Economy

1. Do you believe income inequality is the most central and crucial issue of our time?  
   Why or why not?  
   Income inequality constitutes one of the most crucial moral and economic issues of our time. My campaign is focused on ensuring economic security and opportunity for all Virginians. Too many people work hard and have more than one job, yet do not earn enough to support themselves and their families. This is a major crisis facing our Commonwealth, and I am committed to addressing it. Everyone who works deserves the opportunity to rise economically, to achieve success and to build a better future for their children.

2. What steps do you favor to alleviate income inequality?  
   We need policies that strengthen the middle class and protect equality of opportunity and the prospect of upward mobility for all Virginians. This means providing a high-quality education for our children--from early childhood, through high school, and on to college – and creating affordable access to higher education for those who pursue it. It means increasing the minimum wage to $15/hour, so that those in the lowest income brackets can earn livable wages with security for their families. It means investing in our workers as they strive to develop and grow - providing training for good, stable, local jobs - which benefits the whole economy. It means expanding Medicaid, reforming mental health care and closing the coverage gap such that all can have access to high-quality medical care, which is essential to protecting the quality of life in our state. We also need to revisit budget priorities which favor tax breaks for the wealthy over benefits for working Virginians.

3. Do you believe progressive taxation (higher tax rates on greater income and wealth) is an appropriate way to address income inequality?  
   Yes  No

4. Do you support labor unions in Virginia and the right of Virginia employees to collective bargain for fair wages, contracts and decent working conditions?  
   Yes  No

5. Do you support employee contracts that provide  
   a. Job security?  
   Yes  No  
   b. Guaranteed weekly hours?  
   Yes  No  
   c. Right of appeal and peer review of firing or demotion?  
   Yes  No  
   d. Retirement pensions?  
   Yes  No  
   e. Benefits?  
   Yes  No

6. What’s your position on the state minimum wage?  
   Virginia workers deserve the right to earn a livable wage in order to support and create economic security for their families, and I’ll fight to raise the minimum wage to ensure they can. Working 40 hours a week at the current minimum wage does not allow you to support yourself, let alone a family. I support a $15/hour wage floor, and indexing the minimum wage to inflation so we don’t have to revisit this same issue in the future. A higher minimum wage will increase family income and reduce reliance on public assistance—allowing greater security for those in the lowest income brackets. A $15 hourly rate will allow the minimum wage to finally catch up to increasing worker productivity, as well as the cost of goods and services, both of which it has trailed for decades. This is a vital policy tool for rewarding hardworking Virginia families and individuals, who put in countless hours to ensure a better future for themselves and their children.

7. Do you believe government should provide aid and support for the poor and disadvantaged?  
   Elaborate if you wish.  
   Ensuring a social safety net for those who need it the most is a critical and necessary component of the role of the government. Public assistance programs which provide aid and support for our fellow citizens who may have fallen on hard times, or who have a need for greater assistance, is not only the right thing to do from a moral perspective but it is essential in ensuring an equal opportunity for success for everyone, regardless of their initial circumstances, and ensures a more prosperous populous overall.

8. Please explain which current government aid and support programs you support and why.  
   I support expansions in Medicaid and greater funding for anti-poverty programs to ensure that a decent quality of life, including affordable healthcare, can be provided to all. Programs such as SNAP, TANF, and the EITC are vital tools in reducing income inequality since they use direct means to combat poverty by empowering lower income individuals with the economic stimulus they need.
Our Revolution of Northern Virginia Campaign Questionnaire – 2017
Completed by: Justin Fairfax

9. Are there other aid programs you believe ought to be instituted?
Yes  No
Aid programs which guarantee a greater social safety net for all citizens should be instituted and maintained by the
government to ensure that the challenge of meeting basic needs is attainable for all citizens.

CONSUMER PROTECTION:
In addition to programs that target poverty directly, agencies that protect consumers should be revitalized. By
protecting the rights of consumers, these agencies defend fair practices in all markets, from mortgages to student loan
debt, for all Virginians, regardless of income level.

