



VIVIAN WATTS

CANDIDATE FOR 39TH DISTRICT (D)

Should Virginia use federal funding to expand Medicaid to bridge the gap between the current Medicaid program and qualifying for marketplace subsidies?

Yes - This is a priority!

Should Virginia provide health care coverage for those under 18, regardless of immigration status?

Since federal law prohibits discrimination based on immigration status for medical services - including immunizations and emergency care, it's more critical to focus on expanding Medicaid. This proposal (that only 5 states have adopted) would be used to inflame anti-ACA rhetoric.

Do you support state and/or local law enforcement agencies volunteer to become deputized ICE agents and enforce civil immigration laws by signing a 287(g) agreement?

No - Not only is there significant cost in having police trained to serve as ICE agents, their activities would be wasted unless Congress adequately funds ICE to pay for conducting timely and thorough determination hearings and, when warranted, detention.

Should all age-eligible individuals who pass the driving exam be allowed a driver's license, regardless of immigration status?

Yes - no comments

Do you support policies that protect cooperating victims of crime and witnesses from routine immigration inquiries by law enforcement?

Yes - Such policies significantly contribute to criminal activity becoming entrenched because those who are foreign born are afraid to report crime on their victimization.

Should the minimum wage be raised to \$15 in Virginia?

Yes - I anticipate the increase will be phased in.





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Should Virginia rescind its "right to work" law?

Repeal perse is less of a priority than winning annual battles against anti-labor legislation regarding limiting worker injury compensation, central negotiation, safety, project labor agreements, and public employee benefits.

Should the state establish a new top tax rate bracket (current top bracket is \$17,000) and update our current brackets to account for inflation?

No - Under the existing formula governing the state support we get for local schools, NoVa's high cost of living is barely recognized. I will not support Northern Virginians paying more until our time cost to provide equal service levels is recognized.

Should Virginia protect/expand funding for programs that benefit English Language Learners?

Yes - no comments

Should college in-state tuition rates be available to any student who graduates from a Virginia high school, regardless of immigration status?

I've voted for legislation requiring that the student be actively pursuing permanent residency or will do so when eligible, has lived in Virginia for 3 years, and an adult responsible for him/her has filed Virginia income taxes during that time.

What strategies do you support to expand college affordability?

In addition to voting for equitable tax increases to fund basic state functions, I've long supported seamless cooperation between community colleges and 4-year institution for bachelor degrees and requiring funding for financial aid be increased whenever tuition is increased.





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What steps would you take to improve language access of state documents and agencies to English Language Learners?

I will continue to be a strong advocate for court interpreters, intake officers, magistrates, and police who are both culturally aware and sophisticated in court procedures. Increased funding for adult ESL classes is also critical.

Do you support no excuse absentee voting?

Yes - no comments

*photo taken from Virginia General Assembly website

