

# City of Falls Church 2019 Candidates for City Council and School Board Questionnaire Responses

*Questions Prepared by The Falls Church  
Village Preservation and Improvement Society*



October 17, 2019

**The Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society**  
(VPIS) is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization that encourages civic engagement  
and participation in the democratic process

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## Phil Duncan

Phil met Leslie DeLong while playing on the company softball team at Congressional Quarterly. They married in 1985, and have lived since then on S. West St. Their two children attended City schools K-12. Since retiring from CQ, Phil has run a City-based business providing editorial and public relations services.

**1. What in your past civic or professional activities qualifies you to be on the governing board of the City?**

In making decisions on City Council, I draw on the lessons I've learned and the people I've come to know during many years of local civic involvement. Before my first election to Council in 2012, I served on the City's Economic Development Authority; the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Transportation (chair); the schools' Business in Education Partnership (chair); and the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce (vice chair). I've also been active with Citizens for a Better City, the GMHS Athletic Boosters, and the Falls Church Little League. I've been fortunate to work with hundreds of dedicated volunteers to improve our City, support our schools, and help businesses thrive. This breadth of volunteer service helps me on Council understand the needs of our entire community.

**2. The City is committed to build a new high school and has stated to the public that the cost will be \$120 million. Despite the passage of the referendum, many citizens, even many who voted for it, are of the view that the \$120 million figure is a hefty sum for a small City like ours. Will you commit to keeping the cost of the high school at that level and to strongly discourage and reject requests for more money for the high school project?**

If re-elected, I pledge to continue the current Council's record of working closely with the School Board to plan and build a terrific new high school that will meet our children's needs for generations to come, keeping Falls Church at the forefront of public education in Virginia and the nation. All indications are that our construction cost projections are on target, and, happily, that costs for bonding the project will be below our initial (conservative) projections, because of continuing very low interest rates. As recently as Oct. 1, the word from the schools on the new GMHS is that "work is proceeding fast and remains on schedule and budget."

**3. The City has had a great deal of development over the past 10-15 years on Broad and North Washington Streets. In each instance commercial development has been accompanied by a large number of residential apartments or residential condominiums, bringing in a demand for more City services. How would you propose to encourage commercial economic development that does not add to the City's residential population?**

As chair of Council's committee on economic development, my primary goal is to attract and retain businesses that will enable residents to meet most of our needs for goods and services very close to home, so we can reduce our carbon footprint by walking, biking, or

taking a short hop by car to buy groceries and household goods, dine out, see a movie, concert or play, visit the gym or a doctor, and so on. In recent years, we have attracted numerous new stand-alone commercial businesses, including ALDI, 24 Hour Fitness, PMA Health, Northside Social, and Zoya's Atelier. New commercial establishments in our "legacy" shopping centers include Liberty BBQ in Broaddale, Good Fortune Supermarket in the Eden Center, the Southgate Village Shoppes (Panjshir, Aleworks, FC Bakeshop, etc.), and Falls Church Distillers (on Tinner Hill). Also, I'm happy to say that Falls Church's commitment since 2001 to mixed-use development has become a huge fiscal plus for the City, generating annual net revenues in excess of \$3 million (saving us 8 cents on the tax rate). And the residents of these mixed-use buildings have helped us attract businesses the whole community enjoys — national outfits such as Harris-Teeter and Target, and "boutique" businesses such as Penzeys, Beadazzled, Stylish Patina, Kiln & Custard, Disturbingly Delicious, Café Kindred, and many more.

**4. Affordable housing has been front and center in recent public debates. What is your view of this issue? How would you work to preserve the City's affordable housing stock?**

Earlier this year on Council, I supported adoption of language in the City's Comprehensive Plan that says Falls Church should strive to be home to people across the spectrum of ages and incomes. Now we must make that vision a reality. 1. We should work with the current owners of The Fields (on Ellison St.) to preserve that apartment community as affordable for our lower-income families. 2. We should encourage participation in the City's program of property tax relief and tax deferral for income-eligible senior citizens. (I supported Council's recent expansion of that program, which aims to help more City residents remain in their homes.) 3. To increase the supply of new housing for working people with moderate incomes, we should continue our practice of requiring developers of new mixed-unit buildings to include a share of affordable dwelling units in perpetuity. 4. We should move forward with economic development to generate new revenues that will help us hold our property tax rate level, because easing the tax load on homeowners encourages them to age in place, preserving existing housing stock.

**5. The City does not consistently enforce landscape agreements with commercial properties, resulting in many gaps in the tree canopy where trees lost during construction have not been replaced. In addition, the City has not been consistent in maintaining streetscape plantings, as many beds are left with weeds, half-filled, and unattractive. What would you do to enhance the appearance of our City for citizens and visitors?**

We need to devote more funds and staff to maintenance of the City's streetscape — watering and weeding of plantings, mowing and removal of rogue vegetation in the right of way, trash removal from sidewalk cans, and litter pickup around bus stops and other areas with heavy foot traffic. Citizens and businesses also can help prevent litter and promoting beautification. More private-sector effort and a modest application of additional government resources could yield visibly improved results.

**6. One of our City's greatest strengths (and a primary reason many move here) is its small geographical size and relative walkability, yet we are a long way off from officially**

**being recognized as a walk-friendly and bike-friendly town. What do you see as the primary impediments to enhanced walkability and bikeability and how would you address them?**

The essential first step in promoting walkability and bikeability is to give people something to walk/bike to. In this respect, Falls Church is making progress, but we still have work to do to bring more goods and services within close range of our residential neighborhoods. Thanks to stand-alone commercial development as well as new ground-floor businesses in mixed-use buildings (see answer to #3 above), many more City residents can walk/bike to a grocery, coffee shop, restaurant, hair stylist, dentist, doctor, fitness center, etc. When Founders Row opens at Broad & West, the City will have its own movie house for the first time in three decades. We need to keep up the pace of bringing to the City more business and entertainment venues that residents can easily reach.

Also, we should continue the current Council's investment in upgrading City parks, which are appealing destinations for walkers and cyclists. Improvements on the W&OD Bike Trail and expansion of the City's Bikeshare network will help City residents connect to the Metro stations at East and West Falls Church. We also need to do a comprehensive examination of the City's sidewalk, crosswalk, and neighborhood traffic calming needs, and undertake an ambitious effort, bond-financed if necessary, to design and build measures to meet the most pressing safety needs.

