

The Democrat

The Newsletter of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee

August 2014 Volume 1, Issue 6



Inside Washington: Report from Senator Mark Warner

Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Introduced by Senators Warner and Kaine Will Help Support Virginia Jobs, Businesses

Before Congress began its 5-week recess, Virginia Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine introduced bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the funding for the Export-Import Bank. Federal funding for the bank is scheduled to expire September 30, 2014. The 5-year authorization package would incrementally increase the Bank's spending authority from \$140 billion to \$160 billion over 4 years, require the Bank to submit reports to Congress detailing its business plan and risk exposure, and ensure that the Bank's loan-

(Continued on page 2)



Message from the FCDC Chairman Sue Langley

FCDC Interns 2014

FCDC interns hail from various high schools across Fairfax

County, as well as neighboring colleges and universities. The FCDC intern program began in 2008 under former FCDC Chair Scott Surovell and the first and former executive director, Mike Burns. That program has been an integral part of FCDC activities, with participants becoming involved in just about everything, from social media research, candidate events, voter visibility at farmer's markets, and lots more.

This summer, we were fortunate enough to have had over 25 interns who staff our office full-time from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Some come to the office every day, others a few days a week, but without



Inside Washington: Report from Senator Mark Warner

(continued from page 1)

Deadlines for The Democrat

September 2014 Edition

Friday, August 22, 2014

October 2014 Edition

Friday, September 26, 2014

Articles/ photos must be submitted as attachments to thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org. All submissions are subject to a word limit and editing. For more information, contact thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org.

Published monthly by the
Fairfax County Democratic Committee

2815 Hartland Road, Suite 110
Falls Church, VA 22043
Tel: (703) 573-6811
Fax: (703) 560-7004

<http://www.fairfaxdemocrats.org>

Editorial Team: Terry Matlaga Bell,
Michael Fruitman, Linda Waller

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the FCDC unless expressly approved by an appropriate committee resolution.

Copyright©2014

loss ratio is less than 2 percent for any quarter in that fiscal year. The bill would also require a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study to be completed within 1 year to identify the risk to taxpayers of the Bank's medium-term progress.

Though this legislation has bipartisan support in the Senate, many House Republicans contend that the 80-year old export program needs major reforms and is a form of corporate welfare—something the federal government should not be involved with. The program, developed by President Franklin Roosevelt, has had bipartisan support in years past; now, however, conservatives in Congress contend that it is a taxpayer-subsidized giveaway to large companies.

"The Export-Import Bank has helped Virginia," states Senator Warner. "Since 2007, the Export-Import Bank has helped finance \$1 billion of exports from nearly 100 Virginia companies, more than half of them small businesses, as well as supported more than 11,000 Virgin-

ia jobs. The Export-Import Bank has done this all at no cost to the taxpayer; in fact, it generated \$1 billion toward deficit reduction in the last fiscal year. In an increasingly globalized and competitive economy, it makes no sense to eliminate this vital tool for Virginia manufacturers and exporters."

Senator Warner recognizes that "we live in the real world, not the theoretical world. And when China, Brazil, France, and Canada all use these tools to the advantage of their companies and somehow America, which has been using the Export-Import Bank for decades, suddenly says, 'All right, we're going to take away this support'—which would cost us thousands of American jobs—well, that makes absolutely no sense."

Senator Warner knows how helpful the Export-Import Bank has been for Virginia business. He is committed to fighting for jobs and business growth for Virginia, and will continue the fight with Senator Kaine for the reauthorization funding of the Export-Import Bank.

The Fairfax Report : Board Chairman, Sharon Bulova



Silver Line Ribbon Cut on July 26!

The opening of the Silver Line is finally here! This expansion of Metro is exciting because it is much more than a new extension of tracks. The new Silver Line stations enhance our freedom of movement by providing an extensive network of transportation options where you can bike, walk, bus, drive, and ride to wherever you need to go. The Silver Line project has spanned numerous administrations, elected officials, and community leaders, who all stepped up to the plate when needed to proffer their vision and to address the challenges that needed to be resolved to make opening day happen. Many individuals who fought hard for this project knew they would probably never see opening day during their time in office. As it often goes with projects this big, success comes from passing the torch from one administration to the next, knowing that progress and final results will ultimately come with continuity of commitment.

