



VMA 2018 Candidate Survey

Response for: Ed Gillespie

Completed:

1

♦ Growing international trade in the Commonwealth is a principal goal of the manufacturing, maritime, agriculture and service sectors of the Commonwealth.♦ In 2016, the Virginia General Assembly codified the Virginia International Trade Corporation (VITC) as a means to focus the coordination and services of Federal, State, Local, non-profit and private resources necessary to meet this goal.♦ The VITC would be created from the current international trade group at VEDP and continue to contract with VEDP for general administrative services.♦ The VITC is modeled after the successful VA Tourism Corporation.♦ However, the implementation of the VITC has been stalled pending the reorganization of VEDP.♦ Will you support fully implementing the VITC?

Answer

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|-----|
| Yes |
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|----|
| No |
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Comment: As governor, I will direct my Administration to study the VEDP management and project delivery model for anticipated action in the 2019 legislative session. Further, I will request a full analysis of the funding streams for VEDP and its incentives. This will maximize operational reviews currently underway. In conjunction with this evaluation of VEDP, I will reevaluate the VITC and its implementation. International trade will be a significant priority for me as governor.

2

♦ Manufacturers make heavy capital investments in technology and operate in a hypercompetitive global economy. Virginia has fallen behind in its tax competitiveness for advanced manufacturing largely due to the local Machinery and Tools Tax. In fact, Virginia's manufacturing sector now ranks #37 in the US for total capital expenditures per manufacturing employee.♦ Do you support eliminating the Machinery and Tools Tax (total local government cost is \$205 million annually)?♦♦

Answer

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Strongly Support |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Support |
|--------------------------|---------|

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Oppose |
|--------------------------|--------|

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Strongly Oppose |
|--------------------------|-----------------|

3

♦ If you answered "Strongly Support" or "Support" to question #1,♦ where would you offset that income loss by local government?

Answer

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|--|
| Virginia currently taxes almost no services, so under specific circumstances, I would support taxing select services in order to generate the necessary revenue to eliminate the machinery and tools tax |
|--|

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A direct tax offset payment to local government from the state General Fund |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other: Empower localities to replace anti-growth taxes https://edforvirginia.com/taxcut |

4 Manufacturers♦ are increasingly forced to seek tax relief in Circuit Court regarding disputes with local Commissioners of Revenue, in both tangible personal property and real personal property assessments, because there is no formal appeals process to the State Tax Commissioner.♦ Would you support instituting an appeals process to the State Tax Commissioner for industrial taxpayers?

Answer

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No |

5 When the Commonwealth needs General Fund revenue, some advocate for eliminating "tax preferences" and "credits" in order to generate revenue.♦ One of those "tax preferences" is the state sales tax exemption for inputs into manufacturing.♦ Will you maintain that tax preference as a means of maintaining Virginia's manufacturing competitiveness regardless of the state's revenue needs?

Answer

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No |

6 ♦ Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: "I support Virginia's Right-to-Work law that ensures that no Virginian must join or pay dues to a union to get or keep a job, and I will oppose legislation or regulation to weaken or modify that law."

Answer

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Strongly Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Oppose |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Strongly Oppose |

7 ♦ Will you appoint members of organized labor to key positions within your cabinet or the executive ranks in state agencies?

Answer

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No |

Over 60% of future jobs in advanced manufacturing require "middle skills" (more than a high school diploma and less than a baccalaureate degree). Do you agree that public revenues should be used for programs that provide continuing education and retraining of the workforce for jobs?

Answer

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Strongly Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Oppose |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Strongly Oppose |

Comment: Over the next decade 3.4 million manufacturing jobs will need to be filled. Business, education, and government leaders must ensure that reliable skills gap data is assembled and assessed including access to online programs and other programming tailored to the circumstances of working adult Virginians in need of training or retraining. Workforce development and continuing education will be a high priority for me as governor.

9

In

2016, the General Assembly created the first performance-driven state funding for citizens to acquire industry-recognized credentials - the NEW Workforce Credential Grant.♦♦ Will you maintain or increase financial support for this♦program?

Answer

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No |

Comment: Delegate Kathy Byron and Senator Frank Ruff provided strong leadership in establishing the Workforce Credential Grant Program. I look forward to working with our Republican leaders in the General Assembly to continue efforts to help train our workforce.