**7. The City has seen a decrease in tree canopy coverage and green space due to both residential and commercial development. What steps should the city be taking to increase pervious surface, tree canopy and open space?**

The City has proudly maintained its status as "Tree City USA" even as we have modernized our commercial and residential landscape. When residential lots transition from old homes to new, larger ones, we should more strictly enforce existing limits on impervious surface, and we should examine legislating a stricter standard, to preserve more old-growth trees that help absorb stormwater runoff. In one of the most significant open-space preservation moves in City history, the current Council approved public purchase of the Fellows property (across from TJ school), which was slated for private construction of seven large houses.

**8. Many lots dedicated to businesses fill up, causing parking difficulties and sometimes towing. How would you address this issue? Do you support building a municipal parking garage?**

Before spending taxpayer dollars to build a costly municipal garage, I want us to pursue other, more affordable options for helping customers patronize City businesses. 1. I have supported the current Council's expansion of on-street public parking downtown, and our efforts to improve signage directing motorists to the City's free parking in downtown surface lots. 2. I support our policy that new mixed-use developments must include adequate structured parking to accommodate residents and customers. 3. I support measures that encourage City residents to leave cars at home and do business by foot or bike when that's practical: Better sidewalks, safer crosswalks, Bikeshare, new bus shelters to encourage transit use — all these and more can play a role in helping get customers into City businesses.

**9. Considering the high tax rate that city residents face in comparison to our adjacent neighbors, how would you improve or change city services to allow for a decrease in the tax rate?**

City government and the school system should always be looking for administrative services that can be delivered more efficiently through closely coordinated (and possibly consolidated) effort. Facilities maintenance, human resources management, and technology and communications services hold promise in this regard. But the best path to keeping the property tax rate steady is to pursue policies in step with the 2040 Vision for Falls Church in our Comprehensive Plan. It says the City's long-term success can be secured thusly: "By investing in neighborhoods, community services and facilities, schools, and parks, the City preserves small-town character and history while honoring a deep commitment to progress and a growing community. The continual rejuvenation of robust commercial areas supports the City's high quality of life for all citizens."

## Letty Hardi

City resident since 2003, with deep Falls Church roots -Mother of 3 FCCPS students and spouse to Falls Church “lifer” -Former financial services and marketing professional - University of Virginia graduate - economics and psychology -First term on City Council: 2016-present

### **1. What in your past civic or professional activities qualifies you to be on the governing board of the City?**

Since my election, I've served on the City Council's Economic Development and Appointments Committees and am an active liaison to several boards and commissions: the Economic Development Authority, Housing Commission, Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, and Arts and Humanities Council. I'm heavily involved in our schools and PTAs, with my kids attending 3 of the 5 schools. We aspire for Falls Church to be a community for all generations - and my own family is living the full life cycle here: from newly married young professionals to working parents to seniors on fixed incomes. That unique, personal perspective guides my values and priorities. In my former career at Capital One, I managed complex, multi-million dollar cross functional projects and teams. As a self-professed policy wonk, I do my homework, understand the details, and ask questions. I believe active citizen engagement and transparency are critical parts of local government. I bring my strong communication, organization, and analytical skills to city decisions, host regular office hours, and write a weekly blog about our local government.

### **2. The City is committed to build a new high school and has stated to the public that the cost will be \$120 million. Despite the passage of the referendum, many citizens, even many who voted for it, are of the view that the \$120 million figure is a hefty sum for a small City like ours. Will you commit to keeping the cost of the high school at that level and to strongly discourage and reject requests for more money for the high school project?**

I believe the high school project needs to stick to the budget. As a member of the working group that reviewed over 13 options in 2016 before deciding that the “build new” option was the most affordable in the long run and scrutinized the financial analysis to make it possible, I know \$120M is a big lift for a little city. I am mindful of the risks to the city and the tax burden on our citizens, which we've kept as low as possible with the accompanying development. As a Council member, my voting record shows that I have been a strong voice for prudent financial management and have not been afraid to make tough calls. We've partnered with our School Board to ensure there is industry-standard contingency built into the existing budget to weather escalating construction costs.

### **3. The City has had a great deal of development over the past 10-15 years on Broad and North Washington Streets. In each instance commercial development has been accompanied by a large number of residential apartments or residential condominiums, bringing in a demand for more City services. How would you propose to encourage commercial economic development that does not add to the City's residential population?**

I believe a successful commercial district has a diverse mix of uses, which ensures resilience as market conditions fluctuate, adds vibrancy, and provides additional housing options. Population growth is happening around the entire region - it would be unrealistic to prevent population from growing in Falls Church, especially when a sustainable city needs

a balanced demographic base. I review the fiscal analysis for our projects regularly, which continues to show positive net fiscal benefits, meaning that even after accounting for costs of city services, the financial benefit is positive. As of 2017, the net revenue was equivalent to 7 cents on the real estate tax rate, which means our tax rate would be 7 cents higher had it not been for the projects that have occurred. This positive net fiscal impact is what helps improve our city services and infrastructure. That said, we don't and shouldn't say yes to every project. We should continue to hold a high bar - ie, negotiate a healthy mix of uses and amenities that benefit the community with development, especially encouraging office and retail near transit. As evident by strong year-over-year sales and meals tax growth, our strategy for increasing economic growth is making a difference.

**4. Affordable housing has been front and center in recent public debates. What is your view of this issue? How would you work to preserve the City's affordable housing stock?**

Housing affordability, besides being a moral and social issue, needs to be a local priority as it has far-reaching impacts on transportation, economic development, and the environment. We need to keep a tight rein on budgets and capital projects so property taxes don't further exacerbate affordability. As a Council member, I've made prudent budget choices and expanded senior tax relief. We need to preserve the affordable housing here, eg The Fields, and add more workforce housing options so teachers, police officers, service workers can afford to live closer to their jobs. In my tenure, we've negotiated new affordable units that will never expire. We should also learn from housing reform happening across the US, like new zoning tools that incent keeping/renovating smaller homes vs teardowns and learn how diverse housing types such as cottages, micronunits, ADUs can help.

