

Matthew James, 80th District

2009 Virginia House of Delegates Candidate Questionnaire:

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

Given my background-over 20 years of experience in business, economic and workforce development and community service-I feel uniquely qualified to have a positive impact on businesses and the people of the 80th District. Specifically, my combination of executive experience of managing local and regional organizations combined with an MBA from a top rated University as well as significant involvement in community activities such as serving as President of Virginia Economic Developers Association, President of High School PTSA and several bank and hospital boards will enable me to understand the issues and assist in developing creative mutually acceptable solutions by building coalitions amongst diverse groups.

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

Transportation is one of the four major issues of our campaign. I would support working with the Hampton Roads delegation of legislators to develop a comprehensive, financial feasible and sustainable plan. Importantly, this plan should have input and feedback of the business community, citizens and local elected officials.

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?

The other two important challenges facing the Commonwealth are Economic /Workforce development and Education. As President & CEO of a regional economic/workforce development organization and former economic development director, I have participated in the attraction of over \$1.3 billion in new/expanded investment and more than 6,300 jobs to the region so I know what it means to create new jobs and development. I would continue to focus on creating new jobs (including Green jobs) and business growth in the 80th District.

My commitment to public education is strong and my qualifications are unique, I and both of my daughters attended public schools. Additionally, both my wife and I have been active in PTSA for over 20 years as well as serving in numerous leadership positions on the Boards. We have done this because we believe that through education, we can prepare our workforce to compete in the Global marketplace and remain economically competitive. I would continue to invest in public education Pre K, K-12 and public colleges as well as exploring new technologies, virtual learning center and technical/trades programs.

Both challenges are achievable thru the expansion of revenue enhancements and public/private partnership that would minimize new public investment and/or return of the initial investment over time.