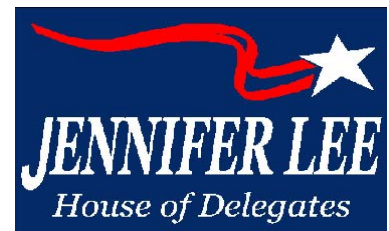


Jennifer Lee

The Community Improvement Plan



- **Neighborhood improvement for a higher quality of life;**
- **An educated workforce for the 21st century;**
- **An innovative plan to bring new jobs to Hampton Roads that utilizes our ports and our industries;**
- **Solutions on health care at a state level.**



Community Improvement Plan

An Approach that Improves the Quality of Life for Citizens
of Hampton Roads

I am a community leader and businesswoman with a new vision for the future of Hampton Roads. I will work every day to create a business friendly atmosphere that encourages investment in the future of our community, meaning low taxes, adequate funding for essential projects and infrastructure, and being an advocate for an educated workforce that is prepared for the 21st Century. To do this we must work to provide new educational opportunities, improve safety in our neighborhoods, ensure that all Virginians have access to high quality, low cost healthcare and work for 21st century energy and employment solutions. My plan for a better community consists of four parts:

Neighborhoods Safety and Crime Prevention

Community improvement cannot exist without safe neighborhoods to live and work in.

Unique to our community is the problem of crime and its impact on our children. Through community forums that utilize law-enforcement community leader partnerships, we can begin the dialogue on efforts to take back our neighborhoods. The structure for this movement must be: prevention, prosecution, and rehabilitation. Without safe neighborhoods we cannot begin to expect entrepreneurial investment in our community or expect to see new jobs and opportunities. When people don't feel safe they don't get involved in community events, participate in public functions, start a business or take advantage of the opportunities we all deserve.

- Gangs must not be the alternative to employment or educational advancement and we must help young people turn around their lives. This can be accomplished through mentorships and increased community law-enforcement professional partnerships throughout the Commonwealth.
- Encourage the expansion of “Badges For Baseball” to teach young people life lessons by combining sports activities with character education.
- Reallocate existing resources within the Department of Corrections to improve our ability to identify, track, control and debrief gang members who are within prison walls and then work to rehabilitate any that are introduced back into the community.
- Work to establish mandatory minimum sentences for repeat drug dealers and streamline the prosecutorial process with more juvenile and drug courts.



Community Improvement Plan

Educational Opportunities for the 21st Century

Education:

High pay jobs, for highly skilled workers requires reformed education and new opportunities.

Our community cannot succeed and continue to grow unless we have a strong educational system; one that follows children from the moment they step foot into school until the day they graduate high school. Beyond that, we must continue to prioritize the strength of higher education and the opportunities that exist for college graduates. The goal for all legislators must be to ensure equal opportunity for quality education. The current reality is this – the 21st-century economy requires increasingly high skill and knowledge levels. Too few Virginians are going to college and getting that preparation.

- Follow the model that helps at-risk students in challenging environments to by encouraging partnerships between school divisions, private companies and families.
- Encourage alternative educational opportunities for families by introducing a bill to provide tax credits to families who send their children to pre-school so that they are equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge when they start kindergarten.
- Mandate the 65% per-capita spending model to ensure that 65% of all money spent in our public schools is spent on the children in the classroom.
- Support President Obama in expanding performance pay for teachers who improve standardized test scores from year to year. We must reward teachers in the classroom, not by having them compete with other teachers, but with themselves to see higher scores among all demographics in the classroom from year to year.
- We need to increase cost-efficiency and technology, and avoid duplication throughout our higher education system. We will target Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) and other high-income, high-demand sectors.
- Will ask every principal to create new opportunities in the fields of science, technology, engineering, math, nursing and medicine, and other crucial job shortage areas in Virginia.



Community Improvement Plan

Jobs and Energy for the 21st Century

Energy Independence and Jobs

Sensible policies that will encourage economic growth and job creation.

Everyone has been impacted by the state of the economy and it will take bold new leadership with innovative solutions to turn Virginia around. The need for new job opportunities and entrepreneurial growth, however, is not something new to our community. Right here, in Portsmouth and Norfolk, we have some of the best opportunities to facilitate growth and create new jobs: the Ports.

- We need to send a clear message that Virginia is open for business, with a pro-free enterprise climate that stands out because of low taxes, incentives for job creation, limited and sensible regulation, and a fiscally sound and efficient government that lives within its means.
- Small businesses are the backbone of Virginia's economy, accounting for 97.5% of all existing business establishments in the Commonwealth. There is a reason we have been ranked as the Top State for Business (CNBC) and it is because we have respected small businesses and their right to operate free from overreaching government intervention and taxation.
- Support the safe offshore exploration and drilling of oil and natural gas which could, according a 2005 study by a professor at Old Dominion University, over a 10-year period, create 2,578 new jobs, induce capital investment of \$7.84 billion, yield \$644 million in direct and indirect payroll, and result in \$271 million in state and local taxes.
- Invest in the development of alternative fuels, clean energy production, and related technologies; support of economic development projects in disadvantaged rural areas; and assistance in the commercialization of alternative fuels and clean energy technologies.



Community Improvement Plan

Health Care Reform from Richmond

Health Care:

Introduce state health care initiative to provide easily accessible, low cost options for all Virginians.

Today, health care costs continue to rise while people have fewer choices and are less secure that the coverage they have today will be there tomorrow. The cornerstone of any serious health care reform proposal must address the tax treatment of health insurance. In doing this, we must also work to maximize the value of dollars spent on healthcare by centering the approach around the patient by allowing individuals to buy and own their own health insurance. We must allow individuals to have many choices in coverage where prices are transparent and an individual can choose coverage to fit their health care needs.

- Reduce the number of uninsured Virginians by allowing small businesses the flexibility to offer affordable health insurance plans through greater choice of level of coverage and allow small businesses to pool together in cooperatives to offer coverage of health care services;
- Provide small businesses with purchasing clout, bargaining power and wider coverage selection assist the entrepreneurs who employ nearly 65% of workers in Virginia;
- Encourage the purchase of private long-term care health insurance through tax credits and public-private long-term care partnership programs.

I will work to reward high value plans and establish working partnerships between health care providers, insurance companies, doctors and most importantly the patient. As an employee of the health care industry for the past 30 years, I have developed an understanding that will equip me to be an effective leader in Richmond.