

Pre-Session News and Survey



Dear Constituents,

Happy Holidays!

Thank you to all voters who supported me in the recent election. I am honored to have your support and will work hard on behalf of all constituents.

The General Assembly Session convenes on January 8; our new Governor will be inaugurated on January 11. The session is going to be a very busy one with challenging issues some of which I discuss in this newsletter. I would like to have your thoughts on issues before the legislature. Please complete the survey in this newsletter on-line or mail it to me.

You are invited to take part in a public hearing with me and Senator Janet Howell on January 2, 2014, 7:30 – 9 pm at the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, and with the Fairfax County General Assembly delegation on January 4, 9 am at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, to share your views on issues.

If you would like to participate in activities related to the Inauguration of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, please go to <http://www.inauguration2014.com> for details. To visit the General Assembly while in session, please call my legislative office at 703.758.9733 for assistance or visit <http://virginiageneralassembly.gov>. You can also follow the progress of legislation at the website.

Throughout the year I publish a weekly electronic newsletter, *Virginia e-News*. It contains commentary from me on issues as well as an extensive bulletin board and community calendar. Subscribe at www.kenplum.com. My weekly television show *Virginia Report* can be viewed on Comcast Cable Channel 28 or Verizon Channel 1981. *Virginia Report* is also available online at <https://vimeo.com/album/1650266> for viewing on your computer or iPad.

Please let me know if I can ever be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Plum". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kenneth R. Plum

General Assembly 2014 Challenges

The 60-day “long” session of the General Assembly will face major challenges.

Budget

An outcome of having a one-term governor is that the General Assembly will have a biennial budget before it proposed by out-going Governor McDonnell to which our new Governor Terry McAuliffe will have an opportunity to propose amendments. Both the budget and amendments face severe problems. The past recession wrecked havoc on state revenue as it did on most business enterprises. The rate of recovery has been slow. Some state programs and services are operating at 2007 funding levels. Serious funding shortfalls need to be addressed in a number of areas including

- Localities are making reductions in their public school programs because of a shortage of funds from the state and other sources.
- The need to expand our mental health services has been made well known by several tragic events.
- A greater short term investment in preschool programs could prevent many student failures and reduce the need for remediation programs in the future.
- Our colleges need to expand their capacity to meet the growing number of students.
- Income disparity across the state continues to widen, and there is a need for more economic development in many areas of the state.
- Training the workforce for the new economy needs to expand.

Social Issues

The legislature is likely to have many bills introduced on limiting access to abortion because a number of legislators particularly in the House of Delegates feel strongly about the issue. While such bills take up a great amount of committee and floor debate time, they are likely to be defeated in the Senate or vetoed by the Governor. It is my hope that the legislature will not be featured on late-night comedy shows.

On the fourteenth of each month I have been joining friends and other



concerned citizens at a vigil at NRA headquarters in Fairfax. The tragic shootings at Newtown, Connecticut, took place on December 14. We want to bring attention to the issue until reasonable gun safety laws are passed. It is possible to expand background checks for gun sales to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and those who are violent while preserving Second Amendment freedom. Significant laws will be difficult to pass in Virginia, but I will continue to push for state and federal action to end gun violence.



© Reston Town Center

Jane and I chose the Silver Line as our entry in the Annual Town Center Holiday Parade whose theme was “destinations” this year. We share the concern about the delay of opening the Silver Line until February or March, but the good news is that construction is complete. The additional time is related to getting the automatic train controls just right and to make sure that all safety tests are met. We look forward to joining you at the grand opening very soon.

Voting

The recent close elections are likely to result in more efforts to change voting laws to eliminate errors and fraud, but the results of such laws most often suppress voting on the part of some groups and have no impact on fraud that has never been shown to exist. I will work to expand early voting opportunities and will work against efforts at voter suppression.

Ethics

I am a member of a bipartisan panel that will propose major changes to Virginia’s ethics laws. Certainly reporting of gifts received by family members will be required, but it is my hope that a ban can be enacted on all gifts over \$100. Likewise, an ethics panel is needed as are stricter penalties.

Pre-Session Constituent Survey – 2014

You may complete the survey on-line at www.kenplum.com.

Please indicate whether you support, oppose, are undecided, or need more information on the following issues that are likely to come before the General Assembly:

Return completed survey to:

Delegate Ken Plum
Virginia House of Delegates
P.O. Box 406
Richmond, VA 23218.

Thank you for your response!

	Support	Oppose	Undecided	Need more information
Repeal the "Marriage Amendment" that defines marriage as being only between a man and a woman	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Require same-sex couples to file separate tax returns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establish bullying as a crime	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establish a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lift the current ban on uranium mining	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prohibit guns in public places	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Require background checks for all gun purchases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Define a fetus as a person with citizenship rights	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Repeal the law that requires women's health centers to meet hospital standards	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establish a medical insurance exchange to implement the Affordable Care Act	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Raise the tax on cigarettes to pay Medicaid-related costs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expand mental health services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase the amount of time a person can be detained for mental health issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restore funding that had been reduced from public schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Replace the state Standards of Learning (SOLs) with the federal Common Core of Knowledge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce the number of SOL tests administered in the schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cap the number of out-of-state students that can be accepted to Virginia colleges and universities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prohibit the use of hand-held cell phones while driving	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Repeal the transportation program passed in 2013	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Repeal the tax on hybrid vehicles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide more state money to the Silver Line	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prohibit elected officials and their families from accepting gifts over \$100 in value	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eliminate the corporate income tax	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you would like to receive Delegate Plum's weekly electronic newsletter, *Virginia e-News*, give us your e-mail address here: _____

Pre-Session Public Hearings

With Delegate Ken Plum and
Senator Janet Howell

January 2, 2014, 7:30 – 9 pm

Reston Community Center, 2310
Colts Neck Road, Reston

Pre-registration or written
testimony not required.

With the Fairfax County General
Assembly Delegation

January 4, 2014, 9 am-Noon

Fairfax County Government Center,
12000 Government Center Parkway,
Fairfax

Pre-registration and written
testimony suggested.

Delegate Ken Plum
2073 Cobblestone Lane
Reston, VA 20191

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