



## ELECTION 2007 ENDORSEMENTS & RESULTS

### OVERVIEW

Based on the criteria listed in the ISSUES section below, VMPAC directly participated in 57 races in 2007, while engaging over 100 candidates.

In a nutshell, VMPAC-endorsed candidates did well in Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, although Prince William County results were a little less encouraging.

However, it is worth noting that all across Northern Virginia, the immigrant-bashing platform which many Republican candidates adopted with the hope of appealing to polarized electorates, largely either backfired or at most, yielded very little advantage. No strongly anti-immigrant challenger (Democrat or Republican) won and many incumbents with such a divisive platform squeaked by with narrow margins.

Voters clearly didn't see anti-immigrant position as a compelling reason to support candidates. The net result was the gain of 4 seats in the Senate and 3 seats in the House of Delegates by the Democrats – along with several key positions at the county levels in Fairfax and Loudoun.

Democrats won the 21<sup>st</sup>, the 34<sup>th</sup>, the 51<sup>st</sup> and the 83<sup>rd</sup> House District seats and gave up the 68<sup>th</sup> District seat. In the Senate, the Democrats picked up the 1<sup>st</sup>, the 6<sup>th</sup>, the 34<sup>th</sup> and the 39<sup>th</sup> Districts. In the 37<sup>th</sup> District, incumbent Ken Cuccinelli was ahead of the Democrat Janet Olaszek (whom VMPAC endorsed) by only 91 votes – and the contest has entered a recount phase!

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors became overwhelmingly Democrat – where Democrats picked up 4 new Districts – for a total of 5 out of 9 seats – with 2 Independents and 2 Republicans.

Including the gains (one open seat and one gain from Republican incumbent), Fairfax County now has 8 out of 10 Democrat Supervisors and 2 Republicans.

Prince William County maintained the old composition of 2 Democrats and 6 Republicans as Supervisors.

While VMPAC was unexpectedly successful in raising funds for either itself or for endorsed candidates – over \$70 thousand dollars – the get-out-the-vote (GOTV) campaign seems to have been less successful than last year. Preliminary survey shows, only 58% of the Muslim voters turned out to vote. While that's much higher than the average 2007 voter turnout ratio in the Commonwealth, it was disappointing compared to the rate at which Muslims voted in Virginia last year (86% of the registered voters).

VMPAC directly worked on 8 Senate, 14 House of Delegate and 35 County races. Almost 70,000 VMPAC endorsement cards and 20,000 campaign literature for select races (some in English and Spanish) were distributed in Northern Virginia counties.

## ISSUES

During early June to mid July, 2007, VMPAC conducted surveys in various community and mosque events in Northern Virginia. From a list of 15 issues for county elections and 15 issues for state elections, here is how 782 Muslim registered voters selected their issues of concern:

At the **county level**, the 5 most important issues were:

- **Anti-immigrant resolutions:** 96% were concerned about anti-immigrant resolutions at the county level – As in many ethnic communities, Muslims in Virginia expressed worries about the new efforts to allow local police/sheriff to do immigration enforcement, and possible profiling and civil rights violations.
- **Education:** 93% thought education was an important issue – Good school systems and proper funding for those were a top priority for the Muslim community.
- **Support for diversity:** 92% felt support for diversity by candidates was essential – Muslim voters are eager to know which county candidates have a strong commitment to diversity.
- **Cuts in social services:** 84% had opposition to cuts in social services – Muslim voters were opposed to cuts in county social services, like county health services, etc.
- **Traffic congestions:** 72% felt that local traffic congestions were a serious problem.

At the **state level**, the 5 most important issues were:

- **Anti-immigrant legislations:** 95% were concerned about anti-immigrant legislations at the state level – As in many ethnic communities, Muslims in Virginia expressed worries about the new efforts to allow state police to do immigration enforcement, and possible profiling and civil rights violations.
- **Support for diversity:** 93% felt support for diversity by candidates was essential – Muslim voters are eager to know which House and Senate candidates have a strong commitment to diversity.
- **Payday lending:** 82% thought payday lending was wrong and needed to be controlled – Since payday lending practices rely heavily on usury (which is forbidden in Islam), Muslim voters felt strongly against those. For Muslim voters, it was at once a religious and a social justice issue.
- **Cuts in social services:** 79% had opposition to cuts in social services – Muslim voters were opposed to cuts in state social services, like healthcare and other state programs.
- **Traffic congestions:** 76% thought highway traffic congestions were a serious problem.

### Other observations:

- Education was considered a state-level issue of importance by 62%.
- Among issues which are commonly associated with religious communities, only 8% thought gay marriage and 9% thought abortion were important election/political issues.

