

TERRY MCAULIFFE

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR

Tell us briefly why you believe that your candidacy would be compelling particularly to NAKASEC Action Fund members:

I launched my campaign with a goal of building an equitable, post-COVID economy that will lift up every single Virginian regardless of who they are, the color of their skin, where they're from, where they live, or who they love. I have announced a number of bold, progressive policy plans that will accelerate the minimum wage increase to \$15 by 2024, work with the Biden Administration to lower health care premiums, and make an unprecedented investment to give every Virginia child equitable access to a world-class education. I know that we can make bold progress for Virginia now because I did it before as Virginia's 72nd Governor. Under my administration, we created 200,000 good jobs, made a record \$1 billion investment in education and expanded pre-k to thousands of children. Family homelessness dropped by 27%, tens of thousands of Virginians gained access to health care, personal income rose by 14% and unemployment dropped to 3.3%. I am ready to move Virginia forward and will fight every single day for a more equitable post-COVID Virginia, and that includes working tirelessly to condemn and combat the increasing hate against AAPI communities. Just today, I held a virtual conversation with members of the AAPI community to discuss the rise in anti-AAPI hate and violence and ways that leaders can continue to combat this issue.

1. Economic Justice

While Virginia has a graduated personal income tax structure, the top rate starts at \$17,000. In other words, someone who earns \$17,001 pays the same effective tax rate as someone who earns \$250K. Those at the top received huge federal tax cuts under the Trump administration, at the same time that hundreds of thousands of Virginians lost their jobs and livelihoods. Recovering from COVID-19 will require additional funding. According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Virginia has the 33rd most unfair state and local tax system in the country, meaning that lower-income households pay a higher share of their family income in state and local taxes than the top 20%.

Do you support adding income tax brackets above \$17,000?

Yes

No

Do you support a millionaire's tax?

Yes

No

Comments:

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted systemic inequities that have existed in our system for too long, and as we rebuild our post-COVID economy, equity must be at the forefront. Virginia cannot truly thrive until our economy

lifts up every single person, regardless of the color of their skin, who they are, or where they live, and that includes evaluating and reforming our tax code to meet the needs of every Virginian.

As governor, I will always fight to protect our most vulnerable Virginians by equitably funding our schools, raising the minimum wage and ensuring workers have access to paid sick days and paid family medical leave, addressing the affordable housing crisis and expanding access to quality, affordable health care for all.

2. Language Access

Virginia is an increasingly linguistically diverse state. 20% of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) households identify as limited-English proficient (LEP). The LEP rate is higher depending on the specific ethnicity and/or language population. This issue is one that touches many people, including Black, Middle Eastern, and Central American immigrant, refugee, and indigenous communities as well. Yet multiple Virginia state agencies continue to use machine translation, such as Google Translate, solely without appropriate human review which often results in serious inaccuracies and offer phone menu options only for English and Spanish speakers. With the creation of the Office of New Americans, it is time that the state expand meaningful language access beyond English and Spanish.

Do you support the following:

Increasing state funding for interpretation and translation services for programs funded and/or administered by the state, including hiring more bilingual/multilingual staff?

Yes No

Hiring a state-level language access director?

Yes No

Developing a coordinated and comprehensive plan that incorporates best practices, including the provision of real-time oral interpretation in any requested language, requiring ongoing staff training on policies and protocols, and ensuring accurate data analysis and collection?

Yes No

Comments:

In order to build an equitable post-COVID economy that lifts up every single Virginian and every single family, we have to ensure that we are meeting people where they are and accommodating their individual needs. That includes improving language accessibility so that LEP individuals and households are able to access and take advantage of the resources that are available. As governor, I will ensure this is a top priority of my administration.

3. Data Disaggregation

The Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community is extremely diverse, composed of more than 50 ethnic groups with varying immigration histories, languages, and socioeconomic statuses.

However, the "Asian" and "Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander" groupings present a homogenous picture and obscures socioeconomic, social, physical, mental health, and civic participation disparities between ethnic groups, at substantial risk of those communities being underserved. In order to reveal the true state of AANHPI communities, disaggregated data should be collected on AANHPI ethnic groups, analyzed, and made publicly available.

Do you support data disaggregation for the AANHPI communities, starting with the Department of Health and Department of Education?

Yes

No

How would you implement it? Comments:

I firmly believe that our diverse backgrounds are what make America the greatest country in the world, and as Virginia's 72nd Governor I fought my heart out to make sure that Virginia was the most welcoming and inclusive state in the nation. I wholeheartedly support efforts to recognize each individual ethnicity so that we can better track and serve underserved communities. As our next governor, I will work to get this done.

4. Healthcare

Undocumented residents typically seek care at emergency rooms, or through a patchwork of resources and organizations making exceptions to find creative solutions for patients, or not at all. All people should have access to health care services and should not suffer financial hardship when obtaining these services. In Virginia, 25% of undocumented immigrants come from Asian countries.

Do you support the expansion of healthcare for all undocumented residents across all age groups?

