

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALLS CHURCH



The League of Women Voters®

## FALL 2011 VOTERS' GUIDE

### GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2011 POLLS OPEN 6:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

**VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY—  
SENATE AND HOUSE OF  
DELEGATES, COMMONWEALTH'S  
ATTORNEY, AND A REFERENDUM  
ON THE CITY'S ELECTION DATE**

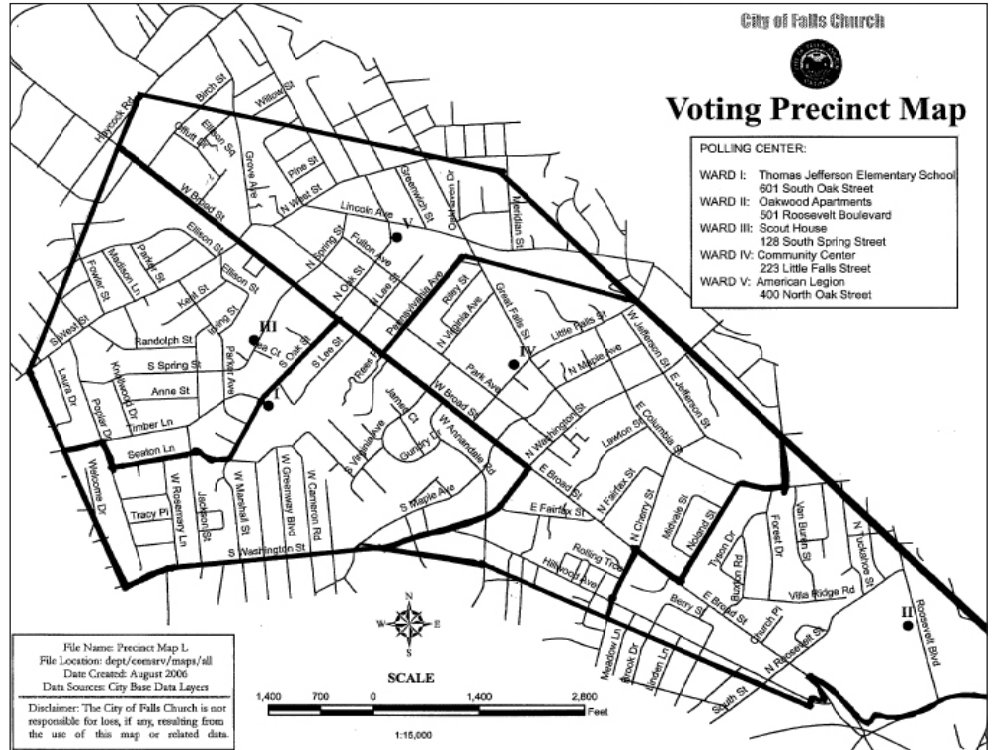
#### THE CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

The City of Falls Church was incorporated as an independent city in 1948. According to the 2010 Census, the City is home to 12,332 people who live within its 2.2 square miles. Falls Church is part of Virginia's 35th Senate district, 53rd House district, and 8th Congressional district. Falls Church operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The City has its own school system and police department, and provides for its own water services. The City also has its own district court, but combines with Arlington County to make up the 17th Judicial District of Virginia; there is one Circuit Court for the two municipalities, which is located in Arlington. The City shares its Commonwealth's Attorney with Arlington County. The Falls Church school system is comprised of four schools: Mt. Daniel Elementary School (K-1), Thomas Jefferson Elementary School (2-4), Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School (5-7), and George Mason High School (8-12), with a combined enrollment of 2,145. The City's fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30 of each year. A complete list of City services and information can be found at: [www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov).

#### ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The League of Women Voters of Falls Church (LWVFC) cooperated with other local leagues to produce this Voters' Guide to help citizens in the City of Falls Church choose their representatives for Virginia Senate and House of Delegates and Commonwealth's Attorney and to decide the City-specific referendum. The 8,593 registered voters who live within the City of Falls Church are eligible to vote at the appropriate polling place for their residences:

<b>Ward One</b>	<b>Thomas Jefferson School</b> 601 South Oak Street
<b>Ward Two</b>	<b>Oakwood Apartments</b> 501 Roosevelt Boulevard
<b>Ward Three</b>	<b>Scout House</b> 128 South Spring Street
<b>Ward Four</b>	<b>Falls Church Community Center</b> 223 Little Falls Street
<b>Ward Five</b>	<b>American Legion Post</b> 400 North Oak Street



Polling places are accessible to persons with disabilities. The polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For additional information on the November 8, 2011 elections, voter registration, absentee voting, or where to vote, please contact the Falls Church Office of Voter Registration & Elections at 703-248-5085, [vote@fallschurchva.gov](mailto:vote@fallschurchva.gov), or visit [www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov). You can also contact the Virginia State Board of Elections at 800-552-9745 or visit [www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov).

#### IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED TO VOTE

Officers of Election are required to request identification at the polls. **PLEASE BRING IDENTIFICATION WHEN YOU COME TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2011.**

Acceptable forms of identification can be any ONE of the following:

- Virginia Voter Card
- Virginia driver's license, or special identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles
- Valid United States passport
- Military Identification card
- Any Federal, state, or local government-issued identification card
- Valid employee identification card containing your photo
- Original Social Security Card

If you do not have an acceptable form of identification, you must complete, under oath, an Affirmation of Identity form BEFORE you can vote.

LWVFC joined with other local leagues in the 35th Virginia Senate district, the 53rd Virginia House district, and Arlington County to send a questionnaire to all candidates whose names were qualified to appear on the November 8, 2011 ballot. Biographies and responses to the questions appear as written by the candidates and are not edited except to comply with Voters' Guide style and stipulated word limitations. The candidates' original responses are on file with the Leagues of Women Voters of Arlington and Fairfax. Candidates are listed in the order in which their names will appear on the ballot, as determined by the Virginia State Board of Elections.

LWVFC is a nonpartisan organization, founded in 1951, whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. The League of Women Voters does not support any political party or candidate. For additional information on the League of Women Voters of Falls Church, please visit [www.lwvfallschurch.org](http://www.lwvfallschurch.org). You may also find comprehensive, nonpartisan information on the November 8, 2011 elections on the League of Women Voters' website, [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org), sponsored by the LWV Education Fund.

## VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### THE OFFICES

**TERMS:** Senate of Virginia, Four Years; Virginia House of Delegates, Two Years

**SALARIES:** Senate of Virginia, \$18,000; Virginia House of Delegates, \$17,640

**DUTIES:** Legislative power in the Commonwealth of Virginia is vested in a General Assembly consisting of a Senate and a House of Delegates. Chief responsibilities are to adopt the state budget, enact laws, levy taxes, elect judges and confirm appointments by the Governor.

### BIOGRAPHY AND QUESTIONS

**BIOGRAPHY:** Background provided by each candidate.

#### THE QUESTIONS

In light of Virginia's requirement of a balanced **BUDGET**, what changes to programs, services, taxes, or fees would you propose or support to achieve a balanced budget?

What is your vision for balancing Virginia's **TRANSPORTATION** needs and **ENVIRONMENTAL** concerns?

In light of this year's controversies about drawing the lines of Virginia's legislative districts, would you support legislation or a Constitutional amendment to require future redistricting decisions to be made by using a nonpartisan process? What specific measures do you believe most likely to achieve non-partisan **REDISTRICTING** plans for Virginia?

What would be your top **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY** during the 2012 General Assembly session? How would you address this issue?

## VIRGINIA SENATE – 35<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE)



### Robert C. Sarvis *Republican – Challenger*

**BIOGRAPHY:** Born and raised in Fairfax County. Son of an immigrant Asian educator mother and Kansas-born engineer father. Graduate of Thomas Jefferson HS for Science & Technology, Harvard University, Cambridge University, and NYU Law. Software developer, lawyer, entrepreneur. Founder of an award-winning iPhone app development company. Loving husband and doting father.

