Board of Supervisors many times on the community water plan; also been involved with county's solid waste and recycling plans. One-time treasurer for the community activist group, Advocates for a Sustainable Albemarle Population. Sponsor and volunteer for three Congressional campaigns for U.S. Rep. Robert Hurt, and one for State Sen. Bryce Reeves.

Age on Election Day: 64

Neighborhood: Ashcroft

Hometown: Albemarle County, Virginia

Family: Married to my wife Christine for 37 years. We have two adult children.

Other interests and experiences: My chief interest is my family — my wife of 37 years Christy, and my two adult children, Blythe and Lewis. My wife and I enjoy traveling and sharing meals with family and friends, and participating in community activities. Recently we hosted a "picnic in the graveyard" for our extended family, where the Old Guard reminisced and the family's younger members listened to favorite family stories.

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RICHARD RANDOLPH (D)

Scottsville District

Rick's civic participation started with a drug and alcohol task force in his native Philadelphia following his UVa graduation. After 21 years teaching/ administrating at the secondary level and university teaching, Rick began fundraising for environmental/health/social service organizations, continuing after moving to Shadwell in 2005. Since 2012 he has served on the Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Committee and Capital Improvement Program Committee. He is also on the Village of Rivanna Citizen Advisory Committee and the Long-Range Solid Waste Solutions Committee. Rick operates Keswick Home Services, a home maintenance company that assists primarily seniors aging in place.



Education:

BA American Government, University of Virginia
MA International Relations, University of Pennsylvania
ABD Political Science, University of Connecticut
Certified planning commissioner
Former Virginia licensed real estate professional

Occupation: Keswick Home Services (owner/operator): serve primarily seniors aging in place; Scottsville Magisterial District Planning Commissioner

Previous political experience:

Planning Commissioner, Scottsville District, Albemarle County: 2011-2015
Capital Improvement Program Committee, Albemarle: 2011-2015
Historic Preservation Committee, Albemarle: 2011-2015
Village of Rivanna Citizen Advisory Committee, Albemarle: 2009-2015
Rivanna River Basin Commission, citizen representative, 2012-2015
Solid Waste Long-Term Solutions Committee, Albemarle, 2014-2015
Town Chair (Democratic Party): Salisbury, CT: 1996-2003
Citizen Representative, Risk Assessment Panel for Carcinogens in Drinking Water, CT Department of Health Services: 1985-1986
First Selectman Candidate (Democratic Party): Simsbury, CT: 1985
President, Smoky Ridge Community Association: Simsbury, CT: 1983-86

Age on Election Day: 68

Neighborhood: Shadwell- Glenmore

Hometown: Philadelphia, PA

Family: My wife Susan and I have four children: Barrett Hightower (operates Salt Artisanal Market, Milton), Ashley East (Ashley's Dinner at Home, Charlottesville), Ashleigh Rader, Rowayton, CT and Kyle Boynton, Arlington.

Other interests and experiences: At Grace Episcopal Church Rick leads a team of volunteers building houses for Habitat, is a lay reader, a member of the Outreach Committee and is a traffic warden for major events at Grace, including food distribution days. He is the vice-president of the Region XV Council of the Episcopal Church. Rick remains an active road cyclist since completing active duty with the US Army. He enjoys spending quieter time with his wife and family.

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EARL SMITH (R)

Scottsville District

Earl was born and raised right here in Charlottesville/ Albemarle County. The experience he has gained in his life as a successful business owner, professional musician and a national franchise consultant will aide him in making sound decisions and asking the hard questions. Earl has a genuine interest in all points of view, and is passionate about helping our community obtain the tools for success and prosperity without the senseless "bureaucratic red tape." His common sense approach sees accountability to tax payers as an essential ingredient to keeping Albemarle County a great place to live, work and raise a family.



Education: Graduated from Albemarle High School

Occupation: District Manager of Kohr Bro's Frozen Custard stores in Charlottesville

Previous political experience: A passionate first time candidate

Age on Election Day: 51

Neighborhood: Keene

Hometown: Charlottesville/Albemarle County

Family: I'm a proud father of a son who graduated from Albemarle County Public School and now serves our country in the United States Air Force.

Other interests and experiences: A love and talent for music used for entertaining (at the Jefferson Theater) and fundraising for local charities such as Ronald McDonald House and Red Shoe C'ville; Utilizing my culinary skills to enter chili cook-offs as part of the 12x award winning team "Belly Achin' Blues Chili" to support Veterans. Two of our most recent contest winnings went to support The Wounded Warrior Project and IAVA. Riding motorcycles on the back roads of our beautiful state; Spending time with friends and family at our local gun range.

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ANN MALLEK (D)

White Hall District, Incumbent

Ann Huckle Mallek grew up in Albemarle and graduated from Albemarle High School. As a small child she learned her way around the county with her dad on his veterinary calls or riding her black pony. Albemarle was a quiet place in the 1950's.

Since 1983 Ann and her husband, Leo, have managed a family farm in Earlysville where they raised their 2 daughters. Now their grandchildren help on the farm in the summer. Currituck Farm produces grass-fed beef and pesticide-free vegetables.

Education:

B. A., Zoology- Connecticut College (1971)

Occupation: A former elementary teacher of science and technology, since 2003, Ann is an Educator and Central Virginia Coordinator for the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

Previous political experience: Frequent attendee of Supervisors meetings for seventeen years before her election to supervisor—focused on land use and transportation, serving on the ACE committee, 2000-present; the Transportation Working Group, 2005; and the Development Review Task Force, 2006. As an officer of EARL (Earlysville Area Residents League) 1995-2007, she encouraged citizen involvement in local government.

Age on Election Day: 65

Neighborhood: Earlysville

Hometown: Born in Charlottesville and spent childhood on Ivy Creek, near the ruins of the Hydraulic Mill.

Family: Met husband Leo when in college in New England. They returned to the farm in 1982 to raise their two daughters and enjoy three grandchildren.

Other interests and experiences: As a farmer and policy maker, Ann works to connect food producers and consumers; she championed the creation of the Monticello Artisan Trail, serves on the Board of Jefferson Elder Care, operating Mountainside Senior Living in Crozet, and the Local Energy Alliance Program. She works for additive free food, chemical free farming, and connecting children to nature. She advocates for job creation and development of work spaces for our local companies to grow.

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Please describe your past experience that qualifies you to be on the Albemarle Board of Supervisors.

RIVANNA DISTRICT

Norman Dill (D)

I have lived in the Charlottesville-Albemarle area for over 30 years. All five of my children went through Albemarle County schools. I am very interested in sustainability and helped get recycling started in 1989 as President of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Recycling Together nonprofit. I've had several businesses in town. Probably best known are Rebecca's Natural Food, named after my daughter, in the Barracks Road Shopping Center. I've had that for 28 years and for almost 10 years I was half owner of Harlowe-Powell Auctions, one of the leading auction houses in Virginia. I've also started or bought several other small businesses over the years, and helped other people with their businesses. I've also studied finance and strategic planning at Harvard Business School where I got my MBA several years ago.

Lawrence Gaughan (I)

I am the only candidate to run for Rivanna District in 50 years who was born and raised in Albemarle County. I am also a product of the Albemarle County school system....While being born and raised here is not necessarily a qualification as far as outsiders may be concerned, it does give me the unique perspective of

having seen the before, the during and the after of 40 years of bad planning by both Democrats and Republicans on the board who tend to be in bed with big developers and who have been committed to turning our county into northern Virginia or the greater Richmond area.

I am also an independent in the truest sense of the word meaning I will answer to the people of the Rivanna District not to these small political committees who don't even live in the Rivanna District.....I also have years of political experience and I have the relevant educational background that my opponents lack....

I have an advanced degree in Social Change from one of the leading graduate schools of education in the country, and education is our primary concern since 70 percent of our county budget goes toward funding education. Furthermore, I am a business owner. I am the founder of a nonpartisan, nonprofit voter engagement organization and as a professional actor I am a communicator who is able to articulate my message of participation, community involvement and the importance of active participation by our citizens on the local level. So as I fight to protect our heritage and promote the concept of being involved in local government I am also encouraged that most voters understand that I am interested in running our county more effectively and

efficiently.

Having said all of that, really the number one qualification I have is that I am willing to listen to the people and serve with empathy, compassion and dedication to their best interests.

Richard Lloyd (R)

I was born in Albemarle County, went to Virginia schools and I went to Virginia Tech where I received a Civil and Mechanical Engineering degree graduating in 1975. I worked for Fortune 500 and Fortune 100 companies right out of college. I think I worked with some of the best people in their fields on the planet. I worked with Ingersoll Rand and was selected to be in their "Six Pack" program. There were six of us in the \$4 billion company that went to all the divisions' manufacturing facilities and worked in their marketing departments and in their engineering departments and I was passed by all five plants and was one of the six that graduated from that [program]. As such, I have worked with major companies and small companies. I have been responsible for receiving huge orders from Fortune 500 companies. I worked with the vice-presidential level of many large Fortune 100 companies. I think that gives me the ability to discern what are the important points, to ask the questions [about things] I do not understand and know where

to go to get the answers and to stand the wind against people that will not listen to my point of view. I don't expect everyone to agree with it, but I do hope that they will listen to [my] point of view and consider it.

