

## Glenn Oder, 94<sup>th</sup> 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 demonstrated my ability to work with legislators across Hampton Roads to successfully pass legislation that helps the citizens of Hampton Roads as well as all of Virginia.
- Eight years of experience in the House of Delegates. This experience translates into seniority on committees such as Chairman of the House Housing Sub-Committee and Vice Chairman of Transportation.
- Significant appointments to key committees in Hampton Roads such as the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization:
- Several organizations have acknowledged my efforts in the General Assembly with state wide awards. These awards include the Legislator of the Year by the Virginia Interfaith Center for my work to stop Payday Lending in Virginia and the 2009 Distinguished Service Award from the Virginia PTA for my bill to require energy drinks that contain alcohol to be restricted to the areas of the store reserved for alcoholic drinks. In addition, VA21, the statewide student led political organization just announced I am their 2009 Legislator of the Year.

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

Proposed VDOT Changes:

- First, make sure the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel is included in the list of transportation projects to be considered for our region. As of right now, it is not.
- Second, work with the federally mandated Transportation Planning Organization to prioritize the transportation projects in our region. Prioritization of these projects will position our region to focus our efforts on our most critical transportation improvement projects and allow us to compete for both federal and state transportation dollars.
- Finally, continue to press for a Performance Audit of VDOT. We should evaluate our department of transportation to determine what practices and procedures can be improved. This is exactly what was done after the debacle at the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel. We should use the example of the HRBT post incident strategy committee as a model to evaluate all of VDOT. Perhaps if we were functioning at a more efficient level,

we would not only save money, but we would circumvent obvious flaws in our system that allowed breakdowns such as the flooding of the HRBT on July 2, 2009. Additionally, an audit may suggest that functions like managing rest areas should not be part of the transportation department's purview and would be better handled under the General Services Department that handles other state buildings.

Proposed Funding:

- I will again this year propose a Constitutional Amendment to require that all transportation tax dollars that go to the Transportation Trust Fund can only be spent on transportation projects. This bill is referred to as the Transportation Lock Box.
  - In 2009, I sponsored a bill that passed the House of Delegates with bi-partisan support that would generate new transportation funding in Virginia. This bill identified specific areas of growth in targeted regions across Virginia. The bill captured 30% of future tax revenues from these targeted growth areas. These revenues were over and above existing tax revenues generated by these growth areas. Specific to Hampton Roads, the bill captures 30% of future tax dollars generated by new growth at the Port of Virginia. Every report in the region shows that port activity is going to increase. Under this proposal, as Port activity increases we would keep 30% of these revenues up to \$300 million per year for roads in Hampton Roads.
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?
- Job creation: We must put people back to work. Unemployment compounds problems in our community and job creation must be our highest priority. Incentives, such as the Governor's Opportunity Fund, generate more revenue than they cost. Transportation projects, like expanding the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel will generate thousands of jobs for years to come. Additionally, 97% of all businesses in Virginia are small businesses and we should encourage their development and not over regulate them.
  - Energy: Seeking and exploring new forms of energy in Virginia will generate jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign oil and other energy related commodities. Just this past August, one of the largest oil reserves was found in the Gulf and it was in an area where previous technology said no oil existed. Exploration off of our coast using new technologies and pursuing development of other resources such as wind and solar will provide significant opportunities for our region. We should encourage private industry to pursue these opportunities.