ABOUT LANCE

I grew up working in the onion fields of South Georgia. After my father was murdered, my grandpa Hank took me in and taught me the value of rolling up my sleeves and doing the work no one else wants to do.

I am a ten-year veteran of the Air Force and Intelligence Community. I’ve helped protect our troops overseas, track down terrorists, and guide policy- and decision-makers at the highest level on the necessary decisions to help keep our Nation safe.

Most importantly, I am a husband and a father. I believe in fighting for my family just like you!

The problems in Virginia didn’t start in 2020. They are the result of nearly a decade of bad legislation, bad governance, and bad leadership. Help me take the Lieutenant Governor’s office from career politicians looking for another name plate and use it to standup and FIGHT for policies that make Virginia BETTER!

I won’t let you down.

Lance Allen
For too long, politicians have used the office of Lieutenant Governor as a steppingstone to climb the political ladder. They get elected, do nothing, and then run for Governor. I chose to run for Lieutenant Governor because of what the office should be, not what it has become.”
A COMMON-SENSE CONSERVATIVE APPROACH FOR VIRGINIA’S FUTURE

- DEFEND THE 2ND AMENDMENT!
- PROTECT THE UNBORN!
- OPEN & REVIVE OUR ECONOMY!
- PRESERVE ELECTION INTEGRITY!
- OPEN OUR SCHOOLS!
- STAND UP FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT!
- CUT TAXES STATEWIDE!
- HEALTH CARE REFORM!
I believe the answers to America’s problems come from the people.

America became the most prosperous country in history because it was founded on the belief – expressed in the Declaration of Independence – that every person should be free; that everyone should have the opportunity to thrive and contribute. America is a place where people of different faiths, ethnicities, and backgrounds can create a better life and pursue their dreams.

But Richmond is failing.

Career politicians on both sides are more focused on partisan warfare and personal destruction than debating ideas and solving problems. The state government has grown more expensive – imposing more burdens on families and small businesses – even as it has grown more out-of-touch and divisive.

We must stand up for Virginia and its job creators.

Small businesses are the engine of job creation – they account for 97% of all employers in the commonwealth. Yet today, in the wake of the shutdowns, 1 in 6 small businesses will close their doors for good. That engine, a driving force of the American dream, has broken down and along with it, the hopes and dreams of many Virginians.

• Over the past 8 years in Virginia, the average time to become an employer in Virginia more than doubled and small business growth completely flat-lined.¹

• In 2020, unemployment claims in Virginia, pre-COVID, topped over 340,000.

Together, we can implement policy reforms that break barriers holding people back and unleash the potential of every Virginian.

My values are rooted in personal responsibility, hard work, and strong communities where people work together and treat each other with dignity and respect.

We should pursue flexible, local solutions – rather than one-size-fits-all, government-centric policies from Richmond. We need leaders in Richmond with a “servant mindset,” working to unite people around common-sense solutions.

¹ https://indicators.kauffman.org/state/virginia
LET’S UNITE BEHIND PRINCIPLED, PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

I believe that the office of Lieutenant Governor – situated between the executive and legislative branches, and a citizen-office where the occupant is still rooted in their profession and community – can play a unique role advocating for policies and building coalitions around four common-sense goals:

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Election Integrity ........................................................................Page 26
ECONOMIC RECOVERY & RENEWAL

We must safely re-open the economy, sustain a strong recovery, and build a better future with opportunities for all Virginians.

Virginia has the potential to lead the country in creating jobs, raising wages, starting businesses, and innovating, but today, bad policies in Richmond are holding us back. To fully recover from the economic downturn and succeed in the future, we must pursue policy reforms for both immediate challenges and to promote a more effective government long-term.

1. **Re-open Virginia.**

The choice our leaders have given us, between blanket shutdowns and business as usual, is a false choice. We need to allow businesses and communities the flexibility to find ways to open and operate safely. Local communities should have the flexibility to enact guidelines based on their unique situations, such as those for indoor and outdoor dining that we have seen work incredibly well across the State.

For example, after federal and state policymakers removed outdated regulatory restrictions, we saw remarkable progress made both in terms of vaccine creation, life-saving advances in treatments, and an FDA approved, at-home COVID-19 test\(^1\) that does not require a prescription.

