

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALLS CHURCH



2009 FALL VOTERS' GUIDE

**GENERAL ELECTION ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009
POLLS OPEN 6:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.**

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The Leagues of Women Voters of Alexandria, Arlington, the Fairfax Area, Falls Church, Loudoun County, and the Prince William County Member-At-Large Unit, are cooperating to produce this Voters' Guide to assist citizens in choosing candidates for election to public office.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia sent questionnaires to candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General, and the above-mentioned Northern Virginia Leagues sent questionnaires to candidates for the Virginia House of Delegates, as well as local candidates, whose names were qualified to appear on the November 3, 2009 ballot. Biographies and responses to the questions appear as written by the candidates and are not edited except to comply with Voters' Guide style and stipulated word limitations. A "/" at the end of the biography and/or responses indicates the word limit was exceeded. The candidates' original responses are on file with the Northern Virginia Leagues of Women Voters. Candidates are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot, as determined by lot by the Virginia State Board of Elections.

A nonpartisan political membership organization, the League

of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters does not support any political party or candidate.

For more information on the Fall 2009 Voters' Guide or the League of Women Voters, please visit the League of Women Voters of Falls Church at www.lwvfallschurch.org. To view the submissions of all Northern Virginia candidates, visit <http://virginia.va.lwvnet.org>. You may also find comprehensive, nonpartisan information on the November 3, 2009 elections on the League of Women Voters' website, www.VOTE411.org, sponsored by the LWV Education Fund.

For additional information on the November 3, 2009 General Election, voter registration, the district in which you are eligible to vote, where to vote, or absentee voting, contact the Falls Church Registrar of Voters at 703-248-5085 or visit www.fallschurchva.gov/Content/Government/Voting/RegistrarVoters.aspx. You can also contact the Virginia State Board of Elections at 800-552-9745 or visit www.sbe.virginia.gov.

IDENTIFICATION TO VOTE

Officers of Election are required to request identification at the polls. **PLEASE BRING IDENTIFICATION WHEN YOU COME TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009.**

Acceptable forms of identification can be any **ONE** of the following:

- Virginia Voter Card
- Virginia driver's license, or special identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles
- Valid United States passport
- Military Identification card
- Any Federal, state, or local government-issued identification card
- Valid employee identification card containing your photo
- Original Social Security card

If you do not have an acceptable form of identification, you must complete, under oath, an Affirmation of Identity **BEFORE** you can vote.

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

THE OFFICE

TERM: Four years (prohibited from serving successive terms)

SALARY: \$175,000

DUTIES: Authority over the day-to-day operations of state government. Commander-in-Chief of the state's armed forces; advises the General Assembly on the condition of the commonwealth by making specific legislative recommendations, including the state budget. Makes ap-

pointments touching every level of government. Signs enacted bills to become laws.

BIOGRAPHY AND QUESTIONS

BIOGRAPHY: Background provided by each candidate.

THE QUESTIONS

What will your top legislative **PRIORITY** be, if elected?

Do you believe that any changes are needed in the way the Commonwealth conducts its decennial **REDISTRICTING**? If so, please explain your proposals.

What will be your major emphasis, for both resources and spending, in developing the next state **BUDGET**?

How do you propose to **BALANCE** economic interests with environmental concerns?

CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR – VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE

Robert F. "Bob" McDonnell Republican – Challenger



BIOGRAPHY: Maureen and I have been married for 32 years and we have 5 children. I served for 21 years in the U.S. Army. I've been a business manager for a Fortune 500 company, a Virginia Beach Prosecutor, a member of the House of Delegates for 14 years, and Attorney General.

PRIORITY: I will be a jobs Governor! I will focus on growing Virginia's economy, creating new jobs, and re-training our workforce for 21st century jobs. Everyone will benefit from my vision of a reinvigorated private sector, more incentives for businesses locating and expanding in Virginia, and a government that lives within its means, allowing citizens to keep more of what they earn to invest and spend.

