

## PLEASE OPPOSE

### HB176 (Gardner) HB254 (Sullivan) HB413 (Convirs-Fowler) HB429 (Arnold)

- These bills seek a remedy for a small number of localities. However, it will impact all of us.
- These bills, as written, will mandate ALL CO candidates to have a “D”, “R”, or “I” next to their name on the ballot in the future. Presently, there is no such identifier.
- These bills have come up many times before. Most recently in 2023, 2020 and 2019.
- Presently, in a MAJORITY of Virginia localities the local governing body, school board and constitutional officers are ALL NON-PARTISAN offices.
- There are approximately 645 elected constitutional officers. The majority of these officers are non-partisan.
- Partisanship among ALL constitutional offices is unnecessary as we do not caucus with anyone. We come together, in a non-partisan manner, when issues impact us. Like this one for example.
- Adding CO’s to partisan politics could result in more primaries. Localities will bare the full cost for these primary elections.
- Not all localities that have non-partisan elections have charter provisions requiring nomination by petition. Enactment of party identification would likely require a locality charter change to keep their elections non-partisan by adopting specific language for nomination by petition.
- This “shotgun approach” is not appropriate to all localities and may provoke many Virginia localities to change a longstanding practice of non-partisan elections.
- “Local elections are best served by addressing local issues, not party issues...In our local elections we are not party connected, we are neighbors serving neighbors.” Therefore, we respectfully request that you oppose these bills.

PLEASE OPPOSE any, and all, *Form of Ballot* bills.