**5.. The City does not consistently enforce landscape agreements with commercial properties, resulting in many gaps in the tree canopy where trees lost during construction have not been replaced. In addition, the City has not been consistent in maintaining streetscape plantings, as many beds are left with weeds, half-filled, and unattractive. What would you do to enhance the appearance of our City for citizens and visitors**

If there are landscape agreements as part of mixed use projects' negotiations, then clearly those should be enforced. Also, with the most recent developments such as the 10 acre project adjacent to the new high school, the internal streetscape will be privately maintained. I supported the increase in the transient occupancy tax (ie, hotel tax) a few years ago which has been used to fund beautification and downtown improvements such as the flower basket program, festive tree lighting, parking lot improvements, benches, and trash/recycling cans. Most recently, the addition of Mr. Brown's Park has transformed an underutilized spot and created a needed gathering space. Details like these are important in making Falls Church a welcoming, vibrant place for visitors.

**6. One of our City's greatest strengths (and a primary reason many move here) is its small geographical size and relative walkability, yet we are a long way off from officially being recognized as a walk-friendly and bike-friendly town. What do you see as the primary impediments to enhanced walkability and bikeability and how would you address them?**

Walkability and bikeability are personal priorities of mine, but we need safer and more ways for people to choose those options to get to Metro or the new amenities around town. I've advocated for more infrastructure to support alternative transportation modes: sidewalks, crosswalks, bike paths, bikeshare, bus, transit access and most importantly, dedicated funding in the budget. One of the most popular things I've advocated for is the

completion of the stretch of missing sidewalk on Park and N. Virginia. I also support funding a city-wide traffic calming push, extra police enforcement, and signage to address cut through traffic and speeding issues that pose a danger to pedestrians, especially near schools, bus stops, civic buildings, and other areas of high foot traffic.

**7. The City has seen a decrease in tree canopy coverage and green space due to both residential and commercial development. What steps should the city be taking to increase pervious surface, tree canopy and open space?**

According to the city arborist, the city's tree canopy coverage has held steadily at 46%, which meets/exceeds the region's goal for tree canopy, but it doesn't mean we can't do better. As we experience more severe weather, mature trees boost our resilience by absorbing stormwater runoff so they're critically important. As such, I support updating our city code with more stringent tree preservation for residential and commercial development, a tree replacement fund, and more guidelines for incorporating green space in new commercial developments (green roofs, parks, green walls, etc). I'm proud that in my tenure, the City has purchased the Fellows Property, adding 2 acres of open space as a future park. We should keep looking for strategic open space acquisitions.

**8. Many lots dedicated to businesses fill up, causing parking difficulties and sometimes towing. How would you address this issue? Do you support building a municipal parking garage?**

While we push for alternative modes of transportation, I recognize some residents and visitors may need to drive, so we should ensure we have adequate parking so our businesses can thrive. In the past year, I led a working group focused on parking and we added 30+ new spaces in the downtown. We also have better markings to reduce confusion of where to park that can lead to towing. I support the parking study underway - which will measure parking usage vs supply, forecast future demand, and strategies such as shared parking arrangements, improved wayfinding to the public parking, and technology solutions. If the data points to the need for additional parking, I would support innovative ways to add parking, balancing limited land, costs, and future viability of a dedicated parking structure.

**9. Considering the high tax rate that city residents face in comparison to our adjacent neighbors, how would you improve or change city services to allow for a decrease in the tax rate?**

Our property tax rate is higher than our immediate neighbors but is on par with smaller jurisdictions in the region, likely due to similar lack of economies of scale. That said, I recognize that our high property tax rate can be a burden, especially for those on fixed incomes. I am proud that we have expanded senior tax relief during my tenure. With economic development paying off, we have strong revenue growth but also need to be judicious with expenditures and ensure scarce resources are prioritized to top citizen needs. With every budget, I read every page of the budget book, push on spending requests, ask questions, and look for efficiencies - especially in creative ways to share services across general government and schools. My track record shows I've been a diligent steward of the city budget, and I am committed to taxes as low as possible.

## Dave Tarter

I was born and raised in Northern Virginia, but it took Falls Church to provide me a forever-home community where I wanted to raise my family. With two kids in the school system and a wife who works there, I remain heavily invested in Falls Church's future.

**1. What in your past civic or professional activities qualifies you to be on the governing board of the City?**

Caring for my community led me to participate in its direction and leadership. That's why I have been engaged in the civic life of Falls Church since moving here over 15 years ago.

I have been a member of City Council for eight years, the last six as mayor. Prior to that, I was Chair of the Falls Church Economic Development Authority and served as interim City Attorney.

Regionally, I have represented the City as the Past President of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and currently as Chair of the Northern Virginia Regional Authority.

Additionally, in my professional career as a commercial real estate attorney, I have worked on numerous "smart growth" projects throughout Northern Virginia.

**2. The City is committed to build a new high school and has stated to the public that the cost will be \$120 million. Despite the passage of the referendum, many citizens, even many who voted for it, are of the view that the \$120 million figure is a hefty sum for a small City like ours. Will you commit to keeping the cost of the high school at that level and to strongly discourage and reject requests for more money for the high school project?**

It's important that our high school come in on time and on budget, as even a small percentage increase over-run can cost taxpayers millions. Fortunately, due to sound oversight and management, the school is currently on the right track.

Even more important, however, is ensuring that the adjacent 10 acres being utilized for economic development, is done right. If so, it will generate millions of dollars in new tax revenue each year and go a long way towards paying for that new high school. This project will also draw new visitors and patrons to our City and catalyze redevelopment of the industrial and underperforming properties nearby.

I hope to continue applying my professional knowledge and experience to these projects for positive outcomes that will benefit our community for decades to come.

**3. The City has had a great deal of development over the past 10-15 years on Broad and North Washington Streets. In each instance commercial development has been accompanied by a large number of residential apartments or residential condominiums, bringing in a demand for more City services. How would you propose to encourage commercial economic development that does not add to the City's residential population?**

We need to continue to expand and balance our tax base, which is still skewed towards residential properties, but I do not support a moratorium on residential development.

We must continue to strive for a greater proportion of commercial uses, such as high-quality retail, hotel, office, and entertainment uses and better exploit our proximity to major transit ways, such as Route 7, Lee Highway, and our Metro stations.

Each new development that I have supported has had a strong commercial component like the Harris Teeter, Target, and (under construction) movie theater projects. I would also note that the housing components of these projects have been aimed at attracting new demographics to the City, such as small units for young professionals and age-restricted housing for seniors (Founders Row).

**4. Affordable housing has been front and center in recent public debates. What is your view of this issue? How would you work to preserve the City's affordable housing stock?**

It is critical that Falls Church remain a diverse, inclusive and welcoming community for people of all ages, backgrounds and income levels.