2. **Promote a strong and sustained economic recovery by cutting taxes for working families and reducing unnecessary government spending.**

Virginia's government spending has grown by nearly 70% over the last 10 years ($81B in 2011 to $137B in 2020) – 10 times faster than population.

Our individual income tax burden is the 9th highest in the country and our economy is under performing.

Our budget should be smaller, and the tax burden should be going down. That requires identifying and eliminating waste and enacting reforms to costly programs. We must also hold the line against additional tax increases, like further hikes to the gas tax, which will hamper recovery.

To start, Virginia already delayed a $2.3 billion increase in spending during COVID-19. We should waive those spending increases permanently to protect taxpayers from additional tax hikes.

3. **Enact a Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) to make government live within in its means.**

This measure, much like the one successfully passed in Colorado¹, would limit government spending relative to the prior year and return surplus tax dollars to taxpayers, unless voters approve new spending.

The TABOR Amendment would require voter approval for tax increases and increases the TABOR spending limit, which constrains state revenue from both taxes and fees. It requires a constitutional amendment – aiming for 2023 or 2025 – which is doable in Virginia, as we saw with the recent successful initiative on redistricting.

¹ [https://leg.colorado.gov/agencies/legislative-council-staff/tabor](https://leg.colorado.gov/agencies/legislative-council-staff/tabor)
4. **Pass a Virginia REINS Act to rein in burdensome regulation.**

Modeled on a federal law with the same name, this legislation would remove agency regulations that are shown to be harmful and require legislative approval of new, major agency regulations before they are implemented.

REINS would build upon and help secure recent bipartisan regulatory reform\(^1\). We must ensure Richmond follows through on those reforms so that we keep regulations that are truly serving the people and eliminate those that don’t.

By reducing burdensome regulations, we can make Virginia a better place for small businesses, which too often bear the brunt of government overreach.

5. **Crack down on special interest giveaways and corporate welfare.**

Government should not pick winners and losers; businesses should succeed by serving customers. Too often government gives special favors to the well-connected at the expense of everyone else. We must close tax loopholes and limit the use of economic development incentives and other subsidies, including working toward an interstate compact\(^2\) to end this failed practice.

6. **Promote Virginia agriculture and the sustainable practices developed by our farmers.**

Agriculture is our commonwealth’s largest industry – providing 334,000 jobs and adding $91B to our economy. Farming is a cherished way of life for many Virginians. So, farmers and rural communities must have a voice in Richmond, especially family farmers who are too often ignored.

As Lieutenant Governor, I’ll fight for Virginia farmers, First, I’ll work to make it easier to locally source and market their goods. Second, I’ll fight to ensure rural infrastructure is properly maintained and that unnecessary or burdensome regulations are removed or reformed. For instance, the Virginia Right to Farm Act, which protects farmers from local bans or special permits to conduct customarily agricultural activities on their own land, must be properly enforced to protect farmers from government overreach.

By standing up for farmers in Virginia, we not only improve our economy, but promote environmental stewardship, like permaculture farming, and conservation.

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\(^1\) [https://roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/head-and-webert-virginia-on-cusp-of-historic-regulatory-reform/article_79477ebd-8595-5a0a-9445-74c35b3384cb.html](https://roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/head-and-webert-virginia-on-cusp-of-historic-regulatory-reform/article_79477ebd-8595-5a0a-9445-74c35b3384cb.html)

7. **Help veterans overcome barriers to opportunity so they can create small businesses and find fulfilling work.**

The Commonwealth is home to 780,000 veterans. Over 70,000¹ of them operate small businesses but, for almost 8 years, small business growth in Virginia has flatlined due to increased regulation which has more than doubled the time it takes for a business to get off the ground.

As Lieutenant Governor, I’ll bring my experience in both the military and private sector to help support entrepreneurship ecosystems tailored to veterans – so that state colleges, local nonprofits, startup accelerators, public agencies, and other stakeholders are working in sync to help veterans get training and access to financing and markets to build small businesses.

I’ll work with state programs, like Virginia Values Veterans, to develop more partnerships with educational organizations and employers that expand job opportunities for veterans. And I’ll work with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and nonprofits like the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation to help ensure the effective delivery of health care and mental health services.

