



# KICKIN' NEWS

Volume I

Issue 3

LOW Democratic Club

October 2010

## Editor's Letter

Issue 3 of Kickin' News is dedicated to the November election. The 3 constitutional amendments are stated, explained and noted. There are issues and articles that provide information.

We must be energized. If some of the words we're hearing from some candidates don't do this - we must be on valium! When our ideas and candidates are attacked - we should defend them. When lies are spoken - we should speak truth. When our president is belittled and besmirched - we should fight back.

Donkeys kick ! Elephants lumber !  
So speak up Dems ! Do not slumber !

Hope you enjoy this issue. All comments and ideas to - [ccarr333@comcast.net](mailto:ccarr333@comcast.net)

## STAFF:

EDITOR Chris Carr

ISSUES - Diane Sibley

MEWNDERINGS - Lyn Nowakoski

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## PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

HB 16(Cole) Constitution be amended to permit localities to establish their own income or financial worth limitations for purposes of granting property tax relief for home owners not less than 65 or permanently or totally disabled.

EXPLANATION - Now General Assembly may give localities the power to do this. This exemption is currently available only to those who bear "an extraordinary tax burden" in relationship to their income and financial worth.

The proposed amendment removes the requirement that this exemption is only available to such persons and gives the General Assembly authority to permit localities to determine their own income or financial worth limitations for tax exemptions for persons 65 or older or for the permanently or totally disabled.

THOUGHTS - Localities may leave the exemptions as they are. They may be more generous in judging this category. Or they may raise the income and financial worth standard to increase their coffers. Are localities more familiar with their residents, as poorer counties compared to richer ones? Would the standards be different, depending where one lives in Va.? Would this open the exemption to more people?





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### HJ33 (O'Bannon)

Directs the General Assembly to exempt from taxation real property that is the principal residence of a veteran (or widow or widower of a veteran) if the veteran has been determined by the U.S. Dept of Veteran Affairs or its successor pursuant to federal law to have a 100% service-connected, permanent and total disability. (HJ648, O'Bannon/SJ275, Puller, 2009) 2<sup>nd</sup> resolution

EXPLANATION - Constitution doesn't require this, but does allow the General Assembly to give localities this power.

NOTE - Service-connected disability is rated on percents. One veteran may receive 56%, another 75%. A 100% is not easy to obtain, and if a vet is given this rating that person is truly disabled. It does not state what localities are doing now.

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HJ34 (O'Bannon) SJ81 (Barker) Constitutional Amendment - limit on taxes or revenues and the Revenue Stabilization Fund. Increases the permissible size of the Fund by 5%: i.e., from 10 to 15 percent of the Commonwealth's average annual tax revenues derived from income and sales taxes for the preceding three fiscal years HJ647, (O'Bannon, 2009) 2<sup>nd</sup> resolution

### Continued:

EXPLANATION - THE Revenue Stabilization Fund or (Rainy Day Fund) is used to offset shortfall in anticipated state revenues in any given year. This would be periods of a poor economy.

NOTE - This amendment would allow another 5% to be placed in this fund. That would take 5% out of the current state budget. Would this cause cuts in some programs now or would it be there to preserve programs in a budget downturn year? The dollar amount of the 10% or the 15% was not given.

This information was gathered from the state of Virginia government website.

The notes are my thoughts, it's your decision in November.

### SOMETHING TO PONDER \*\*\*\*

"The secret of success is the consistency of purpose."





## KICKIN' NEWS

### LETTER FROM RICK WAUGH

My name is Rick Waugh, and as many of you know, I am the Democratic candidate running against Eric Cantor in the 7<sup>th</sup> District of Virginia. I believe my experience as a social worker has prepared me to be a responsible and effective representative, because I know what struggling families have been going through.

I am running for Congress to restore the concept of the citizen legislator. Congressional representation should be of the people and for the people. If elected I will make sure we focus on the right priorities. Improving our economy and creating jobs, by investing in America's infrastructure, prioritizing education, so that our children can achieve the competitive advantage, a bright future, and supporting the middle class by ending corporate welfare and a deep seated culture of corruption. Then we can focus on Main Street, not Wall Street.

I am convinced that campaign finance reform is essential to returning our nation to its senses, and that Congress has been and will remain for sale until such reform takes place.

I am asking for your vote on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. If elected, I promise to help put America back to work.

### ORCHIDS and ONIONS

ORCHIDS to: Senator Jim Webb for voting to end "don't ask don't tell"

ONIONS to: Every Republican - for not one voted for it.

ORCHIDS to: President Obama for strongly warning the Supreme Court decision to allow unlimited corporate funds in our elections would lead to disaster in our democracy.

ONIONS to: U.S. Chamber of Commerce for using foreign funds in campaign ads. "Can you say - out sourcing jobs?"

ORCHIDS to: Lawrence O'Donnel for asking RNC Chairman Michael Steele, "What is the minimum wage?"

ONIONS to: Mr. Steele for getting it wrong and them stating it isn't important.

ORCHIDS to: Nell Meador for getting Rick Waugh yard signs for us.

