



Federalist Sweep Boys State Election

John Donohue, Marshall

The climax of the short campaign trail has come and gone once more here in Radford. Early yesterday morning, the two parties met for the first time to conduct the General Election. There was a steady buzz amongst the citizens, which grew to a constant chatter and eventually shouting, to try and influence voters immediately following the conclusion of the Flag Raising. Cities, led by their Mayors, hustled to the Preston Bondurant Auditorium anxiously awaiting the Election. Colorful signs were shown in large support of Nationalist Candidate for Governor Joseph Jones, AKA "Your Bro Joe From Boy's State," as well as chants from his city, Bradley. The stage was set, the crowd anxiously awaiting the results, air conditioning on high, and as Mr. Dan Delligner's hand went up, a nervous silence immediately took the room. The calm before the storm.

First to speak was Nationalist Party Chairman, John Wolf. In his short introduction of his party, he introduced the Party's candidates, Joseph Jones for Gov., Spencer Miller for Lt. Gov., and William "Big Willie" Davis for Att. Gen., First to speak was Joseph Jones. Joseph walked up to speak, on his own, with the help of a helpful citizen who read his speech. Joseph Jones is battling Cerebral Palsy and not only accepted to, but continues to thrive at Boy's State. Joseph's statement discussed his parties planks as well as a few ideas of his own. He stressed freedom for the individual in many ways, mainly free time. At the conclusion of his speech, he spoke on his own. His voice was the only sound in the auditorium. His persistence to partake in the session was incredible. His drive to succeed and stand out of the nearly 800 young men, is inspirational. With help only from one man, who was with him at all times especially when he was needed, he made it work.

Next up, Nationalist's nominee for Lieutenant Governor, Spencer Miller. Spencer shared his opinion on growth. Growth as a person, city, party, state, and Commonwealth as a whole. This speech was very special for one major reason. Spencer felt that he could express himself better through singing, as he did at his party convention. Spencer began to sing, "Wonderful World," by Louis Armstrong. After he could not find a sound he was pleased with, he began to sing, "I Will Survive," by Gloria Gaynor, and it was tremendous.

Finally, the Nationalist's Nominee for Attorney General, William Davis. Immediately, loud shouts of "Big Willie" met him at the podium. His speech was very humble in discussing his road to strive at Boy's State. He described the role he would play after first detailing the position of AG. Like Joseph, he spoke of freedom and inalienable rights. William's message was clear that he would fight to protect those rights.

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Federalist Sweep Boys State Election Continued

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After the Nationalist nominees plead their candidacy, it was the Federalist's turn. Cody Taylor was electric at the podium which set the stage for his party. He emphasized bipartisan and unity for the state as well as discussed the party's planks. For his conclusion, he congratulated all the candidates for getting that far.

Following the order, Nominee for Governor, Denzel Mitchell approached the podium. Denzel's demeanor at the podium resonated a calm, cool, and collect candidate who was easy to listen to as well as interesting. In his speech, he stressed the importance of bipartisan and unity. He then went on to describe his views of the three planks in great detail. He began talking about how essential the Chesapeake Bay is for the state of Virginia. A very important aspect of his speech was his idea of tackling financial literacy. Financial literacy was important to him because he felt it was vital for all schools to offer classes. This topic led him into the vast plank of education, specifically for veterans. He focused on all aspects of post-high school education, such as trade school, vocational training, and lowering the cost of college tuition for vets more so than what is done now. The hope for his plan is that it will create jobs to boost the economy and decrease unemployment. One of his planks was transparency.

To follow was Federalist Nominee for Lieutenant Governor, Jordan Teaford. Like his peers, he was very thankful for the support he has received so far and looked forward to more. An area he stressed was compassion. We have heard speakers use this to describe great leaders such as George Washington. An Idea he mentioned was pizza for citizens to generate revenue for trashcans in rooms. He reminded us that the citizens are the future of our Commonwealth as well as our countries.