REDISTRICTING: I will ensure bipartisan citizen involvement in the redistricting process. Legislative districts must be drawn to maximize voter participation and reflect commonsense geographic boundaries and a strong community of

interests. My bipartisan commission, comprised of citizens who haven't held elected office for at least 10 years, will provide citizens with access through public meetings, proposed maps online, and a website accepting public comment.

BUDGET: As Attorney General I cut my office's budget by 14%, took a pay cut and gave back my state car. Those are the kinds of tough decisions Virginians expect to see from their Governor. We must look for every opportunity to be creative in our budgeting, consolidate state functions, and implement innovation and budget prioritization in Richmond. We must focus on supporting policies that facilitate growth in the private sector, encourage entrepreneurship, allow Virginians to achieve their dreams, and expand our economy.

BALANCE: I championed legislation to ban the use of phosphorus in household detergents and successfully filed suit to stop a wastewater treatment operator from polluting the

Shenandoah River. I helped establish an income tax refund for contributions made to restore the Bay and supported the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Act and the Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund. As Governor, I am committed to protecting our environment using innovative technology, pollution prevention programs and holding polluters accountable. I will also establish "Green Jobs Zones" to incentivize companies to create quality green jobs.

CONTACT: www.bobmcdonnell.com

R. Creigh Deeds Democrat – Challenger



BIOGRAPHY: State Senator Creigh Deeds is an accomplished legislator, having served eighteen years in the General Assembly. He lives in Bath County with his wife Pam, and their four children: Amanda, Rebecca, Gus, and Susannah. He graduated from Wake Forest Law School and Concord College.

PRIORITY: As governor, I will restore confidence in Virginia's economy by fixing transportation, investing in education, and giving a tax credit to any business that creates a job. I also have a plan to cut spending through aggressive performance reviews that reduce government waste and improve efficiency. And I will put Virginia on a path to be a global leader in clean energy, medical research, and cutting edge technology.

REDISTRICTING: Public policy in my administration will be based on science, not on ideology or partisan politics. For the

past seven years I have proposed bipartisan redistricting legislation. As governor, I will sign such a bill into law. Transparency and honesty are my guiding principles.

BUDGET: I believe we must invest in education even in tough times and my budget will reflect that. I will create an additional 70,000 degrees over the next ten years and commit an additional \$40 million per year to financial aid and guarantee student loans up to \$15,000. Under a Deeds administration, all Virginians will have access to an affordable higher education.

To fix transportation I will bring Republicans and Democrats together and pass a plan that connects every part of Virginia. I will consider all options so we can reach a bipartisan consensus on dedicated, long-term funding that does not drain funding from education and other core priorities.

BALANCE: I have a strong record of protecting the environment and balancing environmental and economic interests. In 1996, I authored the landmark Agricultural Stewardship Act, a bipartisan approach to reduce pollution that was supported by both farmers and environmental advocates. And in 1999, I sponsored a land preservation tax credit program that has helped Virginia conserve 500,000 acres.

CONTACT: <http://deedsforvirginia.com>

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

CANDIDATES FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR – VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE

THE OFFICE

TERM: Four years

SALARY: \$36,321

DUTIES: Presides over the State Senate and casts a vote in case of a tie. Fills the office of Governor should the office become vacant by reason of death, resignation or disability.

BIOGRAPHY AND QUESTIONS

BIOGRAPHY: Background provided by each candidate.

THE QUESTIONS

How do you envision your **ROLE**, if elected?

How would you influence the dynamics of the legislative **PROCESS**?

What do you see as Virginia's most urgent **PROBLEM** over the next two years?

William T. "Bill" Bolling

Republican – Incumbent



BIOGRAPHY: Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling is the son of a coal miner and first in his family to graduate college. He and his wife Jean Ann live in Hanover and have two sons. He has 18 years of public service as Lieutenant Governor, State Senator, and in local government in Hanover.

ROLE: In a McDonnell/Bolling administration, I'll serve as Virginia's first Economic Development and Chief Jobs Creation Officer.

As Virginia's Chief Jobs Creation Officer, I'll help coordinate all economic development and job creation initiatives across the various agencies of state government. Having the states second highest elected officer actively involved in recruiting new industries signals the importance of bringing new jobs to our state.

