

Election Transparency Reform

The purpose of this resolution is to petition the Commonwealth of Virginia to require all candidates seeking to be on the ballot for State and Federal executive office to disclose tax returns and other financial information in order to reduce government corruption, prevent conflict of interest, and provide voters with more information on candidates.

The Commonwealth of Virginia consistently ranks at the bottom in studies of state political integrity in the areas of fundraising, public access to information, and lobbying disclosure.¹

Publicly available tax disclosures allow citizens of the Commonwealth to verify and understand potential conflicts of interest held by executive candidates for office, including personal income generated from speaking fees, gifts, and investments.

Additionally, both Republicans and Democrats claim that reducing corruption and conflict of interest should be a priority for lawmakers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 8th District Democratic Convention urges the Virginia General Assembly to pass, and the Governor to sign, a bipartisan bill to require all candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General to submit at least five years of Federal and State tax returns to the Board of Elections in order to appear on the ballot for a Primary or general election, and all candidates who will have electors on the ballot for President of the United States to submit at least the last five years of Federal tax returns to the same body before the presidential primary.

Be it further resolved, that these returns shall be made open and available to the public at least 45 days prior to a presidential primary or any general election.

¹ <https://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/11/09/18547/virginia-gets-d-grade-2015-state-integrity-investigation>