8. **Defend Right-to-Work.**

No one should have to pay fees to work or worry about being fired for choosing not to join a union. Every private sector worker should have a voice in their pay; not have part of it forcibly taken. Virginia’s Right-to-Work law protects the right of employees to take a job without being required to join a union or pay dues. Employees also retain their right to resign from a union at any time or to negotiate their own contracts with employers, rather than settling for the one-size-fits-all deal negotiated by the union.

Right-to-Work states out-perform non-Right-to-Work states in economic growth (27% compared to 15%) and personal income growth (39% compared to 26%).

By making companies and communities less effective, compelled unionization harms employees long-term, leading to decreases in employment as uncompetitive firms and industries shrink.

In recent years, there have been efforts to repeal Right-to-Work in Virginia. We must defend this law.

9. Reform occupational licensing.

We should make it easier for people to get jobs by reforming occupational licensing laws. Today in Virginia, nearly 1-in-4 jobs require a license, many with excessive fees and burdensome training requirements – that are often unrelated to the job. While some jobs should require a license for safety reasons, jobs like travel guides and landscapers should not require a government permission slip.

These rules hurt the least fortunate by making it harder to earn a living, and they are often written by special interests to limit competition.

Unfortunately, Virginia has been ranked as having the 7th most restrictive licensing requirements in the country. We should work to reduce fees, eliminate unnecessary requirements, and implement reciprocity agreements to recognize licenses across state lines.

Other states are doing this. Virginia should be a leader, not a follower.

10. Modernize Virginia’s infrastructure.

We must ensure that all Virginians have access to safe and reliable transportation, communication, and energy so that our commonwealth is connected and competitive in the global economy.

Today Richmond is failing to provide even the most basic infrastructure needs. Virginia ranks 35th in the U.S. with one of the least reliable and underdeveloped infrastructures. For example:

- A recent study found that a segment of I-95 in Northern Virginia is the worst traffic hot-spot in the country and that the problems of congestion are pervasive throughout the Northern Virginia and Tidewater regions.

- Virginia is ranked 47th in the U.S. in terms of electric grid reliability – worse than even Alaska, and they spend half the year in the dark.

- Average residential utility bills are the 11th highest in the country.

These problems have persisted as fees and taxes have increased, with more tax hikes on the way next year. We need new leadership to address critical infrastructure challenges and the unique needs of different regions.

3 https://ourcommunitynow.com/travel/this-stretch-of-i-95-was-named-the-worst-traffic-hotspot-in-the-country
As Lieutenant Governor, I will be an advocate for the infrastructure needs of communities and the commonwealth as a whole. I will work to:

- Ensure revenue from Virginia’s main transportation funding law is being used for priority projects that will alleviate congestion, such as upgrading the American Legion Bridge to relieve this major chokepoint for traffic in Northern Virginia.

- Provide oversight of government contracts and projects to ensure on-time and on-budget completion of initiatives that are already underway like the Silver Line expansion in Northern Virginia and the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel expansion.

- Remove regulatory barriers that limit the adoption of 5G, such as enacting a version of over-the-air-reception-device (OTARD) rules that allow households, businesses, and localities to acquire 5G technology without unnecessary fees and restrictions. Since 5G relies on a distributed network of small antennae, this technology can help connect rural areas.
11. Promote energy that is good for both our economy and our environment — while rejecting costly, ineffective government mandates and tax hikes.

In April 2020, the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA) was signed into law. Similar to the Green New Deal, it aims to eliminate fossil fuels in electricity production by 2045.

Renewable energies can play an important role in our energy mix, especially as technological advances make these resources more efficient in the years to come. But the approach laid out in the VCEA is impractical and actually harms nature and will have a negligible impact on climate change. For instance:

- VCEA will increase Virginians’ electricity bill by 58%, or $800 more per year, with a new “electricity tax.” Dominion Energy will collect an additional $51B from customers by the end of the decade to cover the costs of expensive new projects.

- Based on the results of a pilot project, state regulators have estimated Dominion’s wind power expansion will cost 26 times more than electricity on today’s market.

- To comply with the VCEA, Dominion Energy’s plan would require replacing 490 square miles of farmland and forests with large solar installations — that’s 25% more land than the whole of Fairfax County. This form of utility-scale solar production is also linked to other environmental damage like soil erosion and wildlife destruction.