Housing affordability is a multi-faceted issue that requires intelligently crafted solutions.

I have supported recent efforts to ensure affordability, which include expanding senior tax-relief efforts, extension of affordable units from 30 years to the life of the project for new developments, workforce housing for teachers and other essential local employees, and ways to maintain our existing affordable housing stock.

Sound solutions for keeping the City affordable include keeping taxes as low as possible through continued economic growth, diversifying the tax base so that commercial and residential properties are both sharing in the burden, and employing measured spending techniques.

**5. The City does not consistently enforce landscape agreements with commercial properties, resulting in many gaps in the tree canopy where trees lost during construction have not been replaced. In addition, the City has not been consistent in maintaining streetscape plantings, as many beds are left with weeds, half-filled, and unattractive. What would you do to enhance the appearance of our City for citizens and visitors?**

Attractive streetscaping is a critical component of a vibrant, walkable, environmentally sustainable downtown.

As a member of the streetscape taskforce several years ago, I have been a strong advocate for an enhanced pedestrian experience.

In terms of streetscape maintenance, I believe that adjacent property owners are the best parties to ensure the proper appearance of planting beds. These property owners have the incentive, personnel, and financial resources to maintain the planting beds, and save City staff and taxpayers the burden. With recent new projects, we have continued to upgrade developer responsibilities for their adjacent streetscape frontage.

**6. One of our City's greatest strengths (and a primary reason many move here) is its small geographical size and relative walkability, yet we are a long way off from officially being recognized as a walk-friendly and bike-friendly town. What do you see as the primary impediments to enhanced walkability and bikeability and how would you address them?**

I am an avid walker and a strong advocate for pedestrian improvements.

Our city's infrastructure was built when people drove everywhere without considering healthier and cleaner alternatives.

It takes time to change both the infrastructure and the mindset to achieve the goal of a more pedestrian and bike friendly town. We have made great strides in recent years. You may have noticed the new crosswalks, sidewalks, bump-outs and other traffic calming measures that have appeared throughout the City.

We continue to make steady progress on these improvements, but funding is a challenge, particularly in light of our other on-going capital projects like the high school. I hope our recent budget surplus creates opportunities to accelerate this work.

**7. The City has seen a decrease in tree canopy coverage and green space due to both residential and commercial development. What steps should the city be taking to increase pervious surface, tree canopy and open space?**

Our tree canopy makes Falls Church special and ensures that we proudly remain a Tree City USA designee year after year.

We must make sure that new development is matched with a commitment to parks and open space. We are doing just that.

In the past few weeks, we have purchased new park land known as the "Fellow's Property." We are about to commence renovation and improvements to Big Chimney's Park (funded mostly by developer contributions from the Harris Teeter project). And we have completed an upgrade to the Downtown Park, now known as Mr. Brown's Park.

Further steps include revisiting our requirements for tree replacement and tree canopy for new residential development and continuing to require new development open space and canopy commitments.

**8. Many lots dedicated to businesses fill up, causing parking difficulties and sometimes towing. How would you address this issue? Do you support building a municipal parking garage?**

Ultimately, the success of this City is intertwined with the success of our businesses. Downtown parking is a complex problem that requires a multi-pronged approach.

First, we are reducing the dependence on parking by improving walkability and bikeability in the area.

Since many people still use cars, however, the need for ample, convenient parking is a must. Right now, much of our downtown parking is fractured with small lots controlled by different owners. The most efficient solution is to get these businesses to work together to better manage parking.

The City is leading the way, recently coordinating discussions among property owners and efforts to repave and re-sign the downtown lot.

A new garage is a possibility, though an expensive one. Better for taxpayers, is requiring new developments to open their parking to the public.

**9. Considering the high tax rate that city residents face in comparison to our adjacent neighbors, how would you improve or change city services to allow for a decrease in the tax rate?**

I understand and share many of our citizens' concern regarding our tax rate. I pay it, too. I am mindful that the rate is higher than our immediate neighbors and is a particular burden for those on fixed incomes or of modest means.

While we need to ensure that our local government operates in a lean, efficient manner, it is the great schools, strong services, and small-town attention that make Falls Church a special place.

The best way to keep our tax rate as low as possible is to continue delivering high quality economic development, such as the Harris Teeter project and the new movie theaters.

## Stuart Whitaker

Financial economist by training, AB, MBA from the University of Chicago. Worked in telecommunications and information services for an equipment manufacturer and as a consultant, in the US and Europe. Focused on climate and transportation since 2008.

**1. What in your past civic or professional activities qualifies you to be on the governing board of the City?**

Professionally, I began my career as a financial analyst in a manufacturing firm. Later I worked on information systems, strategy, capital investments, and operations. For the past decade, I have worked to improve the local transportation system by developing a transportation metric, meeting with elected officials, staff, appointed committees, publishing articles in the Washington Post<sup>1</sup> and elsewhere, speaking at public fora, and participating in the TPB's Citizens Leadership Institute on transportation. I have been self employed for over thirty years, working in the US and Europe with people of diverse national, racial, ethnic, economic, and cultural backgrounds. I have been active in a number of civic groups, including the Sierra Club and Transitters. I was president of my local college and business school alumni associations, president of my homeowners association, a longtime coach of my son's and daughter's soccer teams, commissioner of an adult coed soccer league, and a FIFA certified soccer referee.

**2. The City is committed to build a new high school and has stated to the public that the cost will be \$120 million. Despite the passage of the referendum, many citizens, even many who voted for it, are of the view that the \$120 million figure is a hefty sum for a small City like ours. Will you commit to keeping the cost of the high school at that level and to strongly discourage and reject requests for more money for the high school project?**

My first assignment out of graduate school was to evaluate the performance of a newly constructed \$90M (1980 dollars) manufacturing plant against its business plan, and I view the new high school through a similar lens. I have managed projects and businesses for decades and appreciate the importance of fiscal discipline. While I strongly believe in excellent education and support the new high school, more dollars don't necessarily guarantee better education, and I commit to ensuring that the public gets a good return on its education investment.