SCOTTSVILLE DISTRICT

Richard Randolph (D)

I have worked with local government essentially since I graduated from the University of Virginia in 1969 with a B.A. in American government. My involvement first focused on representation and substance abuse issues in Philadelphia and then on water quality, public health, solid waste, public access to water resources, social services, industrial emissions, and transportation issues in Connecticut and New York State for over twenty years.

Before joining the Albemarle Planning Commission in 2012, I was already appointed by the Board as a member of the Village of Rivanna Citizen Advisory Committee. As a commissioner I have continued to serve for

nearly four years as a liaison with this committee and with the County's Historic Preservation Committee, the Capital Improvement Program Committee and the Solid Waste Long-Term Solutions Committee. I have also been a citizen representative on the Rivanna River Basin Commission for over three years.

I am a former student of UVa's Ralph Eisenberg in state and local government, a former teacher of American history at the secondary level and American government and American public policy at the university level, a past doctoral student in American public policy at UConn and a coordinator with community groups and organizations for nearly a half-century. I will recognize the imperative of persuasive and considerate civic engagement in the political process, of committed transparency in decision-making and of attentive listening to all sides on any issue, no matter how heated the topic ...

The owner of my own business for the last five years, I also recognize that government must be constantly cognizant of how rules, requirements and regulations actually operate

on and effect the public and local businesses and revise these as needed and as is appropriate, as I have supported for the wireless industry.

Earl Smith (R)

The most important qualifications are honesty and integrity and I will match mine against anyone's. I have lived in this area most of my life and I am sure you can folks who think I am a little outspoken. I don't think anybody would challenge my honesty and my integrity.

As to my abilities, I feel like I possess good judgement, common sense and compassion and I intend to listen to the opinions of others around me no matter who they are, or what they represented or what letter they may have behind their name.

I already work with all sides and different points of views in my daily life to accomplish goals. I fix problems, I create new ideas to better my surroundings. And I have been a successful business owner, retail and restaurant. I worked as a field consultant for a national franchise responsible for over 40 stores here in Virginia.

I was lucky enough to have parents who value hard work

and the knowledge to be self-sufficient. I have learned trade skills like plumbing, electricity, carpentry and mechanics from my father that I still use today. I am not afraid to get my hands dirty or sweat and that is what we need now more than ever.

I don't pretend to know all the answers, but you better believe I am not afraid to ask the proper questions in my search for those answers. What I am asking for today is an opportunity, an opportunity to put my heart, my soul, my integrity and my decades of experience as a resident, a business owner, a rural land owner and a person who wants to make sure we have the best county that reasonable taxes can buy.

WHITE HALL DISTRICT

Ann Mallek (D)

I had great good fortune to be born and grow up in Albemarle. My childhood was a wonderful mix of open spaces to play in surrounded by friendly people who care for each other in community. These memories are the background in which I placed years of study and participation in land use

decision processes as a citizen starting with my membership in the League of Women Voters in 1975 in another state and carried forward here.

These 17 years in the audience before 2008 provided a strong background on what is important to protect and the function of local government. Since taking office in 2008, I've graduated from the Virginia certified county supervisor program, a two-year series of courses and seminars on all aspects of operations from land use and planning, to budgets, management and leadership. The study and connections with supervisors from throughout the Commonwealth has given me a wider perspective on many issues.

I also thrive on citizen contact. I truly enjoy meeting with and understanding the concerns of our residents. In 2008, citizens did not really know what to expect with my first series of town halls. Now, after 39 town halls in seven and a half years, I believe that people whom I represent expect spring and fall town halls and continue to show up, bringing their ideas, solutions and concerns about our future.

What is your top priority for action by the board of supervisors if you are elected?

RIVANNA DISTRICT

Norman Dill (D)

My top priority is necessarily broad, but just to

maintain the special quality of life that we have here in Albemarle County. I think it is a theme that I come back to often, I think it is a combination of three key areas: having a fantastic educational system; having a

wonderful rural environment and natural resources that are protected; and then also having the college and the urban downtown, that whole dynamism of having a downtown area but also having close by rural areas.

So working on all three of those things, the rural environment, the general environmental quality of life, the schools and the business environment – having innovative, entrepreneurial type businesses in this area – I think that's what makes it special and that's what I want to work on.

Lawrence Gaughan (I)

My number one top priority is to make sure that we fund our schools in a manner that rewards our teachers for their hard work, their dedication that they have given to getting educated and providing their service to our county and

doing it without continually raising taxes.

Richard Lloyd (R)

Well I think the top priority of course is to maintain a bipartisan Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors is currently made up of six seats. Five of those seats are held by a very liberal group and one seat is held by a very conservative individual who's retiring. That's the seat I am running for. I think it is important that the Board of Supervisors have a bipartisan attitude so that they can deal with the needs of all of the citizens of the county. To go all on one frame of reference or all on one perspective you lose the ability to discuss issues from both sides and invariably you will lose and create more controversies than ... before the decision was made.

So I look to have some kind of balance there, I look to have visibility of what's going on on the board from the conservative perspective and offer some pushback when it's appropriate. We can't have paralysis by consensus. I'm not looking for paralysis by consensus, but I am looking for both sides of the debates to be represented, and to have a reasonable debate before decisions are made. I think that's the number one priority on the board.

The second priority of course is to contain our taxes, our cost of living. When we raise the cost of living we push people over the edge and they can't afford it anymore. And where do those people go? They either go to surrounding counties or they go on social services. If they go to the surrounding counties, who

are they? A lot of them are our police force, a lot of them are our hospital workers, our teachers, the auto mechanics and so forth. I ask the people that I encounter day by day, "Where do you live?" And that class of people live predominantly in the surrounding counties ...

So that's a priority, somehow we have to contain our cost of living and the biggest portion of that that is containable is the budget, is the tax rate. So they're the top two that I would go after. There are many, many other issues that come up, and have come up, some of them are resolved, some are not resolved, and some of them we don't even know about yet. We will have to work as a board to hear them out, air them out, see what the unintended consequences are, and make decisions from an informed perspective.

SCOTTSVILLE DISTRICT

Richard Randolph (D)

I have four top priorities and I am going to focus in the answer by just running through them: revising the county's fiscal platform; preparing students for the 2050 economy; responding effectively to the community needs and concerns; and identifying long term solutions to water and air quality and solid waste challenges.

But in answering this question, I am going to focus on the third one which is responding effectively to the community needs and concerns.

I am committed to

continuing the highly successful track record that [Supervisor] Jane Dittmar established of working closely with community residents and adjoining neighbors at all stages of project development, from the initial application through the build process as well as on all of their concerns and issues. Whether pushing for VDOT's agreement to open a construction entrance in Rivanna Village along Route 250 or getting run-off modifications implemented on Arden Drive in Avon Park or in supporting the efforts of Cale residents to have a corridor study done to increase pedestrian and bicycle safety along Avon Street Extended, I have sought to support and tirelessly advocate for the reasonable goals and objectives of residents to see their communities become safer and healthier.

Earl Smith (R)

My top priority? I have to just refer to a quick theory a wise man once told me, it's like a bar stool. A bar stool has four legs and on top of that bar stool is a bowling ball delicately balanced. In all those things you have to look at each leg as: a taxpayer; infrastructure; today's needs; and tomorrow's needs. When you take something away, or add to any of those four legs, what happens? The bowling ball moves and you don't want it to fall. You have to precariously keep that thing on there.

So what does that mean? I think my top priority is to understand how everything works here which I am doing now as a new person. I am going through and trying

to read the Comprehensive Plan and all the other things that are popping up. One of the biggest concerns in all of Albemarle is Internet access. I think I have been asked that by teachers and business people. Even in my particular area [around Cale Elementary], there are 5,000-6,000 homes they have fast Internet. Where I live out Route 20 South in Woodridge and all those areas I had to get HughesNet [satellite Internet] so my son could go on Blackboard at school and it cost me \$90 a month to get school lessons that he could have gotten at school.

Something else ... is that we are ranked 126 out of 133 for public safety in the state of Virginia. That's just ridiculous. That's something else that is totally unacceptable to me and if I am elected I am going to make sure that I am on top of that the whole time that I am on the board.

WHITE HALL DISTRICT

Ann Mallek (D)

Priority number one is to provide community services

to our population, yet not drive out the elderly and low-income due to increases in taxes and fees. These elderly neighbors built the county during their working careers, often in a completely different economy than our currently working population. What seemed like an adequate requirement 30 years ago does not begin to cover their retirement expenses today.

We must diversify our revenue sources in order to reduce the burden on residential property taxes to fund local government operations.

