



September 13, 2018

7686 Richmond Highway, 203A | Alexandria VA 22306
703-360-6925 | www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org

Governor Ralph Northam
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

CHAMBER OFFICERS

- Chairman** Scott Stroh III
Gunston Hall
- President** Sonja Caison
The Cleaning Authority
- Vice President** Stanley Koussis
Andrews Federal Credit Union
- Secretary** Phyllis Sintay
McEneaney Associates
- Treasurer** Christopher S. Reddick
The National Capital Bank
- Immediate Past Chairman** Jane Gandee
ServiceMaster Restore National Capital Restoration
- Executive Director** Holly Hicks Dougherty

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Joel Bernstein ECCA Payroll Services/Benefit Providers
- Kenneth Board M & T Bank
- Dr. Don Brideau Inova Mount Vernon Hospital
- Dr. D.R. Butler Mount Vernon Rotary Club
- Don Cammarata Covanta Fairfax Inc.
- Jimmie Cummings Fort Belvoir
- Michael Gailliot Century 21 New Millennium
- Jason Hunt Roy Rogers Restaurants
- Cindy Hurrle Mount Vernon Country Club
- Edythe Kelleher Southeast Fairfax Development Co.
- Sam Misleh Walker's Grille
- Mark Murray Fort Belvoir Swim Team
- Daniel F. Rinzel Redmon, Peyton & Braswell LLP
- Alison Ross-Tompkins The Fairfax Retirement Community
- Tobin Seven Realtor / Veteran
- Ana Stokholm Pillar Systems
- Josh Toth Burke & Herbert Bank

PLATINUM STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust Co.
- Inova Mount Vernon Hospital
- Ourisman Automotive Group

GOLD STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- Andrews FCU
- Cox Communications
- Fort Belvoir Residential Communities LLC
- Wegmans Food Market

SILVER STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- Covanta Fairfax
- Dominion Surveyors Inc.
- Northern Virginia Community College
- ServiceMaster Restore – National Capital Restoration
- Springfield Town Center

BRONZE STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- Alexandria Quality Inn Mount Vernon
- Catering by Seasons
- Christian Relief Services
- Dominion Virginia Power
- ECCA Payroll Services / Benefit Providers
- Genuario Construction Companies
- George Washington's Mount Vernon
- Hawaiian Pool & Spa
- Hermitage of Northern Virginia
- Hollin Hall Automotive
- McEneaney Associates
- Mount Vernon Athletic Club
- Paul Spring Retirement Community
- PBMares Certified Public Accountants
- Redmon, Peyton & Braswell, LLP
- Service Distributing, Inc.
- Sunrise at Mount Vernon
- The Cleaning Authority
- The Fairfax Retirement Community

MEDIA PARTNERS

- Alexandria Times
- Fort Hunt Herald
- Mount Vernon Gazette

Dear Governor Northham:

The Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce, representing some 300 businesses and individual members in the Mount Vernon and Lee Magisterial districts of Fairfax County, is writing you today to express our concern regarding the alleged “windfall” in State revenue which is anticipated as a result of the changes in the federal tax law which were enacted by the U.S. Congress. This so-called “windfall” is in fact the result of a substantial increase in income taxes for middle class Virginians, particularly for those of us here in Northern Virginia, unless the General Assembly takes action.

The new federal tax law changed many deductions including an increase the federal standard deduction to \$24,000 for a married couple while Virginia's standard deduction remains at \$6,000 per couple. As a result many more taxpayers, particularly those in our area of Virginia, will likely be opting for the standard federal deduction rather than itemizing deductions as they have done in the past. As you know, current Virginia law allows Virginia taxpayers to itemize deductions on their state tax return only if they also itemize on their federal tax return.

In order to avoid this \$500 million increase in state income taxes on our middle class taxpayers, many of whom are small business owners, the Virginia General Assembly must enact legislation to either conform Virginia Tax law to federal tax law, as other states have done, or to eliminate the requirement that state taxpayers mimic deductions on their federal tax return.

We request that you promptly call a special session of the legislature to consider such legislation. It would be unconscionable to allow these increases in the state income tax to take place without a vote by our legislative representatives. Unfortunately, that is the course we are on unless you call the legislature back into session to consider corrective legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Sonja Caison
President