10

The workforce skills gaps are growing. Emerging worker "Readiness" is the largest challenge facing manufacturers. Will you support a "Work Ready Guarantee" so that anyone seeking employment must be able to pass the National Career Readiness Certificate (at a Silver Level) or the Commonwealth will pay for their remediation?

Answer

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Strongly Support |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Oppose |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Strongly Oppose |

Comment: I look forward to working with all stakeholders, including business owners in the manufacturing industry, career and technical educators and workforce development officials to better bridge the skills gaps we face here in the Commonwealth.

11

Will you support the equal funding of non-credit instruction and certification (as compared to credit instruction and career studies) through Virginia's community college system using General Fund dollars?

Answer

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Strongly Support |
|--------------------------|------------------|

| |
|-----------------|
| Support |
| Oppose |
| Strongly Oppose |

Comment: Non-credit instruction and certification are opportunities for individuals looking for technical training to move up in or change a career. As governor, I will consult with VCCS leadership and stakeholders to evaluate the non-credit programs.

12 Will you support increasing the funding for the Virginia Jobs Investment Partnership (VJIP) program?

Answer

| |
|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| No |

Comment: VJIP is one of the most effective tools we have. As a rule, I support incentives that invest in people and infrastructure more than cash grants.

13 Will you support increasing STEM credential attainment in high school?

Answer

| |
|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly Support |
| Support |
| Oppose |
| Strongly Oppose |

14 According to the Virginia Board of Workforce Development, the Commonwealth now spends over \$360 million in Federal, State and Local dollars on "workforce development" activities. Will you restructure how these funds are managed?

Answer

| |
|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| No |

Comment: Workforce development will be a high priority for me as governor. If elected, I will take a comprehensive look at the management of funds, in consultation with relevant agencies and my Cabinet.

15 Will you support expanding the VCCS Career Coaches program?

Answer

| |
|---|
| Strongly Support |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support |
| Oppose |
| Strongly Oppose |

Comment: I support the VCCS Career Coaches program, I look forward to learning more about the program.

16 Do you think that increased spending on University budgets, regardless of being tied to spending that lowers tuition costs for students, improves Virginia's manufacturing competitiveness?

Answer

| |
|------------------|
| Strongly Support |
| Support |
| Oppose |
| Strongly Oppose |

17 If the General Assembly only agreed to \$5 million in new manufacturing workforce-related spending in the next biennium budget, how would you prioritize the spending♦(rank 1 = 1st priority, 2 = 2nd priority, etc.)?

Ranking(1 =1st Priority)

18 Do you support environmental policies, including "one-stop" permitting, that streamline the regulatory and permitting process to allow greater operating flexibility, predictability, certainty and timely construction of environmentally sensitive facilities (such as utility infrastructure, manufacturing operations, transportation infrastructure, etc.)?

Answer

| |
|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly Support |
| Support |
| Oppose |
| Strongly Oppose |

19 Nutrient reduction and storm water management regulations will cost Virginia industry, wastewater treatment facilities and local government billions of dollars over the next 10-15 years. Maintaining affordable, competitive and technologically-advanced wastewater and storm water infrastructure is essential to manufacturers. Will you maintain and/or increase state investments in the Water Quality Improvement Fund?

Answer

| |
|---|
| Strongly Support |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support |
| Oppose |
| Strongly Oppose |

20 Will you support legislation or regulation allowing the state and/or localities to establish duplicative or more restrictive environmental regulations than authorized by Federal regulations?

| Answer | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No |

21 Will you be willing to work with the VMA to qualify key candidates for the Natural Resources Secretariat and DEQ Citizen Boards?

| Answer | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No |

22 ♦ The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has had reduced general funding for nearly a decade. ♦ As such, with all the other responsibilities placed on the agency, permit issuance is slowing. ♦ Would you support creating an option for permittees where initial approvals can be conducted by certified Professional Engineers (PE)? ♦ If not, what is your solution to expediting permit approvals?

| Answer | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No |

Comment: I am open to looking at allowing certified PEs to conduct initial approvals.

23 The Affordable Health Care Act has driven up prices for those already insured, what will you do to help small businesses offset these costs?