Every local government in the Commonwealth and across the nation is facing budget constraints due to the sluggish economy. Virginia seems to be hit worse than most because of the high dependence on federal spending and defense contractor employment. We have even seen the numbers at Rivanna Station [Military Base] fluctuate as the drawdown in Afghanistan has caused the missions to be redesigned and the personnel to shift, sometimes out of our area.

There is no question that as our population grows, the

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cost of providing services to that larger population grows too. The property and sales taxes on an average house do not begin to pay the cost of a year's education for one child. As our mandates from the state and federal levels have increased, the funding to pay for those services has fallen. Our property tax waiver program is one long-term effort to ease the retirements of some elderly residents which I heartily support.

Business leaders and social service agencies have told local government that new investments are sorely needed in the area of early childhood education. Will you make pre-K education and quality childcare a priority and if so how?

RIVANNA DISTRICT

Norman Dill (D)

Well I agree that it's extremely important. Everybody agrees, everybody knows that early childhood education has a lifetime of influence on our children so it is very important. I think that we need to realize that it's not just a matter of just starting it or doing it is best if the early childhood education is in the schools that the kids will then be going to rather than separated in a childcare type situation so they get to know bus drivers, and librarians, and administrators, and janitors and everybody in the school and feel comfortable there.

So finding just the physical space to do it within our schools is a challenge as well as having trained teachers that are appropriate for that, it's not simply childcare, it has to be very educational age-appropriate education. All of those things require some strong planning and a lot of cooperation and I think there are a lot of people in the community that are very interested in working on that and they could be incorporated to help support the system.

Funding it? Again that's the big issue with the school system, where to come up with the funding. I think it is extremely important and would probably sacrifice in some other areas before I'd give up the idea of having early childhood education for those

kids who need it, it's not going to be universal.

Lawrence Gaughan (I)

Well again it comes down to making necessary cuts in our bloated budget so that we find the funding. I think the money is there without having to increase taxes. I am absolutely for early childhood development, a 100 percent. The money should never be an issue when it comes to early childhood development or early childhood education. We need pre-K to be available through our school system and the funding is there if we so the hard work and look at the budget item by item and make cuts in administration, make cuts maybe to the courts, even to some limited social service cuts, but we have got to have the money there for our schools because this ensures that our future will be vibrant.

It helps hard-working families when you fund pre-K because they are able to go to their jobs. They are able to come home and feel that their children are taken care of and that they are getting a head start on education. The bottom line is pre-K, early childhood development, early childhood education, means that we have fewer people incarcerated and more people educated. We save money in the long run and it is just the right thing to do morally and fiscally, and it is just the right thing to do.

Richard Lloyd (R)

You know I was born in Greenwood

— I had to go to the hospital in Richmond for a pyloric stenosis — but my parents lived in Greenwood and they got divorced. I went to live with my mother and my grandparents. They provided the childhood education, and I had one of the best childhoods and best childhood educations possible. I believe we need to support the families to pick up as much of the load as they can because it instill family values, but it also is the most tender, concerned, loving situation you can have for pre-K care and education.

A lot of it is care, it's not just education, and it's to get them socially ready for kindergarten and first grade. But there are people who through disabilities, they're the disadvantaged people, that don't get that, it isn't available, and it can't be had. They have no family around them or they have physical or mental disabilities that exceed the capacity of the family, and I think that's where government has to step in and help. Education is, what I often refer to as, a magical enabler. Education enables people to go on and live their lives in a very productive manner, and a lack of education is a disabler. This early childhood education is the beginning of it all.

So we've got these programs that are out there — we've got Title I, we've got Bright Stars, we've got [another] readiness program that's really well run — We've got all kinds of social programs but they overlap. Are they being properly coordinated? Who is

responsible for coordinating them? ...

So early childhood education is fundamental and I hope that the families are encouraged and supported in giving it themselves and where they can't we need a very good coordinated system to pick up the slack.

SCOTTSVILLE DISTRICT

Richard Randolph (D)

Access to nearby affordable and DSS-approved childcare is the essential first-step to enable mothers and also fathers to return to the work force following the birth of a child. These childcare facilities provide invaluable support and guidance in the early education of children by encouraging parents to read daily to their children, ensuring proper nutrition and modeling appropriate social behavior. I am delighted that the Planning Commission just recently unanimously approved the launching of a new multi-church daycare program at Christ Church, Glendower that will serve the Town of Scottsville and the surrounding area.

I am pleased that Cale Elementary will add a Bright Stars program this year. I support Head Start and Bright Stars which both assist students whose family circumstances and functional capabilities place them at risk for developmental and educational problems. I support Early Childhood Special Education to serve 2-5 year olds who have an identified disability.

My late first-wife Judy, who struggled with and did not discover she had a reading disability until she was in a Penn graduate elementary education program, was a passionate advocate for children with learning differences. She found professionally

that early identification by professionals of a student's learning difference and then the development of compensatory teaching strategies to optimize learning strengths enabled these kids to develop positive self-esteem without being stigmatized as "different." I intend to bring Judy's and my passion for the welfare of all children, no matter what their innate abilities and differences, to my role as supervisor.

Earl Smith (R)

Again from personal experience, both my parents worked. My mother was a nurse. My father was a police officer then he worked for the telephone company.

My dad worked overtime constantly. I remember going to Clark school and the kindergarten teacher, my mother and father spent an incredible amount of time with me reading and writing. I had basic skills beyond a [typical kindergartner] and I remember the teacher saying, 'He's going to be a troublemaker' because I already had those skills.

How does that relate to what we are talking about? It is important for parents to be part of this. Now I know in our society we have a big divorce rate and there's a lot of single parents but there's still a way for them to be involved and I am a big proponent of everybody being involved in

what their children do and what their children learn.

For the government, for us to say let's mandate things, for the kids to be taken somewhere and dropped off, they learn better from the parental unit, or uncles, or aunts, or brothers and sisters. Now of course for underprivileged children or for the single parent that doesn't have that choice, then certainly we should have a choice. Now should that be a burden on the school? I don't know. Maybe that should be a burden that maybe the businesses should help pick up? When you invest in your employees you've got a good employee for life usually. So maybe we need to look at that

side instead of always putting it off on something that's a public sponsored thing. Why can't businesses step forward? The University of Virginia, I don't know if they have a program like that. I don't know if anybody else that is a big player here in Charlottesville-Albemarle has programs like that, it would be worth finding out. So again not putting it all back on the taxpayer.

WHITE HALL DISTRICT

Ann Mallek (D)

The short answer is yes and the evidence of that is for the

last two or three years, I've been making motions and trying to push this. When we found that the school board was not able to include this in their budget for the last two years, local government said 'well, fine, then we will.'

Basically the question we have to get an answer to is is the school department going to be focused on K through 12 and that's it? In which case, local government has to step up and provide that sort of 3 to 93 range where we have continuing education for older folks and an interest to keep everybody learning, and also very important about that supportive pre-K for children to help them get a good start in school.

In the remainder of 2015, or during your first term if you are elected, should the board make boundary adjustments for Albemarle County's designated growth areas to create new locations for business on land that today is in the rural area? Why or why not?

Note: All candidates were interviewed prior to the decision made by the current Board of Supervisors to increase the designated growth area by 51 acres at the Interstate 64 and U.S. Route 29 interchange.

RIVANNA DISTRICT

Norman Dill (D)

Well of course someday we are going to have to adjust the growth areas, but I don't know when that day will come. I feel strongly we should keep the growth areas the way they are now for now and I don't think we should make exceptions on a case by case basis because some company wants to move to town.

We lost several hundred acres when the Biscuit Run property was changed from residential to a state park, just because of those complicated financial negotiations, so there seems to be a case that we do need to add some to offset that land that was lost, but again I don't think we need to do that immediately, it wouldn't be my first priority.

I'd like to promote local businesses expanding, and I don't think the growth areas are quite as important for the local businesses and

entrepreneurs to expand.

Lawrence Gaughan (D)

No. Again a definitive answer to that question, an absolute no, we should not make any boundary adjustments from what's already put forward in the Comprehensive Plan. We have to find ways to make our county more sustainable and growth is not sustainable. Number one, it doesn't pay for itself. Number two, it's an

environmental issue. I think that there are some real areas that we can look into, maybe developing differently the areas that are currently designated. We tend to pack a lot of development into these current designated areas. If we are going to do that, maybe we should consider going upward instead of packing a bunch of flat townhouses into an area [which] doesn't really look very good. We need to use data-driven research. We need the best and brightest to come forward — not necessarily at the extraordinary fees that we pay them for research into these areas. But planning tends to be an urban model so, we'll touch on this perhaps a little bit more when we talk about placemaking, but if we bring somebody over from Virginia Tech for instance who can give us advice on how to do something innovative and creative that would work

in a rural designated area, then we need to really look at that. We need to take a hard look at that. We can't look to Charlottesville for the answers to these problems because it is apples and oranges.

