

Ron Villanueva, 21st District

2009 Virginia House of Delegates Candidate Questionnaire

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

As a small businessman, I bring a job-creation focus to the House of Delegates that is crucial in these economic times. I know how to help businesses grow, expand and bring more jobs to Virginia Beach. My experience as a City Council member also will help bridge the void that can often exist between state and local government, and focus on working together for solutions, rather than political posturing. My record is one of results.

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

The list of regional projects has to be prioritized. Our list of wants has far distance our ability to pay for them, and we must get movement on some of them, rather than trying to accomplish all of them simultaneously. The funding formula must be changed to take congestion relief and economic output into consideration. Capturing revenue from major economic engines can help these efforts as well.

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?

Economic development and job creation are our greatest needs and, if properly implemented, actually generate revenues far above the costs of incentives. We've had this experience in Virginia Beach, like the Verizon Amphitheater, where an initial investment developed a revenue stream that paid well above what was invested. These opportunity funds can attract jobs, spur investment, create jobs and generate tax revenue far above the incentive costs. We also need to work closely with small businesses, help them compete for contracts and help them grow, and maximize our strengths of a strong military community, our ports, and our natural resources.