LOWERING THE COSTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION:
Alleviating the burden of student loan debt by implementing special programs to restructure such obligations is an
essential component in investing in the future of Virginia. These programs allow students to get a head start in life by
investing their incomes in homes, small businesses, and local economies, which provide a significant benefit to the
economy. Reducing tuition levels for state-owned post-secondary institutions would substantially reduce the financial
burden on young Virginians as they earn a college education. I also support the expansion of programs that provide
training for out-of-work Virginians in their pursuit of skilled technical jobs.

GUARANTEED MINIMUM INCOME:
I believe that no Virginian should struggle to meet the basic needs of food, shelter, and healthcare for themselves and
their families. Advances in technology and the expansion of freelance work likely signal the end of regular, contracted
employment as we have known it. This new paradigm may create massive unemployment but also offers the potential
of massive wealth which could be used to guarantee a minimum standard of living for everyone in society. Through a
guaranteed minimum income, higher minimum wage, greater funding for programs that ensure a social safety net, and
the combined tools of tax policies and directed state-level spending, I believe that provisions guaranteeing a basic level
of income to meet these fundamental needs are a necessity in the pursuit of equal opportunity for all.

10. Do you favor:
   a. Tuition free college and post high school technical education?  Yes  No
   b. Guaranteed minimum income for all?  Yes  No

Voting Rights
11. Do you favor a continuation of Gov. McAuliffe’s policy to restore the right to vote to all ex-offenders who have
    served their time and completed their probation?  Yes  No
12. Do you favor repeal of the current VA voter ID law?  Yes  No
13. Are you in favor of no-excuse early voting?  Yes  No
14. Are you for non-partisan redistricting?  Yes  No

Climate Change
15. Will you publicly endorse the following measures in your campaign and, if elected, work for their
    implementation in the 2018 legislative session:
    a. A ban on fracking, fracked gas pipelines, and offshore drilling?  Yes  No
    b. Approval of a carbon tax on fossil fuels?  Yes  No
    c. Approval of tax credits for homeowners and businesses that install solar units and energy-saving
       improvements?  Yes  No
    d. Development of a detailed plan to convert the physical facilities and transportation fleets of the state
       government to clean energies by the year 2025?  Yes  No
    e. Development of a detailed plan to convert Virginia to 100% clean energies by 2050?  Yes  No

Money in Politics
16. What’s your position on money in politics?
I believe that the role played by money in politics has created an avenue for corruption, bribery, and inequality. I would support
having caps on contributions--we currently have a system where both individuals and corporations can give unlimited amounts to
candidates. That makes us unique in the country, but also provides opportunities for people to have undue influence--it is a common
occurrence in Virginia for certain candidates to receive six-figure contributions from powerful business interests, and then to
advocate for these donors’ agendas as elected officials. I’m proud that my campaign has gotten the vast majority of our contributions
from individuals and small businesses. The only thing my campaign is beholden to is the best interests of people. Additionally, I
support the recent legislation in Virginia that would have prevented people from using campaign donations to pay their mortgage or
their kids’ college tuition, or any number of non-public related things.
Our Revolution of Northern Virginia Campaign Questionnaire – 2017  
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17. Do you agree that money in politics undermines democracy?  

18. Have you or will you accept money for your campaign from tobacco companies, Dominion Virginia Power or the fossil-fuel industry, or pay day and car title lenders? Why or why not? If an individual makes a contribution to my campaign because he or she supports my candidacy and my vision for the Commonwealth, I do not refuse to accept that contribution on the basis of who the donor’s employer is. I will never change my priorities, my goals or my decision-making criteria due to having received, or based on the promise of receiving, campaign contributions.

19. Have you lobbied for any tobacco companies, Dominion Power or any fossil-fuel industry companies, or any pay day and car title lenders? Please list.

20. Do you favor a resolution for Virginia to support a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United and instruct the Virginia congressional delegation to support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision?