Richard Lloyd (R)

That's a good question. Why do we need growth areas? What's the purpose of a growth area? I think everybody agrees that we need them. Why do we need business development? Why do we need any business at all? ...

Why do we have the property tax and the business taxes? Why do we have the development area? We have the development area because we have to pay our bills. Two years ago we had a penny and a half increase on the [real estate] tax, last year we had two cents. The Board of Supervisors now says, "We have substantial and growing deficits for the next five years."

Why five years? That's the end of the study. Somehow we have got to either come up with more revenue or we are going to have to live a trimmer life. I'm kind of in favor of coming up with more revenue ...

So I am kind of for it. I am for it because I don't want to trim away some of the quality of life that we have established in the county to make the budget work out. I don't want the budget people to come back and say, "Well we can do it with increased debt load." That's just moving it to our children. Somebody's got to pay the bill sometime.

And if we raise the taxes on the brewery itself they'll go somewhere else. This poor gal, I say poor gal, she's a very fine gal that's running the economic development for the county, needs to create a story where Albemarle County welcomes business and encourages business to consider us. We need to attract businesses to this county. If we come forth with all of these problems that are real, and some of these problems that are not so real, and this intransient nature where we are not going to expand things or make it accommodating, we won't get their time of day ...

We need to be a lot more receiving and accommodating to the businesses that are good for this county and we need to generate the revenue or we are going to have to trim back our standards of living.

SCOTTSVILLE DISTRICT

Richard Randolph (D)

Controversy is swirling currently in the county

about the highly unusual proposal of the board of supervisors currently to seek a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to permit light industry in the rural-designated Sweet Spot property located on the southwestern quadrant of the Interstate 64 – [Route] 29 South intersection ...

My professional training as a state-certified planning commissioner convinces me that a CPA to move rural property into the designated growth area should only be approved under exceptional circumstances and for compelling public and county benefits and when the following requirements are met: A) the additional development acreage is essential to maintain the continued operation of an established in Albemarle County, as with Colonial Auto Group's [approved] CPA or to attract a new large employee-based business that conforms with the county's four target industries; B) county staff conducts a deliberative public process of transparent consultation with neighborhoods adjacent and contiguous to the proposed property providing the public with as much vital information as needed for them to be informed while withholding only information that is absolutely required to maintain confidentiality for the interested relocating business and or for state officials; C) preliminary infrastructure costs and a timetable for implementation of any such improvements are available for the consideration of both key decision makers and the public; and finally D) the planning commission conducts public discussions not about business-specific

and location-specific spot rezoning but about making thorough well-documented revisions in the comprehensive plan to identify the most appropriate potential rural locations for inclusion in the designated growth area to meet the requirements of a interested business. The commission then should hold public meetings to gauge public reaction to each one of these potential locations.

Earl Smith (R)

This designated growth area thing, frankly it's been ignored and now it has become such an issue because of revenue. What does that mean to us? It's a burden on our infrastructure our water supply and our traffic. Again as a person just coming in, and loving information, and I look at the Comprehensive Plan... and I am counting six interchanges off of [Interstate] 64 and not one of those is a designated growth area. But if I go to another county in a part of the state or somewhere else that I know and you look and everything off of the interstate is full, that's where they grow. I don't understand why we have nothing. There's nothing.

So that brings up the I-64 and [Route] 29 [interchange]. I think that was totally mishandled. I feel that the planning commission overstepped their commitment to the citizens by going 5 to 10 steps beyond what was being asked of them when realistically our county leaders were saying look we have to go somewhere, can we make a small amendment, one time, to possibly use this piece of land for a business. Now what that does, it's just like raising your hand to ask a

question. Can I go over here to possibly better myself? So the planning commission just said no. You can't do that.

So what does that mean? It means that our taxes are going to go up because we don't have any light industrial stuff coming in. We are a joke to most of the state. I called a legislator in Richmond and asked if Albemarle County is ever considered when a business calls and says we want to come to the state of Virginia? He said no, we just tell them no. I don't like that. So regardless of whether this "can't be named brewery" can't come there, I think people are missing the fact that all the leaders were asking for was a chance to maybe get this looked at, which number one would put VDOT on notice to fix exit 118B ...

WHITE HALL DISTRICT

Ann Mallek (D)

I will start off by saying that the creation of growth areas and rural areas in 1980 was a stroke of genius and I think that is something that so many more recent decisions have been based upon that have helped Albemarle County's quality of life and what makes us what we are and what our scenery looks like. It was a very elemental decision so it's not something that I think is unimportant by any means. It has allowed us to have our master plans and have a real basis of thoughtful decision making. ... And I think that's where we are right now with the project before us.

But balance is really important. I am very strong environmental advocate and no one can accuse me

of saying I want to slaughter hillsides and pave everything over and bring in any number of big box stores, but I do also know that people have needs as well. We have to try to figure out a way to bring in more jobs and more financial assets ... And if there are particular locations where we have transportation infrastructure already existing, that seems like a far better place for that kind of activity to be.

Now, there are many, many questions to me that are unanswered at the [Interstate 64 Exit] 118 intersection. I am supportive of it going forward so that we can learn those answers ...

Someone also mentioned this to me, I didn't have brains enough to think of this myself but I will pass it on, and that is that the area that is now the Hedgerow Park could have been houses and so that is preserved and we have this other area which is over 200 acres, two-thirds of which would still be preserved. I'm very interested in getting some concrete preservation elements on those steep slopes so that we don't come around three or four years from now and say 'oh by the way, I want to do this there.' I'm very interested in a bright-line and hard edge in some fashion ...

But there are some companies who would have valuable production and give us an element of manufacturing to the extent that we would have an actual product that we could sell and bring outside actual dollars into our community for our economy rather than just selling to each other. That would be a benefit if we can find a way to safely maneuver this issue.

It's Always a Good Idea to

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2015 ALBEMARLE
**SCHOOL
 BOARD**
 CANDIDATE PROFILES

In some cases, the candidates' responses have been abbreviated in this Voter Guide. Their complete responses, as well as answers to additional questions, can be found on the Charlottesville Tomorrow website. Additional topics in our interviews included:

- Online learning
- Teacher quality
- Student Achievement
- City, county, UVa relations
- Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center
- World Languages
- Budget

WHAT DO SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS DO?

School Board members hire and supervise the school division's Superintendent, set the budget, and make school policy. In Virginia, school boards do not have taxing authority and elections are non-partisan.

Charlottesville Tomorrow's website (www.cvilletomorrow.org/countyvote) features comprehensive coverage of the local elections including news, candidate interview transcripts, audio recordings of the candidate forums, and downloadable copies of this Voter Guide.

**JONNO
 ALCARO**

At-Large

Jonno was raised in New Jersey, educated in Pennsylvania and lived throughout the West for 34 years before moving to the Charlottesville area in 2010. He has a 39-year track record as a designer, builder and developer of departments, divisions and independent businesses within the securities and Internet industries, along with a demonstrated ability to consistently take complex projects from concept to fruition.

His set of skills that will add value to the Albemarle County School Board and make him a trusted representative of all Albemarle Country residents include listening to concerned parties, deliberating, decision-making, budgeting and planning.

Education: B.A., (Government), Lehigh University, 1974; M.B.A., Lehigh University, 1976

Occupation: Financial services product development. Co-owner of Meritage Financial Solutions, LLC

Previous political experience: none

Age on Election Day: 63

Neighborhood: East of Crozet on Rockfish Gap Turnpike

Hometown: Morristown, NJ

Family: Wife – Nanette (the best person I have ever known.) Daughter – Marion (a rising sophomore at Western Albemarle High School)

Other interests and experiences: Reading, Cooking, Entertaining, Travel, Meals on Wheels, Chapter Advisor to a Fraternity at James Madison University, Golf

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**DOLLY
 JOSEPH**

At-Large

Dolly was born and raised in Albemarle County and attended Albemarle County Schools. As a student, she was fortunate to experience great success, but also moments of absolute failure. These experiences have made her a passionate and compassionate educator. She has built a wide-ranging career as an educator in the Charlottesville area, teaching in public and private schools, and working in non-profits. Dolly is dedicated to helping all students achieve their potential, and having the ability and resources to pursue their dreams.

Education:

B.A., Studio Art, UVa
 M.T., Elementary Education, UVa
 Ph.D., Education: Instructional Technology, UVa

Occupation: Building Experiences, Chief Facilitator

Previous political experience: Charlottesville-Winneba Sister City Commission

Age on Election Day: 41

Neighborhood: 29 South

Hometown: Charlottesville-area

Other Interests and Experiences

2009-Present Lead Organizer: Charlottesville Ladies Arm Wrestlers
 2008-2014 Program Director: Computers4Kids
 2005-2008 Technology Coordinator: Peabody School
 2015 Reader: Ron Brown Scholarship Program
 2013 Charlottesville Woman: 4 under 40 award
 2011 Finalist HASTAC/MacArthur Foundation Badges for Lifelong Learning Competition

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**CATHERINE
 LOCHNER**

At-Large

Catherine began volunteering at the Department of Defense Dependent Schools when her family moved overseas in 2000. In 2006, they moved to Oahu where she became a certified reading instructor. She is passionate about equitable access to specialized health services and school services. As a reading instructor she became an advocate - training parents on the special education rights and responsibilities in the public school system. Her family moved to the Charlottesville area in 2010. She now works part time for the Family to Family Network of Virginia, Center for Family Involvement at the Partnership for Persons with Disabilities at VCU.