**3. The City has had a great deal of development over the past 10-15 years on Broad and North Washington Streets. In each instance commercial development has been accompanied by a large number of residential apartments or residential condominiums, bringing in a demand for more City services. How would you propose to encourage commercial economic development that does not add to the City's residential population?**

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<sup>1</sup> Silver Line opened transit troubles for bus riders, Stuart M. Whitaker, August 29, 2014  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/silver-line-opened-transit-troubles-for-bus-riders/2014/08/29/1859219c-2e30-11e4-994d-202962a9150c\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/silver-line-opened-transit-troubles-for-bus-riders/2014/08/29/1859219c-2e30-11e4-994d-202962a9150c_story.html)

Let's avoid another transportation mistake, Stuart M. Whitaker, July 8, 2016  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/lets-avoid-another-transportation-mistake/2016/07/08/29688050-43a4-11e6-88d0-6adee48be8bc\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/lets-avoid-another-transportation-mistake/2016/07/08/29688050-43a4-11e6-88d0-6adee48be8bc_story.html)

The City is going to experience increased congestion from soon-to-be completed development and with that increased traffic will come increased safety concerns. I propose to encourage commercial development by moving forward expeditiously with improved public transit generally and with Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) running down Route 7 specifically. BRT will reduce the dependence of residents on autos and will allow non-residents better access to commercial developments. Protected bike lanes and designs to make walking safer should be developed as well. In addition to attracting commercial development, such infrastructure development will reduce the cost to developers of expensive dedicated parking.

**4. Affordable housing has been front and center in recent public debates. What is your view of this issue? How would you work to preserve the City's affordable housing stock?**

I am concerned about the significant reduction in affordable housing from 470 units in 2012 to 283 in 2018. I support the recently adopted revision to the comprehensive plan, and strategies to achieve the City's housing vision.

**5. The City does not consistently enforce landscape agreements with commercial properties, resulting in many gaps in the tree canopy where trees lost during construction have not been replaced. In addition, the City has not been consistent in maintaining streetscape plantings, as many beds are left with weeds, half-filled, and unattractive. What would you do to enhance the appearance of our City for citizens and visitors?**

In our council-manager form of government, the council is responsible for establishing policy through legislation and the manager is responsible for execution. I agree that the appearance of the City is important. I would investigate to determine the reason for the shortfalls in landscapes and streetscapes and develop a solution according to the findings.

**6. One of our City's greatest strengths (and a primary reason many move here) is its small geographical size and relative walkability, yet we are a long way off from officially being recognized as a walk-friendly and bike-friendly town. What do you see as the primary impediments to enhanced walkability and bikeability and how would you address them?**

I believe we face two issues. First is the fact that the City is auto-centric, so much so that sometimes it seems that the City is two highways surrounded by houses, rather than a community served by roadways. In order to encourage people to walk and bike we need to stop designing for cars--even the design for the new West Falls Church Economic Development Project perpetuates this auto-centricity by putting a parking lot in the center of the development and giving short shrift to other modes of travel. We need to build protected bike lanes so children and adults alike will be safe while riding. We need to build sidewalks. We need to enforce traffic laws and investigate changes to reduce speeds. Second, we need officials to lead by example by walking, riding, and using transit. If you want a walk-friendly and bike-friendly town, I encourage you to ask City Council candidates how often and how far they walk, bike, and transit.

**7. The City has seen a decrease in tree canopy coverage and green space due to both residential and commercial development. What steps should the city be taking to increase pervious surface, tree canopy and open space?**

I support the proposal in the draft of the Comprehensive Plan to increase the tree canopy from 46 to 50 percent. I support enforcing existing tree canopy and green space requirements, and support the joint VPIS-Falls Church City Neighborhood Tree Program.

**8. Many lots dedicated to businesses fill up, causing parking difficulties and sometimes towing. How would you address this issue? Do you support building a municipal parking garage?**

I don't support building a municipal parking garage. We should invest in infrastructure that makes the City more walkable, bike, and transit friendly rather than making more auto friendly investments that would bring additional congestion and other associated externalities at additional costs.

**9. Considering the high tax rate that city residents face in comparison to our adjacent neighbors, how would you improve or change city services to allow for a decrease in the tax rate?**

My vision for the City is that it be livable, sustainable, and equitable, and as a member of the Council I would look at every City activity in terms of how that activity does or does not contribute to achieving this vision. The high City tax rate is problematic in terms of that vision, so I would look across all services to find opportunities for savings and seek to bring our tax rate in line over time with other local jurisdictions.

## Susan Dimock

My husband, Mike, and I have lived in Falls Church for 19 years. We and our son, Casey, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School, are fortunate to live next door to my mom and uncle, Ginny and George Cronin. I served as a room parent for Casey's class every year from kindergarten through 6th grade. I joined the Health and Wellness School Board Advisory Committee in 2013 and have chaired the Committee since 2016. Last fall, I served on the New GMHS's Design Subcommittee for Academics. I was also a student at George Mason High School for my ninth-grade year. I hold a PhD in Sociology from the University of California, San Diego, a MA in History from the University of Toronto, and a BA in History from Cornell University.

**1. What in your past civic or professional activities qualifies you to be on the governing board of the City School System?**

My volunteer work combined with my professional experience have prepared me well to serve on our school board. Since 2013, I have served on the Health and Wellness School Board Advisory Committee and have chaired the committee since 2016. As chair, I have grown the committee, increased our productivity and developed community programming. Professionally, I bring 20+ years of experience working with college students and universities. My career is focused on experiential learning in higher education. I design, direct, and instruct semester-in-DC university programs, helping young adults successfully launch from school to life to career fulfillment. I also created an advisory board for a Washington-based university program. I worked with the board to develop and formalize board roles and by-laws, fostered development and growth of the board, and structured board meetings.

**2. Many, many studies prove that the more time students spend in school the better their education. As of now the Falls Church school system provides the minimum-required 180 days of school. Do you support expanding the educational school day or adding educational days to the school calendar?**

As a school board member, I will definitely be open to considering whether this is the best way to invest our resources. My understanding is that the evidence is more nuanced than is suggested by this question. Yes, research suggests that more time in school may benefit students depending on how the extra time is used and may help students who are most at risk for school failure. But there are many ways to provide extended educational contact outside of changing the school year for all, which would put FCCPS out of sync with nearby schools and have a significant effect on our teachers and staff -- and therefore our budgets - that must be taken into account.

**3. The City is committed to build a new high school and has stated to the public that the cost will be \$120 million. Despite the passage of the referendum, many citizens, even many who voted for it, are of the view that the \$120 million figure is a hefty sum for a small City like ours. Will you commit to keep the cost of the high school at that level and to strongly discourage and reject requests for more money for the high school project?**

A great community deserves great schools, and I am grateful to our community for supporting the new high school. The \$120 million was a heavy lift for our community and I would be hard pressed to ask for more funds for the high school project. I will work with the school board and superintendent to be a good steward of our community's resources.