In addition, I'll work to find solutions to our

current energy, education, and transportation challenges.

PROCESS: Over the past four years serving as Virginia's Lieutenant Governor, I've promoted an aggressive legislative agenda, which I'll continue.

In order to bring more jobs to our state, I co-sponsored legislation allowing more businesses to qualify for Economic Opportunity Fund money, which has brought \$125 million in new capital investments into Virginia.

I have also worked to strengthen our education system by forcing the Senate to direct lottery proceeds towards education, and by seeking to pass legislation that requires that at least 65% of our education dollars be spent in the classroom.

Finally, I'm very proud that during my time in the Senate, I was able to pass legislation pro-

viding health insurance for children in low-income families.

PROBLEM: The most urgent problem today and in the near future is the need to bring new quality jobs to our state. Current unemployment rates are the highest in 20 years, and all regions of the state have been impacted by the recent economic downturn. In a McDonnell/Bolling administration, I will serve as Virginia's first Economic Development and Chief Jobs Creation Officer, and my number one focus will be on growing our workforce.

Additionally, our state faces numerous challenges to our education and transportation systems. I've proposed detailed plans to confront these challenges, which you can find on my website, www.billbolling.com.

CONTACT: www.billbolling.com

Jody M. Wagner

Democrat – Challenger



BIOGRAPHY: I'm the proud mother of four wonderful children. For 16 years, I was a practicing attorney in Norfolk. From 2002-2005, I served as Treasurer of the Commonwealth, and from 2006-2008, as the Secretary of Finance. In addition, I'm the owner of Jody's, a small popcorn business in Virginia Beach.

ROLE: I will serve as a key member of the state's leadership team, and a partner of the next Governor. I'll use my experience working across party lines to help reach commonsense, bipartisan solutions that improve the lives of Virginia's families. The most important role I can have is to help create new jobs and grow Virginia's economy. In addition, I would spend much of my time advocating for improvements in public education, such

as raising the graduation rate, expanding funding for pre-Kindergarten programs and promoting mentorship and internship programs for at risk students. Finally, I would be a member of five important boards and commissions.

PROCESS: In addition to presiding over the Senate, I would be active in the legislative process by helping to advance the goals of the next Governor, as well as priorities I consider to be important, like creating new jobs and improving education. I have a record of working across party lines to get things done as evidenced by the 2008 Education Bond Package that I negotiated (which passed unanimously) and I would continue to negotiate compromise in order to get things done.

PROBLEM: Virginia's biggest problem is the

global economic decline, and creating new jobs is the only way to confront the issue. We need to take a multi-faceted approach, which involves attracting new industries; helping small businesses start and grow; improving education to ensure our students have the skills necessary to compete in the 21st Century economy; and solving the transportation mess that is threatening our economic viability. Virginians have suffered as a result of the recession, and while we have weathered the storm better than most other states, the top priority of the next Lt. Governor must be to lead Virginia out of the national downturn, and help direct the Commonwealth towards future prosperity.

CONTACT: www.jodyforVA.com

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

CANDIDATES FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL – VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE

THE OFFICE

TERM: Four years

SALARY: \$150,000

DUTIES: Chief legal officer of the Commonwealth, serves as counsel to the Governor and to all state departments, agencies, boards and commissions.

BIOGRAPHY AND QUESTIONS

BIOGRAPHY: Background provided by each candidate.

THE QUESTIONS

What do you think will be the major **ISSUE** facing the Attorney General's office in the next two years?

As Attorney General, what would be your major legislative **PROPOSAL**?

How do you envision **BALANCING** economic concerns with the enforcement of environmental regulations?

Ken T. Cuccinelli II

Republican – Challenger



BIOGRAPHY: An attorney and small business owner, Senator Cuccinelli grew up in Northern Virginia. He graduated from UVa. as a Mechanical Engineer, then received his J.D. and Masters degrees from GMU. Ken married his high school sweetheart, Teiro, and they live with their seven children (and many pets) in Centreville.