Education:

B.S.B.M from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

Former certified Linda Mood-Bell Reading Instructor, also Trained in Orton-Gillingham Reading program

Occupation: Local Network Coordinator, Piedmont Area for Family to Family Network of Virginia, Center for Family Involvement at Partnership for Persons with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University

Previous political experience: Appointed to the Albemarle County Special Education Advisory Committee to the School Board, member of the Parent Council to the superintendent.

Age on Election Day: 53

Neighborhood: Bedford Hills Subdivision

Hometown: Parkersburg, WV

Family: Married 25 years this September, to John Lochner. We have one young adult son, Cameron Lochner, currently enrolled in the Albemarle County school system.

Other interests and experiences: I began volunteering at the Charlottesville Ronald McDonald House, serving for 2 years. I became a member of the Albemarle Special Education Advisory Committee, and served as chair during 12-13 school year and 13-14 school year. During the 13-14 school year, I became a member of the Parent Council, serving as a representative for Albemarle High.

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JASON BUYAKI

Rivanna District, Incumbent

Jason moved to Albemarle County in 2006 and embraced it as his home. With a young family, and life centered around the school community Jason served on the Stony Point PTO and as a Parent Council Representative. While serving on the School Board, he continues to focus on wise usage of taxpayer funds, expanded learning opportunities for students, accountability, liberty, and transparent governance.

Education: B.S., Secondary Education – Government and History, Central Michigan University

Occupation: Model Maker, Sculptor, and Artist at Gale Force Nine

Previous political experience: Appointed to Albemarle County School Board Rivanna District seat vacancy in February 2011. Elected to Albemarle County School Board Rivanna District seat in 2011.

Age on Election Day: 42

Neighborhood: Stony Point

Hometown: Michigan

Family: I am blessed to be married to my wife, Crystal, for a wonderful 13 years and we have 4 school age children.

Other interests and experiences: Member of the Stony Point Ruritan since 2009.

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MICHAEL BASILE

Samuel Miller District

Michael Basile served in the USMC for 25 years, retiring in 2009. He was a fighter pilot and flight instructor for 12 years. While teaching students, he learned teachers cannot reduce instruction or practice time and expect good results. In Texas, he founded a nonprofit to educate and engage community organizations to fight child abuse. Basile moved to Albemarle County in 2006 and entered into private employment. He is gifted at solving problems in the factory and the community. His daughter graduated from AHS in 2012 and CATEC in 2013. He mentors several students attending Albemarle schools.

Education: B. S. in Geography from Kansas University, 1990; Currently part-time student at PVCC in Electronics with time off for the campaign

Occupation: WWW Electronics

Previous political experience: None

Age on Election Day: 49

Neighborhood: Ivy

Hometown: Newport, Rhode Island

Family: Grown daughter and son, and a beautiful fiancée in Ivy

Other interests and experiences: I like to travel and visit my family. I like to exercise and run for health and fun, and help others do the same. I love to read and learn different things. I am a part-time student at PVCC learning about electronics. I like riding motorcycles and fixing things. I love helping out in the community through organizations like Love INC.

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GRAHAM PAIGE

Samuel Miller District

Graham is a life-long resident of Esmont, a lover of this beautiful area of cCentral Virginia and a product of the public schools of Albemarle County. After receiving his undergraduate degree, he taught science at Western Albemarle and Jack Jouett Middle Schools for 24 years. Since retiring, he has been involved in a variety of activities in the area including a) his church- New Green Mountain Baptist; b) fraternal organizations- (100 Black Men of Central Virginia and the Odd Fellows); c) various Boards (Piedmont Housing Association, Jordan Development Corporation, Scottsville Museum and Southern Albemarle Family Practice Advisory); and d) tutoring and volunteering at B.F. Yancey Elementary.

Education: B.S., Hampton University; Master of Education- University of Virginia

Occupation: Retired

Previous political experience: Superintendent's Equity and Diversity Appointee to the Albemarle County Long Range Planning Advisory Committee; Community representative on B.F. Yancey Elementary School Principal Selection Committee; Community representative on committee studying consolidation of Southern Feeder Pattern Elementary Schools

Age on Election Day: 69

Neighborhood: Esmont

Hometown: I was born in Charlottesville but grew up in Esmont

Family: Many relatives in Esmont area

Other interests and experiences: I have several hobbies: listening to all types of music, playing the organ, playing Scrabble on the computer and occasionally hitting the courts for tennis

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BRIAN VANYO

Samuel Miller District

Brian Vanyo is a husband and father of three girls. He was raised in North Dakota, where he attended public schools. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Brian served in the Navy for 9 years as an F-14 Radar Intercept Officer and also as an Air Defense Analyst. He moved to Charlottesville in 2007 to pursue a law degree at UVA while finishing a Master's degree from the U.S. Naval War College. Brian is a published author and columnist. He currently works at the Defense Intelligence Agency and serves as a board member of an educational nonprofit organization.

Education:

B.S. Computer Science, United States Naval Academy

M.A. National Security and Strategic Studies, United States Naval War College
J.D. Law, University of Virginia School of Law

Occupation: Intelligence Officer, Defense Intelligence Agency

Previous political experience: None

Age on Election Day: 40

Neighborhood: Redfields Community

Hometown: West Fargo, North Dakota

Family: Wife Svetlana (Aquatics Manager and Swim Instructor at ACAC) and daughters Athena (11, seventh grader at Jackson-Burley Middle School), Sofie (6, first grader at Cale Elementary), and Vivian (2)

Other interests and experiences:

Board Member, Constitution Leadership Initiative (a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization devoted to promoting a better understanding of the Constitution), 2013-present; Author, The American Ideology (genre: political and constitutional history), 2012; various editorials published in newspapers and online, 2012-2013; Treasurer, Cherry Hill-Village Place HOA, 2011-2013; Military service, 1998-2007: deployed with Fighter Squadron Eleven in support of Operations Noble Eagle (2001), Enduring Freedom (2002), and Iraqi Freedom (2004)

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STEVE KOLESZAR

Scottsville District, Incumbent

Steve married his wife, Marilyn, right after college. Before coming to Albemarle in 1982, they lived for 5 years in Camden, New Jersey and 9 years in Boston, Mass. Steve has worked in a variety of jobs including: cab driver, teacher assistant, shipper/expediter, treasurer and staff accountant.

Education:

B.A., American History, Washington and Lee
M.B.A. and continuing education courses from PVCC, UVa, Madison, and Northeastern.

Occupation: Retired accountant

Previous political experience: 20 years on the Albemarle County School Board

Age on Election Day: 69

Neighborhood: Sherwood Manor

Hometown: My father was in the Navy so I grew up in many places. My parents' home area was Northern New Jersey.

Family: Married 46 year to wife Marilyn. 2 sons, Luke and John graduated from Albemarle High School, attended Virginia Tech and are engineers.

Other interests and experiences: I enjoy History, Math and strategic board games. I am active member of Charlottesville Mennonite Church.

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CAROLL "CJ" HATCHER

White Hall District

After graduating college, CJ Hatcher taught high school for ten years, serving as Department Head and representing her district on the powerful Texas State Textbook Committee. Later, as Director of Education for a large media company, she created award-winning curriculum materials (K-12), meeting state standards. Gaining national attention for her work, CJ started a successful educational publishing company – a leader in the niche industry for 25 years. She has personally authored 33 books for classroom use. Having lived all over the country, CJ and her late husband Tom moved to the area to be near their grandkids. A Virginian by choice, she has made Albemarle County her home.

Education:

B.A., University of Houston; Secondary Teacher Education (Political Science / Social Studies Composite Degree)
Principals' Center Academy, Texas A&M University
Houston Travel Academy (Educational Tour Director Certification)

Classes toward Masters Degree at Texas A&M University (Educational Public Relations/Administration)

Occupation:

Professional Writer/Columnist
Former Higher Education Series Columnist, The Washington Examiner
Retired, Owner/President: CJHatcher & Associates
Educational Publishing Company
Retired, High School Teacher (Government/Economics)

Previous Political Experience:

Education Advisor to the Governor of Nevada – Appointment (Millennium Scholarship Executive Committee, State of Nevada)
Member, Albemarle County School Board Long Range Planning Advisory Committee

Age on Election Day: 64

Neighborhood: Earlysville

Hometown: Houston, Texas

Family: Married for 26 years to the late Thomas Y. Hatcher (family roots in Southwest Virginia). One son, daughter-in-law, and two grandsons who attend Albemarle High School.