**4. The public heard, during the discussions of the need for a new high school, that deferring maintenance had greatly harmed the existing George Mason facility. We have spent a great deal of money recently into expanding Mount Daniel and Thomas Jefferson Elementary School and building the Henderson Middle School. What will you do to ensure that the buildings are properly maintained?**

I will work with the board and superintendent to make sure that we are informed of and kept up to date on the infrastructural needs of our schools. When budgets are tight, basic maintenance is often the "easiest" thing to cut, but I agree that we have learned the long-term implications of not staying ahead of these issues. As a school board member, I will always focus on the long-time horizon in balancing investments. To maintain our strong school system, we must have up-to-date and well-maintained facilities.

**5. One of the prime arguments for the new high school was that it would build facilities – a new auditorium, athletic facilities, meetings rooms and classrooms -- that the community can use. How will you ensure that the community has robust access to the new school facilities?**

The new high school will be an asset to our community. I will work with the board and superintendent to look at how the facilities can be best accessed by the community. Currently, the school system has process in place for community groups to rent space in school facilities on both weekday evenings and weekends, which I support.

**6. Like all school systems, the Falls Church system is obligated to provide excellent education for our students with significant disabilities. Will you seek to ensure that students with disabilities are placed in and included in the general education classrooms with their peers?**

Both students with disabilities and general education students may benefit from students with disabilities being included in general education classrooms. I will work with the school board and superintendent to ensure that students with disabilities receive the services and accommodations they need in our school system. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires that schools educate disabled students in the least-restrictive environment possible. In the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process, the student's parents, educators, and education specialists decide on goals for the student. Parents and educators must look at what learning environment will best help the child achieve these goals.

**7. There are many trades available that society will always need, such as plumbers, electricians, hvac repair, auto repair, etc. where a trade skill or internship/mentoring program would be the proper way to go for a particular student. How would you have our school system help and support those students? While we use the Arlington Career Center**

**for some programs, it has a waiting list that can delay or eliminate opportunities for students seeking this sort of training.**

Our school system cannot be “one size fits all.” We must provide students with broad exposure to subject matter and career paths so that each student has an opportunity to develop their interests and ideas of what to pursue after high school. As someone who believes firmly in experiential learning, I will work with the school board and superintendent to identify more options for students to explore the trades. Internships and mentoring programs provide powerful learning experiences for young people and can help them see a broader range of career options.

## Laura Downs

Laura Downs and her husband, Christian, moved to Falls Church City over ten years ago to raise their four children who attend four of the City's five schools (MD, TJ, MEH, GMHS). Before leaving the workforce to start a family, Laura served as Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions and later Executive Director of Student Life at The George Washington University. While at GW, she earned her master's degree in Higher Education Administration and served as Chair of GW's National Advisory Council on Education. More recently, Laura served as President of the Falls Church Elementary PTA from 2017-18. She is a current Board member of the Falls Church Education Foundation, a current Board member of the Falls Church Kiwanis Little League and is a member of the Architectural Selection Advisory Committee for the new GMHS.

**1. What in your past civic or professional activities qualifies you to be on the governing board of the City School System?**

I served as President of the Falls Church Elementary PTA from 2017-2018. This role enabled me to work closely with Peter Noonan and the principals and teachers of JTP, MD and TJ and better understand some of the challenges and strengths of each school. I am also a current Board member of the Falls Church Education Foundation and have read many grant applications from teachers and staff which helps me understand the needs of the school system. As a professional, I served as Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Executive Director of Student Life at The George Washington University which provided me with professional, executive-level experience in education administration.

**2. Many, many studies prove that the more time students spend in school the better their education. As of now the Falls Church school system provides the minimum-required 180 days of school. Do you support expanding the educational school day or adding educational days to the school calendar?**

Our scores on SOL tests are high and it does not seem that the community desires an extended school year. If the intent is to help close the achievement gap with students who traditionally do not perform as well on tests (English language learners, economically disadvantaged, minorities), there could be other means of helping these students. If a longer school year was to be considered budget implications as well as teacher recruitment and retainment would need to be weighed. I would not support a longer day as younger students do not have the stamina or focus. For older students who play a high school sport, they often do not return from away games until 11:00 pm so an extended day would make their return even later. Perhaps the better approach is to determine how effectively our schools use instruction time.

**3. The City is committed to build a new high school and has stated to the public that the cost will be \$120 million. Despite the passage of the referendum, many citizens, even many who voted for it, are of the view that the \$120 million figure is a hefty sum for a small City like ours. Will you commit to keep the cost of the high school at that level and to strongly discourage and reject requests for more money for the high school project?**

Peter Noonan signed the final Guaranteed Maximum Price contract with Gilbane that guarantees the project will not exceed \$120 million. I am confident that Peter Noonan understands the tax burden the high school will place on residents and understands that the cost of the school must be within the parameters voted on by the citizens. In addition, the schools hired a consultant, Brailsford and Dunlavey, to serve as our owner's representative to make certain the project stays on time and on budget. I am a member of the Architectural Selection Advisory Committee for the new GMHS and attend meetings with the representatives from Brailsford & Dunlavey. They will not allow any changes to the design that will drive up the cost or delay completion.

**4. The public heard, during the discussions of the need for a new high school, that deferring maintenance had greatly harmed the existing George Mason facility. We have spent a great deal of money recently into expanding Mount Daniel and Thomas Jefferson Elementary School and building the Henderson Middle School. What will you do to ensure that the buildings are properly maintained?**

Though facility management is not within the direct purview of the School Board, the budget is. I can work with Peter Noonan and Seve Padilla, Director of Facilities, to receive updates on each building. During the budget season, I will ask Mr. Padilla to submit a detailed report listing recommended repairs and improvements to each building and the associated costs. Though the budget will always be tight, it is more cost effective and realistic to spend a small amount of money on an annual basis for maintenance than to wait until major costly repairs are needed.

**5. One of the prime arguments for the new high school was that it would build facilities – a new auditorium, athletic facilities, meeting rooms and classrooms -- that the community can use. How will you ensure that the community has robust access to the new school facilities?**

I was on the Athletics subcommittee in the early planning stages of the high school. In the original version, there were no lights planned for the practice field, but our committee pushed for it so that the community could use the field in the evenings and Peter Noonan agreed. We will need to work closely with Seve Padilla and his team to ensure time is reserved for the community to use the facilities. We will also need to establish an easy-to-use process for community members to reserve facilities or look up open hours (like "open gym" hours at the community center). Mr. Padilla and his team can create a monthly calendar, so community members know when certain facilities are open such as the athletic fields.

