The Destruction of Fairfax County

Introduction: Do you like suburban living? Enjoy it while you can. The current Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, as dominated by Democrats, has stated that they want to change the county from suburban to city. Consider:

1. The Fairfax Forward program will lead to increase traffic congestion. The County has much control over how real-estate properties are developed. Zoning laws are a key means of control. Several years ago, the Democrat-controlled Board of Supervisors (BOS) introduced the program Fairfax Forward to promote what Chairman Bulova called “urbanization” — making the county a city. Its primary goal was increasing the County’s population density and the commercial density (commercial floor area). Fairfax Forward replaced the Area Plan Review process, primarily by decreasing the input from the citizens affected by a plan change and allowing citizens fewer opportunities to review the changes and argue for modifications to the plans. The result is that much development is occurring without accommodations for increased traffic. Greater congestion can be expected. The County must return to greater citizen involvement in the planning and implementation processes, especially to ensure that the projected congestion is not worsened.

2. One Fairfax will require racial quotas everywhere. The stated goal of the county’s One Fairfax program is to provide every citizen equal opportunities for success, thereby achieving “equity”. The outcome, rather than opportunities, will determine if the goal is being met. See http://www.voicesoffairfax.org/. For example, on the issue of equal educational opportunities, perfect success will be achieved when each classroom has a demographic distribution equal to that of the county. The School Board warns us, “If you buy a house in Fairfax County, don’t expect your kids to go to that school 10 years from now.”

3. Transportation costs will become ever more costly. Citizens are being taxed to pay not for roads but for various mass-transit projects. The rail systems are especially expensive. The Dulles Rail project is the most visible project but has the least visible financial plan. The current 75% cost overrun will be borne by the Dulles Toll Road users – not the passengers. A Project Labor Agreement (PLA), a collusion between unions and our Democrat politicians, is increasing the cost overrun. The PLA requires all construction workers to be paid the high union wages, thereby eliminating competition between union and non-union employers. On the flip side of the collusion, the union has the workers vote for these same Democrat politicians.

4. Your safety is in jeopardy. Fairfax County has become in effect a sanctuary county. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency asks Sheriff Kincaid to detain some criminals so ICE can evaluate them for deportation. Sheriff Kincaid refuses to do so. See: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sheriff/sheriff-terminates-intergovernmental-service-agreement-ice. Not only that, but Fairfax County is spending your tax dollars to provide free legal services to illegal aliens as needed to prevent deportation by ICE. Drug usage, prostitution, and pornography are increasing. These crimes are common near the U.S. southern border, the source of criminals that the sheriff is releasing.

5. People Are Moving Out of Fairfax. The Board of Supervisors continues to raise the real-estate tax. Meanwhile, family income is decreasing. Joe Mondoro, the County’s Chief Financial Officer, has stated that the trend of increasing taxes and decreasing income is unsustainable. We need to rein in the school and county expenditures. The middle class is hardest hit and is moving out of the county. See http://fcta.org/Pubs/Bulletins/2019-09.pdf.

6. 2nd Amendment rights are under attack. The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution is designed to deter a tyrannical takeover of the U.S. government such as is possible with a de facto one-party system. Most tyrannies try to disarm the citizens to prevent a successful revolution. Armed citizens are needed; they are not a problem. Gun murders are near an all-time low. Gun murders could and should be reduced — at zero taxpayer expense — by teaching morality in schools. Bullying is already taught as evil. Every religion teaches that severe punishment, even eternal punishment — awaits murderers after they die. Only godless people teach otherwise. Potential murderers should fear eternity in hell; however, currently, our School Board keeps the schools godless. We need more Republicans on the School Board to offset the current Democrat majority. More taxpayer money will not cause a change. The Board must change.

7. Virginia’s Social Services are inefficient. The total expenditures by Virginia’ Social Services in 2017 are reported as $262M, of which $147M is in core areas. That would indicate that only 147/262 = 56% goes to the needy. Private charities have more than 80% going to the needy. Perhaps TANF should be out-sourced to a private entity so the poor would get more money. Outsourcing is not something the present administration is likely to do. See: https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/tanf_spending_va.pdf.

