

Chris Stolle, 83rd District

2009 Virginia House of Delegates Candidate Questionnaire

1. Specifically, what unique qualities and/or qualifications will you bring to the office you seek?

I have spent a lifetime serving my country and community in the Navy, as a doctor, and a job creating small businessman. These experiences leave me uniquely positioned to tackle three of the biggest issues in our district: protecting our military families and veterans, creating new jobs, and making our healthcare system more affordable and better for patients. As a Virginia Beach native, and product of the public school system here, I know this community and am committed to our local schools. As a 24-year Navy veteran, whose wife is a veteran, and has two children on active duty, I have unique insight into the challenges that face our veterans. I served as a submariner for 7 years and qualified as a nuclear engineer before the Navy sent me to medical school. A practicing OB/GYN physician, I have taken an idea on how to improve access to quality health care from a concept to an actual small business that has created jobs and saved lives. Additionally I help run a local hospital that is one of the largest employers in Hampton Roads.

These experiences mean I have lived and faced many of the same challenges that face our friends and neighbors – I want to apply that real world knowledge in the General Assembly. I am the only candidate in the race that has actually created jobs. As thousands of other fellow small business owners do, I know how tough it is to create local jobs. As a hospital administrator I know what it takes for a large employer to keep local jobs. I pledge that I will work to protect Virginia as a jobs friendly state.

I am a 24-year, career, Navy veteran, with children who are currently serving – no one will be a stronger voice for veterans and military families in the House of Delegates. I am a practicing physician who has always put patients first. And that's a viewpoint that is sorely missing from the current healthcare debate. As a former nuclear engineer, I have a strong energy background that will allow me to be a leader in the promotion of renewable energy like solar and wind and maximizing traditional energy sources in Virginia Beach.

My commitment to our local schools is so strong that all five of my children have graduated from them as have I. Public schools are the key to our children's future success. We must support and defend our schools and teachers.

Delegates must vote on a number of diverse issues. I have had a broad and diverse range of professional experiences that allow me to understand the real-

life impact of public policy. I see the challenges people are facing every day in these tough times and will use my experience in business, in medicine, in energy, and in the military to improve the economy and create jobs for the families of Virginia Beach.

2. What transportation changes or improvements do you advocate and how specifically would you pay for them?

Right now Hampton Roads gets a raw deal when it comes to transportation funding. We send our port revenues to fix other parts of the state while we're stuck in traffic. I support the funding mechanisms in HB 1579 which was passed last year in the House of Delegates but failed in the Senate. HB 1579 allows more of the revenue generated from the ports to stay in Hampton Roads to help fund new construction and road improvements.

Some of these revenues should be dedicated to expanding 460 to an interstate quality road. This will both improve traffic and is an important safety issue. In Hampton Roads, we recently saw how relatively minor disruptions can completely isolate the region. With a pump malfunction in one tunnel, and an accident at another tunnel, our ability to leave the area was severely restricted. If the need arose to evacuate the Southside for any reason, we need to have viable alternatives to the bridge tunnels.

3. Aside from transportation, what do you believe are two other important challenges facing the Commonwealth? Specifically, what responses do you propose and how will you pay for them?

Families are hurting in these challenging times. Creating jobs and improving the economy are the keys to ending much of that suffering. We need to do more to get Virginia back to work. It is not just about unemployment, but also about underemployment. Some folks that have jobs are not working as much as they want or have been moved from full-time to part-time with a loss of benefits. These are challenging times. Families are feeling a lot of economic stress. But as tough as times are now, I have no doubt that with strong leadership and the right policies we can get back on track. I truly believe that with new ideas and fresh leadership better days can lie ahead.

To address these issues I will work to create a jobs friendly environment, meaning lower taxes, protecting Virginia as a Right-to-Work state, and saying YES to new solutions for education, energy independence, transportation, and access to affordable healthcare for all Virginians.

I encourage all of our listeners to go to my website www.ChrisStolle.com to read my jobs plan that specifically addresses how to fund the creation of thousands of new jobs in Virginia Beach.