ISSUE: Given current circumstances, the major issue for the next Attorney General will be helping to get Virginia's economy growing again in order to support job creation. In addition, the AG will also be looked to for leadership on public safety issues such as fighting gangs, sexual predators, drunk driving and mental health. These are all issues that I will continue to aggressively address, as I have in my 3 terms in the State Senate.

I would also bring 5 years of juvenile delinquency prevention work and over a decade of working with mental health professionals and patients to the AG's office.

PROPOSAL: Among my major legislative proposals as Virginia's next AG would be proposals to continue to improve our mental health system. Since the Virginia Tech tragedy, Virginians have awoken to how much more we need to do to improve our mental health system, and I will continue my leadership on this issue. Additionally, I will continue the work I've been doing in the Senate Courts Committee to toughen our laws addressing gangs, sexual predators and repeat drug dealers. Finally, I will continue my efforts to get property rights protected in Virginia's Constitution.

BALANCING: The balancing of economic concerns with the enforcement of environmental regulations is similar to the balancing in any regulatory decision. First, an AG has to enforce the law, but may exercise such discretion as the law allows to factor in circumstances such as first offenses, technical (e.g., paperwork) violations vs. substantive violations, in coming to conclusions about appropriate responses. We want our environmental regulations to be part of our stewardship of the environment, and like other Virginians, I want to preserve a clean and healthy environment for my children. I also want to undertake reasonable steps to preserve economic opportunities and jobs for Virginians.

CONTACT: www.cuccinelli.com 703-766-0635

Stephen C. Shannon

Democrat – Challenger



BIOGRAPHY: Occupation: Attorney; Odin, Feldman & Pittleman, PC – Fairfax, VA Education: Bachelors Degree, Fairfield University; Masters of Public Policy, Georgetown University; and J.D., University of Virginia Experience: Steve Shannon is a former Fairfax County Prosecutor who has a strong record on Public Safety. He and his wife Abby co-founded Virginia's first AMBER-Alert //

ISSUE: In the next two years, the Attorney General's office must be focused on public safety. As the economy gets back on track, we need to be sure that Virginia creates an environment that is attractive for people and businesses so that they want to come here and flourish here. By keeping Virginians safe, I will work to create that type of environment.

PROPOSAL: My top priority as Attorney General is going to be keeping Virginians safe. I have outlined a number of policy proposals – available on my website at www.shannon2009.com – that will help protect Virginians from drunk drivers, gangs, drug dealers, and other public safety threats. As a father of three and helped found (with my wife, Abby) of Virginia's AMBER Alert system, I am particularly committed to protecting Virginia's children. Specifically, I am committed to keeping Virginia children safe from Internet predators. We know that there are at least 20,000 unique computers trafficking child pornography in Virginia. Law enforcement officials do not have the tools and resources they need to track these online offenders down and put them in jail. I will work

with the Governor and General Assembly to find these resources.

BALANCING: As Attorney General, my job will be enforcing Virginia's law. I believe we need to move towards things like energy efficiency and greater use of renewable energy in order to protect our environment. I also believe we must understand our current economic climate and make sure that as we make the move toward the use of efficiency and renewables, we are balancing the needs and economic constraints of citizens and businesses in Virginia.

CONTACT: www.shannon2009.com 703-218-3501

**GENERAL ELECTION ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009
POLLS OPEN 6:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.**

VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

THE OFFICE

TERM: Two years
SALARY: \$17,640
DUTIES: Legislative power in the

Commonwealth of Virginia is vested in a General Assembly consisting of a Senate and a House of Delegates. Chief responsibilities are to make laws, levy taxes, and adopt the state budget.

BIOGRAPHY AND QUESTIONS

BIOGRAPHY: Background provided by each candidate.

THE QUESTIONS

What measures would you support to make the **REDISTRICTING** process less partisan?
 Should the allocation of public

EDUCATION funds throughout the Commonwealth be revised? If so, what would you propose?
 What other state **ISSUE** would you like to discuss?

