

Delegate LaRock – 2015 Constituent Survey Summary

1. From the following list of issues, which issue do you believe should be the top priority of the Virginia House of Delegates?

393 Responses

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Creating jobs and improving the economy	115 <i>(30.34%)</i>	71 <i>(18.73%)</i>	58 <i>(15.30%)</i>	67 <i>(17.68%)</i>	29 <i>(7.65%)</i>	17 <i>(4.49%)</i>	10 <i>(2.64%)</i>	12 <i>(3.17%)</i>
Making higher education more affordable and accessible	24 <i>(6.52%)</i>	30 <i>(8.15%)</i>	42 <i>(11.41%)</i>	46 <i>(12.50%)</i>	38 <i>(10.33%)</i>	45 <i>(12.23%)</i>	57 <i>(15.49%)</i>	86 <i>(23.37%)</i>
Improving transportation	37 <i>(9.97%)</i>	40 <i>(10.78%)</i>	49 <i>(13.21%)</i>	52 <i>(14.02%)</i>	79 <i>(21.29%)</i>	49 <i>(13.21%)</i>	24 <i>(6.47%)</i>	41 <i>(11.05%)</i>
Improving health care	30 <i>(8.17%)</i>	31 <i>(8.45%)</i>	36 <i>(9.81%)</i>	46 <i>(12.53%)</i>	52 <i>(14.17%)</i>	59 <i>(16.08%)</i>	55 <i>(14.99%)</i>	58 <i>(15.80%)</i>
Improving K-12 education	30 <i>(8.22%)</i>	33 <i>(9.04%)</i>	51 <i>(13.97%)</i>	40 <i>(10.96%)</i>	53 <i>(14.52%)</i>	55 <i>(15.07%)</i>	65 <i>(17.81%)</i>	38 <i>(10.41%)</i>
Cutting wasteful government spending	157 <i>(40.67%)</i>	86 <i>(22.28%)</i>	59 <i>(15.28%)</i>	38 <i>(9.84%)</i>	13 <i>(3.37%)</i>	13 <i>(3.37%)</i>	14 <i>(3.63%)</i>	6 <i>(1.55%)</i>
Holding the line against higher taxes	118 <i>(30.97%)</i>	86 <i>(22.57%)</i>	65 <i>(17.06%)</i>	39 <i>(10.24%)</i>	19 <i>(4.99%)</i>	20 <i>(5.25%)</i>	19 <i>(4.99%)</i>	15 <i>(3.94%)</i>
Fighting ObamaCare and federal government overreach	193 <i>(50.26%)</i>	44 <i>(11.46%)</i>	37 <i>(9.64%)</i>	32 <i>(8.33%)</i>	9 <i>(2.34%)</i>	14 <i>(3.65%)</i>	9 <i>(2.34%)</i>	46 <i>(11.98%)</i>

2. Virginia continues to face budget constraints due to sequestration and federal tax increases. How do you believe the General Assembly should address such budgetary constraints?

391 Responses

	1	2	3	4
Raise general or statewide taxes (sales, income, gas, and/or personal property)	7 (1.87%)	14 (3.74%)	29 (7.75%)	324 (86.63%)
Increase specific fees to cover the actual cost of providing certain government services	61 (16.27%)	58 (15.47%)	222 (59.20%)	34 (9.07%)
Cut government spending	251 (66.23%)	78 (20.58%)	31 (8.18%)	19 (5.01%)
Streamline government programs and services	149 (39.63%)	197 (52.39%)	24 (6.38%)	6 (1.60%)

3. There have been discussions about reforming Virginia’s tax system to eliminate all or some tax credits, deductions, incentives and preferences. Which of the following best describes how you feel?

232 Responses

Answer	Count	Percent
Virginia should eliminate all or most tax credits, deductions, incentives and preferences	24	10.34%
Virginia should eliminate some tax credits, deductions, incentives and preferences, depending on their effectiveness and value	146	62.93%
Virginia should not eliminate tax credits, deductions, incentives and preferences	62	26.72%

4. Do you believe state government has a role to play in incentivizing job creation through the use of tax credits and economic development incentives?

228 Responses

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	172	75.44%
No	56	24.56%

5. Last year, the General Assembly adopted significant reforms to Virginia’s Standards of Learning (SOL) tests, reducing the number of SOL tests that students in grades 3-8 must take from 22 to 17 tests and creating a pathway for additional reforms that will promote problem-solving and critical thinking. Do you think the SOLs need additional reform?