Yes

No

Comments:

More than 700,000 Virginians remain uninsured and underinsured, or unable to afford their healthcare premiums or costs, and that includes nearly 100,000 children who lack health insurance. Immigrant communities have been some of the most marginalized, discriminated against and oppressed groups in our nation and conditions worsened under four years of Donald Trump's failed presidency. That's not just unacceptable, it's morally wrong and we've got to fix it. As Virginia's 72nd Governor, I woke up every single day with the goal of making Virginia the most inclusive and welcoming state in the nation, and after four years of enduring hate from the highest levels of our government, it is time to rebuild and improve conditions for some of our most vulnerable community members. I fought tirelessly

as governor against an extreme Republican legislature to expand Medicaid, and laid the groundwork for the successful passage of Medicaid expansion by building my final budget proposal around the \$421.7 million in estimated savings that would come from expanding Medicaid and securing an assessment on hospitals to help fund Medicaid expansion. As Virginia's next governor, I will continue to work to dismantle the racist, xenophobic laws and policies that have prevented immigrant communities from prospering for too long. I will fight to ensure that ALL Virginians have access to quality, affordable health care coverage. That includes partnering with the Biden Administration to implement a reinsurance program and lower health care premiums, combating the cost of rising prescription drug prices by creating a state watchdog for consumers that will set limits for drug prices and keep high-cost drugs affordable, and passing a Prescription Drug Sunlight law to give Virginians clear information about drug costs and price increases.

5. **Public Education**

The debate surrounding admissions reform to governor's schools has highlighted the disparities faced by Black and Latinx students, and lower-income students, including Asian Americans. Reforming admission policy is a step in the right direction for education equity. However, the vast majority of students do not attend publicly funded Governor's schools. In order to better support low-income students and students of color, it is crucial to ensure funding is distributed to schools that need the resources the most. Public education is not a brand, like Governor's schools have become. Adequate funding for the public K-12 public education system is important in closing gaps in remote learning, providing students with mental, physical, and academic support, and creating a safe school environment for educators and students should schools reopen. Additionally, distribution of resources should prioritize the schools and students who need them most, and provide additional assistance to students who need specialized services and were at particular risk while schools were shut down, including students experiencing homelessness, students in foster care, English language learners, students with disabilities, Indigenous students, and students residing in juvenile justice facilities.

Do you support the following:

100% lottery admissions to Governor's school to increase access for Black, Latinx, and low-income students (including Asian Americans)

Yes No

Race and class conscious admission policies to increase access for Black, Latinx, and low-income students (including Asian Americans)

Yes No

Gradual closing of Governor's schools and re-distribution of those resources to the most high-need high schools in each region

Yes No

Continuing efforts to make curriculum and school environments more inclusive and reflective of Virginia's history and current demographics

Yes

No

Comments:

I launched my campaign with a comprehensive education plan, because I believe it is the most important issue facing our next governor. Higher levels of education lead to higher wages and better health, and as Virginia's next Governor, I will ensure that every student has access to an equitable, world-class education. That education should be based on a curriculum that reflects who we are and where we've been.

I will invest a record \$2 billion annually in education, making sure that all schools get the resources they need to thrive. I will also address modern-day segregation in schools, creating an Education Equity and Innovation Commission and Fund, and a school integration officer that will work with school divisions to distribute resources fairly and close gaps that our students face. My opponent, Glenn Youngkin, still has no tangible plan to invest in education and lift our students up, including students in the most high-need schools. In fact, his budget plan would gut billions of dollars from Virginia's education system and hurt hardworking families.

6. Marriage Equality

The Supreme Court has ruled that the U.S. Constitution guarantees same-sex couples the right to marry, but Virginia's constitution still defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Replacing the ban on marriage equality with an affirmation of rights will better reflect Virginia's values and would reaffirm that all Virginians are entitled to equality in every aspect of their lives and in their state's laws.

Do you support amending Virginia's constitution to affirm marriage equality for all adults, regardless of their gender identity?

Yes

No

Comments:

Every Virginian deserves to be treated equally, live free from fear, and thrive, regardless of who they are and who they love. As Governor, I fought tirelessly to make our Commonwealth open and welcoming to all. I was the first Virginia candidate for governor to run aggressively on a pro-LGBTQ+ marriage equality platform, and I defeated an extremist in Ken Cuccinelli who attacked gay Virginians' civil rights at every turn. On my first day in office, I signed Executive Order 1, prohibiting discrimination against any LGBTQ+ state employee. I was the first Southern governor to officiate a gay wedding, and I vetoed all Republican attacks on LGBTQ+ equality in the

Commonwealth. We have to make sure that no person can be discriminated against because of who they are or who they love, and we must end disparities in public safety, health care, education, and the workplace. As governor I will always be an ally and staunch advocate for LGBTQ+ Virginians and their rights.

7. Paid Sick and Paid Family Leave

In Virginia, unpaid leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act is inaccessible for 55 percent of working people, with evidence showing that many eligible employees do not take leave when they need it because they cannot afford it. As the COVID-19 pandemic made clear, the lack of paid sick and paid family leave has had devastating costs to Virginians and their families, public health and the economy.