CANDIDATES FOR THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES – 53RD DISTRICT (Voters in This District Vote for Not More Than One)



Christopher D. Merola *Republican – Challenger*

BIOGRAPHY: I am currently a new media consultant. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Arts degree from Slippery Rock University. I have worked for two Republican Members of Congress. My own campaign is the tenth campaign I have worked on at the state or federal level.

REDISTRICTING: I would be in favor of forming a bipartisan committee of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, whose job it would be to form a consensus concerning a fair redistricting process. This committee

would make recommendations to the state legislature concerning the redistricting process. It would function much like the Base Realignment and Closure process at the federal level.

EDUCATION: Yes, they should be revised so that tax dollars are more fairly awarded to the school districts based on their unique needs. I would be in favor of writing legislation that would mandate at least 70 percent of Virginia's education budget go directly to the school districts within the state. Funding for music, the arts and humanities, along with physical education and health education, must be given as much consideration as math and science.

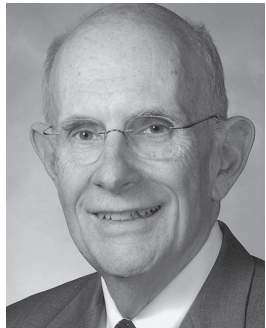
ISSUE: Virginia must find a steady source of funding for transportation projects without burdening its citizens with

tax increases. My Transportation Trifecta plan is designed to do just that. By partnering with energy companies, Virginia can move in the direction of energy independence, while creating jobs throughout the state, and providing revenue to pay for transportation projects without raising taxes.

Energy exploration that includes environmentally friendly methods of offshore oil drilling, clean coal development, natural gas exploration, safe nuclear power methods, as well as solar and wind energy technologies, will provide a boost to our state's economy, while creating jobs and funding our state's transportation needs.

CONTACT: www.merola09.com
 campaign@merola09.com

703-850-8347



James M. "Jim" Scott *Democrat – Incumbent*

BIOGRAPHY: Born: Galax, Va.; Graduate: Handley High School, Winchester, VA.; B.A. & M.A. UNC at Chapel Hill; M.A., George Mason University. Member, Fairfax Co. Board of Supervisors, 1971-86; House of Delegates, 1991-present. Married: Nancy Cromwell Scott; Children: Catherine: graduate, U. of Va. Law School; Mary Alice, senior, Franklin and Marshall College.

REDISTRICTING: As in the past, I support a constitutional amendment to create a non-partisan redistricting commission,

similar to the bill proposed by the Sen. Creigh Deeds in 2009 that was killed by House Republicans in committee in the House of Delegates.

EDUCATION: The allocation of education funds should reflect the actual cost of education in each region, particularly the higher costs of living in areas such as Northern Virginia, as well as fully funding the Standards of Quality as approved by the Board of Education. Fully funding all-day kindergartens and pre-kindergartens, particularly for at-risk students, as well as fully funding the cost of paying Virginia educators at least the national average salary for teachers is essential.

ISSUE: The key obstacle to Virginia's future economic suc-

cess is the House Republicans refusal to approve additional revenue for education and transportation construction and maintenance throughout the Commonwealth, particularly in Northern Virginia, and Tidewater, and adequate funding for higher education, particularly research. Governor Kaine's transportation funding proposal in 2008, without a gas tax increase, was killed in the House with only one Republican vote. New revenues are essential. Taking additional money from the General Fund for transportation will shortchange education.

CONTACT: www.delegatejimscott.com
 deljsscott@aol.com

703-560-8338

CITY OF FALLS CHURCH SHERIFF

THE OFFICE

TERM: Four years
SALARY: \$102,280
DUTIES: The Sheriff provides court security and prisoner transportation in addition to serving civil warrants and legal notices. The office works

in conjunction with the Police Department in the issuance of traffic summonses, traffic control, special events, and training exercises.

BIOGRAPHY AND QUESTION

BIOGRAPHY: Background provided by each candidate.

THE QUESTION

What specific things can your office do to respond to the economic **CHALLENGES** now facing the city and its residents?

