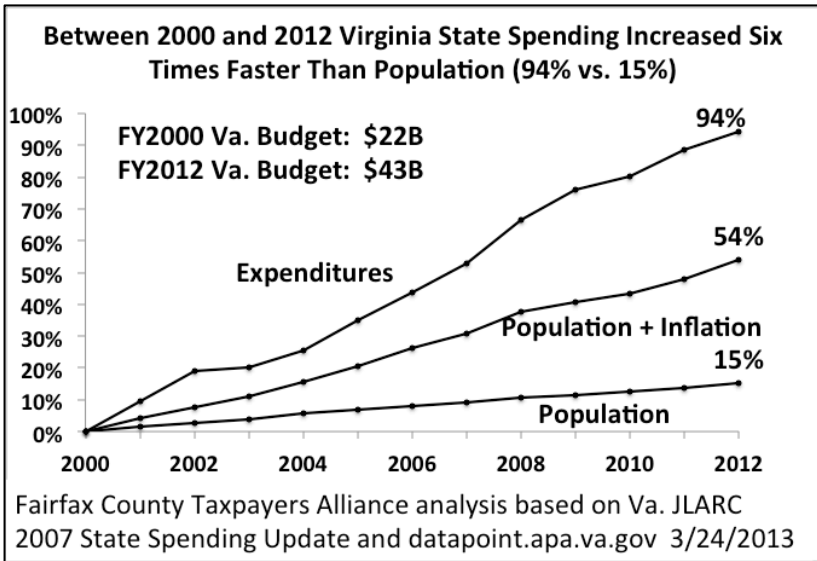


REPEAL THE TRANSPORTATION TAX HIKE



This year the General Assembly and the Governor enacted tax hikes (HB 2313) to increase annual transportation funding by \$1 billion. However, between 2000 and 2012, Virginia annual spending increased \$21 billion, from \$22 billion to \$43 billion, a 94 percent increase. Over the same period, Virginia population increased only 15 percent, and population plus inflation increased 54 percent.

Of the \$21 billion increase, \$6.4 billion went to education, a 91% increase, and \$7.1 billion went to Individual and Family Services (IFS), a 112% increase – all well above the 54% increase in inflation plus

population – and \$2 billion went to transportation.

The results? Despite the 91% increase in education spending, the 2012 ACT college admissions test showed that, of the 21,647 Virginia seniors tested, only 33 percent were prepared for college. Despite the 112% increase in IFS spending, half of which is Medicaid, Medicaid nursing homes are low quality; doctors won't take Medicaid patients because of low reimbursement rates; 7000 disabled persons are waiting for Medicaid waivers so they can be cared for at home; and subsidized food, housing, childcare, and healthcare create an incentive for out-of-wedlock births, which perpetuate poverty.

Transportation funds would be available if failed government programs were phased out. Public schools need sharpening through competition, not more money. The welfare safety net should be private charities and extended families, not the government. We need to return to the realization of the importance of hard work, individual responsibility, and religious faith.