- The plan also acknowledges that retiring fossil fuel production in Virginia would still require importing fossil fuel produced energy from neighboring states to meet our needs.

1. https://repealveea.com/vceea-documents/e0eebd08-a77a-404d-9956-08b9dd6b80665
We should repeal the mandates and tax hikes in the VCEA and pursue reforms that will lower the cost of energy and promote good environmental stewardship.

• Virginia should work to eliminate taxpayer subsidies to energy companies – whether for renewables or fossil fuels – which prop up politically-connected firms rather than the most effective.

• We should build upon some recent reforms that lifted needless legal barriers on residential solar, such as easing restrictions on multi-family residences sharing solar panels if they choose to.

• Virginia must also modernize our regulatory system (such as ensuring a faster, fairer approval process for new energy facilities), so the commonwealth is open to new technologies that produce affordable, reliable energy with less impact on the environment. For example, increased use of natural gas is the main reason America has reduced greenhouse gas emissions over the last decade, and advances in carbon capture technology can reduce the impact further.

• Breakthroughs in nuclear technology – like the design approved by federal regulators in 2020 – can make reactors far safer and more efficient than older models. In time, these advances can upgrade Virginia’s decades-old nuclear infrastructure and produce low-cost, emissions-free energy.
EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW

We must pursue policies that promote public safety, rein in government over-reach, and protect constitutional rights equally for all. Our government must be limited, but effective. Government should be focused first and foremost on its core responsibilities of keeping people safe and ensuring equal protection under the law.

1. **Equip police to do their jobs and work with law enforcement and communities to ensure accountability.**

   Rather than “defund the police,” leaders in Richmond must ensure law enforcement agencies have the training, skills, and resources to do their job.

   We can also do more to ensure that bad actors are held accountable by working with law enforcement, not against them. Today individual officers who abuse their power are often able to simply transfer to other departments, evading responsibility for misconduct. That’s why law enforcement groups support expanding the National Decertification Index1 so departments can more easily share information and identify those who would seek to misuse their authority.

2. **Ensure people who break the law pay their debt to society while enabling second chances for those who truly deserve them.**

   America is a nation that believes in redemption. Individuals who break the law must be held accountable but, we should also ensure that people who pay their debt to society and no longer pose a danger can rebuild their lives when they leave prison.

   Unfortunately for Virginia, the Democrat-controlled General Assembly has opted for a different approach, pushing through bad legislation like Senate Bill 5034. Loopholes in that bill allow violent sexual predators to go free after only serving a fraction of their sentence.

   We must repeal unfair and unsafe legislation like SB 5034 and instead pursue criminal justice reforms that do not come at the expense of justice and victim’s rights.

   Dozens of reforms in other states – especially those led by conservatives – have shown that it’s possible to promote public safety and justice while also reducing unnecessary incarceration and providing a path to a second chance. For example, over the last 10 years, Texas has reduced its crime rate by 29% – falling to the lowest level in over 50 years – while shrinking its incarcerated population and closing ten prisons.

   This was achieved through a host of practical reforms, like instituting mandatory drug rehabilitation as an alternative to prison for some first-time, non-violent drug convictions,

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and giving more flexibility to judges to set punishments that fit the crime. With these reforms, Texas saved $2 billion, freeing up resources to focus more on preventing serious crimes.

As Lieutenant Governor, I’ll support criminal justice reforms that ensure the punishment fits the crime, as well as promoting rehabilitation and re-entry programs that provide education and job training. I will also work to implement improvements to mental health services so that people in need get treatment rather than cycling through the prison system without effective interventions.1

3. Protect the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners and work together to keep communities safe.

“Shall not be infringed” was not a suggestion. I believe in the Second Amendment and will stand up for the rights of law-abiding gun owners. And, as a husband, father, and veteran, I will work tirelessly to make our communities safer. Unfortunately, politicians often seek to divide people on this issue by presenting a false choice: either crackdown on law-abiding gun owners or do nothing about gun violence.

We saw that earlier this year, when politicians in Richmond passed partisan gun-control laws that infringe on constitutional rights – even though there’s no evidence laws like these will reduce gun violence.2

- First, the “red flag” law violates due process, allowing authorities to take a person’s firearms before they have been convicted, or even accused, of a crime. There’s no evidence red flag laws stop violent crime and these new powers can be abused.