Now with extensive transportation

alternatives available to residents, shoppers, and workers in Tysons and Reston, I am excited to see this area continue to thrive and transform into one of the most sought-after destinations in the nation. With new Metro stations, circulator bus routes, bike facilities, and pedestrian walkways, Tysons is poised to become a state-of-the-art multimodal center where there is little need to hop in a car to get to your destination. I also look forward to the completion of Phase 2 in 2018, taking Metro to Dulles International Airport .

The WMATA website, www.wmata.com, offers a great tool for planning your next trip. Simply plug in where you are coming from and where you want to go, and the website will generate a customized trip planner just for you, including bus and rail options.

To Metro and all who have made the Silver Line possible . . . WELL DONE!

Editor's note: Chairman Bulova has been one of Metro's most tireless supporters, and we thank her.

Message from the FCDC Chairman Sue Langley

2014 FCDC Interns

(continued from page 1)

question they form the liveliest group of volunteers at FCDC headquarters. These future leaders share a passion for democratic values. Under the guidance of our executive director and his assistant, they are learning skills such as database management, donor research & outreach, communications, and other skills that will apply to a life of civic and political engagement.

FCDC is lucky and also very proud to have these interns. We must continue to attract interns year-round. *Suggestion:* FCDC might want to consider naming its program after a donor willing to make an annual commitment to fund the entire internship program.

Persons in picture front row from L to R: Kinaya Hassane, Jack Norcross, Julie Agace, Sue Langley (FCDC Chair); top row R to L: David Koehlmoos, Alex Lesser, Billy Parvatam, Connor Halm, Daniel Park, Stephen Campbell

The Fairfax School Board Report : Ryan McElveen, At-Large Member



Fairfax County School Board Hungry for Healthier School Food

Ryan McElveen,
Fairfax County
School Board
Member, At-
Large

Over the past 2 years, the School Board has been ravenous to make Fairfax County

Public Schools a national leader in the movement promoting more healthful school food. Although FCPS' Food and Nutrition Services Department is quite efficient, its massive size—serving more than 100,000 meals each day—has hindered its agility in the face of community demands for healthier food offerings.

The roots of concerns with school food can be traced to the 1970s, when FCPS removed the kitchen equipment used for scratch-cooking in favor of, first, TV dinners, and then prepackaged frozen foods (loaded with additives and preservatives) that would be heated and served—a practice that continues to this day (although we've reduced additives and preservatives by 90 percent over the past 3 years).

But soon after Michelle Obama began a national dialogue about the importance of healthy food and exercise by launching the Let's Move campaign in 2010, a community advocacy group called Real Food for Kids (RFFK) was formed to help push for changes in Fairfax—just in time for the School Board election of 2011.

With the support of RFFK, in early 2012 the School Board commis-

sioned a study of the FCPS Food and Nutrition Services Department and the construction of a fresh food pilot kitchen at Marshall High School—dubbed the Statesmen Station—which would be installed as part of Marshall's renovation and feature fresh soups, salads, and sandwiches made on-site.

Additionally, FCPS launched a regular soda ban pilot program during this past school year, substituting healthier drink alternatives in drink machines at seven high schools. The results of this pilot have been promising, and regular soda will be removed from all schools in 2014–15 to comply with new USDA guidelines.

The collaborative efforts of the School Board and Real Food for Kids have been recognized by Michelle Obama, who—at a Let's Move event this past February—recited the wRAP written by Marshall High School students to promote the Statesmen Station pilot kitchen.

Following the successful launch of the Statesmen Station last fall, the School Board received the final com-

missioned report on FCPS practices from Prismatic, Inc., which offered recommendations ranging from improving cafeteria ambiance and signage to installing “fresh fruit and vegetable bars” in all schools. Among other things, as a result of this report, “fresh fruit and vegetable zones” will be installed in all middle and high schools by June 2015.



In just 2 years, the School Board has stimulated a marked improvement in school food, and it remains committed to raising children to live longer, healthier, and more vibrant lives in our community.



8th Congressional District Report—*Pixie Bell, Vice-Chair*

The next two State Central Committee meetings will be held on the following dates and locations: September 6 in Fredericksburg and December 6 in Hampton Roads.

The September 6 meeting will consider three vacancies on the DPVA's Steering Committee: Vice Chair of Finance, Mame Reiley's position on the DNC, and the Women's Caucus Chair position. The DPVA will publish the filing forms with pertinent filing information on each election process for the three vacancies

prior to the September 6 meeting.

Senator Mark Warner will host his Pig Roast on September 6 following the Central Committee Meeting.