Finally to speak for the Federalists, was Nominee for Attorney General, Matthew Hua. The Federalist all knew his experience with the Judicial and Court Systems from the Party Convention, therefore he had to convince the Nationalists, and so they both knew his ability. He spoke on his various roles in law firms, courtrooms, and classrooms including some at Johns Hopkins University. He discussed his role in protecting freedoms for individuals and how seriously he takes them. Most importantly, he declared that his role as AG was not political but rather strictly based on legal advice. This was the pinnacle of something that was brand new for many of us, and more importantly our own. In the end, the elected Governor was Federalist Denzel Mitchell. The elected Lieutenant Governor was Federalist Jordan Teaford. Finally, elected Attorney General was Federalist Matthew Hua. An all Federalist leadership. They will work together to push their planks through the legislature to better our country, commonwealth, and communities. As we have learned, it is the change in the community that resonates to the country. Citizens of Boys State agree that these fine young men will lead the front on the necessary change.

75th Session of The American Legion Boys State of Virginia - Boys State Today - Thursday,
June 22

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The Boy's State Experience: Day 4

By: Owen Ferguson, Burke

Thursday started the same as every other day. Room checks went smooth, and we were out to breakfast fairly early. We went to breakfast, and nothing was different from the usual. After breakfast, we hung around and had a light conversation to pass the time. Next was the flag raising, which went the same. The band played a couple of favorite songs which lightened everyone's mood as it always does. After that was complete, we headed to the religious services, which was great. One thing that has become a joke around the cities is "what does the Lord require of you." Everyone seems to get a real kick out of it.

Following this, the Supreme Court Justices were announced. I would like to say congratulations to all the Justices elected. Next, it was time to vote for Governor, Attorney General, and Lieutenant Governor. Both parties gave speeches, and then we headed out to cast our vote. After we returned, we listen to the Hon. Nancy Rodrigues. Her speech was very informative and interesting. I like how she took the time to answer as many questions as she could. Next was a special message from Governor Terry McAuliffe. We all wish he could've been there, but he had a pretty good excuse.

Following the message was the election results. There was heartbreak but also joy. I feel as if the citizens of Boy's State made the best decision possible. We are proud of the candidates who won. I won't go into great detail, but our Governor is Denzel Mitchell.

Lunch was next on the agenda. It was average as always, nothing special. Following lunch was another speaker. It was former Governor Robert McDonnell. In his speech, he talked about his upbringing and life as a Governor. He answered a lot of questions, which was great. We thank him for speaking with us.

Up next was our Inauguration. This was very formal and took a while which some didn't like. All in all, it was a great event. After this, the Governor selected his cabinet. He picked some great men to help serve. Following this, we had the afternoon activities, but we didn't have all the time to do them because of the Inauguration. Nonetheless, we made the most of our era. Then came dinner, nothing unusual there. Next was the flag lowering which was moved inside because of the rain. Then came a speech from the Oratorical winner. Mr. Greg Mueller presented this statement amazingly. It was a very good time.

Now it was time to have some fun with the talent show. There is some great talent here that was incredible to see it. We are proud of our fellow citizens. Following this was our last city meeting. We discussed the Friday night party. That was all for today. Tomorrow is College Day, and we should all take advantage of this. Thank you all for the support and reading my article. I want to give a shoutout to my city, Burke. You have become my brothers over this past week. I would also like to thank the Virginia American Legion for this opportunity.

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Diversity breeds Progress-Collaboration is the Key to Success

Chris Oglesby, Stuart

Today, I had the privilege of engaging in a telephone interview with Secretary Rodriguez. She is a professional, intelligent, and systematic member of the Governor's prestigious cabinet. I asked her four primary questions, and we engaged in momentous discourse throughout the course of our limited time to converse.

First, I inquired about the intricacies of serving three different Governors, and I was curious about the continuity and adaptation process that is ensuing. She responded by elaborating on the importance of effectively communicating information. This is because she must remain consistent in her performance for the Commonwealth, but she must implement strategic approaches to best address various problems with the Governors.

For example, when Tim Kaine was elected in 2006, she would correspond with him through literary works and written manuscripts in a bullet point format. She implemented this medium of communication because former Governor Kaine was an attorney and therefore he was accustomed to reading content to fully grasp the essence of a situation. However, when Bob McDonnell was in office, face to face communication was the most efficient way to diplomatically interact. So, collaboration is indispensable in the political realm, but the means of doing so can fluctuate according to the best interest of Virginia's citizens.