- Second, if law enforcement has compelling evidence that somebody is an immediate danger to themselves or others, they may be detained for a mental health evaluation, but just confiscating their legally obtained firearms violates their rights and fails to solve the problem.

I’ll fight to repeal red flag laws, arbitrary time limits on gun purchases, excessive government powers to control where guns can be carried, and other unconstitutional and ineffective laws. I’ll also fight to keep our schools and communities safe by ensuring they have proper law enforcement protection, such as school resource officers.

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4. **Protect the rights of the unborn.**

As a father, there is nothing more precious to me than my children. The right to life is something we cannot take away.

Virginia can be a leader in human rights by protecting the unborn. We should pass a Human Rights Protection Act\(^1\) – preventing abortion after a heartbeat is detected – as states like Ohio have already done. With recent conservative appointments throughout the federal judiciary, now is the time to advance laws that protect life.

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5. **Improve foster care to help every child find a safe and loving home.**

Virginia’s foster care system is deeply troubled. In 2018, the legislature’s nonpartisan watchdog agency issued a scathing report on failures in the Virginia foster care system. Our foster care system ranked 49th out of 50 states in helping kids find permanent families\(^2\).

As Lieutenant Governor, I will work closely with the bipartisan Foster Care Caucus – the first such legislative caucus in the country – to ensure effective oversight, implement the prior reforms, and work toward additional changes that help children and families. For example, I’ll work to promote “kinship arrangements”\(^3\) – where children are given the chance to live with relatives or trusted non-relatives – by providing these caretakers with the same support as other foster families.

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\(^1\) [https://www.npr.org/2019/04/11/712455980/a-bill-banning-most-abortions-becomes-law-in-ohio](https://www.npr.org/2019/04/11/712455980/a-bill-banning-most-abortions-becomes-law-in-ohio)

\(^2\) [https://chsva.org/blog/virginia-ranked-nearly-last-youth-aging-foster-care/](https://chsva.org/blog/virginia-ranked-nearly-last-youth-aging-foster-care/)

\(^3\) [https://vakids.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Foster-Care-1.pdf](https://vakids.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Foster-Care-1.pdf)
HEALTH CARE REFORM

We must remove barriers to affordable, high-quality health care for all Virginians and reform safety net programs, so they work for those in need. Today, flawed policies are increasing health care costs, restricting access, and failing the least fortunate. Every Virginian deserves access to health care that they can depend on, in good times and bad.

1. **We must fully repeal the failed and corrupt “certificate-of-public need” law.**

A certificate-of-need law is not related to patient safety and instead requires health care providers seeking to open a new facility, or expand an existing one, to first demonstrate an “economic need” to the government. In practice, this little-known but very consequential law allows large, politically connected health systems and bureaucrats to stifle competition for the benefit of special interests. In short, smaller community-focused practices don’t stand a chance.

A growing number of states have repealed these laws because they drive up prices and create shortages, with sometimes deadly consequences. Because Virginia has one of the most restrictive COPN laws in the country, we have fewer hospitals, far fewer rural hospitals, and even fewer ambulatory surgical centers¹.

Repealing COPN would increase hospitals-per-100,000 residents by 42%, and significantly increase access to MRIs and CTs².

2. **The Medicaid expansion enacted under Obamacare is costly and ineffective – we must fight for real health care reforms that help all Virginians.**

The original purpose of the federal Medicaid program was to provide aid to the most vulnerable citizens, such as people with disabilities and children living in poverty. But the Obamacare Medicaid expansion went beyond the original intention and even added healthy adults with incomes well above the poverty line.

The track-record in Virginia and other states shows expanding Medicaid expansion fails to significantly improve health outcomes³ and imposes higher costs on patients, health care providers, and taxpayers. For example:

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² [https://www.mercatus.org/system/files/virginia_state_profile.pdf](https://www.mercatus.org/system/files/virginia_state_profile.pdf)
Medicaid expansion gives taxpayer money to healthy adults with incomes well above the poverty line but pays doctors far less than private insurance. That leads to fewer resources for those who are truly in need and strains local health services, as well as imposing longer wait times and lower-quality care.

