

Thanking Governor Terry McAuliffe for His Service to Virginia

Background:

Governor McAuliffe has served as Virginia's Governor with distinction since January 2014. He restored public trust and confidence in the office in the wake of conflict of interest scandals surrounding his predecessor. On his first day in office, the Governor signed an executive order imposing a \$100 gift ban on himself, his family and members of his administration and their families.

Under his leadership, Virginia has announced 926 projects, created 189,200 new jobs, and attracted \$15.86 billion in new capital investment.

Governor McAuliffe has worked to prepare the Commonwealth for the effects of climate changes and to reduce Virginia's contribution to its causes.

The Governor has fought to restore voting rights to felons (a disproportionate number are members of minority populations) who have served their sentences.

To promote Virginia's State Park System, the Governor has scheduled visits to every one of the state parks.

In addition to positive leadership on important policy issues, the Governor has been an essential bulwark against the mean-spirited attempts of the Republican-controlled General Assembly to take Virginia backward on many social and economic issues. The Governor has vetoed 91 bills and has amended many additional ones. Absent his actions, Virginia would be far less welcoming to many of its residents. A few examples of his veto include:

- SB 41 – which would have allowed businesses to discriminate against LGBT couples
- HB 1605 – which would have diverted public funds to private religious schools
- HB 1090 – which would have denied Planned Parenthood funding on cancer exams, STD screenings, and birth control services
- HB 264 – which would have revoked localities' ability to mandate fair wages in public contracts.
- SB 21 – which would have barred the Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality from submitting a Virginia specific plan to comply with the federal Clean Power Plan without the approval of the General Assembly.
- HB 1468 – which would have required local law enforcement to comply with ICE "detainer orders" and keep immigrants in detention longer.
- SB 1137 – which would have allowed concealed handgun permit holders to transport loaded shotguns in their vehicle anywhere in Virginia.

Therefore, be it resolved that, the 2017 Eighth District Democratic Convention, congratulates Governor McAuliffe on a job well done and urges voters to elect a Democratic successor to continue his efforts to curb the excesses of the Republican-controlled General Assembly.