

Absentee Voting

Most states now permit some form of no-excuse absentee voting for their citizens. We recommend that the Virginia General Assembly pass legislation that would allow no-excuse absentee voting.

Income Tax Subtraction for Retiree Health Insurance and Long-Term Care Insurance Premiums

Health care costs continue to rise and most retirees are on fixed incomes. Therefore, we support legislation that would amend VA58.1-322(C) to allow retirees to subtract their health insurance and long-term care premiums from federal adjusted gross income on Virginia state tax returns with no income restrictions.

Indexing Income Tax Age Deduction to Inflation

When taxpayers reach age 65, they are eligible for a state income tax deduction of \$12,000 if their single-filer income is less than \$50,000 or joint-filer income is less than \$75,000. If their income exceeds

these fixed limits, their deduction is reduced \$1 for every \$1 over the limit. There has been no adjustment for inflation since this means testing was passed in 2004. We support an inflation-indexed age deduction to alleviate the long-term cost of living increases.

Minimum Nursing Home Standards

Nursing home residents need adequate certified staff to improve the physical and emotional quality of life of residents. Current federal regulations require “sufficient” staffing to meet the needs of residents. While many states have adopted minimum staffing levels, Virginia has yet to do so. We urge the General Assembly to expand the study in SJ266 (2017) on staffing ratio requirements for assisted living facilities to also include certified nursing home staffing standards to include nursing home staffing levels

Nonpartisan Redistricting Reform

Gerrymandering reduces political competition and fosters a climate of partisan gridlock. We urge the General

Assembly to pass legislation ensuring that future redistricting is undertaken in a nonpartisan and transparent manner, conducted through impartial means, such as by an independent commission.

Transparency

As a member of the all-volunteer *Transparency Virginia* coalition, we ask the General Assembly and its committees and subcommittees to use the Coalition’s best practices for accountability and public participation by ensuring that:

- hearing notices give the public adequate time to attend;
- every bill is given due consideration;
- and all final votes are recorded.

For more information on these issues or to schedule a meeting, contact:

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