

## **Jobs, Jobs, Jobs**

Although Augusta County statistically has a low unemployment rate, many Augusta County families struggle paycheck to paycheck under the burden of working full time and receiving sub-par wages, in many cases working multiple jobs just to make ends meet. We see our young adult population leaving the area unable to find the job opportunities they seek elsewhere. Older residents remember the days when DuPont, as well as other large employers, provided a solid middle class lifestyle, fueling the economy of the entire county. The Democratic Party is the party of the American worker and is committed to bringing permanent, full-time, well-paying, middle class jobs to our community as well as professional and hi-tech job opportunities.

- We believe Augusta County can and should work to attract all types of businesses: large and small, traditional manufacturing and high tech, research focused, specialty manufacturing, and clean energy focused.
- We believe Augusta County can build on our strengths and has much to offer prospective businesses:
  - We are located at the intersection of two major interstate highway corridors – I-81 and I-64.
  - Our area is served by two railroads
  - We have industrial sites capable of accommodating a major corporate presence.
  - Two electric companies service the area to provide competitive rates.
  - We have close by several four year universities and, of course, Blue Ridge Community College providing qualified employees in STEM as well as the trades and research and development opportunities and resources. Of particular note in the area of STEM and R&D are James Madison University and the University of Virginia.
- We do not support economic development in the county that would negatively affect the agricultural business.
- We believe government regulations designed to protect individuals, businesses, and fair competition and promote the general welfare (a basic duty of our government in the Constitution) are necessary.
- We believe that deregulation that has the effect of benefiting large corporations at the expense of the general public is wrong.
- We believe regulations can be simplified to help small businesses in particular while still protecting consumers.

- We support the right of all workers, both public and private, to organize and join unions.
- We believe there is a major role for government to play in supporting economic development through infrastructure investment. This would not only provide jobs directly building that infrastructure, but a modern infrastructure would enhance the private sector's ability to compete in the global economy. Using private-public partnerships is key to supporting economic growth but must be tightly monitored to guard against graft and abuses.
- We believe the tax code should provide incentives to keep well-paying jobs here in America.
- We believe the Tax Bill enacted at the end of 2017 (the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act) will not help but hurt our economy and inhibit job growth. Trickle down is a lie.
- Although it is sometimes said that any job is better than no job, as Americans, we should be able to expect something better than the bare minimum. We should be able to expect a job that provides dignity and purpose and a fair wage.
- We support government-backed guaranteed jobs for ALL. A "Marshall Plan for America".