



LANDSLIDE VICTORY FOR PRO-LIFE CANDIDATES IN STATEWIDE ELECTIONS – MOVEMENT PICKS UP SEATS IN HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The Virginia Society for Human Life celebrates the resounding pro-life victories in this month's elections in races all across the Commonwealth. In a statewide sweep, Virginians elected by overwhelming majorities the pro-life slate of Bob McDonnell for Governor, Bill Bolling for Lieutenant Governor, and Ken Cuccinelli for Attorney General. All three candidates were endorsed by the Virginia Society for Human Life Political Action Committee.

"This election is a great triumph for unborn children and their mothers, as well as the vulnerable of all ages throughout the Commonwealth," said Olivia Gans, president of the VSHL. "We congratulate Bob McDonnell, Bill Bolling and Ken Cuccinelli for their spectacular victories in today's election and look forward to working with these stalwart pro-life leaders."

Additionally, there were significant pro-life gains in the House of Delegates as well as the re-election of many pro-life incumbents. Some highlights:

All pro-life candidates listed were endorsed by VSHL PAC.

Pro-Life Pick Ups: Five pro-abortion delegates were defeated by pro-life challengers.

- Thomas "Tag" Greason defeated NARAL Pro-Choice America endorsed incumbent David Poisson in Loudon County.
- McLean's Barbara Comstock narrowly defeated NARAL-endorsed incumbent Margaret Vanderhuy by just 422 votes.
- In Northern Virginia, challenger Richard Anderson edged out NARAL-endorsed incumbent Paul Nicholls.
- Jim LeMunyon was victorious against NARAL-endorsed C. Chuck Caputo in Northern Virginia.
- In Virginia Beach, pro-life Ron Villanueva defeated NARAL-endorsed R.W. "Bobby" Mathieson by just 16 votes!

Incumbents: Many pro-life incumbents were overwhelmingly re-elected. Here are the results of two close races.

- Incumbent Danny Marshall defeated former Danville Mayor Seward Anderson.
- In Fairfax county, incumbent David "Dave" Albo was victorious against NARAL-endorsed Greg Werkheiser.

Close Calls: While there were many great victories on

election day there were a few races where pro-lifers fell just short.

- Pro-life Rafael Lopez lost to NARAL-endorsed Luke Torian.
- Pro-life Kerry Bolognese was defeated by pro-abortion Dave Marsden by just 209 votes.
- Pro-life James "Jim" Hyland was defeated by pro-abortion Mark Keam by just 354 votes.

These razor-thin margins show yet again how crucial it is to turn out every possible pro-life vote at election time. We can never take a victory for granted.



The 2009 election victories will give pro-life forces a strong ally in the governor's mansion for the first time in eight years as well as greater opportunities to work with the pro-life members of the General Assembly to enact laws that will safeguard the right to life of unborn children and support their mothers, and protect older people and those with disabilities from denial of lifesaving medical treatment, food, and water.

"Many thanks to pro-life people across the state who worked tirelessly for the election of these candidates," said Holly Smith, VSHL PAC Chairman. "Your efforts on behalf of the most defenseless among us will pay off in countless ways for years to come."

The next races on the horizon in Virginia will be to fill the vacant Senate seats of Attorney General-elect Ken Cuccinelli (Northern Virginia) and that of the new Sheriff of Virginia Beach, Ken Stolle. All three Republican candidates for Cuccinelli's seat are running as pro-lifers. Both Republican candidates for the Stolle seat are running as pro-lifers as well. The Democratic field of candidates is still taking shape as this newsletter goes to press. For the most up-to-date information on these races, please check www.vshlpac.org.

VSHL EDUCATES THE NEXT GENERATION OF PRO-LIFE LEADERS



Once again this school year VSHL members have had great opportunities to speak to pro-life students at colleges and universities across Virginia.

On August 24 the Lynchburg Chapter of VSHL was once again invited to have an exhibit at the Lynchburg College's annual "Involvement Fair" for incoming freshman. The day provided students with a chance to learn about local volunteer opportunities. VSHL Board member Brenda Fastabend and VSHL President Olivia Gans spent the day meeting and greeting dozens of curious students at the exhibit. Forty students and some faculty expressed their interest in forming a pro-life group on campus by giving us their names and email addresses. Over 200 "What Students Can Do" handouts were distributed.