## ELECTION RESULTS

The list below shows endorsements and results from the election. This is how the columns are defined:

- Column 1: Position title
- Column 2: Party affiliation – D=Democrat, R=Republican, I=Independent
- Column 3: Name of the endorsed candidate (asterisk denotes incumbent)
- Column 4: Election result
- Column 5: Number of votes gained by the candidate (sometime the percent of votes) vs. the number of votes earned by the nearest opponent

### FAIRFAX / ARLINGTON COUNTIES

Arlington Supervisor	(D)	Walter Tejada *	Won	(18,650 32%)
Fairfax Supervisors				
Chairman	(D)	"Gerry" Connolly *	Won	(113,796-68,402)
Braddock	(D)	Sharon S. Bulova *	Won	(18,695-4,213)
Dranesville	(D)	John W. Foust	Won	(13,058-11,312)
Hunter Mill	(D)	Catherine M. Hudgins *	Won	(13,448-5,257)
Lee	(D)	Jeff C. McKay	Won	(10,378-5,652)
Mason	(D)	Penelope "Penny" Gross *	Won	(10,131-5,958)
Mount Vernon	(D)	"Gerry" Hyland *	Won	(13,927-3,966)
Providence	(D)	Linda Q. Smyth *	Won	(15,371 100%)
Springfield	(D)	P. Mike McClanahan	Lost	(11,126-15,841)
Sully		No Endorsement _____		
Com. Attorney	(D)	Raymond F. Morrogh *	Won	(103,296-80,891)
Clerk of Court				
Arlington/Falls Church	(D)	Paul F. Ferguson	Won	(22,531-9,128)
Fairfax	(D)	Dale A. Evans	Lost	(89,541-91,436)
House Delegates				
34th District	(D)	Margaret G. Vanderhuy	Won	(9,143-8,606)
35th District	(D)	Stephen C. Shannon *	Won	(11,952-6,897)
39th District	(D)	Vivian E. Watts *	Won	(10,522-2,847)
40th District	(D)	Rex A. Simmons	Lost	(6,519-8,706)
45th District	(D)	David L. Englin *	Won	(9,724-5,891)
49th District	(D)	Adam P. Ebbin *	Won	(4,339-1,035)
86th District	(D)	Jay P. Donahue	Lost	(6,306-5,627)
Senators				
31st District	(D)	Mary Margaret Whipple *	Won	(23,370-5,550)
33rd District	(D)	Mark R. Herring *	Won	(27,765-20,971)
34th District	(D)	J. C. "Chap" Petersen	Won	(25,505-20,684)
35th District	(D)	"Dick" Saslaw *	Won	(16,946-4,511)
37th District	(D)	Janet S. Oleszek	??	(18,505-18,596)
39th District	(D)	George L. Barker	Won	(19,872-19,026)

## LOUDOUN COUNTY

### Supervisors

Char	(I) Scott K. York *	Won	(26,806-21,434)
Blue Ridge	(I) Jim G. Burton *	Won	(4,700-3,449)
Broad Run	(D) Phyllis J. Randall	Lost	(2,374-3,875)
Catoctin	(D) Sarah R. "Sally" Kurtz *	Won	(4,903-3,534)
Dulles	(D) Stevens R. Miller	Won	(5,447-3,983)
Leesburg	(D) C. Kelly Burk	Won	(2,556-1,910)
Potomac	(D) Andrea C. McGimsey	Won	(2,132-1,242)
Sterling	(D) Jeanne R. West	Lost	(1,959-2,183)
Sugarland Run	No Endorsement _____		

Sheriff	(D) Michael E. George	Lost	(17,578-19,887)
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Treasurer	(D) Charles A. "Chuck" Harris	Lost	(17,781-32,695)
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### House Delegates

13th District	(D) Bruce E. Roemmelt	Lost	(10,578-14,866)
32nd District	(D) David E. Poisson *	Won	(10,492-9,346)
33rd District	(D) F. J. "Marty" Martinez	Lost	(10,080-14,961)
86th District	(D) Jay P. Donahue	Lost	(5,627-6,306)

### Senators

27th District	(D) Karen K. Schultz	Lost	(24,295-24,954)
33rd District	(D) Mark R. Herring *	Won	(27,765-20,971)

## PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

### Supervisors

Chair	(D) Sharon E. Pandak	Lost	(24,336-30,318)
Brentsville	No Endorsement _____		
Coles	(R) Martin E. Nohe *	Won	(8,071 100%)
Dumfries	No Endorsement _____		
Gainesville	(D) Corey R. Riley	Lost	(3,742-6,072)
Neabsco	No Endorsement _____		
Occoquan	(R) Michael C. "Mike" May *	Won	(4,675-2,254)
Woodbridge	No Endorsement _____		

Sch. Board – Neabsco	(I) Belkacem Hacene-Djaballah	Lost	(674-3,458)
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Clerk of Court	(D) William M. "Bill" Ryland	Lost	(18,938-24,737)
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### House Delegates

13th District	(D) Bruce E. Roemmelt	Lost	(10,578-14,866)
31st District	(D) Bill S. Day, Jr.	Lost	(6,209-7,321)
50th District	(D) Jeanette M. Rishell	Lost	(4,031-6,170)
51st District	(R) Faisal M. Gill	Lost	(5,842-6,337)
52nd District	(D) Christopher K. Brown	Lost	(4,816-6,861)

### Senators

29th District	(D) Charles J. Colgan *	Won	(21,014-17,776)
39th District	(D) George L. Barker	Won	(19,872-19,026)