CANDIDATE FOR CITY OF FALLS CHURCH SHERIFF Vote for Not More Than One



S. Stephen Bittle *Incumbent*

BIOGRAPHY: A native Virginian, Sheriff Bittle has devoted his entire law enforcement career to the service and protection of Falls Church City and its citizens. Following 27 years of service on the police force, retiring as Sergeant, Steve Bittle

received a judicial appointment to Sheriff in 1992. The voters affirmed that decision the following year.

CHALLENGES: Public safety is always important and during tough economic times it's critical we look for ways to operate more efficiently without sacrificing effectiveness. The sheriff's office will continue to work closely with the Falls Church police department as well as surrounding jurisdictions to coordinate not duplicate effort. Our trained auxiliary depu-

ties have also donated thousands of hours to further ensure our citizens' safety. And most importantly we can't forget the people our office interacts with everyday are our fellow citizens and neighbors and should be treated with sensitivity and respect.

CONTACT: 703-248-5111

VOTE

**GENERAL ELECTION ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009
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CANDIDATES FOR THE CITY OF FALLS CHURCH COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE AND TREASURER ON NEXT PAGE

CITY OF FALLS CHURCH COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE

THE OFFICE

TERM: Four years

SALARY: \$92,046

DUTIES: The office is responsible for assessing personal property tax, business licenses, transient occupancy tax, and short-term rental tax. The Office processes individual state income tax returns for City residents.

BIOGRAPHY AND QUESTION

BIOGRAPHY: Background provided by each candidate.

THE QUESTION

What specific things can your office do to respond to the economic **CHALLENGES** now facing the city and its residents?

CANDIDATE FOR CITY OF FALLS CHURCH COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE

Vote for Not More Than One



Thomas D. Clinton

Incumbent

BIOGRAPHY: Commissioner of the Revenue, City of Falls Church, 2002 – present. A lifelong resident of Falls Church, Tom graduated from George Mason High School and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Political

Science from Shepherd University (WV). An active member of numerous civic organizations, Tom lives on Hillwood Avenue with his wife and two children.

CHALLENGES: We work closely with citizens and businesses to make sure they receive every tax deduction they are eligible for, and we provide whatever assistance we can to help people get through these tough times. We strive to deliver innovative, efficient service that keeps administrative

costs down, and we place a high value on citizens' time. One example of a time-saving innovation in customer service that I started is the Falls Church City DMV Select Office inside my office; it spares citizens the long waiting lines typical at the bigger DMV Customer Service Centers like the Tysons Corner Office on Gallows Road.

CONTACT: tomclinton1@aol.com

703-241-2902

CITY OF FALLS CHURCH TREASURER

THE OFFICE

TERM: Four years

SALARY: \$91,452

DUTIES: Responsibilities of the Treasurer include tax billing and the collection, safeguarding, and disbursement of all city funds.

BIOGRAPHY AND QUESTION

BIOGRAPHY: Background provided by each candidate.

THE QUESTION

What specific things can your office do to respond to the economic **CHALLENGES** now facing the city and its residents?

CANDIDATE FOR CITY OF FALLS CHURCH TREASURER

Vote for Not More Than One



Catherine A. Kaye

Incumbent

BIOGRAPHY: I've served for the past 3 years as City Treasurer. In my first term I re-organized the Treasurer's Office, streamlined processes, introduced new technology and achieved a Master Governmental Treasurer designation. I'm

dedicated to customer service, very active in the Falls Church community, and work with many civic organizations. I attended Lake Forest College in Illinois.

CHALLENGES: Everyone has been affected by the current financial climate. As Treasurer, it is my duty to collect taxes in good times and bad. Any uncollected taxes increase the tax burden on all citizens, so I work hard to offer flexible payment plans to those with financial difficulties and to be un-

derstanding of individual circumstances, so that everyone can pay their taxes due. My door is always open for any citizen to discuss options. In managing tax relief for the elderly and handicapped, I have worked to increase the maximum allowable income levels, making tax relief more attainable. Most importantly, I offer superior customer service to all citizens.

CONTACT: cathy@cathykaye4treasurer.com

571-243-6069



VOTE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009

This Fall 2009 Voters' Guide is brought to you as a public service by:

The League of Women Voters of Falls Church