**6. Like all school systems, the Falls Church system is obligated to provide excellent education for our students with significant disabilities. Will you seek to ensure that students with disabilities are placed in and included in the general education classrooms with their peers?**

If parents and school staff agree that inclusion is best for the student, as a Board member, I will advocate for that. In some instances, parents and the staff may agree that inclusion is

not the best approach. It becomes challenging when a parent believes inclusion is best for their student, but the schools do not. Families may need assistance in understanding an IEP and what it provides for and how they can have an impact on the process. I have received a lot of great input from special education families that will inform my decision making. If a family feels that the schools are not being inclusive and their child is being penalized, I would offer to facilitate a conversation between them and Rebecca Sharp, Director of Special Education.

**7. There are many trades available that society will always need, such as plumbers, electricians, hvac repair, auto repair, etc. where a trade skill or internship/mentoring program would be the proper way to go for a particular student. How would you have our school system help and support those students? While we use the Arlington Career Center for some programs, it has a waiting list that can delay or eliminate opportunities for students seeking this sort of training.**

In addition to the ACC, I will ensure students are aware of programs like the EIP Program, which identifies at-risk students and prepares them for college at GMU and the career fairs and career chats at MEH and Mason so that all students are exposed to a variety of careers. I will make certain that the college and career guidance office helps students explore options beyond a four-year college such as trade schools and community colleges. I recently met a FCC resident who teaches at the ACC. She explained that we spend a lot of tax money sending our students to the ACC and it would be more cost effective to develop our own training program for trades. Peter Noonan also recently mentioned exploring the addition of the “IB Career Related Programme” to our IB program. This is an idea that should be pursued.

## Phil Reitinger

I have lived in Falls Church City since 1998 and served on the School Board for four years, two of them as Vice Chair. I have three kids at GMHS who are FCCPS "lifers." I have come to know many of the teachers and administrators in FCCPS personally.

**1. What in your past civic or professional activities qualifies you to be on the governing board of the City School System?**

I have already served on the School Board for four years, two of them as vice chair. I have participated in school activities, volunteered for school events like Field Day, and acted as the School Board liaison to several advisory committees and parent groups. In my private life, I have served on or led many governing bodies including the G8 Subgroup on High Tech Crime, the New York Governor's Cybersecurity Advisory Board, and others. I'm a former lawyer, engineer, and government official.

**2. Many, many studies prove that the more time students spend in school the better their education. As of now the Falls Church school system provides the minimum-required 180 days of school. Do you support expanding the educational school day or adding educational days to the school calendar?**

I do not. Extending the school year farther into the summer after SOL, AP, IB and final exams occur does not seem useful to me – indeed, I was a proponent of the Board's approach to always end school by June 15. The Board will consider extending the school year next year to start before Labor Day, especially given the late Labor Day, but that will require a full inquiry with extensive community input. I would not support starting school in early to mid-August. Finally, our students are engaged in many activities after school – if the school day were to be extended, I'd prefer to see more recreational and outside time.

**3. The City is committed to build a new high school and has stated to the public that the cost will be \$120 million. Despite the passage of the referendum, many citizens, even many who voted for it, are of the view that the \$120 million figure is a hefty sum for a small City like ours. Will you commit to keep the cost of the high school at that level and to strongly discourage and reject requests for more money for the high school project?**

Yes. Absent significant unforeseen circumstances, we should keep the cost of the high school to \$120 million.

**4. The public heard, during the discussions of the need for a new high school, that deferring maintenance had greatly harmed the existing George Mason facility. We have spent a great deal of money recently into expanding Mount Daniel and Thomas Jefferson Elementary School and building the Henderson Middle School. What will you do to ensure that the buildings are properly maintained?**

As a Board Member, I would work to ensure that sufficient money was included in the budget for maintenance and upkeep and that operational effectiveness was included in the Board's oversight of the school system. I would also seek enough funding from the general

government to provide upkeep. Managing maintenance is a responsibility of the Superintendent and his team.

**5. One of the prime arguments for the new high school was that it would build facilities – a new auditorium, athletic facilities, meetings rooms and classrooms -- that the community can use. How will you ensure that the community has robust access to the new school facilities?**

Through two means. First is the design of the high school – it has already been built with community access specifically in mind, so that areas like the gym can be made available more easily and securely. Second is policy and practice. As a Board member, I would make sure that FCCPS policies support broad community use, and that in practice that requirement is met.

**6. Like all school systems, the Falls Church system is obligated to provide excellent education for our students with significant disabilities. Will you seek to ensure that students with disabilities are placed in and included in the general education classrooms with their peers?**

I will do my best to ensure that FCCPS' special education programs are sufficiently resourced, that the Superintendent places a high-priority on special education, and that our school policies align with best practices. I will listen to school administrators, the Special Education Advisory Committee, and parents. We must provide the best education for all our students. I would also note that the current Superintendent began his career in education as a special education teacher.

**7. There are many trades available that society will always need, such as plumbers, electricians, hvac repair, auto repair, etc. where a trade skill or internship/mentoring program would be the proper way to go for a particular student. How would you have our school system help and support those students? While we use the Arlington Career Center for some programs, it has a waiting list that can delay or eliminate opportunities for students seeking this sort of training.**

I agree that we must provide a personalized education to all our students, and career and technical education offers a path for many. Accomplishing that in a small school system is a challenge. I support the continuing use of the Arlington Career Center, and think we must also look more broadly for other options, perhaps by working with other local school systems and developing additional partnerships. We should also continue to offer and expand dual enrollment opportunities.

## Douglass Stevens

My entire career has been in public service—first as a Naval nuclear propulsion officer, now as a supervisor in a civilian agency, where I have managed technical research projects, multi-agency teams, and relations between the executive and legislative branches. My academic training is in physics, engineering administration, and security studies, plus leadership training from the government and Harvard's executive education program. I'm the proud dad to Evangeline, better known as Evi, who is in 4th grade at Thomas Jefferson, and her brother Noah, who is in 6th grade at Mary Ellen Henderson. Andrea, my better half, is an attorney and serves on the school board's Health and Wellness Advisory Committee.

