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WAMU 88.5 FM AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RADIO

Candidates for U.S. Congress, Tenth District of Virginia*

Please note that Congressman Frank Wolf declined to participate in our on-air candidates' forum. Questionnaires were only sent to those who participated on-air.



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Judy Feder, (D), Candidate, U.S. Congress (VA-10th District)

1. Name the two biggest challenges facing the 10th Congressional District, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them.

The weakened economy and transportation. Rising health care costs are eating into incomes at the same time that the housing crisis has caused the value of a family's most important investment to decline. We need to get a handle on spiraling health care costs and ensure affordable health care for all Americans. We also need to protect homeownership by closing the bankruptcy loophole, and cracking down on fraudulent lenders.

On transportation, we need better infrastructure, funded by a transportation bill that recognizes this region as part of the national capital, federal support for smart growth and rail extended to Dulles.

2. Name the two biggest challenges facing the United States, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them.

The weakened economy is a challenge that faces all Americans. Right now, we need to extend unemployment benefits and for a strong future, restore fiscal responsibility and re-direct the resources being spent in Iraq to critical needs here at home including infrastructure, education and health care.

Our next President and Congress also face the challenge of restoring America's leadership role around the world. We have to end the war in Iraq, bring our troops home and implement what Senator Hagel has called a "diplomatic surge," to address the crisis in Iraq and to reassert American leadership.

3. Name a political figure (either local or national) you greatly admire and explain why.

One person I think of often as I run this campaign is LaVerne Taylor. A political pioneer, LaVerne was chosen by the voters of Missoula County Montana to be their auditor in the 1950's when female elected officials were few and far between. At ninety-three years old, LaVerne still labors tirelessly as a precinct Captain in Fairfax County and proves every day that it's the thousands of Americans who feel passionately about our country and who choose to involve themselves in the political process at the local level that make our democracy work. I'm proud to call her a friend.



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4. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent the 10th District.

From the Halls of Congress to the oval office, I've worked across party lines to solve the problems facing American families; I'll bring that same common sense approach to representing the 10th District.

For the past decade, as Dean of the Georgetown Public Policy Institute, I trained the next generation of civilian and military leaders on how to make change and solve real problems. I teach my students that you can't base policy on wishful thinking and if the last seven years have shown us anything it's the need for leaders who promote policy that works.

5. How long have you lived in northern Virginia, and how has it changed since that date? Explain why those changes have been to the benefit or detriment of local residents.

My husband and I have lived in northern Virginia for thirty-six years. It has been a wonderful place to raise our family and we feel fortunate that our son and daughter-in-law have chosen to raise their family here as well. Our area has always had a strong sense of community, a beautiful environment and a dynamic economy. These qualities have led to rapid growth across the region, straining our education and transportation infrastructure as well as our environment. We need federal support for smart growth to ensure that our infrastructure keeps pace with our population while preserving our environment.

6. Fill in the following blanks (Maximum two sentences):

a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was Critical: What We Can Do About the Health Care Crisis, by Senator Tom Daschle.

b) My favorite television show/movie is the HBO Miniseries John Adams.

c) In my spare time I love to play with my twin granddaughters, Lizzie and Katie.



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Vern McKinley (R), Candidate, U.S. Congress (VA-10th District)

1. Name the two biggest challenges facing the 10th Congressional District, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them.

2. Name the two biggest challenges facing the United States, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them.

I choose to answer the above questions together because we need to get away from the parochial interests of a single congressional district. Such narrow interests have helped bring the US to the brink of bankruptcy as they drive up spending and the size of the federal government as members of Congress jockey for their piece of the ever expanding share of government largesse for the short-run benefit of their constituents. We are approaching a fiscal tsunami in the coming decades with the retirement of the baby boomers and we need to reassess all functions of the federal government.

3. Name a political figure (either local or national) you greatly admire and explain why.

Ronald Reagan. I came of age during the 1980s and at the beginning of Reagan's presidency there was a sense of "malaise" in the country, the economy was a basket case due to stagflation and the standing of the United States in the eyes of the rest of the world was at a low. At the end of his presidency there was a sense of optimism, the economy was back on firm footing and the standing of the United States was restored with the Cold War near an end, largely through the limited government policies of the Reagan Administration.

4. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent the 10th District.