Starting July 1, 2021, Virginia will mandate paid sick leave for home health workers, but it is crucial to extend paid sick leave and paid family medical leave to all employees in Virginia so no Virginian needs to pick between having a job and taking care of their family. The long-term consequences of the pandemic have emphasized the importance of ensuring a robust, equitable recovery for Virginians' health, caregiving needs and economic stability.

Do you support expanding paid sick leave and paid family medical leave to all employees in Virginia?

Yes

No

Comments:

No Virginian should have to choose between their paycheck and caring for a sick family member, recovering from a serious illness or injury, or caring for a new child. I know that in order to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to invest in our workforce, helping all Virginians overcome the tremendous toll that the past year has taken on their health and financial security.

That is why I have released comprehensive plans that will give hardworking Virginians a raise by accelerating our path to a \$15 minimum wage by 2024, raise wages for home health workers, and ensure that every Virginian has access to paid sick, family and medical leave.

8. Reproductive Rights

Since 2008, anti-choice politicians have introduced or passed more than 170 restrictions that limit access to abortion and reproductive health services in Virginia. AAPI women face various health disparities often due to immigration status, language barriers, and income level. AAPI women experience some of the highest rates of cervical cancer, and high rates of uninsurance. Additionally, there is evidence that AAPI women use hormonal birth control at lower rates and have high rates of unintended pregnancies. As a result, access to comprehensive health services is a key issue for AAPI women and the community as a whole. The Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA) would ensure that regardless of what happens to the federal Affordable Care Act, reproductive care will be fully covered and respected in Virginia. The RHEA would establish comprehensive coverage for the full spectrum of

reproductive health services, including family planning, abortion, and postpartum care for all Virginians, regardless of gender identity, immigration status, employer, income, or type of insurance.

Do you support the Reproductive Health Equity Act?

Yes

No

Comments:

As Governor, I stood as a “brick wall” to protect Virginians’ reproductive rights from extreme Republican attacks. I successfully fought back all extreme Republican restrictions that were designed to force the closure of reproductive health clinics, and I kept them open here in the Commonwealth. And I vetoed every single Republican bill that attacked reproductive rights. But our work is not done. Virginia still has in place outdated restrictions that prevent most abortion coverage for those who receive health coverage under Medicaid. And reproductive rights are likely to come under even further attack under the current partisan, Republican-majority United States Supreme Court. As governor, I will expand coverage for critical reproductive health and abortion services, make all forms of contraceptives easily available and ensure that every pharmacy is required to dispense them. And I will work to pass an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia that permanently enshrines and codifies the protections of Roe v Wade in Virginia law.

9. Climate Change

There are many ways global warming as well as polluting industries and institutional policies’ lax regulation of these industries disproportionately harm communities of color, from lack of access to clean drinking water to higher exposure to pollutant emissions from transportation, power generation, and other industrial and agricultural emissions. These environmental factors result in communities of color suffering greater rates of health problems. Virginia has taken steps to reduce emissions, such as passing the Clean Cars Act, but these commitments and actions still fall short of what is needed to limit the rise of global temperatures and avoid the worst effects of climate change. With global climate impacts that are already unfolding under today’s warming, from devastating heat waves and more intense storms, it is becoming increasingly urgent and crucial to work toward net-zero emissions.

Do you acknowledge that human actions are a major contributor to climate change?

Yes

No

Will you support measures to transition Virginia to a net-zero carbon footprint by 2045, including the transportation and building sectors?

Yes

No

Comments:

I have proposed an aggressive goal to accelerate Virginia's transition to a 100% clean energy standard by 2035, which will address clean energy production. I am also committed to electrifying other sectors of our economy, especially transportation, which is the largest source of carbon pollution in the Commonwealth. I will work to electrify personal vehicles, public transit and school buses, and I will ensure that charging infrastructure for electric vehicles is dispersed in an equitable, accessible way. I have also proposed plans that will incentivize Virginia farmers to use more sustainable methods that protect our environment and reduce emissions. These are just a number of strategies I have proposed. With the passage of President Biden's infrastructure bill and the massive investments in clean energy technologies it will facilitate, I believe we can achieve this goal. If Republicans fail to adopt it, I will do everything in my power to set Virginia on a path to achieving the goal on time.

What is one measure you would take to address environmental racism?

Communities of color are exposed to as much as 66% more dangerous vehicle emissions than their white counterparts, and a lack of transportation often acts as a barrier to accessing needed jobs, green spaces, and other resources. Additionally, these emissions are a key driver of climate change, threatening communities of color who are most vulnerable to flooding from rising sea levels, extreme heat, and other environmental threats. Focusing on access to green cars and other forms of clean transportation is crucial to my plan to address these disparities. As Virginia's next governor, I will implement recently passed clean car policies in a safe and equitable manner and will also expand access to other clean forms of transportation such as electric buses. Ensuring that every Virginian, regardless of race and income, can viably access clean forms of transportation is essential to reducing exposure to toxic emissions, increase access to opportunities and other resources, and reduce the carbon emissions driving climate change and threatening communities of color, and increase mobility so residents can access vital resources and opportunities that otherwise would not be available.