

VBTA Virginia House of Delegates District 21 Candidate Endorsement

The Board of Directors for the Virginia Beach Taxpayer Alliance (VBTA), a non-partisan incorporated organization, only makes candidate election endorsements in contested local elections where the Board is in unanimous agreement.

The VBTA Board of Directors endorses incumbent Delegate “Bobby” Mathieson for the 21st District. This is only the second Democratic incumbent the VBTA has endorsed. The fact that Delegate Mathieson has not been a significant source of legislation in his first term is viewed as prudent, not being ineffective. There is no doubt among the public that the last thing we need is more laws.

Delegate Mathieson’s challenger, Ron Villanueva, takes full credit for reducing the real estate tax rate by 27 percent (from 1.22 to .89 cents per hundred dollars of assessed value). Councilman Villanueva of course fails to take credit for raising the actual real estate taxes you pay by approximately 50 percent. To offset the house values that historically outstripped the growth of home-owners income, the real estate tax rate should be 61 cents and not the current 89 cent per hundred rate. Playing loose with the number unfortunately is not a recently acquired habit by Councilman Villanueva.

Delegate Mathieson, unlike Councilman Villanueva, has not voted every year since 2002 to increase your taxes. Delegate Mathieson did not support an unelected Hampton Road Regional Transportation Authority with taxing authority like Ron Villanueva did. Delegate Mathieson voted to disestablish the Hampton Roads Regional Transportation Authority after the Virginia Supreme Court voted its taxing powers unconstitutional.

Councilman Ron Villanueva supported a Council resolution in favor of a regional sales tax, a regional sales tax that would apply to services like haircuts and car repairs.

The challenger in the 21st District race has a track record of big government, regional governments, and more taxes and fees, calls himself a Republican. Do not go by the label go by the track record. Do not reward a big spender by putting him in charge of a bigger public checkbook.

Vote money-smart - Re-elect Delegate Mathieson - he has earned your vote by holding the line on taxes. Look beyond the label to the substance by joining VBTA in sending Bobby back to Richmond.