ONIONS to: The bums who are already stealing them in Orange.





## KICKIN' NEWS

MEANDERINGS by Lynn Nowakoski

Making decisions on how to vote in some elections is much more difficult than in others, as we all know. We might vote for a candidate, not because we actually prefer him/her, but because we are voting against the opponent and we have no alternatives. "The lesser of two evils", so to speak.

In the sixties, Agnew and one opponent were running to be governor of Maryland. Those were super sensitive years with the very recent integration in the public schools. Realtors were having a difficult time, because a seller of a home could deny someone of another race to even look at a home.

Agnew's opponent chose for his campaign slogan, "Your home is your castle", a thinly veiled racial statement. This troubled so many voters that they chose Agnew as he "lesser of two evils."

A passing thought in the "what if" category: if Agnew had not been elected governor, would Nixon have selected him later to be his running mate and if not that, would Nixon have been elected President?

(continued)

On February 17, 2000 in Florence, South Carolina, George Bush said this about Senator John McCain, "The Senator has to understand - he can't have it both ways. He can't take the high horse and then claim the low road."

\*\*\*\*\*GOOD COOKIN' - GOOD LOOKIN' \*\*\*\*\*

### ERIC CANTOR CHILI

2 cans - "I'm full of beans"  
1 large bottle "just say NO for 2 years ketchup"  
Chop 2 onions - like they were the Democratic Health Care Plan  
1 box "I lied more than twice" chili powder

Throw in a pot - then ask John Boehner where the stove is!

### GINGERSNAP DIP (great for fall)

8 oz. cream cheese (soften)  
1 cup confectioners sugar  
2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice  
1 8 oz. frozen whipped cream (soften)  
Beat 1<sup>st</sup> 3 ingredients til fluffy, fold in whipped cream (Can add few drops orange food coloring -chill

Top with orange sprinkles - serve with gingersnaps



## ISSUES      OCTOBER    2010

### Issue No 1 for all of us right now is -- GET OUT THE VOTE ! ! ! !

Issue No. 1A -- JOBS -- A column by Robert J. Samuelson on page 17 of the October 4<sup>th</sup> Washington Post provided an interesting slant on the role of government in jobs creation. Mr. Samuelson says that the "debate over whether small or big firms create more jobs is misleading. The article goes on to say "The net job increases occur among start-ups, finds a study of the 1992-2005 period by economists John Haltiwanger of the University of Maryland and Ron Jarmin and Javier Miranda of the Census Bureau. While the incentive of keeping the tax rate low is important, it's just as important to keep government disincentives to a minimum. Examples of disincentives are complex accounting rules, employment and health-care regulations, and bureaucratic requirements.

Issue No. 2 -- Here we go again! Campaign Finance Reform -- A front page article in that same Washington Post stated that "Interest groups are spending five times as much on the 2010 congressional elections as they did on the last midterms, and they are more secretive than ever about where that money is coming from." The Republicans are getting the larger part of the money (7 to 1), but Democrats have proved better at raising money from individuals and using it for the party itself and for individual candidates says the article's authors, T.W. Farnam and Dan Eggen. The Big Money Boys can give a lot more money, but they can't talk to as many people. So, fellow Democrats, start talking to your friends, neighbors, family and the family dog if you can get him to walk to the polls, stand up and vote. He can't do worse than some of the people who'll show up there on Election Day.

I've said it before and I'll say it again, I hate dealing with local politics. BUT Campaign Finance Reform isn't needed just for National Politics. It affects local politics, too. When your opportunity to be informed is controlled by Big Money and Big Media that is controlled by Big Money, your voting power is likely to be diminished.

#### Constitutional Review:

Article VII of the Bill of Rights states: In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by jury shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

#### Book Review:

I haven't read this one yet, but when something is written by now Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, it's worth spending some time with. Making Our Democracy Work -- A Judge's View allows the reader to compare Justice Breyer's more pragmatic approach to the Constitution to the conservative approach of "Originalism" so favored by Justice Scalia and "others who believe that the Constitution should be interpreted according to what those alive at the time of its drafting thought its words meant." (David Fontana, Associate Professor of Law at George Washington Law School.)

#### Pundit Wisdom, Founding Fathers and Quote of the Month:

Dana Milbank wrote a great column in the September 24<sup>th</sup> Post (I know, I know, I'm a Post addict.) discussing the arrogance of Boehner and the Boys who immediately after introducing the "Pledge" which included promises to rein in an "arrogant and out of touch government of self-appointed elites." compared themselves to the founding fathers. After commenting on Boehner's dash outside to have a cigarette and being gifted with a tea pot by a loyal Tea Partier, Boehner was confronted by someone trying to implicate him in a sex scandal and departed the scene quickly. Milbank closed his column with "That was no way to treat a Founding Father."

Celebrate a Virginia October: Do something good for yourself sometime this month and drive up to Monticello. Look at the leaves, tour the newly opened upstairs area and check out the gift shop for great holiday gifts, especially books. And maybe even buy a little wine. Enjoy.