See www.fcta.org/Pubs/Reports/2019-10a-fac.html for more information and for whom to vote in this local, 2019 election. We need a change in the administration.
Should You Trust the Fairfax County School Board (FCSB)?

Introduction: Don’t judge today’s public education by how you were taught. What is taught in Fairfax County schools today differs greatly from what was taught a decade or so ago. 1 Is the current education better?  Consider:

1. You went to neighborhood schools; your children might not. The FCSB wants not only every school but every classroom to have the same mixture of races, family incomes, and abilities. Because busing is strongly opposed by parents, the FCSB has a new idea: transfer the students by re-drawing the school boundaries. In the FCSB proposed “Boundary Policy 8130.7,” the opinion of residents and a negative impact on quality of education are not to be taken into account. Instead, the first criterion in redrawing school boundaries is the “socioeconomic and/or racial composition of students in the schools”. This criterion is in keeping with the County’s “One Fairfax” policy and FCSB’s idea of “equity.” 2 On July 22, 2019, the School-Board majority delayed the vote on this new policy until after the elections. They realize that parents (and real-estate agents) will object strongly. The majority on the School Board wants to protect the current majority.

2. Students with mid-range academic performance now receive little attention. Fairfax County teachers are already burdened with teaching children in classrooms of students where there is a wide range of abilities and a wide range of behavior. These classroom teachers are to be commended for working in this difficult environment. The range of abilities is seen in the persistent performance gap between schools and between races, a continuing embarrassment to the FCSB. Under the School Board’s “One Fairfax”, “equity” program, students from poorly performing schools will be integrated into highly performing schools so every one would have the same average SAT scores -- but the racial gap would remain. The equity program will result in teachers having to focus on more poorly performing students so all students will pass the Standards of Learning tests (SOL’s). Good students do well in any environment, but the middle-performance students will continue to suffer. Poorly performing students will become frustrated and discouraged, and possibly a disciplinary problem, when they compare their academic performance with the performance of superior students. Having classrooms that have students of nearly equal performance -- not necessarily equal ability – is a better idea. The teacher would be able to tailor the teaching approach to the ability of all students in the class.

3. What you were taught is not what is currently taught. The burden on the classroom teachers is compounded by the curriculum. For example, in mathematics, instead of memorizing the multiplication table, students spend much time envisioning, with the help of cartoons, the process of multiplication – at too young an age for conceptualization. Instead of learning the traditional, efficient method of multiplying multi-digit numbers, students spend much time learning five different methods for performing the same process. The schools detest memorization and drill, but the students must memorize in either case, not one method but five methods. Too much time is spent on the multiplicity of methods. The FCSB claims, without proof, that some students can learn only the non-traditional methods; therefore, teaching all students all methods is better. Of course, then the majority must suffer. Many require tutors.

4. Guidance counselors now guide with little or no parental involvement. Problems in the classroom environment and curriculum are compounded by the social atmosphere. Policies are developed based in part on the unscientific Youth Survey that the schools conduct3. The survey asks many questions about the student’s social and sex life. Counselors can use the survey results to guide them in private counseling of students, sometimes without parental knowledge, consent, or involvement, after age 13. Guidance at this critical age is thereby coming from the schools, not the student’s parents.

For more information on the county’s education program, see http://fcta.org/Pubs/Reports/2019-08a-fac.pdf. We need a change in the administration. Vote for Republican-backed candidates in the local, 2019-election.

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2 A critique of the policies can be read at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iM4AfGQqTWE. It contains excerpts from the July 22, 2019, meeting. The current draft of the new policy is at https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/BDZRXX6E892C/$file/20190711_Draft_Policy8130.pdf. The first criteria for boundary changes is “Socioeconomic and/or racial composition of students in affected schools”.
3 https://www.fcps.edu/resources/student-safety-and-wellness/youth-survey