

Politics, Scientists, and Environmental Advocacy in the State Legislature

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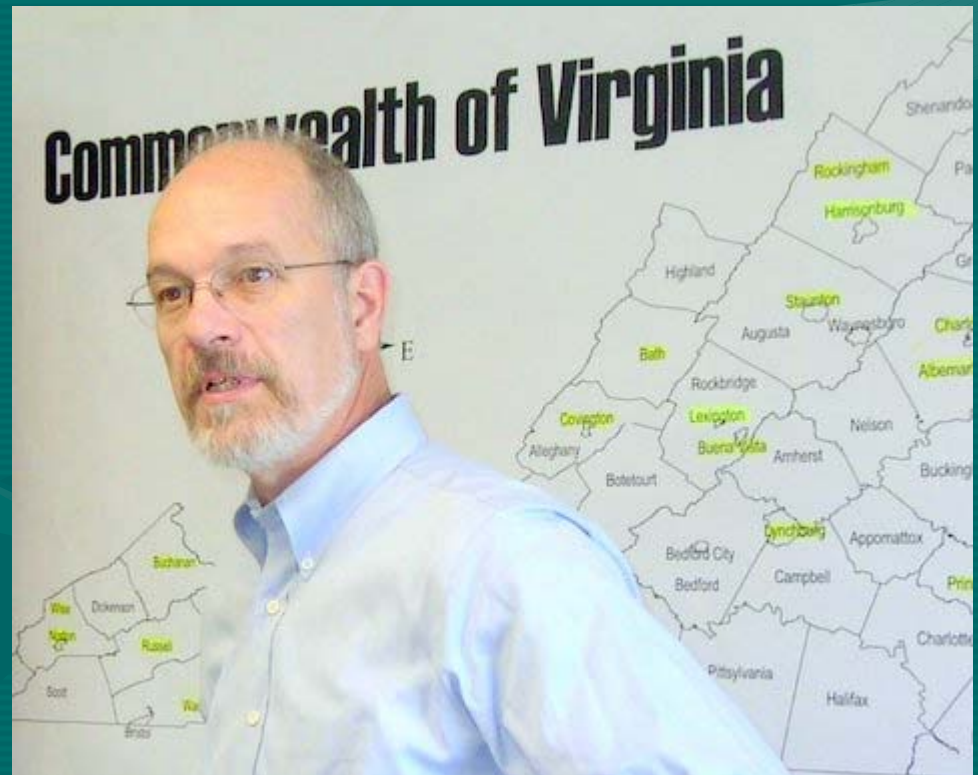
Environmental Stewardship Concepts

Virginia Commonwealth University

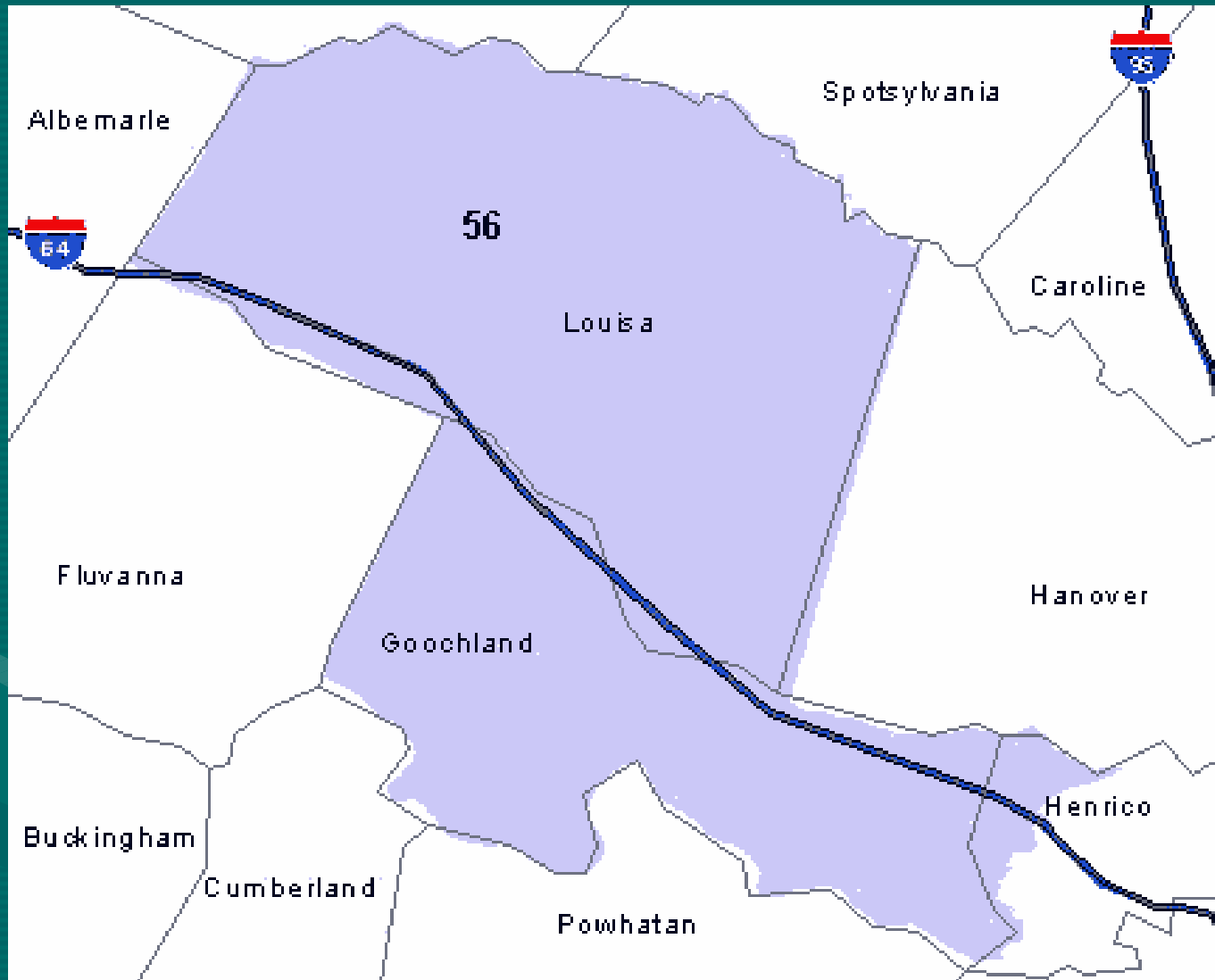
Democratic Candidate 56th District Virginia
House of Delegates 2005