I followed this question by asking about an entity that is pertinent to every young man involved in Boys State - How do you discern what college the best fit is? How can you gain the maximum benefit from a college experience? She answered with honesty and genuine consideration as she elaborated on the importance of selecting a school that augments your career aspirations. It is momentous to find a passion and pursue knowledge wholeheartedly. Secretary Rodriguez expressed the fact that any college will serve an individual well if that person is willing to fully invest in classes, activities, and social opportunities. Just as with any endeavor, you ultimately get out of college what you put into it. Remember, an investment in knowledge pays the highest dividends.

Secretary Rodriguez made a profound impact on me when she said that the absolute most important need as a politician is a devout moral compass. This truth is evident in the quote, "If you do not stand for something, then you will fall for anything." Furthermore, she established the value of incorporating a myriad of perspectives in politics. In a holistic cabinet, the Governor should include multiple nationalities, ethnicities, and genders so that influential perspectives can emerge. This fact of life is significant because it means that everyone will bring a unique point of view in a solution oriented setting. As these ideas emerge, the betterment of society can be prioritized, and all citizens can be the beneficiaries of a diverse government.

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The Boys State Way

John Donohue, Marshall

Today during afternoon athletic activities, the team's had to battle more adversity that they expected. The players of all sports were anxiously sitting in the auditorium waiting to be released like bulls. As may or may not be known, the week is coming to an end, and we are approaching the end of the various brackets. By that, of course, I am referring to playoffs. With playoffs comes a greater determination to win. Each team wants to keep playing.

Teams bolted out of the auditorium bypassing the lineup, so to get to their fields first. Teams patiently waited for the game to begin. Looks across the field of uncertainty were exchanged as to when the game would start. 75 minutes had passed on the soccer field before the referees had shown up. For the 75 minutes up until then, the present football teams had begun to scrimmage and practice on their own. When the referees showed up, the two teams commenced their game and had a blast. Unfortunately, the second game was canceled as a result of time restraints and the disappointed Boys State citizens marched on to play another sport.

Those young men embody the traits of a Boys State citizen. They were not able to change the condition of their match, so the young men made the absolute most of it. The young men who moved on after their disappointment show that if your path leads to defeat, move on and try again. In their case, another sport. For those who awaited the referees, they practiced drills and scrimmaged to prepare for their moment to demonstrate their skills. Not only with the soccer field but also with the volleyball court. Sources say that the referees simply left, leaving them to govern themselves. The young men playing did not give up and left but rather stayed and competed despite the absence of a judge. These young people embody a Boys State citizen because they do what they are supposed to and stick to it. There is an old saying that goes, "If you're going to do something, do it." These men were going to play volleyball, and that is what they did.

This is just one documented example of Boys State citizens acting with strong character and responsibility. Imagine what they can do in the future and imagine what they have yet to do, perhaps in a job, perhaps in public service. Our communities, commonwealth, and country need men with these qualities. Speakers have told us that people who have these qualities are becoming less and less. This is one example proving that Boys State citizens do have that quality and will restore them in our society.

Boys State Got Talent

Lane Carroll, Pershing City

Congratulations to all Boy's State citizens that participated in the talent show! Many citizens showcased their amazing talents in a variety of ways; singing, playing instruments, comedy, beat-boxing, basketball skills, and martial arts. A fan-favorite act was the demonstration of breathing in many types of ways. Big thanks to the MC's, Turner Leigh, and Hugh Bothwell, for putting on a great show.

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An Interview with Joseph Jones

By Long Luu, Bradley City

Q: What reservations do you hold about the Federalist Party's administration and platform, if you have any at all?

A: Well, my biggest concern about the Federalists is that they might not be able to unify our state. I ran on being someone who could bring everyone together, and while I do believe that Mitchell will try his best, I might have been a little better because that's a big part of my campaign.

Q: What are your plans for legislation as Secretary of Health? Are you satisfied with your appointment?

