

Don't Sit Out This Election – Vote on November 7th! Help Elect Candidates Who Support Virginia's Public Schools

Ralph Northam (D) for Governor

Ralph Northam has served as an Army doctor, business owner, and lieutenant governor. However, the thing his friends and family would tell you he's most proud of is his career fighting for children—as a pediatric neurologist and volunteer medical director for a pediatric hospice care facility, he knows children are the key to Virginia's future. Ralph grew up on Virginia's Eastern Shore and attended local public schools. When his school desegregated, many families sent their children elsewhere—but not the Northams. He called his parents' decision to continue to send him to integrated schools “one of the best decisions of my life.” Ralph is a graduate from VMI, has served in the Army treating wounded soldiers, and has practiced as a pediatric neurologist in Norfolk. Unlike his opponent Ed Gillespie, he stands solidly against vouchers, merit pay, and teachers who have no training in pedagogy.

Mark Herring (D) for Attorney General

Mark has served as Attorney General since 2013. From 2006–2013, Mark served as a state Senator representing Loudoun and Fairfax Counties. Mark worked on issues facing one of America's fastest-growing counties and some of the world's most innovative businesses. Mark also served on Loudoun County's Board of Supervisors from 1999-2003 and was a lawyer in private practice in his hometown of Leesburg for more than 20 years. He received a bachelor's and a master's degree from the University of Virginia and graduated with honors from the University of Richmond School of Law.

Justin Fairfax (D) for Lieutenant Governor

Justin is a graduate of Duke University and Columbia Law School, has served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and was previously the Deputy Coordinator of the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force. A resident of Fairfax County, Justin is also a small business owner, along with his wife, Dr. Cerina Fairfax, DDS.

SA4FE: Standing Altogether for Fairfax Employees

Early this year, FEA-R began working with other Fairfax public employees to stand against ongoing threats to our local pensions, including ERFC. During FCPS budget deliberations, police, firefighters, and emergency workers stood beside us at various School Board meetings in a show of unity. Eventually, we formally joined together to become The SA4FE Coalition (Standing Altogether for Fairfax Employees) on which FEA-R President Mimi Dash serves as Co-Chair with John Niemiec, President of the Fairfax County Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics.

The coalition has developed the following mission statement:

Standing Altogether for a Fairfax Employees is a group of Fairfax County Employees made up of educators, police officers, firefighters, first responders, and other public servants.

The primary goal of SA4FE is to protect lifetime compensation and working conditions for ourselves and fellow workers so we can work and retire with dignity, afford to live in Fairfax County and be productive residents of the county for the duration of our service and retirement.

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No VA House of Delegates Recommendations by District:

- 2nd Jennifer Carroll Foy (D)
- 21st Kelly Fowler (D)
- 31st Elizabeth Guzman (D)
- 33rd Tia Walbridge (D)
- 34th Del. Kathleen Murphy (D)
- 35th Del. Mark Keam (D)
- 36th Del. Ken Plum (D)
- 37th Del. David Bulova (D)
- 38th Del. Kaye Kory (D)
- 39th Del. Vivian Watts (D)
- 40th Del. Tim Hugo (R)
- 41st Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D)
- 42nd Kathy Tran (D)
- 43rd Del. Mark Sickles (D)
- 44th Del. Paul Krizek (D)
- 45th Del. Mark Levine (D)
- 46th Del. Charniele Herring (D)
- 47th Del. Patrick Hope (D)
- 48th Del. Rip Sullivan (D)
- 49th Del. Alfonso Lopez (D)
- 50th Del. Jackson Miller (R)
- 51st Hala Ayala (D)
- 52nd Del. Luke Torian (D)
- 53rd Del. Mark Simon (D)
- 63rd Del. Lashrecse Aird (D)
- 67th Karrie Delaney (D)
- 71st Del. Jeff Bourne (D)
- 74th Del. Lamont Bagby (D)
- 86th Del. Jennifer Boysko (D)
- 87th Del. John Bell (D)

Mark Your Calendar!

- Govt Relations Team (GRT) Meeting**, FEA office, Thurs, Oct 19, Nov 16, Jan 11
- VEA-R Lobby Day**, Thurs, Jan 25
- VEA-R Online Voting**, noon Jan 24 to noon Jan 26
- NEA-R Organizing Conference**, March 17-19, Grand Hyatt, Chicago, IL
- VEA Convention**, April 19-21, Hampton, VA
- FEA-R Luncheon**, Tues, May 8, FEA Office
- NEA Annual Meeting**, June 28-29
- NEA Convention**, June 30-July 15, Minneapolis, MN
- Statewide VEA-R Member Meeting**, Oct 8-10, Natural Bridge Hotel & Conference Center

FEA-Retired

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FEA-Retired Council 2017-18

Mimi Dash, President
Kathy Davis, Vice President

Barbara Allen	Larry Armentrout
Karen Beasley	Cheryl Binkley
John Duncan	Walt Mika
Marlene Parker	Cheryl Perry
Dave Thomas	

Big changes coming for retirees: Open Enrollment begins Oct 9

Each year FCPS provides a window of opportunity to review medical and dental elections and updates to plan offerings, allowing retirees to make decisions based on their unique situations. Open Enrollment begins on October 9 and continues through October 27. Elections made during Open Enrollment become effective January 1, 2018.