"This year's Involvement Fair was the best ever for the VSHL" according to Brenda. "I witnessed an increased interest and enthusiasm this year from students and college staff. Most exciting were the number of male students who spent time holding the fetal development

models and asking me questions about the child before birth. It was a very welcome experience."

In October, Olivia Gans went to the College of William and Mary and spoke about the lasting negative effects of Roe v. Wade on American society. The event was arranged by the members of the campus pro-life group. Close to 50 students attended and a lively conversation followed Miss Gans' remarks.

The officers of the William and Mary Students for Life group hope to hold another event like this one in the Spring semester in order to keep the debate going.

Another benefit of the relationship between VSHL and "Young Pro-life Virginia," the Commonwealth's intercollegiate organization, was that close to 60 students from Virginia campuses participated in the "get out the vote" efforts of VSHL PAC. Special thanks go to Cyrus Artz (Christendom), Elyse Smith (UVA), and Anna Fronzaglia (JMU).

Virginia is fortunate to have the help of these bright and committed young men and women.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Victory! What a wonderful word and one that all pro-life Virginians felt across our great Commonwealth on November 3. It was truly a victory for all of us. All three winners of the statewide races respect human life and have spent their political careers working to defend the unborn, the elderly, and the vulnerable. It was wonderful to see such men elected to serve Virginia.

Governor-elect Bob McDonnell's stunning 18 % majority spoke to the strengths of his positions and how well they resonated with the majority of Virginians. He was proud to stand for his pro-life principles and pro-life Virginians respected him for that!



Olivia Gans, Pres. VSHL appeared on the Rob Schilling Show on WINA in Charlottesville, VA to speak about health care and the elections.

Lieutenant Governor-elect Bill Bolling has served the pro-life cause with honor in his position at the General Assembly. We are confident that he and Bob McDonnell will make a wonderful team in Richmond at the Capital!

Attorney General-elect Ken Cuccinelli is a hero to pro-lifers in Virginia for his tireless efforts to protect the unborn and provide assistance to their mothers. It was good to see another dedicated pro-life leader win the job of top lawyer in Virginia.

The House of Delegate races were another place for pro-life victories. Pro-life candidates won across the state and several upsets were included in those victories.

All in all it was one of the most satisfying election nights for the pro-life movement in Virginia in a long time!

That victory was due in large part to the dedication of the VSHL team across Virginia. Pro-life Virginians were committed to winning this year and the tireless efforts of so many were the proof of it! Volunteers helped make phone calls, built email trees and handed out pro-life information about the candidates from Alexandria to Big Stone Gap and every point in between!

Special thanks must go to our VSHL PAC Chairwoman, Mrs. Holly Smith.

Mrs. Smith was truly the engine behind the force of our pro-life victories this November. Thanks to Holly's leadership, we saw VSHL PAC launch not only a new PAC website but also a special one dedicated to telling voters

the truth about Mr. Deeds' pro-abortion record. www.deedsisforabortion.com

VSHL also developed two viral videos seen on the new VSHLPAC YouTube channel, started a VSHL Facebook group for new volunteers, mailed comparison pieces to VSHL members and pastors, and aired radio spots across the state in the final days leading up to the elections.

Your generous donations to the PAC helped make all that happen. Please keep them coming! We do have some debts to retire and we have two special elections coming up this month. One of them is to fill the seat vacated by Ken Cuccinelli. We must keep that Virginia Senate seat pro-life!

All in all pro-life Virginians have much to be proud of this fall. Once again Virginia, along with the pro-life candidate's victory in New Jersey, has made a powerful statement for the right to life.

Several months ago I was asked by our new Governor-elect, Bob McDonnell, if I truly believed that Virginia was a pro-life place. I was able to tell him with no reservations that I knew that Virginians were pro-life! I have seen that commitment to life this year as I never could have dreamed and I am looking forward to what we will do next!