**BUDGET:** Tax reform—increase revenue without raising rates by improving fairness, broadening the tax base, closing loopholes, ending subsidies, removing special-interest carve-outs, stopping industry favoritism, and replacing archaic and inefficient taxes. Regulatory reform—remove unreasonable impediments to business activity, modernize and streamline an outdated and inefficient bureaucracy, end industry-pro-

tectionism and barriers to market entry, and ease professional licensure requirements. Budget reform—end wasteful programs, e.g., the taxpayer subsidy of the tourism industry's marketing budget. Pension reform—move to a defined-contribution system to put Virginia on a sustainable long-term budget path.

#### TRANSPORTATION/ENVIRONMENT:

The best way to create balance between economic growth and environmental concerns is to properly define and enforce property rights in environmental resources where possible. This incentivizes stewardship and environmental care by individuals, communities and organizations in public and private decision-making. (Such property rights should not be allocated via a political patronage process that increases wasteful lobbying and rent-seeking.) "Pigouvian taxes" are an option as well. Mandating particular behavior is generally inefficient, counterproductive, and unpopular.

**REDISTRICTING:** I STRONGLY support

non-partisan redistricting. I support computer-algorithm-based redistricting that is automatic and neutral with respect to party advantage, incumbency, race, and other interests. I also support term limits and other institutional reforms at the state and federal level.

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY:** Jobs and economic growth are voters' top concern and would therefore be my top priority as well. Intelligent tax reform, regulatory reform, pension reform, and budget reform will improve Virginia's economic climate further. Educational excellence and transportation infrastructure will also be top priorities. Empower parents in the education of their children. End the Kings Dominion Law; return control of the academic calendar to school boards. Modernize transportation funding and stop the redistribution of transportation dollars from Northern Virginia to other parts of the state.

**CONTACT:** www.robertsarvis.com  
info@robertsarvis.com 571-499-4015

### Richard L. "Dick" Saslaw *Democrat – Incumbent*



**BIOGRAPHY:** Majority Leader of the Senate; served in the Senate since 1980 after first being elected to the House of Delegates in 1976; a member of five Senate committees—Commerce & Labor (Chair); Courts of Justice; Education & Health; Finance; and Rules. Additionally, he chairs the Senate Finance sub-committee on Transportation.

**BUDGET:** In recent years the General Assembly has been forced to make cuts to the General Fund (K-12; health and human services; etc.). Going forward as we develop the biennial budget, the priority continues to be jobs for Virginians and the economic recovery. To meet the challenges of this global economy, we must

invest in our colleges and universities as they are tasked with educating the skilled workforce needed to keep Virginia on the leading edge.

#### TRANSPORTATION/ENVIRONMENT:

Virginia's transportation infrastructure is vital to a robust economy, public safety and our quality of life. Under the current scenario, road maintenance and public transportation are dismally underfunded. We are highly mortgaged and have accelerated future bond money to meet immediate needs. This will have severe consequences for future Governors and the state's ability to implement long term infrastructure plans. We attempted to do more for the environment under Governor Kaine. However, I would like to see more funding in the budget for care of the Chesapeake Bay and our other natural resources.

**REDISTRICTING:** The legislature passed

HB5005 in its special session on redistricting. It has met the most stringent criteria of the Voting Rights Act as well as a thorough scrutiny by the Dept. of Justice. Over the past several years, the House of Delegates has resoundingly defeated redistricting bills which were passed by the Senate to establish a commission. The composition of the partisan voting block is unlikely to see much change in the new General Assembly. Therefore, it will be a moot point to pursue a constitutional amendment for redistricting.

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY:** As Majority Leader of the Senate, it is my job to find consensus to pass fiscally responsible legislation. I will continue to lead the fight for fair and equitable public policy for the 35th Senate District, our region and all Virginians.

**CONTACT:** www.DICKSASLAW.com  
info@DICKSASLAW.org 571-393-1829

### Katherine Ann Pettigrew *Independent Green – Challenger*



**BIOGRAPHY:** Obtained Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from UC Davis in 2004. Came to northern Virginia in 2004 for post-doctoral research. Have decided to raise my family in northern Virginia.