Other interests and experiences:

Interests include traveling, amateur photography, and sailing! (Growing up on the Texas Gulf Coast, sailing was our family's sport.)

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DAVID OBERG

White Hall District

David Oberg is a partner in the Charlottesville law firm of Jones Oberg & Green. Born and raised in rural Alaska, David has been an active member of the Crozet community for the past eight years. He serves his community as a Sunday school teacher for Crozet United Methodist Church, as an after-school Tae Kwon Do instructor for Crozet Elementary Eagle Time, and as a volunteer with his daughter's Girl Scout troop. David's father was a public school teacher for 30 years, and David spent six months serving as a substitute teacher in Alaska public schools.

Education:

B.A., double major in Political Science and English Literature, Washington University in Saint Louis (cum laude)
J.D., Cornell Law School

Occupation:

Self-employed attorney; partner in the law firm of Jones Oberg & Green

Previous political experience:

Prior to attending law school, served as the Committee Aide for the Alaska House of Representatives Special Committee on Oil and Gas

Age on Election Day: 46

Neighborhood: Laurel Hills neighborhood in Crozet

Hometown: Kenai, Alaska

Family: Married to my law school sweetheart, D.J. Stoeberl. We have one daughter, Kendra. Kendra attended Crozet Elementary and will start at Henley Middle School this fall.

Other interests and experiences:

I am a third degree black belt and an instructor in Tae Kwon Do. My family and I are members of the Crozet YMCA, and enjoy the swimming pool year round. I enjoy traveling with my family, and have been to 48 of the 50 states. IN 2013, following reconstruction from a catastrophic knee injury, I participated in the Men's Four Miler Training program, and seven months after surgery finished the race dead last, but finished.

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Please describe your past experience that qualifies you to be on the Albemarle County School Board.

AT-LARGE

Jonno Alcaro

My history does not include educational experience other than being educated, so I've been going through a lot of my "education education." By going around I've visited all 26 schools, met all the principals, I've been doing a lot of door knocking, and that has helped me get prepared. In terms of my past experience, I'm a business man, and I'm coming up on 40 years in the business arena, and I've learned a few skills along the way that I think are very transferrable over to the Board, and being on a school board is something I've wanted to do for the last 30 years, but with all of my business travelling, I haven't been able to.

First of all I'm a good listener. I listen to all interested parties, I listen to the answers of the question that I ask. I'm a good decision maker, I'm a good deliberator, I'm a good budgeter, and I'm good at planning. I've got 30 plus years in all of those. Those are the primary things in terms of experience that I bring that I think qualifies me for the Board.

Dolly Joseph

I grew up here in Albemarle County and I attended public schools, and then I went to Piedmont [Virginia Community College], and then I attended UVa for three degrees, including a doctorate in education. In my professional life I've taught at both the public and private schools here in the area, and I've worked at a non-profit here in the area serving low-income youth for six years. I've now started my own nonprofit that serve youth as they transition out of high school and into college, so I consider myself a lifelong educator who has a lot of ties to a lot of the schools and educational opportunities throughout the entire educational community.

Catherine Lochner

Upon moving here, I really wanted

to find a way to participate....So I kind of thought about it and where I have spent the most time...has always been education. Public education, specifically. My child has always been in public education. I was a product of public education.

So I started volunteering on all of the different committees that I could find. You know when you are new and you look at that parent guide that guide that they give you at the beginning of the school year and you're thinking 'I could do that group, or I could do this group.'

So, one of my niches has always been special education. So I joined the special education advisory committee and as I got to know the county and the parents I also joined the PTSO at Albemarle High School, where my child goes. So it's nice to have a lot of different voices that were coming into the school and what they thought would make the school better....

I [also] discovered that there is a Ronald McDonald House here in Charlottesville so I started volunteering there, and I volunteered for about two years. So that was kind of me jumping into the community.

RIVANNA DISTRICT

Jason Buyaki

I am a parent, a taxpayer and I am engaged in civic life within the county. I am a U.S. citizen and I have met all the qualifications to be on the ballot according to the electoral board. I have served my community in a variety of ways. I have served on Parent Council with the Stony Point PTO and actually you were on the board at that time. I came in simply as an observer to learn quite a bit more about our school division mostly because I thought if I am going to do Parent Council work, I wanted to have a greater understanding of all the challenges and issues that our school division faces. For me that was

a way of serving my community and providing them with as much feedback as possible and I also currently serve on the School Board so I would like to continue to do my work there.

SAMUEL MILLER DISTRICT

Michael Basile

Well my number one qualification is that I am great at finding solutions to problems and fixing things. For instance, in Texas I started a nonprofit that helped engage and educate community organizations and churches about the need to fight against child sexual abuse.... I was able to go out and find some programs that work. I was able to bring them back to the churches and I was able to help some of the churches get people to the organizations that were actually helping kids in the form of volunteers, and we really started building relationships and providing needed resources to agencies that needed them....

And then the same thing when I was working in the factory in factory management. It's amazing the amount of problems that creep up, whether it is maintenance, machinery, systems, personnel, logistics, supplies, etc. There's always problems that come up and over time, with creativity, you build up a lot of different methods for solving the problems and you find efficiencies, and you are able to save costs, and make things run a lot smoother....

I have eight years of teaching experience in the Marine Corps as a flight instructor. I was a pilot and a flight instructor so I was training students and I was making sure those students got the same training and that everything that they learned was standardized compared with everyone else....

I think lastly, it's because I am willing. I have a lot of energy. I love meeting people, I love helping people find

solutions, and I am willing to put the time in to serve out the rest of this term for the Samuel Miller [district].

Graham Paige

There are probably two main qualifications that I think I have that would make me well-qualified to be on the school board. One would be my teaching experience in Virginia: 30 years in the state as a whole, and 25 years in Albemarle County—23 at Western [Albemarle High School] and two at Jack Jouett [Middle School]. During that time, especially toward the end of my tenure as a teacher, the impact of certain laws that were passed, but on the state and federal level, that impacted the classroom and impacted the curriculum. That would be one thing that would make me well-qualified.

The other would be the last three years on the Long Range Planning Advisory Committee. I had the chance to visit quite a few schools within the district and see the needs that really had to be met at each of those schools. Also, I was aware of the budgeting process, how it would go through quite a few steps from the time the School Board would pass a budget and the Supervisors would pass a budget....

Brian Vanyo

... First of all I have a pretty diverse academic background. I'm a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, the U.S. Naval War College and UVa Law School. I also served in the Navy for nine years, deploying to Afghanistan and Iraq during that time. I currently work at the Defense Intelligence Agency, where right now I'm part of an effort to improve how intelligence supports acquisition programs amid increasing demands and decreasing financial resources.

There are a lot of parallels there for the challenges that face the school board today. I've written a book about our political and constitutional history, I serve on the board of a small nonprofit, an educational organization that works to educate others, mainly children and young adults about the importance of the Constitution. And

probably most importantly I've had the wonderful experience of being a husband and father of three girls, two of whom are school aged and are in the county public school system.

I think all of these experiences have really helped shape who I am, and I think I would probably bring a unique perspective to the school board....

SCOTTSVILLE DISTRICT

Steve Koleszar

I think my primary experience is that I'm running for re-election. I'm currently in my 20th year on the Albemarle School Board so I've had a wonderful experience being on the board and bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to my board service. Other than that, I'm a parent of two children who have been through Albemarle and graduated from Albemarle High School. In my day job, I'm retired from being an accountant so I understand

budgets, I understand numbers, I understand systems. I also bring those skills.

When I was thinking about whether to run again, some of the questions I asked myself are: "Do I still have the passion?" I still have the love for education and the desire to do more to help the children of this county. I still feel like I have an open mind even though I may have heard it before and seen it before. I'm willing to admit when I make mistakes I'm willing to learn. When new facts come in, you should change your opinion.

And I still have the drive I think to push us to new levels, new higher levels of excellence. One of the things you always have to guard against is complacency. If you're moving forward, you're easily sliding back.

WHITE HALL DISTRICT

Carroll "CJ" Hatcher

I have a lot of past experience in education. I spent my entire career in

education, as a matter of fact, but in various different areas, wearing different hats. I was a high school teacher for 10 years. I have been in the trenches and I understand the complexities of the classroom teacher's job, and it can be complex. I've measured the ability to convey critical content to students, all the while being counselor, coach, and disciplinarian....

Later, as director of education for a large media company, not only did I create an educational program, I was in charge of 25 employees or so at different times, and a very large budget. ...

Having gained national attention for this work...I decided that I would start my own business. It was an educational publishing company. We were successful. We marketed our product nationwide. We were a niche market, and for that niche market we became a leader for almost 25 years.

I have authored 33 books that are used in the classroom, and I have sold those books in teacher supply stores, the Smithsonian Bookstore, places like that. Teachers have

bought them, and you know, just came a long way with that program, and I'm very proud of those things that we did with the company. I'm a freelance education writer, and a national columnist. I produced a 24 month series of articles on higher education for a national newspaper, and the series went on twice a month for 24 months. I've served on textbook committees, literacy boards, I've worked at the community college level....