Contents:

- About Virginia's 56th District
- District statistics
- Demographics
- Timeline
- Suggestions
- Issues
- Strategies



Map of the 56th District:



About Virginia's 56th District:

- Diversity:
- Land use:
 - Large farming community, high housing development along the eastern portion of the district
- Culture:
 - Farming, suburbia, retirement, landowners, small communities in Goochland and Louisa, “come here” suburbanites in Henrico; new group of workers

District Voter Statistics:

- Population of the 56th district: 83,391
- Registered voters:
 - County of Louisa: 15,425
 - County of Goochland: 11,702
 - County of Henrico: 19,258
 - Total: 46,385

Demographics:

- Income distribution
 - Henrico
 - Income: \$26,410
 - Homeownership: 65.7%
 - Poverty: 6.2%
 - Goochland
 - Income: \$29,105
 - Homeownership: 86.6%
 - Poverty: 6.9%
 - Louisa
 - Income: \$19,479
 - Homeownership: 81.5%
 - Poverty: 10.2%



Demographics, con't:

- Diversity:

- Henrico

- White: 68.9%
 - Black: 24.7%
 - Asian: 3.6%
 - Other: 2.8%

- Goochland

- White: 72.7%
 - Black: 25.6%
 - Asian: 0.5%
 - Other: 1.2%

- Louisa

- White: 76.5%
 - Black: 21.6%
 - Asian: 0.2%
 - Other: 1.7%



Notable Industry:

- North Anna Nuclear Power Station, Louisa Co.
- Developers and builders
- Walmart distribution center
- Wineries:
 - Cooper Vineyards, Louisa, VA
 - Grayhaven Winery. Goochland, VA
 - Green Springs Winery, Louisa, VA

2005 Timeline:

- ❖ April 27 – First public announcement
- ❖ May 13 – Official party candidacy
- ❖ May 18 – Press announcements
- ❖ June 15- First financial report due
- ❖ July-Aug – parades, parties, phone calls, doors
- ❖ September 3- Labor Day
- ❖ November 7- Election day!



Issues:



- The gridlock in the general assembly
- National issues
- Changing the status quo

- Voter issues
 - Crime, education, traffic and sprawl, health, environment
- Political issues
 - Guns, abortion, gay rights
- Campaign issues
 - Environment
 - Health and health care
 - Education

Strategies:

- The opposition will ignore you
- Creating the buzz
- Painting a picture



Planning Suggestions:

- Get an early start!
- Know the financial requirements
- Need name recognition
- Party affiliation



Why Run

- It needs to be done
- You want to make a change
- The important issues are missing
- The people are not represented
- The Legislature is not legislating
- You want to campaign
- You want to serve
- All or some of the above

Why not

- Too hard a district, state
- Not enough time
- Not enough money
- Not enough other resources
- It takes a lot of energy and will suck at least 6 months out of your life
- You do not have or want to do what it takes

Bottom line

- It will change you - forever
- The world is full of wonderful people
- Plan, prepare and think
- It is a numbers game
- No regrets
- Lose weight, gain friends, learn about yourself

The equation

- $W = \text{Votes} = \$ \times P \times p \times \text{Name} \times \text{Press} \times \text{family}$
 $\times \text{Pers} \times \text{party} \times \text{locality}$
- \$ -what you must raise and it will cost
- P – politics at the state/national level
- p- local politics
- Name recognition
- Press is friendly, not, asleep, etc
- Family- has to be supportive
- Personal- You have to want it and be able