The next 8th District meeting will be held on August 18, 2014, at 8:00 p.m. at TC Williams High School, JROTC Room, 3330 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302.

The coordinators of the 2014 Kennedy-King Dinner, Dan Steen and Charley Conrad, are now planning the annual dinner as a tribute to both Jim

Moran and Mame Reiley who started the fundraiser 22 years ago to honor and reflect on the legacies of Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy.

During the summer, local Democratic committee volunteers in Alexandria, Arlington, Falls Church City, and the Fairfax magisterial districts of Lee, Mt. Vernon, Mason, Dranesville, and Providence are volunteering for the Eighth District's Democratic nominee Don Beyer and for our U.S. Senator Mark Warner.

Labor Committee

NoVA Labor President Speaks at FCDC Event

Virginia Diamond, Chair

“What does labor want? We want more schoolhouses and less jails; more books and less arsenals; more learning and less vice; more leisure and less greed; more justice and less revenge; more opportunities to cultivate our better natures....”

Dan Duncan, president of NoVA AFL-CIO, began his remarks with this 1893 quote from Samuel Gompers, founder of the AFL, at the July 20 event sponsored by Providence & Braddock committees.

At the outset, Dan clarified that the labor movement's mission is to advocate for all working people. Labor is not a special interest group seeking benefits only for union members. That's why labor fights for raising the minimum wage, improving workers' compensation, Medicaid expansion, immigrant rights, and the right to freely organize.

Duncan explained that while the AFL-CIO is non-

partisan, after endorsing pro-worker candidates, union activists visit and called thousands of union households.

He explained the misunderstood “right to work (for less)” law. When a majority of workers vote to have a union, federal law requires the union to represent everyone in that workplace. Representing workers who don't pay their fair share depletes union resources, which is the goal of the law.

Union growth is essential to reverse income inequality, Duncan stated. For example, WalMart pays such low wages that workers need government assistance. Yet when WalMart workers have voted to unionize, WalMart has closed down its stores.

A wide-ranging discussion included topics such as trade and teachers' unions – important issues for dialogue and cooperation between labor and the Democratic Party.



Voter ID Rules Still Unsettled, with Fewer than 100 Days until Election

Adapted from and with permission of ProgressVA.com)
by Sue Langley, FCDC Chairman

For the third time in recent years, Virginia voters will face new voter ID requirements when they go to the polls this November.

The law, sponsored by Senator Mark Obenshain, was passed in the 2013 legislative session, but is only now being fully implemented. Despite more than a year to plan, one of the largest questions still has to be answered: what IDs will actually serve as voter ID?

—Courtney Mills, *Fair Elections Legal Network*

Virginia's new voter ID law took effect on July 1, and requires Virginians to have a photo ID to vote. Conservative legislation from the 2013 Virginia General Assembly eliminates several previously valid forms of voter ID, such as utility bills or other proofs of residence.

In 2012, Virginia spent \$2 million mailing new voter ID cards to all registered voters and educating Virginians about changes the 2012 General Assembly made to voting requirements. Yet even the Voter ID card issued by your local registrar in 2012 is no longer a valid ID for voting in 2014.

The 2012 voter ID law forced voters who did not have one of the approved forms of ID to cast a provisional ballot that was only counted if they reported to their election office with an approved ID within 3 days of the election.

The Virginia voter ID legislation has been called a solution in search of a problem and designed to suppress voters who would likely not vote for Republicans—minorities, younger voters, students, immigrants, and the elderly.

From our founding principles to the Voting Rights amendments, the Constitution guarantees our right to vote. Men and women, young and old, rich and poor, each Virginian has an equal say whenever we go to the polls. But instead of defending the

Constitution, Tea Party politicians such as Mark Obenshain deliberately undermine, through ID restrictions, our constitutional guarantee to have a free voice in our democracy.

An assault on our right to vote is an assault on the Constitution. Serial changes to election laws that require a specific kind of ID, i.e., a picture ID that many Virginians don't have, make it harder for eligible Virginians to vote. Frequent changes in what type of ID is required to vote is a recipe for confusion and voter suppression. As the world's leading democracy, America—and each of her states—should have a voting system that is free, fair, and accessible.

The objection Senator Obenshain raised to the State Board of Elections rule-making that defined an acceptable form of photo ID delayed the final rule, resulting in further confusion and less time in which to educate voters who will need to obtain a photo ID to preserve their right to vote.