A: I plan to try to work on veteran's issues and all disability issues. These are points where the governor and I can work together. I have spoken to Mitchell about working on these issues; and although we were opponents in this election, we both agreed to work together on them.

Q: What were the strengths and weaknesses of your campaign? Of Denzel's?

A: The strengths of my campaign were that I was able to reach out to a diverse group of people; my weakness were that I probably didn't do enough of this. With more than 700 delegates to this convention, I think that a bit more effort campaigning would have paid off. As for Mitchell, I ultimately believe he had the upper hand on the issues. For example, his party focuses on veterans issues whereas the Nationalists focused on trash cans. His weakness is that he didn't seem to be discussing the nationalist's points and his personal view on them.

Q: To what extent do you believe your disability affected your campaign? And if it did, what role did it play?

A: On one hand, it may have hurt me with some voters; these voters would be the type that wouldn't take the time to listen to me because they might have thought that my speech impediment meant that I wasn't intelligent enough to be governor. On the other hand, I think that there's another group of voters that it probably helped- for example, the sympathy voters, or the voters that were inspired by me and my message.

The Governor's Reacts

Magin Sanchez, Patton

Boys State Today was able to talk with the newly elected Governor of Boys State, Denzel Mitchell following his victory.

"I can't believe that I got here. Thank you everyone who supported me. I now believe that I can round everyone."

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Chris Skinner, the Ultimate Winner
Cameron Keeley-Parker- Washington City

“Life is fast, it can change in a snap”

That was a quote from Chris Skinner. To understand that quote you must first understand Chris’s background.

Chris Skinner was like a lot of us. He was a boy that enjoyed playing sports, particularly basketball and baseball, and the beach. He also enjoyed having fun. However, Chris’s thrill-seeking ways were dangerous. He enjoyed drinking heavily, a decision that would ultimately change his life.

One ordinary day, Chris attended a friend’s wedding. As usual, he sought to have fun, so he wanted to go to the reception afterward. A concerned friend told him not to, but Chris didn’t care. He was just looking to party and headed to the reception. At the reception, Chris stated that he drank and became intoxicated. While intoxicated, he decided to ride with a friend home, who was also drunk.

That decision ultimately changed his life in an instant. During the drive, their car entered a sharp curve too fast and flipped two and a half times. The driver escaped the car a little shaken up, but the same could not be said about Chris. Before the curve, Chris was hanging out of the car window, enjoying life. However, when the car began to flip, he was thrown out of the vehicle into a nearby ditch. The impact of the crash changed Chris’s life forever by making him a person with paraplegia.

His paralysis caused Chris to change his life. After a brief period of hopelessness, he bounced back in physical therapy. He worked so hard he was able to regain control over his arms. He also met his wife in physical training. However, his biggest change was to speak out against bad decision making that caused his paralysis and promote good decisions.

Today, Chris is a highly-praised motivational speaker, author, and counselor who tells his story to millions to promote making positive choices with life. I feel that his motto perfectly captures his sentiment towards life now: “Life Matters, Make It Count!” Having now seen Chris Skinner, I can say that life truly is a blessing that no one should take for granted.

Get Ready For College Day

John Donohue, Marshall

Invest in your future by investing your time towards attending College Day on Friday, June 23, 2017 from 3 – 5 PM at the College of Business and Economics (COBE) building, on the 3rd floor. This is a wonderful opportunity to find the answers concerning a variety of topics such as tuition, financial aid, admissions, and more!

The following colleges will be participating in College Day:

- Albright College
- Army ROTC (VT Corps of Cadets)
- Belmont Abbey
- Bethany College
- Bridgewater College
- Carson-Newman University
- Chowan University
- Christopher Newport University
- Concord University
- Davidson College
- Elon University
- Emory & Henry College
- Fairmont State University
- Gettysburg College
- Hampden-Sydney College
- James Madison University
- Liberty University
- Longwood University
- Lynchburg College
- Marymount University
- Pfeiffer University
- Radford University
- Roanoke College
- Stevenson University
- University of Alabama
- University of Mary Washington
- University of Missouri
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Richmond
- University of Virginia
- University of Virginia at Wise
- US Military Academy West Point
- US Naval Academy
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Military Institute
- Virginia National Guard
- Virginia Tech
- West Virginia State University
- West Virginia University
- West Virginia University Institute of Technology