**BUDGET:** No programs should be funded that cannot be paid for with current tax receipts. The people of Virginia need to have an open

honest discussion about the services they want their state to provide and agree to fund through tax payments. All programs funded by state tax receipts must have equal application for all Virginia citizens.

#### TRANSPORTATION/ENVIRONMENT:

More affordable public transportation. More trains, less traffic.

**REDISTRICTING:** Gerrymandering is practiced by both major parties. This does nothing but hurt the parties, the voters, and citizen faith in government. I support a constitutional amendment to tie congressional districts to population demographics to give each Virginian equal rep-

resentation and prevent party politics from trying to gain advantage through hurting Virginia voters.

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY:** Guaranteeing all women in Virginia have access to affordable birth control, including abortion.

**CONTACT:** www.votejoinrun.us/id61.html  
katepettigrew@gmail.com

VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES – 53<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE)



**James M. "Jim" Scott**

*Democrat – Incumbent*

**BIOGRAPHY:** Born in Galax, Virginia, I attended Handley High School in Winchester. I earned a BA at UNC Chapel Hill and an MA at George Mason. After teaching for several years, I was elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 1971 and then elected as Delegate in 1991.

**BUDGET:** Given the recent action by Standard and Poor's to reduce the credit rating of the United States, Virginia must take whatever steps are necessary to maintain its AAA Bond Rating. It must reduce duplicate programs and services, give local governments additional au-

thority to join together to provide services, and it must ensure that public employee pensions are fully funded. State support of public colleges and universities should be increased beyond the recently-approved limited funding in order to decrease the burden on students and their families. In addition, the role and resources of community colleges should be enhanced. Local user fees and gas taxes that approximate those of neighboring states must be considered, along with additional commercial impact fees.

**TRANSPORTATION/ENVIRONMENT:** Today Virginia is too dependent on debt to improve our transportation infrastructure. Long ago, northern Virginia local governments approved the 2% regional "Metro" transportation gas tax. At a minimum, the state and localities

should agree to change the current gas tax to a percentage in order for state and local governments to realize transportation revenue increases without raising tax rates.

**REDISTRICTING:** As a member of the Privileges and Elections Committee, I have voted for and strongly supported a constitutional amendment that requires non-partisan redistricting. The bill was killed with no Republicans voting for it.

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY:** My top priority is to successfully promote state and local revenue increases, as suggested above, to insure adequate funding for public education, state colleges and universities and adequate health care services for citizens with disabilities.

**CONTACT:** [www.delegatejimscott.com](http://www.delegatejimscott.com)  
[delegatejimscott@gmail.com](mailto:delegatejimscott@gmail.com) 703-560-8338

**COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY (ARLINGTON COUNTY AND CITY OF FALLS CHURCH)  
(VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE)**

**THE OFFICE**

**TERM:** Four Years

**SALARY RANGE:** \$126,095 – \$162,073

**DUTIES:** The Commonwealth's Attorney is responsible for prosecuting criminal offenses that occur in Arlington County, in the City of Falls Church, and at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. This responsibility is undertaken through the activities of the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney and the Parking Notice Review Office.

**BIOGRAPHY AND QUESTION**

**BIOGRAPHY:** Background provided by each candidate.

**THE QUESTION**

What is the most important issue currently facing the **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** system in Arlington and Falls Church? What are your proposals to address the issue?



**Theo K. Stamos**

*Democrat – Challenger*

**BIOGRAPHY:** Chief Deputy since 2002 and a prosecutor since 1987, Stamos graduated from Northern Illinois University and attended night law school at American University. Active in the Virginia State Bar, Arlington County Bar and Arlington public schools. Married to Craig Esherick and has two sons, Nicholas and Zachary.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUE:** A growing problem is the use of the Internet as a tool of sexual exploitation of minors. Our office will continue to work closely with law enforcement to prosecute Internet predators and others who seek to prey on the young and the vulnerable. Additionally, efforts to reduce the size of the judiciary in Arlington could seriously hamper

the administration of criminal and civil cases, as well as frustrate efforts to develop an Arlington-styled drug court. I believe we need more resources to deal with juvenile crime. I will continue to work with our Public Defender, Circuit Court Judges, substance abuse experts and our state legislators to secure funding for an Arlington-specific drug court. I will oppose efforts to reduce the number of judges appointed to serve Arlington County and the City of Falls Church.