David Oberg

I am the graduate of public schools in Alaska. I am what I think of as the American success story. My grandfather had a fourth grade education, and my father was the first person in our family, and we have a big family, first person in our family to go to college. And I grew up in public schools and ended up going to an Ivy League law school and graduating near the top of my class. To me that is the American success story, and that is what makes America amazing, is our public schools enable that. And the reality is in most countries around the

world, that can't happen. If you're born near the bottom end economically, your children and grandchildren are going to be in that same economic status.

I am a law school graduate and I've practiced law for 20 years, which amazes me because I don't feel like I've been alive that long. I worked for the Virginia Education Association for seven years as an advocate for the teachers and public schools, and so I'm intimately familiar not only with public school issues in Virginia, but specifically with Albemarle County, because Albemarle County was my main focus. I'm very educated regarding the budget. I know what's taking place in the schools, and quite frankly, what most motivates me is that I have a child in Albemarle County Public Schools. My daughter was at Crozet Elementary, and is now at Henley Middle School and God willing will graduate from Western Albemarle High School. And I really want to make sure that she and all her friends and classmates have the opportunity to succeed like I did.

What is your top priority for action by the School Board during the next 4 years?

AT-LARGE

Jonno Alcaro

In knocking on doors, I've been hearing from parents who are affected by redistricting. Really having a lot to say about that. And at the same time I don't have an agenda that I'm going in with. I don't have any pet projects. I'm going in to work on the

issues of the school board and to listen and make decision on that. But one thing that I would like to do is to determine the review process for past programs. So there are programs that we thought were a good idea at the time, that are just going on and on whether or not they are being effective. I'd like to get a regular review process put in place. In some cases it would

be one year, in some cases it would take three years because things take time to develop, and in other cases five years, but I can't see that any program should go more than five years without being reviewed.

Dolly Joseph

My top priority is to ensure that all of our students receive the best educational opportunities that are relevant for them. That is going to require a creative use of our resources, it's going to require looking at businesses or non-profits to partner with

them, because there are some budget constraints and we need to make sure that we're not solving old problems with the same old solutions that are not completely working. I'm also really passionate about making sure that people have multiple pathways through the educational system, and that we're not falling into "one size fits all," which the county seems to be doing a really good job for providing those kinds of opportunities.

Catherine Lochner

I have been a proponent of reading and math instruction,

specifically methodology for reading, which most school systems, not just in this county, but nationwide, don't embrace a reading methodology. I feel that in many ways does a disservice to the kids. Most people come out of college with a teaching degree that actually is just techniques and we kind of an eclectic approach and I feel that actually leaves at least a quarter of our population unable to access how they are being taught every day. So if we start using methodology, you actually will reach all of the students.

So reading and math have really been a focus for me and will continue to be a focus for me. But the other one I would have to say is special education. I do have a son who has impairments and he has been in special education or receiving services since he was in kindergarten so making sure that the county as we move forward has appropriately funded the needs and services for these kids to take part in all of their classes is going to be a high priority for me.

RIVANNA DISTRICT

Jason Buyaki

I think I have two top priorities. The first one, the most challenging one for me, is I think our academies are doing really well, but the problem with our academies is getting students to those academies. I continue to try to find a way to either centralize the location for the academies so all students can attend – and that central location would have core curriculum provided at that location as well – or we need to find a transportation method that allows students to really get to those academies. Right now we are filled up, and we have waiting lists. That's good. That means kids are showing that they are really interested in those topics. The best thing we can do is open up the doors and get as many kids to those programs as are willing to participate.

My other top priority is something that's kind of boiled for a little while with the school board, that is getting kids into real world examples of work place experiences through either internships or job shadowing interviews. Being able to explore a future career

before you actually go off and do it I think is really important. That gives students the opportunity to put their foot in the water, so to speak, and to find out if that's something they would like to continue to pursue. And they may find out that they still love it afterwards, or no that's not quite what they were thinking and then they haven't gone down the college career path of taking a wide variety of courses, spending a fortune going to college, and then finding out that's not what they want to do for the rest of their life. So I think that real life experience in the workplace is essential.

SAMUEL MILLER DISTRICT

Michael Basile

[My] number one priority is teaching our students how to build wealth, how to accumulate property so that they can become financially independent and responsible for themselves, responsible for their families, capable of helping out their families who are in need, their neighbors and helping out in the community. So that's the number one priority for all of us....

Some of the great things about that, we'll have to teach them how to budget, how to pay themselves first, how to put money aside out of their cash flow into investments, we'll have to teach them how to protect property, how to use the law so that if someone takes their property how they can use the law to get it back, what their rights are this in turn will teach them about respect for property and we should see people with more respect coming out of the schools for personal property,

people's lawns etc....

What we do want is certainly responsible members of society. They have to know the law. They have to practice respecting the law and they have to know how to pick themselves up and accumulate property, create value in property, so they can take care of themselves. I think that's our number one priority.... And I think it would be just amazing to actually build a community that knows how to acquire wealth so that it can do the things that it wants to do. It would be a boon for people across the state, people across the nation. People would love to be here. It would be a happening place, even more so than we are now.

Graham Paige

I probably have two main priorities: one to make sure that there is parity throughout the school division; that all of the schools—as much as possible—have the same facilities and the same curriculum. There are some slight differences in that now due to population of the schools, so I would try to work on parity within the system. And also pre-K needs within the county. That's a pretty important thing too, that would become more and more important as time rolls on.

Brian Vanyo

I would like to see the school board improve its communication with residents about some of the program initiatives that are going on in the schools, and also to help provide some of the reasoning behind some of the decisions that are made with regard to the budget. I know a lot of parents simply don't have time to follow all of the school board meetings and the deliberations

that are going on. And the school board's website does provide a lot of information, but I think that could be improved, certainly because the school board is entrusted with the majority of the county's tax revenue, and so the Board should make every effort to inform residents how and why money is being spent. And I think that with more disclosure and communication parents and citizens can be better informed about what's going on in the school district, and it might encourage more involvement, so I think that's something the Board ought to improve upon.

SCOTTSVILLE DISTRICT

Steve Koleszar

I have three priorities. One is to continue to raise expectations for student performance. We need always to expect more of our students. If we expect more of our students, we'll get more from our students.

We're in the process of really transforming teaching from 20th century education to 21st century education, and I'll talk about that a little bit later, but continuing to transform teaching to meet the needs of our students' future rather than our past.

The third area I want to really spend more time on is making the case and fighting for more funding for K-12 education. On an inflation-adjusted basis, the state is providing somewhere between \$600 and \$700 less funding per student on a state basis. In Albemarle County, that would be \$8 million or \$9 million. The county government has done a fairly good job, but with the increasing challenges we have,

we really, to have the kind of great school system that the people of this community want, we're going to need more funding.

WHITE HALL DISTRICT

Caroll "CJ" Hatcher

Well, in Albemarle County, one of the greatest challenges we have in this county is spending for capital projects in our older schools. A lot of the older schools are in need of modernization. Some of them are just in total disrepair. But most of them are okay and the children attend, but they are in dire need of modernization. My priority will be to study alternative methods for funding the capital projects that are most important in the district in order to make the older facilities better learning environments for the students. Sometimes I like to call this fiscal stability to support learning. In other words, find the resources, then prioritize the use of the resources in the best way possible to support capital improvements, thus supporting student achievement. Alternatives such as bond referendums would remove the tax burden on county residents. Students would benefit of course, not only with a modern facility, but would also reduce the need for disruption through redistricting or other temporary solutions. The urban ring has grown quite large, and there's a need to do something about the schools that are in disrepair, so we can get more students into more places that are closer to home.

David Oberg

I want to make sure that the high-stakes, high-risk testing

is placed within the scope that it's supposed to be. Those tests have been around forever, but they haven't had the same political stigma that they have today. We took those tests when we were kids, I took them and they were called the SRAs. We took them every year, and they were used by the

educators to see where each student was doing well and where each student needed further work. There was no stress, we didn't get upset about the tests. It certainly was not a benchmark for the educators to determine if the educators were meeting some sort of goal. They were used as

a tool.

Well, because of the political process we have now, they're taking these tests now and using them as an evaluation technique for the individual educator. So if an individual student does or does not perform well, that reflects poorly or well upon the

teacher or upon the school, and I think that's insane. I've witnessed my daughter and her friends, in third grade, becoming really upset about tests that have absolutely no relevance as to their abilities. It's simply supposed to be used as a gauge. I think there is going to be greater pressure

by the state and by the federal government to use those tests to "evaluate" our schools and "evaluate" our teachers, and there is a stigma attached to that for our students. It negatively impacts them and I'm going to fight like the dickens to prevent that from happening.