What's New for 2018?

Aetna Medicare Advantage

Current Medicare-eligible Aetna members will be transitioned to the Group Aetna Medicare Advantage plan, effective January 1, 2018. This change provides enhanced plan features important to you, such as reduced premiums and no deductible.

New Hearing Aid Benefits

Hearing aid benefits are being added to the plans available to Medicare eligible members. Aetna Medicare Advantage members can receive a reimbursement of up to \$1,500 (every 36 months) for a hearing aid. Kaiser Medicare members can receive a free hearing aid for each ear (every 36 months).

Dental Enhancements for Aetna DPPO Members

The Aetna DPPO annual maximum will increase from \$1,500 to \$1,750, effective January 1, 2018. This increase will ensure that benefits available under the FCPS plans remain market relevant.

Be sure to check your mailbox for informational materials regarding your 2018 benefits! You should have received two mailings from FCPS in late September – the first was the annual Retiree Benefits Briefings. The second contained a statement of your proposed plan enrollment for 2018. Retirees who are in the current Aetna/Innovation Health plan will also receive a series of mailings regarding transition to the new Group Aetna Medicare Advantage plan.

Resources abound! The FCPS Retiree Open Enrollment website and benefit vendor sites contain more information about the changes for 2018. Website addresses are contained in the *Retiree Benefits Briefing*. If you are subscribed to FCPS *News You Choose* you will also receive email reminders and notifications. *You can register for News You Choose by visiting www.fcps.edu. Once there, scroll to the bottom of the page and click the "Sign up Now" button. (It will be in a yellow box).*

Please refer to the *Retiree Benefits Briefing* for:

- Upcoming Aetna Medicare Advantage Informational Sessions held in hotels for retiree convenience during daytime hours and also avoiding scheduling conflicts with schools. This is an opportunity to get additional details and to ask questions. (Reservations required) **WE URGE YOU TO ATTEND TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS CHANGE!**
- Schedule of Retiree Benefits Open Houses
- 2018 Premiums

Questions? Attend a Benefits Open House, call your benefits plan provider, or contact Human Resources at 571-423-3000 or via HRConnection@fcps.edu.

Sub Pay Still on the Front Burner

FEA-R has kept this issue alive in talks with Human Resources and School Board members. Ironically, the same day that the Assistant Superintendent of HR told us that there was little hope for a pay increase for retirees, our new Superintendent Scott Brabrand declared his support for better pay.

Some of you may have seen his interview on NBC4 in a follow-up to the station's investigation of classrooms lacking subs throughout the metropolitan area. Having been an FCPS teacher, the superintendent knows the difference a competent sub can make in the classroom. In an hour-long meeting with the FEA-R Council in September, he spoke about coming up with ways to better compensate and attract subs. In addition, he recognized the value that retirees bring to the classroom and the toll it takes on teachers and IA's to fill in during their planning time.

We encourage all of you who have been affected by this issue to send him an email, encouraging him to follow through! (Go to www.fcps.edu website, on the Menu click on About US, and then click on Departments, where you will find the contact vehicle for the Superintendent.)

SA4FE from p. 1

As public servants, we educate Fairfax's children in one of the finest school systems in the country. Our public safety personnel work around the clock protecting the citizens and property of Fairfax County, often risking their lives in the line of duty. We are proud to fill essential roles in Fairfax County from social workers, nurses, librarians, construction workers, and childcare providers, to engineers, maintenance workers, mental health staff, and other public servant roles.

These essential services help make this one of the most desirable counties to live, to work, and to attract business in the nation.

Standing Altogether for Fairfax Employees works to maintain the professional quality of life for employees and residents of the county we serve.

With the mission statement in mind, the coalition developed some objectives:

- Provide adequate and safe working conditions
- Employee input in the development and changes to all aspects of working condition decisions
- Provide adequate equipment and appropriate training
- Maintain workplaces free of harassment and intimidation
- Provide a living wage
- Maintain and improve health benefits for all current and future employees
- Work toward cost containment and affordability while maintaining quality
- Assure current and future policies reflect fairness and equity
- Maintain or improve retirement security for all current and future employees
- Attend the October 3, Personnel Committee Meeting at 3:00 wearing stickers
- Work with Good Jobs First to analyze research
- Regroup on October 5 at 3:00 at FEA to develop specific objectives
- Promote all above goals for the community

Upcoming VEA-R Elections

FEA-R members currently hold three positions on the VEA-R Council. Dennis Pfennig who is running for President in the upcoming election currently serves on the Council as a VEA-R At-Large representative to the VEA Board, while Kathy Davis and Marlene Parker represent their respective Congressional Districts. Several seats are up for election including President, Vice-President, a second member at large to the VEA Board, Council seats for even-numbered districts (2-year terms), and seats for Districts 3 and 7 (1-year terms). In addition, delegates and alternates to VEA and NEA Conventions will be elected.

If you are interested in running, go to www.veanea.org, click on Member Center in the upper right hand corner, and click on elections to secure requirements and deadlines. All self-nominating petitions and short biographies are due by Dec 15.