Thursday's Service

Jordan Houston, MacArthur City

Thursday morning's service focused on themes of accountability and proper conduct. It was based on the Biblical parable of the Ten Minahs (or Ten Pounds), as well a verse from the Quran. Patton City's Yousof Omeish gave the speech for the day, focusing on personal responsibility and moral behavior. "I want you to indulge me in refraining the way we think about things," he said. He focused on how inappropriate words or actions determine your character, and how your voice, or tongue, can be used for right or ill. "The purity of our heart is directly related to the purity of our tongues," he said, and he called on God to "enlighten our minds and soften our hearts."

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Talking Soccer: Pershing City

Lane Carroll, Pershing City

Lane Carroll interview Bennett Diggs and Jackson Shover from Pershing City regarding their experiences on a Boys State athletic team. The following was the transcript of said interview.

Q: What sport do you two play and for what City?

A: (Both) Soccer for Pershing City.

Q: How did the team do today?

A: (Jackson Shover) We won our match 7-0, we worked well as a team and we had a ton of fun.

Q: What experience do the players on the team have?

A: (Bennett Diggs) Many of us have played before, I have played my whole life. I play for club and for high school. (Jackson Shover) I have never played before, this is one of my first organized games I've ever played.

Q: What contributed most to the victory?

A: (Bennett Diggs) Our whole team was selfless, which concluded in many goals. We worked well as a team and we built chemistry quickly.

Q: How have the friendships of the players developed during and after the game?

A: (Jackson Shover) It's amazing how we met two days ago and we worked so well together during the game. We became better friends instantly.

Q: How will you and your team prepare for the upcoming games?

A: (Jackson Shover) We will simply stay hydrated and keep fresh legs. We will talk strategy and formation prior to the game and we will have fun.

Standby For Roll Call....

Alex Szymczak, Jackson City

Joe Godin of Jackson City holds a unique position here at Virginia Boys State. More commonly known as "the roll call boy," Godin starts off each day here at Boys State with four iconic words: "Standby for roll call." When asked about what makes this responsibility so important to him, Godin commented that "it's a lot of honor to not only call roll but to also give out orders when the flag ceremony is being conducted." Godin feels confident in this position, expressing that he "doesn't have any problem with speaking in front of large crowds." He subsequently concluded this interview with words of appreciation, articulating that he enjoys "hearing the new calls the cities come up with; it's quite funny sometimes."

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An Interview with Dr. Farnsworth

Lane Carroll, Pershing and Cameron Keeley-Parker, Washington

Q: First, I would like to thank you for coming and speaking to us. I would like to ask as a fellow alumnus of Boys' State, especially the newspaper staff, how does your time as a national reporter compare to your time as a Boys' State reporter? (Cameron Keeley-Parker)

A: With Boys' State, there is so much happening so fast, you guys are here for a week, and a lot happens. So you have to keep track of a million things. It's a great challenge, but also an excellent training.

Q: Voting uninformed is detrimental in all cases, so how do you feel about mainstream politics becoming more and more unfriendly to the media and how that will affect voters? (Cameron Keeley-Parker)

A: I don't know if politicians ever liked the media because they are looking at people who are critical by nature. So when one president looks at the press, they see people who are critical. Ultimately, journalism is not about public relations; it's not about promoting a particular president, party, or point of view, so asking tough questions is going to make you unpopular with whoever is in power. That's the nature of it, so if you are going into journalism, you need to have thick skin because they are going to be a lot of people frustrated with you. And if they're not, you're not doing your job.