Medicaid expansion will cost Virginia taxpayers $625 million more in the next budget— including $400 million in a “bed tax” paid by health care providers. That’s assuming the financial models are correct. The actual costs will likely be much higher since Richmond has already underestimated the costs of Medicaid, which cost $85 million more than expected in its first year alone.

The full $13.7 billion annual costs of Virginia’s Medicaid expansion program is currently masked by temporary federal subsidies; the burdens to Virginia taxpayers will grow as these subsidies decline and program costs increase, as has happened in other states.

We should repeal the Obamacare Medicaid expansion and fight for real health care reforms that enable all Virginians to get affordable, high-quality care. Among other reforms:

- Reform scope-of-practice laws to give qualifying nurse practitioners the ability to provide more of the services they are trained to perform, but are currently limited to physicians – increasing the availability of these services and lowering the cost.

- Expand renewable health insurance plans giving Virginians access to more coverage options that are low-cost and have strong consumer satisfaction ratings

- Ensure Medicaid is fiscally sustainable, focused on those truly in need, and encouraging self-sufficiency, not dependency. The legislature had previously approved work requirements, premiums, and other cost-sharing measures, but in 2020 the legislature reversed course and delayed the reforms. We should renew efforts to enact these Medicaid reforms that target tax dollars where they are most needed.

Virginia must have excellent K-12 and post-secondary education systems to help individuals discover and develop their unique abilities and succeed and prosper in our changing economy. We’re already fortunate to have so many great K-12 teachers and leading colleges and universities. But leaders in Richmond can do far more to empower students and families, support teachers, and enable all Virginians to succeed. We must also uphold free speech and open debate on campus.

1. **Help schools re-open safely.**

   Many K-12 school districts in Virginia remain closed due to COVID-19, leading to months of lost learning and severe strain on families. But, as recommended by public health leaders, schools should re-open, and we must equip them with resources to do so safely. The state government should work with communities to ensure the availability of testing, necessary protective equipment and facility upgrades, and information to help schools re-open safely.

2. **Equip teachers to serve students: put more money in the classroom, raise teacher pay, and reduce unnecessary administrative costs.**

   Today, politicians in Richmond are failing teachers. Virginia teacher salaries are $8,000 less than the national average\(^1\), ranking 49 out of 51 in competitiveness. The Democratic controlled General Assembly has cut over $250 million from schools in recent years\(^2\), leaving gaps in core learning priorities. While the General Assembly has promised teacher pay increases, the budget shortfall from COVID-19 now threatens those increases.

   We need reforms that address the long-term problem in K-12 education of increased administrative costs crowding out investment in teaching. For example, in recent decades, the number of school administrators increased three times more than students and 25% more than the increase in new teachers\(^3\). In Virginia, only $0.65 of every dollar taxpayers spend on education goes to instruction\(^4\).

   As Lieutenant Governor, I’ll work with educators to identify unnecessary administrative and facility costs to put more money in the classroom and raise teacher pay.

   We’ve seen in other states that it’s possible to invest in teachers without busting the budget. For example, recently, Republican leaders in Florida succeeded in raising teacher pay, putting Florida in the top five states for starting teacher salary. If Florida can raise teacher pay – in a state with no income tax – we can do so in Virginia. But it will take new leadership with the right priorities.

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3. Empower students and families to pursue the education that is right for them.

Nobody’s future should be determined by their ZIP code or parents’ income, and no one-size-fits-all model will serve every student. Instead, every kid should have access to education that fits their unique needs. Public resources should follow the child to support their growth—whether that leads to traditional public schools, private schools, homeschooling, or other avenues. Despite divisive voices on the extremes, nearly 80% of voters support this goal¹.

We must promote K-12 educational freedom through policies that focus on funding families, not institutions. We should defend and expand Education Improvement Scholarships which help children with special needs or low family income attend private schools².

We must also encourage open-enrollment policies so families can select the public school of their choice; ensure Virginia is friendly to charter and magnet schools; protect the right of parents to homeschool; and explore innovative reforms like Educational Savings Accounts to help families access private schools or pay for supplemental resources if they choose.

¹ https://www.thecentersquare.com/national/poll-support-for-school-choice-increases-by-10-percentage-points-in-four-months/article_ad49ac5c-01c6-11eb-89e8-7f6ba43daa0d.html
² https://choicemedia.tv/2020/01/21/brinkman-virginias-private-school-choice-program-under-threat/
4. Ensure teachers have the flexibility to innovate while supporting new educational models that break the mold.