Business leaders and social service agencies have told local government that new investments are sorely needed in the area of early childhood education. Will you make pre-K education and quality childcare a priority and if so how?

AT-LARGE

Jonno Alcaro

I agree with the business leaders and the social services agencies that have said that. Whether it's so much of the child is formed by age three or age four or age six, I think it's a given that early education is important. I know there are some programs in some of the schools now, whether they are in Head Start or some of the others, but that only covers about 340 kids. In order to make room or set up programs for other kids, especially those in need, that's going to come down to funding, and right now the Board is operating under pretty concise spending limits, and so it's a matter of taking away from Peter to feed Paul. So you have to determine where the money is going to come from. I think looking just outside our programs, things like Head Start and other federal programs; that may be the way we have to look. So I'm in favor of doing it, I'd love to see it in all of the elementary schools. Every elementary school principal who I spoke to is very much in favor of it, but

it comes down to the funding.

Dolly Joseph

I think it's very important, and I think it's particularly important for underserved populations, those populations are the ones in most need for additional public funds in one form or another for their children for preschool. Our more affluent families are already providing those opportunities in various ways. Some of our schools already have pre-K in place, but it's not serving all of the students who would benefit from it. I think ways in which we make it a priority, in other words how do we fund it, we need to be looking at grant funding, we need to make it a line item in the budget if that's going to be something that we're committed to making happen.

Catherine Lochner

... So quality childcare is not really something that school systems provide. It's not in their purview. So childcare to me is something that parents are still responsible for.

But yes, early childhood ... I've had some struggles with that. Being a little bit more old

school I have always felt that early education is something the parents should do. But as I have moved here, we have a much more diverse population and there is a need to have early education. I'm going to look up my notes here.

So something that I wanted to say about early childhood programs is that when we're talking about four-year-olds, I don't want to see programs that are all about rule following and sitting in seats and learning that 'B' [sounds like] 'buh.' I think that early learning should be all about kids interacting, having exercise, being outside, playing games. And I do feel that whether you are in pre-school or pre-K, those social and emotional skills developments are kind of those precursors to the collaboration and following directions when you're in the older grades.

So then there's also early education known as special education early education. Which in this state, I'm not sure if you're aware, this starts at 2 years old. So these programs really are set up for students that have significant impairments that we know

if they enter kindergarten without any supports would not be ready. So they're going to in these programs are going to get intensive support with functional skills and therapies so they can develop properly. But I feel as a county, even though we have multiple programs for these children, it's been difficult to manage them and that's mostly because of the sheer size of our county mileage-wise and not the number of students that need the service. So it's kind of a delicate topic if you will. I also feel that without including these two and three year olds, self-contained programs really aren't going to get the job done. They need to be included with typically-developing peers and that would be something I would look at and focus on.

RIVANNA DISTRICT

Jason Buyaki

Well there are a couple of challenges with that question, because as a school board member, our charter is really dictated by the Commonwealth and that is that we are to

provide education for K-12 and not pre-K. But pre-K programs have quite a bit of value to the community and the students that attend it. There is a high value to be placed on young children spending as much time with their parents as possible. I think that really can provide them with a lot of preschool guidance that they need when they grow up.

The challenge for us of course for us as Albemarle County is do we have the space to put the students in to? We are using some of our space and what we are finding is that we are running up against capacity issues, the challenge being that we are a growing county and the enrollment continues to grow so space is becoming a premium. Childcare, it's not a function of government to provide childcare. Can we find community options that might work well? I think down at Yancey [Elementary] we have done some of that work where we have created small programs where students can stay behind after school with some childcare and some enrichment. Those multifaceted approaches, not just relying on the school division, but bringing in community support, churches, and so forth, that's the way to really approach that. Simply not putting the burden wholly on the schools or wholly on local government, but finding real community approaches.

So would I make it a priority, no. But is it on my radar, yes. And solving that problem is I think going to continue to be one of the great challenges that we are going to have as a county.

SAMUEL MILLER DISTRICT

Michael Basile

Well I think so. Last year, I remember a report that came out – I have very little experience with early childhood education or Head Start, etc. – but I do remember a report that said Head Start was not providing a head start to the children that were in its programs. So I believe some of our early childhood education programs are funded by the county, funded by the schools, I believe, I am not sure, but I think the best thing for us to do is if Head Start isn't providing a head start to our students then let's open it up to some of the other organizations in town and let's find the organizations that will come in and provide the best service for the best price.

That doesn't mean the cheapest, but let's not go with systems and programs that are not working. Certainly we've got parents that need to get out and get to work and they need a place for the kids to go and the option seems to be they either do that or the parent doesn't get a chance to go to work in that field. Somehow we will have to help find employment or help create employment for some of the parents that need it that would better fit into a child's schedule, but in the meantime we need to do the best that we can and I don't think our school administration or

our current efforts are the best answer. I think the best answers are going to be found in the community with the groups and organizations that are doing like services. Let's let them come to us and offer what they can.

Graham Paige

Yes, I really would. First, pre-K would need some spaces in schools. When we were working with long range planning, that was one thing that we discussed and looked at the needs for. And quite a few of the schools that would really need it the most would have very limited classroom space. So one main thing would be to try to provide space for the pre-K kids, and also to make sure that they are being worked with within the county. Private pre-K can be really expensive, and some of our kids within the county wouldn't be able to afford that, so having it within the schools would be something that would be really necessary for the county. I don't think that we can have the quality of life in Albemarle County that we are having currently if we don't provide for our pre-K kids.

Brian Vanyo

Well this is one area where I think I respectfully disagree with the business leaders and social service agencies who believe this, because I've read a number of reports, and certainly the most comprehensive study was the Head Start Impact Study, which I think was done in 2010 or 2011, which shows that pre-K education really has no lasting effect on educational achievement for those students who go to preschool.

I've also heard a number of people say that even if

there are no lasting benefits there are social benefits, and that there are correlations between preschool and lower incidences of crime. But that study doesn't show that, and again, this study is one of the most comprehensive studies ever conducted on preschool education. I think there is a much greater impact on educational achievement and social behavior effects, the greater correlation is family dynamics. I've seen studies that show single-parent households, that the children of single-parent households are more likely to have lower academic scores and are more prone to crime just because there isn't that level of bonding between the child and the mother that typically exists between two-parent households. So on this issue, I would not make pre-K education a priority. I think it should be available for those who want it, but I would not seek to expand it.

SCOTTSVILLE DISTRICT

Steve Koleszar

My feeling is that while pre-K is valuable it's not this panacea, this magic bullet, that everyone seems to think it is. When we're not adequately funding K-12 education, I have a hard time getting really enthusiastic about pre-K. If the funding becomes available for that, I'll gladly support it, gladly work on it. We added a couple classes this year to Bright Stars. And it does help kids get off to a good start. But I think where we really lose kids is not in that first learning how to read stage. It's about 3rd, 4th and 5th grade when kids start to turn

off. And we have to do a better job in our K-12 of continuing to connect and get these students engaged so that their learning will progress. That's a more critical era. Getting behind pre-K is easy because everybody love little tiny kids, but in reality I don't think that's where we need to have our greatest focus.

WHITE HALL DISTRICT

Carol "CJ" Hatcher

Well I love the Bright Stars program. I think we should continue to fund the program, it's a great program. Also, we've got to look at families. Families are the first educators. Bright Stars was designed for families in need of financial aid or in need of getting the child or children ready, or those that don't have intact families or resources at home to help. But I know we've talked about universal pre-k, and that seems to be what the question is targeting, and I think for right now, Albemarle County does a great job with Bright Stars in the targeted market that we work with. And just thinking as a school board member, I would need to be a good steward of public funds, and I would say that right now, we should continue to do what we do well, and enhance the program at another time.

David Oberg

Absolutely. We know from lengthy and exhaustive studies that how someone will succeed later in life is directly tied to whether or not they have pre-K education. If your parents read to you when you're a toddler, the reality is that you're light

years ahead of a child whose parents didn't. And as it states, there's a socioeconomic basis upon which kids get to go to preschool or don't get to go to preschool....We have kids coming into our kindergarten who can already read and can already do basic math. In the same class and at the same time, and this boggles my mind, we have children who don't know what a book is. They don't have any association between letters and words. They don't know phonetics, they don't know their alphabets. And from what I've learned by talking to our educators, it's very unlikely that those children will ever catch up with their peers because they've started so far behind. That impacts them for the rest of their lives.

One of the tools we can use to even that out a little bit is to give children the opportunity to go to pre-K, and that can begin as early as three. These days people are talking about children who are already four, but the reality is that Bright Stars and some of the programs, three-year-olds can start getting some of that support. We also have to educate our families about the importance of pre-K and spending time reading with the children and working with them, and I don't know that we do the best job making sure that everybody knows the opportunities. Because we have some programs that are really outstanding, but when you talk to some of the parents they don't even know that they're there. So I think we need to reach out to the immigrant community, we need to reach out to the people who are underserved by our services and make sure that they know the opportunities that they have.



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