I have proposed my Health in Our Commonwealth Plan in which I set a health strategy for Virginia. By establishing insurance across state lines and incentivizing consumers to price shop, among other solutions, my plan will encourage competition and bring down prices for both consumers and small businesses. Read here: <https://edforvirginia.com/health>

24 Energy affordability and reliability are essential to manufacturing competitiveness. Will you support any mandatory Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for electric power production/distribution in Virginia?

| Answer | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No |

25 Do you support ♦ an "all of the above" strategy for energy use in Virginia, including coal, nuclear, wind, solar, natural gas, and biomass?

Answer Yes

No

Comment: Virginians needs energy leadership to ensure we provide affordable, reliable energy to help grow our economy. As governor, I will take an all-of-the-above approach to improve our energy infrastructure and grid security, ensure affordable energy, and advance clean energy and innovation.

26 Will you lead Virginia in gaining Federal approval to explore and develop its offshore natural gas and oil resources?

Answer Yes

No

27 Will you prioritize existing higher education spending on nuclear energy research and development?

Answer

Yes

No

28 Will you prioritize existing higher education spending on clean coal research and development?

Answer Yes

No

29 Do you support removing the current electric utility rate freeze and corresponding freeze on SCC rate cases?

Answer

Yes

No

Comment: If the justification for the rate freeze is repealed at the federal level, I will support a review of the freeze. I will end the McAuliffe-Northam cap-and-trade regulations that would institute a Clean Power Plan for Virginia.

30 ♦ Do you support the Federal Clean Power Plan?

Answer

| |
|--|
| Yes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

31

◆ Do

you support Virginia joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) or some other similar state carbon regulatory system? ◆ If yes, how will you assure that electricity rates do not increase?

Answer

| |
|--|
| Yes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

32

◆ The

privacy and security of industrial sites in Virginia is critical. ◆ An increasing threat involves the use of UAS vehicles

(a.k.a., drones) flying over these facilities with ill intent. ◆ 13 states have now ◆ regulated these UAS vehicles. ◆ Will you support legislation to restrict these UAS vehicles, not commercial FAA regulated drones, from flying over to collect photographic and other electronic information from chemical, defense, paper and similarly critical infrastructure facilities?

Answer

| |
|-----|
| Yes |
| No |

Comment: As technology continues to become more advanced, we must be proactive in ensuring the safety and privacy of Virginians. I look forward to working with the VMA to advance commonsense policy in this regard.

33

Virginia truck and semi-trailers (with 5+ axles) are limited to an 80,000 pound maximum gross weight limit on VA highways and interstates. ◆ However, new trucks and trailer technology can better distribute weight to reduce road damage and safely stop heavier loads. ◆ In order to improve transportation efficiency (less congestion) and manufacturing competitiveness, would you support legislation that would seek Federal increases in truck and semi-trailer maximum gross weights?

Answer

| |
|------------------|
| Strongly Support |
| Support |
| Oppose |
| Strongly Oppose |

Comment: I am open to this proposal. We must get the balance right.

34

Virginia semi-trailers are limited to 53 feet.♦ With lighter products, these semi-trailers are often full before the truck and semi-trailer reaches its maximum gross weight limit.♦ This is called "cubing out before weighing out."♦ Would you support increasing the length of semi-trailers to improve transportation efficiency?

Answer

| |
|------------------|
| Strongly Support |
| Support |
| Oppose |
| Strongly Oppose |

Comment: I am open to this proposal and would direct my Secretary of Transportation to evaluate.

35

♦ Manufactured goods represent over 84% of Virginia's exports. Manufacturers depend upon Interstates and Port facilities for efficient and cost-effective movement of the materials and goods in their supply-chain. Will you support the continued development of Route 460 as a public-private toll-road?

Answer

| |
|-----|
| Yes |
| No |

36

Do you think that other infrastructure (e.g., natural gas, fiber optics, electric power distribution, etc.) should be part of the Route 460 public-private transportation project and toll-road?

Answer

| |
|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| No |

37

Do you think that the Route 460 public-private toll-road should allow for heavier trucks to increase the efficiency of freight movement in the Port Zone corridor?

Answer

| |
|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| No |

38

The VMA Board of Directors is interested in holding two meetings per year with you during your tenure to maintain direct dialogue on priority issues. Will you support this type of close working relationship?

Answer

| |
|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| No |