Education

21. What’s your position on public education? Virginia’s public schools have a history of providing high-quality education for our children. I will continue to support the advancement of public schools in Virginia. Lifelong success and growth is the ultimate goal of public education and that should be reflected in policies set forth by Virginia’s Board of Education. These policies should include higher pay for teachers, more state funds distributed for purposes of education, and adopting progressive ideas of what truly defines success besides a test score. We also need to revisit the way we approach discipline in our schools. Dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline is one of the moral issues of our time and a centerpiece of my campaign. We spend $3 billion in Virginia annually on our criminal justice system—a billion and half just to incarcerate people. We spend $27,000 a year for one adult inmate. We spend $150,000 a year to house one juvenile in our juvenile justice system. That is a 4-year scholarship to any college or university in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We need to change our priorities.

22. Do you favor giving public funds to charter and for-profit private schools for education?

Social Justice

23. Given the spike in hate crimes and hateful expression against many communities (e.g. African-American, Native-American, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Indian-American, Arab-American, Korean-American, Latino-American, etc.), what measures will you take to reassure and protect those subjected to these transgressions? I want to serve as Lieutenant Governor in order to help build a Virginia where everyone is welcome, no matter where you are born, what your last name is, the color of your skin, your faith, how much money you have, or who you love. Social awareness is key in this time. There needs to be more face-to-face interaction when discussing these issues. No person in this country should be mistreated because they are perceived as being different. More public initiatives teaching and celebrating other cultures will foster a positive environment. Often, some individuals’ only experience with a different race, religion, or ethnicity is through how those groups are portrayed in the media. Encouraging a variety of inter-personal communication instead of stereotypes will help combat negative attitudes and feelings that are unjustly held. We must prosecute hate crimes and promote inclusion and acceptance in every part of our society.

I was proud to go to Dulles Airport in Virginia to volunteer as an attorney and former federal prosecutor to fight against the unconstitutional, immoral, and unethical Muslim Travel Ban and to fight for our brothers and sisters who were being unlawfully detained. We will stand in solidarity to turn back this threat to our fundamental Constitutional values. If you target one person or one community, you target every person and every community. We will win this fight together.

24. How will you ensure fair treatment of all citizens and residents by law enforcement? Law enforcement has the duty to protect our cities, towns, and neighborhoods. It is often an uphill battle. However, as a former federal prosecutor, I know that better community relations need to be built in order to better serve the entire community. No one should feel threatened by a police officer. In order to accomplish that, there needs to be a departure from prejudicial and unjust enforcement and an encouragement of understanding and fairness for all citizens.
25. What is your position on for-profit prisons in Virginia?
I oppose for-profit prisons; which make larger profits the more people are incarcerated. The idea of for-profit prisons undermines the true purpose of prison. State and federal prison reform is necessary in order to have a justice system based on helping citizens become productive members of society. The recidivism rate nationally shows that the current justice system, which has a large footprint of for-profit prisons, is failing. A system that is based on profit discourages individuals to be productive in society. It is inherently wrong. For-profit prisons keep their prisons full by not offering genuine and legitimate education, rehabilitation, and mental health programs. The less programs prisons offer, the higher the recidivism rate becomes. This effectively gives for-profit prisons a continuous stream of free labor.

Health Care

26. Do you favor Medicare-for-all? If not, why not? Yes No

Party Politics

27. Should the Democratic Party Chair remain neutral in presidential primaries? Why or why not? Yes No
The critical question regarding the Democratic National Committee and the presidential primary process is whether all candidates for nomination have a fair opportunity to make their case to voters. What I find unacceptable are unevenly applied standards, such as placing procedural hurdles in front of some candidates but not others. As a general rule, what I want the DNC to be is an organization with evenly applied standards—the use of an unbiased procedural standard for all candidates should be established in party rules, and it should not be up to the Chair or any other individual party official whether or not they are followed.

28. Should the Virginia Democratic State Party Chair remain neutral in Democratic primary contests? Yes No

Other information you would like to share with us:
I will never forget where I started and what my family, hard work, and this country made possible for us. My parents got divorced when I was about 5 years old. My mom needed a safety net. My grandparents had the economic security to take my family in, because they had spent their careers in jobs with good benefits and retirement security. We didn't have a lot of money but we had people who loved us and believed in us and gave us opportunity. When you have that kind of spiritual wealth in your life, you then have a spiritual debt that you must repay, and for me that's what public service is, making sure that more people get to take the same journey in life that I got to take. I will fight every single day alongside you because everybody should get that same shot at the American dream.