**CONTACT:** <http://theostamos.com/>  
[info@theostamos.com](mailto:info@theostamos.com)

703-593-3095

*The Fall 2011 Voters' Guide was prepared by:*

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The League of Women Voters®

## REFERENDUM ON THE CITY OF FALLS CHURCH ELECTION DATE

The referendum reads as follows:

*Should the City of Falls Church amend Section 3.01 of its Charter to hold elections of members of City Council in the month of November rather than the month of May by deleting the current Section 3.01 in its entirety and replacing it with the following language?*

### SEC. 3.01 ELECTION OF COUNCILMEMBERS

*In the regular municipal election to be held on the first Tuesday in November, 2013, and every four (4) years thereafter, four (4) councilmembers shall be elected for terms of four (4) years each, such terms of office to begin on the first day of January, 2014, and end on the last day of December, 2017; succeeding terms shall begin on the first day of January following the year of election and end on the last day of December, four (4) years thereafter. In the regular municipal election to be held on the first Tuesday in November, 2015, and every four (4) years thereafter, three (3) councilmembers shall be elected for terms of four (4) years each, such terms of office to begin on the first day of January, 2016, and end on the last day of December, 2019; succeeding terms shall begin on the first day of January following the year of election and end on the last day of December four (4) years thereafter. Councilmembers serving on council who were elected in May, 2010, and those members elected in May, 2012, shall have their term of office shortened by six months but shall continue in office until their successors have been elected at the November general election and have been qualified to serve.*

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** A “yes” vote is for November; a “no” vote is for May. The League of Women Voters of Falls Church has created a fact sheet on May or November elections, which is available on the League’s website at <http://lwvfallschurch.org>. The League’s findings are summarized in the table below. The League does not take a position on this referendum question.

MAY LOCAL ELECTIONS (a “No” vote on the referendum)		NOVEMBER LOCAL ELECTIONS (a “Yes” vote on the referendum)	
PRO	CON	PRO	CON
Focus on local matters; voters more informed about City issues	Lower voter turnout (average of 27% from 2000 to 2010)	Higher voter turnout (average of 71% in even years, 2000 to 2010; average of 48% in odd years, 2001 to 2009)	Voters who don’t pay attention to local issues decide close City races
A more compact, City-centered ballot	Outsized influence by smaller groups within the city	More efficient for voters—combined with state elections; fewer trips to the polls	Longer, more complex ballot; local issues at the bottom; “down ballot” races suffer from “undervotes”—greater turnout may be negated by fewer votes for local races
Lower cost to run for election	Higher cost of elections	Lower cost of elections; reduces work of election officials	Higher cost to run for election due to “noise” of state and federal races; injection of party funds into local races
Nonpartisan elections with independent candidates			Elections more partisan; fewer independents involved; could end City’s nonpartisan tradition
Accountability for Council incumbents who approve City budget in April; newly elected Council/School Board members begin at start of City fiscal/school years			Council and School Board members elected mid-fiscal/school year rather than at the end of it; potential negative impact on City budget and schools

The next Falls Church City Council/School Board elections will be held in May 2012, regardless of the outcome of this referendum. If voters choose to change the City’s election date, the first local November election would be conducted in 2013. The table below shows what races would be on the ballot if Falls Church municipal elections were held in May and if they were held in November.

ON THE BALLOT: (“no” on the referendum = May; “yes” on the referendum = November):			
May 1, 2012 (Local only—regardless of outcome):	IF November 5, 2013 (State and Local every 4 years):	IF May 6, 2014 (Local only):	IF November 3, 2015 (State and Local every 4 years):
City Council/School Board (3 seats)	Governor/Lieutenant Governor/ Attorney General	City Council/School Board (4 seats)	Virginia Senate (40 seats)/ House of Delegates (100 seats)
	House of Delegates (100 seats)		City Council/School Board (3 seats)
	Sheriff/Commissioner of Revenue/Treasurer		
	City Council/School Board (4 seats)		