Q: Why do you think the split between the Democratic Party and the Republican Party are so dramatic (statistic-based) for primary elections over the past years? (Lane Carroll)

A: *"A lot of it depends on the way the nominees are chosen. If you have a primary where on average you might get 10% of the electric and 5% voting for Democratic candidates and 5% for Republicans, you're talking about to most extreme slices of the Virginia Electric. Those people are going to choose, by enlarge, people who are committed and so that means the nominees will be radical Republicans and extreme Democrats. Then they go to those house of delegate districts which are gerrymandered, in most cases, to elect a Republican, but to do that some of them are also gerrymandered to elect a Democrat, so they aren't competitive races. So a democrat or a republican looking at the primary can usually say, 'It doesn't matter who we nominate, that person is going to win, so why not choose the person who I most believe in.' If we were talking about a district where things were roughly 50/50, then the Democrats and Republicans would have to say, 'Wait a minute, which candidate can win?'"*

Q: What are you most passionate about? (Lane Carroll)

A: *"I am a curious guy about politics, I think above all. What interests me is how the system works and how it is changing. In our talk today, we talked about how the system is changing, it is changing from one election to another as Virginia become more diverse, as the rural population shrinks and the suburban and urban population grows and that's suggesting a different kind of politics. So I'm interested in the puzzle of how both parties adapt to a changing Virginia. That is one of the things I find really interesting in Virginia because the Virginia 10 years ago is different from the Virginia today and the Virginia today will be distinct from the Virginia 10 years from now."*

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Interview with former Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell

Report by: John Hancock (Lee City), Nathnael Alazar (Maury City), and Corwin Matthews (Puller City)

Q (John H.): Were you able to succeed at making an impact on the war on drugs? And looking at today's opioid crisis, how would you address it?

A: "We made some progress over my last ten years in office. On two fronts: one, we really created harsh mandatory sentences for dealers, but we also created programs like drug courts and more therapeutic regimen that was funded for the user. If you use drugs, you're making a decision that's always gonna make an impact on your life and your health. For the longest time our drug problem was sort of illegal drugs coming from outside of the country, but now what we're talking about is a prescription drug crisis. We had the same problem with methamphetamines. When I was governor, we passed some laws that really reduced the availability of the supply of the core components for cooking meth in your own labs and that really didn't work. Although it changed the demand-supply patterns to outside of the country, but we cracked down successfully on in-state production. The opioid thing is a different animal, one that most policy makers are focused on right now and we have a prescription monitoring program that we started in Virginia about 8 or 9 years ago that's a start on that to be able to monitor trends of over prescription. But I think some of it is going to be the medical profession being much more discreet on monitoring their own prescriptions for individual patients, so we don't have an addictive habit forming on habit-forming painkillers first. I think it's both a combination of government and medical profession that's gonna be the solution."

Q (Nathnael A.): How would you say your time in the Virginia state legislature and as state attorney general better equipped you with the skills necessary to become a successful state governor of this great Commonwealth?

A: Oh, it's indispensable. Oh, I really feel bad for the people who come into the governor's office or without having been a legislature or in another statewide office. That's because you just don't know the mechanics of state government and you don't know some of the people. But that was a great advantage for me to know the guts of how state government worked and to have relationships with people in the legislature so I could work for them from day one. The current governor had a little more of a learning curve. He's smart as a fast-study especially on the economic development thing. But, as far as officeholders, I think coming in with no experience in state government on the one hand gives you a fresh perspective so that you're not saddled with any traditions that may or may not be good. It's a tremendous difficulty especially that first session if you had no experience. The only cure for that is that you hire a lot of people around you and your cabinet and your staff that have had that experience and they can help you, but there's an unquestioned advantage to having that experience.

Q (Corwin M.): Being that you're the former Governor of the Virginia Commonwealth, what are your personal opinions on the current projects and assessments on which the current governor Terry McAuliffe is working?

A: "I work hard with Governor McAuliffe to help him with the transition, I think we'd both would say it was a very good transition. He's a Democrat, and I'm a Republican, but it did not interfere with anything. I mean him and I both have differences on everything from taxes to Medicaid to regulations to social issues, but there are some issues like job creations, economic development and managing the budget, that we govern a lot the same. I mean he's had some good results by bringing down the unemployment rate another two percent. And I have no criticism against past or future governors in which they do the best they can for the state."

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Daily Quotes

By: Corwin Matthews

Today's Daily Quote comes stated from the Governor of Virginia; Terry McAuliffe. A Democrat who stands for quality education, new jobs and civil rights for all individuals throughout his commonwealth.

“Always think big, think great things and don’t be afraid of what lies ahead.”

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