Not only should students and families have a choice in their education, they should have better choices. We should promote innovative schools and partnerships with nonprofits that supplement traditional education – while reducing top-down mandates and over-reliance on standardized testing that tie the hands of teachers.

Virginia is home to a wide range of innovative schools and educational programs that we can build upon. For example:

- CodeRVA is an innovative public magnet school for kids passionate about computer science and technology. CodeRVA not only teaches cutting-edge skills but uses innovative learning methods, like greater emphasis on projects with real world applications, to help students succeed.

- The skilled trades are a promising path for many students to find success and fulfillment. Organizations like Skills USA provide training, scholarships, and events to help Virginia K-12 students learn skills for success in high-demand roles like becoming electricians, plumbers, or aviation technicians.

- The Young Entrepreneurs Academy is an innovative partnership between the Loudoun Chamber Foundation and middle and high schools that helps students learn the skills to launch small businesses or nonprofits.
5. Promote apprenticeships and technical education for jobs in the skilled trades and technology.

Apprenticeships can help people build fulfilling careers in high-demand fields or re-train for new lines of work. We should partner with private sector employers to establish more apprenticeship programs for jobs in the skilled trades and emerging tech fields. To facilitate this process, we can expand the current modest tax credit for firms that participate in apprenticeships.

In the aftermath of COVID-19, we see the potential of apprenticeship programs to help people rebuild their careers:

- The Virginia Ready Initiative is a new nonprofit network that is helping people who lost their jobs during COVID-19 get retrained for high-demand fields, like cyber-security and health care. Supported by corporate partners, such as BAE, PWC, and Bank of America, and working alongside Virginia community colleges, VA Ready aims to help 15,000 people over the next two years.

6. Work with public universities to make college more affordable through Income Sharing Arrangements (ISAs) and limiting tuition increases.

The success of schools like Purdue University, which avoided tuition increases while improving the quality of its instruction and services, show it’s possible to provide better education for less money. In the most recent two-year Virginia budget, state school tuition was also frozen. But, unlike Purdue that happened because the state provided grant money to make up the difference.

To enable sustainable savings on tuition, we must work with state schools on cost reduction strategies, such as better prioritization of capital expenditures. For instance, historically, Virginia’s state schools have spent twice the national average on-campus construction.

We should promote Income Sharing Arrangements, in which students pay a portion of their income over a period of time. This protects students from debt and interest payments if they struggle financially and incentivizes institutions to ensure students are set up for success.

1 https://www.jamesgmartin.center/2019/07/what-can-other-universities-learn-from-purdue-s-tuition-freeze/
2 https://vpm.org/news/articles/6965/is-virginias-college-tuition-freeze-sustainable
ELECTION INTEGRITY

Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of our representative government. But today elections in Virginia and across the country face a host of threats and the public is losing confidence in how elections are conducted. We must ensure the integrity of our elections so that no person’s vote is cancelled due to fraud, negligence, or interference, while also removing unnecessary barriers to civic participation.

- Virginia should reinstate its photo ID requirement to vote. In 2020, Democrats in Richmond repealed the commonwealth’s photo ID law, which had been supported by 75% of Virginians.\(^1\) Reinstating this measure would reduce the risks of voter fraud while also keeping elections accessible, since, as the evidence has shown, ID laws do not decrease voter turnout.\(^2\)

- We must promote in-person voting, which is the most secure and reliable way to vote. For example, historically, absentee ballots have had higher rates of rejection\(^3\) than in-person ballots. We should limit absentee voting to those who request a ballot and have a legitimate reason for needing one.

- To ensure that everyone is able to participate, we should also maintain the current law which allows early in-person voting at designated locations beginning 45 days before an election—including Saturdays—so people have ample time to cast their ballot.

- We must prevent hackers from interfering with election infrastructure. Election infrastructure is a target for both non-state actors and foreign governments like Iran, Russia, and China\(^4\) that have launched cyber-attacks in recent years. Virginia should ensure defenses, such as regularly updating cybersecurity measures for voting machines and databases, requiring a paper ballot record of all votes cast, and conducting rigorous post-election audits.

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