I have worked on fiscal and financial issues my entire career working in the U.S. government and advising foreign governments on how to structure their financial sectors. Thus, I have a capacity to address the problems in the financial and mortgage markets that we are facing today, as well as our fiscal situation. Additionally, I have spent nearly half my time the past nine years working abroad in China, Nigeria, the Philippines, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Kenya, South Sudan, Libya, Armenia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo and Tajikistan. I have a good sense of the standing of the United States in the world.



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5. How long have you lived in northern Virginia, and how has it changed since that date? Explain why those changes have been to the benefit or detriment of local residents.

I have lived in either the 10th or 11th Congressional Districts of Virginia for the past 20 years. The area has continued to grow as the federal government has grown during that period. Back in 1988 the Reagan years were winding down and since then we have seen some minimalist efforts to reduce the size of the government during the Republican Revolution of the mid 1990s, but those efforts only lasted a few years as much of the Republican Party has "gone native." I think that has been to the detriment of local residents and the country generally.

6. Fill in the following blanks (Maximum two sentences):

a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was Michael D. Tanner, Leviathan on the Right: How Big-Government Conservatism Brought Down the Republican Revolution.

b) My favorite ~~television show~~/movie is It's a Wonderful Life.

c) In my spare time I love to spend time with my wife Nona, son Ruben and daughter Catherine.



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Mike Turner (D), Candidate, U.S. Congress (VA-10th District)

1. Name the two biggest challenges facing the 10th Congressional District, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them.

The two biggest local challenges we face in the 10th district are transportation and the economy. Our national economic problems are rooted in the housing crisis. Transportation requires a series of coordinated short term solutions that include smart highways, higher energy efficiency vehicles, innovative and cost-effective mass transit, and increased telecommuting. It also requires long term solutions as outlined in the Chesapeake Crescent Initiative. The housing foreclosure crisis has the potential to prolong our economic crisis for at least three more years if not addressed immediately and urgently. It will continue to exacerbate our twin deficits (federal budget and trade).

2. Name the two biggest challenges facing the United States, and briefly explain how you would work to solve them.

The war in Iraq and the economy are now in crisis. Unlike my Democratic opponent, I have endorsed "The Responsible Plan to End the War in Iraq" which advocates a rational solution to a very complex problem. The economy has been badly damaged by an Administration that has run up the largest debt and the largest deficits in U.S. history, with Congressman Frank Wolf's unmitigated support. Similar to the early Reagan years, we may need the medicine of higher interest rates, which will strengthen the dollar and reduce gas prices. But first, we must stabilize the housing market.

3. Name a political figure (either local or national) you greatly admire and explain why.

I was the first Virginia candidate to endorse Barack Obama in December 2007. The Audacity of Hope convinced me that he is an historic figure and the leader America needs. It's been disheartening to see John F. Kennedy's vision of America, fueled by ambitious programs like the Peace Corp and the Space Program, transformed by internal strife from the 1960s through the Gingrich-Rove era. Barack Obama's emergence as a truly great, inspirational leader can unite all segments of our society, restore our international credibility and prestige, and transform our nation to meet the new challenges of the 21st century.



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4. Name two specific skills or experiences that make you uniquely qualified to represent the 10th District.

I have spent my entire adult life working in high-stakes environments where I made tough decisions and demonstrated leadership while people's lives were in the balance. I have "walked the walk" when working on Red Cross disaster relief jobs, flying air rescue missions, and developing national programs to help Americans recover from serious debts and pending foreclosures. I have a successful track record developing both national and global solutions. My 1995 concept paper, which proposed the development of an all-African peacekeeping force for Gen. Wesley Clark, became the largest U.S.-Africa training program in history – and it's still in existence.

5. How long have you lived in northern Virginia, and how has it changed since that date? Explain why those changes have been to the benefit or detriment of local residents.

I have lived in Northern Virginia for ten years. The most striking change has been the rapid growth, and corresponding infrastructure stresses. Transportation gridlock has robbed people of precious hours each day. School overcrowding has reduced the amount of individual attention each student receives and has increased stress and altercations among students. Our roads and bridges are in disrepair. Our electric grid is much too fragile and susceptible to sabotage. Fortunately regional solutions such as the "Chesapeake Crescent Initiative" have the potential to control growth and improve residents' quality of life if they are implemented properly.

6. Fill in the following blanks (Maximum two sentences):

a) The most recent book I read and enjoyed was The Political Brain by Drew Weston.

b) My favorite television shows are The West Wing, and The Contender. My favorite movies are Hoosiers and The American President.

c) In my spare time I love to read, jog, and ski. For this Congressional campaign, I traded in all my free time activities for meetings and phone calls with thousands of voters in the 10th District!