**1. What in your past civic or professional activities qualifies you to be on the governing board of the City School System?**

Training in science and engineering, and years of managing national security work, have instilled in me a rigorous analytic approach to problem solving, which I will apply in reviewing school budgets and policy proposals. I will apply my management experience in monitoring the new high school construction, watching for issues that could result in delays or added costs. I will help ensure we continue to use taxpayer funds wisely and that all school system work is efficiently directed toward student achievement and well-being.

I have a long professional track record of building productive working relationships within and among federal agencies and between the executive and legislative branches. This experience will directly apply to the relationship between the school board and the school administration, as well as between the school board and city council. My leadership style combines a sharp focus on mission accomplishment with respect for each individual.

**2. Many, many studies prove that the more time students spend in school the better their education. As of now the Falls Church school system provides the minimum-required 180 days of school. Do you support expanding the educational school day or adding educational days to the school calendar?**

My guiding principle in each decision is to do what is best for students, in a fiscally responsible manner. We are doing very well in academics, though I take the point that additional instructional time has the potential to raise that even further. Before taking that step, I would want the school board to thoroughly research the issue, including how the change would impact student quality of life and emotional health. I would want to hear from our educators, staff, parents/caregivers, and the students themselves on the impacts of such a change. We would also need to consider additional costs for salary, facility usage, and transportation. With that information on the table, the school board could compare the potential academic gain to the tangible and intangible costs.

**3. The City is committed to build a new high school and has stated to the public that the cost will be \$120 million. Despite the passage of the referendum, many citizens, even many who voted for it, are of the view that the \$120 million figure is a hefty sum for a small City like ours. Will you commit to keep the cost of the high school at that level and to strongly discourage and reject requests for more money for the high school project?**

Applying my background in management to ensure solid financial oversight of school operations is a core goal for me. The new high school is the single largest investment ever made by the City; keeping it on budget and on schedule is paramount. I'm happy that the school board recently locked in a guaranteed maximum price of \$120 million for the construction, and the city council recently locked in very low interest rates for the upcoming bond sales. I will closely watch the construction and outfitting processes to ensure any potential problems are identified early, so they can be addressed with the existing resources. Though large, this construction project is just one piece of the schools' financial picture. I will work closely with the city council to ensure a financial plan that will allow us to maintain our excellent standard of education along with other vital city services.

**4. The public heard, during the discussions of the need for a new high school, that deferring maintenance had greatly harmed the existing George Mason facility. We have spent a great deal of money recently into expanding Mount Daniel and Thomas Jefferson Elementary School and building the Henderson Middle School. What will you do to ensure that the buildings are properly maintained?**

I have great faith in our school administration and maintenance staff, and I will ensure the board continues to hold the administration accountable for properly maintaining all school facilities. I will also work to ensure physical maintenance funds are sufficient in future budgets and in line with industry standards. My ears will always be open to observations from parents and students, and I will ensure indications of insufficient maintenance are addressed. I also believe in learning from past experiences, so I would invite specific feedback on how to improve our maintenance practices.

**5. One of the prime arguments for the new high school was that it would build facilities – a new auditorium, athletic facilities, meetings rooms and classrooms -- that the community can use. How will you ensure that the community has robust access to the new school facilities?**

While the primary purpose of the schools is to serve our students, I fully support public access to the facilities, as long as it has minimal impact on student services and does not unreasonably increase costs. For instance, as a flag football coach in the City youth league, I greatly appreciate use of the high school stadium, and I feel the impact of losing the practice field because of the current construction project. As a board member, I will evaluate the school administration's assessment of the impact of specific proposed public uses of the facilities, and I will ensure that the resulting decisions and the calculus behind them are transparent to the community and honor any commitments we have made.

**6. Like all school systems, the Falls Church system is obligated to provide excellent education for our students with significant disabilities. Will to you seek to ensure that students with disabilities are placed in and included in the general education classrooms with their peers?**

Yes, I fully support both the spirit and the letter of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which legally mandates we provide the least restrictive environment (LRE) for our students who receive special education. This means the first choice is always to have the student in the general classroom, even if doing so would require supplementary

educational services to meet their needs. In addition to helping prepare the student for adult life, this provides the rest of the class a valuable opportunity to grow in inclusiveness and kindness. If the student's needs cannot be met in the general classroom, then parents and school staff should jointly consider alternatives, giving preference to having the child in a setting with similar-aged children as much as possible.

**7. There are many trades available that society will always need, such as plumbers, electricians, hvac repair, auto repair, etc. where a trade skill or internship/mentoring program would be the proper way to go for a particular student. How would you have our school system help and support those students? While we use the Arlington Career Center for some programs, it has a waiting list that can delay or eliminate opportunities for students seeking this sort of training.**

It is true that society needs worker with these skills. Just as importantly, Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities are an integral part of fulfilling the school system's duty to help each individual student find their particular path in life and equip them for it. Some students may feel there is an unspoken belief that attending college after graduation is intrinsically superior to pursuing a trade. Ensuring CTE preparation is an available, valued, and high-quality option will help students confidently choose and excel in the course of education that best fits them. I appreciate that our superintendent recently mentioned the topic of vocational education at a school board meeting, and I look forward to hearing more details on the administration's plans for CTE resources, including how it will be included in the implementation of the "International Baccalaureate for All" initiative.

Sample Ballot

Commonwealth of Virginia, Official Ballot  
City of Falls Church

Ballotstyle 1

**General Election**

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

**Voting Instructions**

1. Use a black or blue pen.
2. Make a clear mark inside the box to the left of your choice.
3. For a Write-In candidate, mark the box to the left of the line and write in the name.
4. If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

**Member  
Senate of Virginia  
35th District**

Vote for only one

Richard L. "Dick" Saslaw - D

Write-in:  
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**Member  
House of Delegates  
53rd District**

Vote for only one

Marcus B. Simon - D

Write-in:  
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**Commonwealth's Attorney**

Vote for only one

Parisa Dehghani-Tafti

Write-in:  
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**Member City Council**

Vote for not more than three

Philip D. Duncan

P. David "Dave" Tarter

Letty C. Hardi

Stuart M. Whitaker

Write-in:  
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Write-in:  
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Write-in:  
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**Member School Board**

Vote for not more than three

Laura T. Downs

Philip R. Reitingger

Douglass G. Stevens

Susan C. Dimock

Write-in:  
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Write-in:  
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Write-in:  
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