354 Responses

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes, students are still required to take too many tests.	141	22.78%
Yes, the tests still encourage rote memorization, not enough problem solving or critical thinking.	190	30.69%
Yes, teachers are still required to “teach to the test.”	208	33.60%
No, last year’s reforms will work for now.	80	12.92%

6. Other states have adopted legislation creating “Parental Education Savings Accounts.” These optional accounts allow parents to use a portion of their child’s share of state funding for educational purposes, including tuition at a private or charter school, hire a tutor, enroll their child in online classes or save for college. Would you support or oppose the creation of Parental Education Savings Accounts in Virginia?

350 Responses

Answer	Count	Percent
Support	272	77.71%
Oppose	78	22.29%

7. Article V of the U.S. Constitution allows two-thirds of state legislatures to call a “Convention of the States” to amend the federal constitution. Some lawmakers have pushed a convention of the states to enact limits on federal authority and spending. Do you support or oppose a “Convention of the States?”

228 Responses

Answer	Count	Percent
Support	192	84.21%
Oppose	36	15.79%

8. Of the following options, how do you think the General Assembly should address the rising cost of higher education?

363 Responses

Answer	Count	Percent
Increase state funding for colleges and universities	67	7.72%
Limit or restrict student auxiliary and athletic fees	87	10.02%
Prioritize building construction projects	152	17.51%
Reform and prioritize financial aid distribution to serve more middle- and low-income students	116	13.36%
Encourage colleges and universities to offer “barebones” college degrees and charge just tuition, but not room, board or other fees	193	22.24%
Encourage colleges and universities to offer “three year” degree programs in certain fields	198	22.81%
Other	55	6.34%

9. Do you support or oppose mandatory reporting policies that require college administrators to report all allegations of rape and sexual assault to law enforcement, even if the victim chooses not to press charges?

371 Responses

Answer	Count	Percent
Support	269	72.51%
Oppose	102	27.49%

10. Do you support or oppose efforts to expand state “Tuition Assistance Grants” to Virginia students who attend private colleges and universities?

225 Responses

Answer	Count	Percent
Support	103	45.78%
Oppose	122	54.22%

11. Should the children of illegal immigrants who have been here for more than 5 years, graduated from high school, been accepted to a state university and plan to apply for permanent residency be allowed to receive in-state tuition?

231 Responses

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	67	29.00%
No	164	71.00%

12. Do you support or oppose Medicaid Expansion in Virginia? While expansion would enroll up to 400,000 currently uninsured Virginians in Medicaid, it could cost the Commonwealth of Virginia over \$1 billion per year, forcing cuts to other key services like education, mental health and public safety.

370 Responses

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes, Medicaid should be expanded in Virginia	43	11.62%
No, Medicaid should not be expanded in Virginia	327	88.38%

13. Do you support or oppose efforts to provide additional funding for Virginia’s healthcare safety net, such as free clinics and mobile health stations?

229 Responses

Answer	Count	Percent
Support	130	56.77%
Oppose	99	43.23%

14. Should all Virginia law enforcement officers be required to wear body cameras while on patrol?

230 Responses

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes, law enforcement officers should wear body cameras	58	25.22%
Yes, but local governments should make that determination	92	40.00%
No	80	34.78%

15. Under Virginia law, law enforcement may seize property related to criminal activity, even if the owner is not convicted of a crime. Some have argued that Virginia should reform its asset forfeiture laws to make it more difficult for law enforcement to seize private property in order to protect the rights of citizens. Do you support or oppose efforts to reform Virginia’s asset forfeiture laws?

227 Responses

Answer	Count	Percent
Support	199	87.67%
Oppose	28	12.33%

16. Virginia is home to some 800,000 veterans, but only has two state long-term care centers, located in central and southwest Virginia. These facilities provide long-term care to aging and disabled veterans. These facilities are built with 35% state funding and 65% federal funding. Do you support or oppose constructing new long-term Veterans Care Centers in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia?

234 Responses

Answer	Count	Percent
Support	210	89.74%
Oppose	24	10.26%

17. Please prioritize the following veterans' issues in the order you think they should be addressed by the General Assembly.

381 Responses

	1	2	3	4
Veteran's transition programs and employment opportunities	147 (39.52%)	100 (26.88%)	72 (19.35%)	53 (14.25%)
Veteran's healthcare	163 (43.47%)	88 (23.47%)	90 (24.00%)	34 (9.07%)
Veteran's homelessness	124 (33.24%)	65 (17.43%)	60 (16.09%)	124 (33.24%)
Veteran's education and job training	94 (25.20%)	107 (28.69%)	87 (23.32%)	85 (22.79%)