

Delegate Pogge – 2015 Legislative Survey Summary (2-3-15)

1. There have been discussions about reforming Virginia’s tax system to eliminate all or some tax credits, deductions, incentives and preferences. Which of the following best describes how you feel?

Answer	Count	Percent
Virginia should <u>eliminate all or most</u> tax credits, deductions, incentives and preferences	49	12.7%
Virginia should <u>eliminate some</u> tax credits, deductions, incentives and preferences, depending on their effectiveness and value	240	62.3%
Virginia <u>should not eliminate</u> tax credits, deductions, incentives and preferences	96	24.9%

2. Virginia continues to face budget constraints due to sequestration and federal tax increases. How do you believe the General Assembly should address such budgetary constraints?

	1	2	3	4
Raise general or statewide taxes (sales, income, gas, and/or personal property)	12 (3.6%)	9 (2.7%)	16 (4.7%)	301 (89.1%)
Increase specific fees to cover the actual cost of providing certain government services	38 (11.1%)	52 (15.2%)	215 (62.9%)	37 (10.8%)
Cut government spending	265 (69.0%)	74 (19.3%)	31 (8.1%)	14 (3.6%)
Streamline government programs and services	184 (49.3%)	168 (45.0%)	16 (4.3%)	5 (1.3%)

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3. Of the following options, how do you think the General Assembly should address the rising cost of higher education?

Answer	Count	Percent
Increase state funding for colleges and universities	49	4.9%
Limit or restrict student auxiliary and athletic fees	139	13.8%
Prioritize building construction projects	239	23.8%
Reform and prioritize financial aid distribution to serve more middle- and low-income students	161	16.0%
Encourage colleges and universities to offer “barebones” college degrees and charge just tuition, but not room, board or other fees	202	20.0%
Encourage colleges and universities to offer “three year” degree programs in certain fields	215	21.4%

4. Last year, the General Assembly adopted a number of reforms to Virginia’s transparency, disclosure and ethics laws. Those reforms included (a) creating a \$250 gift cap, (b) creating a statewide ethics advisory commission, (c) requiring more frequent disclosures, (d) requiring all disclosure forms be posted online, (e) requiring mandatory ethics training for elected officials. Which of the following do you believe?

Answer	Count	Percent
These reforms did not go far enough	81	20.8%
These reforms were almost enough, but more work is necessary	113	29.0%
These reforms were enough	195	50.1%

5. Last year, the General Assembly adopted significant reforms to Virginia’s Standards of Learning (SOL) tests, reducing the number of SOL tests that students in grades 3-8 must take from 22 to 17 tests and creating a pathway for additional reforms that will promote problem-solving and critical thinking. Do you think the SOLs need additional reform?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes, students are still required to take too many tests	144	22.2%
Yes, the tests still encourage rote memorization, not enough problem solving or critical thinking	228	35.2%
Yes, teachers are still required to “teach to the test.”	201	31.0%
No, last year’s reforms will work for now	75	11.6%

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6. Other states have adopted legislation creating “Parental Education Savings Accounts.” These optional accounts allow parents to use a portion of their child’s share of state funding for educational purposes, including tuition at a private or charter school, hire a tutor, enroll their child in online classes or save for college. Would you support or oppose the creation of Parental Education Savings Accounts in Virginia?

Answer	Count	Percent
Support	301	78.0%
Oppose	85	22.0%

7. Do you support or oppose Medicaid Expansion in Virginia? While expansion would enroll up to 400,000 currently uninsured Virginians in Medicaid, it could cost the Commonwealth of Virginia over \$1 billion per year, forcing cuts to other key services like education, mental health and public safety.

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes, Medicaid should be expanded in Virginia	31	7.8%
No, Medicaid should not be expanded in Virginia	364	92.2%

8. Under Virginia law, law enforcement may seize property related to criminal activity, even if the owner is not convicted of a crime. Some have argued that Virginia should reform its asset forfeiture laws to make it more difficult for law enforcement to seize private property in order to protect the rights of citizens. Do you support or oppose efforts to reform Virginia’s asset forfeiture laws?

Answer	Count	Percent
Support	325	83.8%
Oppose	63	16.2%

9. Should voters have the option to register by political party (Republican, Democrat, Independent, etc.)?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	284	72.1%
No	110	27.9%

10. Do you support the exploration of natural gas and oil off the coastal water areas of Virginia?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	368	92.2%
No	31	7.8%