VSHL volunteers were hard at work making get-out-the vote phone calls on election night.

Right now we must turn our attention to the national debate on Health Care Reform. There is information in this newsletter for you to read on this critical issue. Let's stay informed and involved as only we can.

Please become a VSHL member if you are not already. Your talents and time are needed. There is something for everyone to do. I hope you will accept this invitation to help make a difference for their lives!

Thank to all of you that worked so hard, in particular the Board and Chapters of VSHL. We make a great team for life!

~Olivia L. Gans, President

HEALTH CARE UPDATE!

CRITICAL PRO-LIFE WIN ON THE HILL BUT THE BATTLE CONTINUES

On November 7, despite the power of a pro-abortion President and pro-abortion Democratic leadership in the House of Representatives, a major pro-life victory was resoundingly won!

The Stupak-Pitts Amendment, to explicitly exclude abortion mandates and federal funding of abortion under the massive House health care reform bill, had been repeatedly defeated in several committees as the bill progressed to the floor of the House. The amendment would be tantamount to the Hyde Amendment, which is currently in force but which would no longer be lawful under the sweeping power of the bill.

After days of tense struggle, a lock against permitting the Stupak-Pitts amendment to the health care bill to be introduced was broken by determined Democrat and Republican pro-life stalwarts. Consequently, the pro-life amendment was presented and resoundingly passed by a vote of 240-196 (176 Republicans and 64 Democrats), adding the favorable language to the House of Representatives health care bill.

The battle to keep the pro-life wording in the proposed final bill is now in the Senate, which must pass its own version of health care reform. It must conform to the wording of the House bill before it can go to the President for his signature in order to become law.

However, the White House and pro-abortion members of Congress have signaled their intention to delete the pro-life wording from the legislation now making its way through the legislative process.

We won in the House and we will win the same way in the Senate – by tremendous grassroots action! Continue to call your Congressman and US Senators, write letters-to-

the-editor, and participate in other local activities. Douglas Johnson, federal legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee and a leader in this critical debate said on Nov. 7:

"The Obama White House and top Congressional Democratic leaders spent months concealing and misrepresenting provisions that would directly fund abortions through a government plan, and subsidize premiums for private abortion plans. Today's bipartisan House vote is a sharp blow to the White House's smuggling operation."

The pro-life movement will stay engaged and win in the Senate. Additionally, polls are showing majority pro-life support in the public arena and it is growing.

Johnson added: "The White House and the Congressional leadership will keep trying to enact government funding of abortion, and will keep trying to conceal their true intentions, so there is a long battle ahead."

According to the president of the VSHL, Olivia L. Gans, the Virginia Society for Human Life working alongside the National Right to Life Committee, will oppose any health care bill that provides for abortion and its federal funding. "We also will work to eliminate from the bill provisions which are still present in the legislation that would lead to health care rationing or denial of lifesaving treatment."

For more information please go to: www.nrlc.org or www.vshl.org.

~Geline B. Williams, VSHL Director to the NRLC Board

HELEN M. DONOVAN MEMORIAL AWARD ESSAY CONTEST

The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Virginia Society for Human Life (VSHL) is sponsoring the Helen M. Donovan Memorial Award Essay Contest. This contest is open to high school juniors and seniors.

This year's essay title will be: *Promoting the Culture of Life*. The first place award is \$1000, second place is \$500, and third place is \$250.

Our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution recognize life as the God-given right of all human beings. However the most daunting challenge today is persevering pro-life principles. Today there are constant attacks on innocent human life, including destructive embryonic stem-cell research, legalized

abortion, euthanasia, and the denial of lifesaving treatment to those in need. Your essay should discuss how to promote and exemplify pro-life principles in order to counter today's pro-abortion society.

The essay must be at least 500 words, double-spaced with one-inch margins. Please postmark by December 15, 2009. Include your name, address, phone number, and school name. Please mail to: VSHL, Northern Virginia Chapter, PO Box 22681, Alexandria, VA 22304. A VSHL committee will judge each essay, and winners will be notified in January of 2010. For questions, please contact Don at: 202-626-8813.