The Fairfax County Democratic Committee encouraged citizens to post on the Virginia Regulatory Townhall website and express their opposition to Sen. Obenshain's proposal that expired IDs not be accepted as valid ID at the polls. With the final ruling, reported below, the Fairfax Democrats will use all tools at their disposal to educate voters about what types of ID can be used at the polls.

REPORTED in the *Richmond Dispatch* 8/6/2014:
The State Board of Elections backed “a new policy that would not allow election officials at the polls to accept photo identification that has been expired for more than 12 months.

The board’s 2-1 vote reverses a policy decision from June that would have allowed expired but otherwise valid forms of identification permitted under the new voter ID law, which went in effect July 1, to be accepted at the polls.”

People in the News



Condolences to the family of Ben Tribbett on the death of his father, John Tribbett. John is survived by his wife of 35 years, Janet Under and son Ben, a FCDC member and a precinct captain in Mount Vernon district. Ben's dad spent most of his career as a certified arborist and landscaper and loved camping, hiking, and fishing. If you see Ben, please give him your condolences.

Inspirational Recruiting Quote:

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.”
— Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*

Long-time Watergate-era Democratic Activist Mary Cahill Dies at 87

Mary Cahill, a long-time Restonian who worked to elect liberal Democrats in the tumultuous days before and after Watergate, died May 18 at her home in Oro Valley, Arizona, after a long illness. She was 87.

Mary served on the Virginia Democratic State Central Committee and was a past chair of the Centreville (now Hunter Mill) district in a lifetime of political activism in Fairfax County that spanned more than three decades. She was an enthusiastic supporter of such liberal lions as former Virginia Lt. Gov. Henry Howell and George C. Rawlings, Jr.

Mary helped organize the 10th District congressional campaign of former U.S. Rep. Joe Fisher, who unseated 20-year incumbent Joel Broyhill in 1974. She also served on the staff of former State Sen. Charles Waddell, and worked as a lobbyist in Fairfax County when the Board of Supervisors was debating the merits of the county's first cable TV franchise.

The war in Vietnam launched her career as a political activist. An ardent opponent of U.S. involvement in the war, she supported Sen. Eugene McCarthy in his campaign for the presidency

in 1968. For a while, she worked in McCarthy's office on Capitol Hill.

The black and orange “Cahill for Delegate” bumper sticker on the FCDC headquarters ceiling between the two center offices belongs to Mary's campaign for the House of Delegates in 1973.

In Reston, Mary made frequent election night appearances on community television. She was also a founding member of the Reston Catholic Community, the town's first Catholic parish, which became St. Thomas a Beckett. Early in her career, she taught Head Start classes in local schools and was active in the League of Women Voters.

Mary Cahill was born in Oak Park, Illinois, and raised on Chicago's South Side. After earning bachelor's and master's degrees from Marquette University, Mary joined the Marquette faculty as an English professor after teaching a year of high school. She taught at the university until the birth of her son, Joseph, who survives her, as does her husband, Jerry. Both husband and son are journalists. Other survivors include daughter-in-law Cathy and granddaughters Sarah and Katie.

Those who remember Mary and wishing to reach Jerry Cahill can do so at their home, 14092 North Willow Bend Drive, Oro Valley, Arizona 85755.

A Special Report: On the Campaign Trail

John Foust for U.S. Congress 10th District (VA)

As you may have read in the *Washington Post*, John out-raised his opponent in the crucial 2nd quarter campaign finance reporting period by nearly \$100,000! With cash on hand now standing at \$1.2 million to \$560,000 John now has a 2 to 1 advantage in money in the bank going into the fall! This represents a sea change in the narrative of this campaign. In her three races for the Virginia House of Delegates, Barbara Comstock has never run from a financial disadvantage. John's momentum in fundraising, combined with our superior field operations, gives us the opportunity to lead this race from start to finish.

The Democratic Party of Virginia (DPVA) is planning to hire six new field organizers August 1st to help in the 10th Congressional District. Combined with the current organizing team, and the two FCDC organizers, the total organizers in the 10th District will be 14. Also, expanding will be the number of field offices. Currently there are four field operations offices in the district; two more slated for started up soon. This will give the Foust campaign the most robust field program ever in the history of Virginia's 10th CD including presidential campaigns.

But no matter how many field staff we have, we still need your help.

If you would like to make a contribution please visit our website: <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/foust14> or mail a check to PO Box 962, McLean VA 22101.



Thank you all for the help over the past few months. Thank you professional fire-fighters of IAFF for your endorsement. Thank you all for the help you will give in the coming months!

