

## Amber Galaviz

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### **Education:**

**Northern Virginia Community College**, Woodbridge, Va. 2007-2011  
Associates of Fine Arts, Cum laude

- Related Coursework: Photojournalism, Public Speaking, U.S. Govt., Intermediate Spanish

**Virginia Commonwealth University**, Richmond, Va. 2011-2013  
Bachelor's in Mass Communications: Concentration in Print Journalism  
Minor: Writing  
Dean's List, Historian of Alpha Omicron Pi Fraternity

- Related Coursework: Capital News Service, Advanced Reporting, Copy-editing, Communication Ethics and Law

### **Related Experience:**

**Correspondent for Capital News Service**, Richmond, Va. Spring 2013

- Reported from the VA State Capitol on behalf of nearly 70 news organizations in the state

**Historian, *To Dragma* Reporter and Member of Alpha Omicron Pi Fraternity**, Richmond, Va. 2011-2013

- Keep a record of all accomplishments and activities by chapter
- Maintain chapters' historical files, including chapter minutes
- Submit stories and photographs to fraternity's national magazine

### **Skills:**

- Updating and posting to social media
- Composing multimedia reports for Sound Slides
- Editing and assembling audio reports with Adobe Audition
- Shooting video and editing in Adobe Premiere
- Composing and editing photography
- Laying out page designs with Adobe InDesign

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## Gov. McDonnell debates Patrick Henry

BY RVANews/STAFF

By Amber Galaviz | Capital News Service

Gov. Bob McDonnell faced an unusual opponent Tuesday as he debated the role of government with Virginia's first governor, Patrick Henry, at the historic St. John's Church for the first "Governors' Conversation."

The St. John's Church Foundation organized the debate between the two governors in honor of its mission to ensure the historic preservation of St. John's, which is a National Historic Landmark and the setting for Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" speech.

The foundation hosted benefactors, historical groups, educators and others to highlight its work to preserve Virginia history. The event was sponsored by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

Dr. Edward L. Ayers, University of Richmond president, acted as moderator as the governors discussed taxes, the role of government, education and other important issues.

McDonnell and Henry were joined by other prominent Virginians such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson while they discussed how the role of government has changed since Henry was elected governor in 1784.

McDonnell told Henry about rising taxes and the expanding power of government in the country – trends that worry him. Both governors agreed about the importance of education and democracy.

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Michael Wells portrayed Patrick Henry the entire night and entertained guests with his passionate responses during the debate.

“When the American spirit was in its youth, the language of America was different,” Henry said. “This was the language when I governed Virginia, but how different is the genius of your new constitution?”

McDonnell attributed the changes to a growing number of sources of authority and a more modern America.

The St. John’s Church Foundation hosts a number of reenactments throughout the year raising awareness and funds for St. John’s preservation and educational programs.

“This is not just a building; this is living history,” McDonnell said.

“But to be able to listen to the words of the founders, walk in their footsteps, and to stand in this spot where Mr. Henry gave that speech to the Continental Congress, I hope inspires you and reawakens your love for America and more importantly your love for the founding role that Virginia played in the design and the history of our country.”

Clay Hamner, who is on the board of trustees of the St. John’s Church Foundation, said he pulled every connection he could to make this program possible. Hamner is the fourth great-grandson of Patrick Henry. He was appointed to a state advisory board by McDonnell and is a graduate of the University of Richmond.

“Even though we know how things turned out from what Patrick Henry originally said was going to happen, it’s still nice to have another governor in here validate what Patrick Henry had warned about, which was a large, oppressive federal government,” Hamner said.

Sarah Whiting serves as executive director of the foundation.

“I think everybody is so overwhelmed at the depth of the knowledge on Gov. McDonnell on Virginia history,” Whiting said. “They had a great exchange, it was entertaining, and it was great.”

The event was filmed. An edited version will aired on CBS 6 at 1:30 PM on May 18th.

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# Senate passes 'Education Fairness Act'

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by STAFF/CONTRIBUTED REPORTS | FEB. 5, 2013

**By Amber Galaviz**

*Capital News Service*

RICHMOND – A bill making it easier to fire bad teachers, part of Gov. Bob McDonnell's K-12 education reform agenda, won unanimous approval Monday from the state Senate.

Senate Bill 1223, called the Education Fairness Act, would extend the probationary window for teachers to five years from the current three years. It also would streamline the grievance procedure for firing teachers deemed incompetent.

The Virginia Education Association, which represents the state's teachers, supports the legislation.

Senators voted 40-0 for SB 1223, which was sponsored by Republican Sens. Thomas Norment of Williamsburg and Mark Obenshain of Harrisonburg.

Last week, the House voted 84-14 in favor of a companion measure, House Bill 2151, sponsored by Delegate Richard Bell, R-Staunton. Bell said the legislation is aimed at "improving educational opportunities for Virginia students."

The Education Fairness Act addresses the evaluation policies and grievance procedures of public school teachers. It would require that teachers, assistant principals and principals be evaluated every year. Student academic progress would be part of the evaluation.

The president of the Virginia Education Association, Meg Gruber, said

teachers support the change regarding grievance and dismissal.

“We believe the VEA’s involvement in the process has resulted in an improved bill, and Virginia’s teachers have had a voice in laws that directly affect their profession,” Gruber said.

McDonnell hailed the Senate’s passage of the legislation. He issued a statement saying that the longer probationary period for teachers would “allow for a more thoughtful examination of teachers being awarded continuing contract status.” McDonnell also said new teachers would get “an extended period of mentoring.”

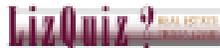
“I am pleased that members of both parties came together in the House and Senate to support these key reforms to Virginia’s teacher contract and grievance system,” McDonnell said.

“We have incredible teachers in Virginia and these reforms will help ensure that our children always have the most effective educators possible in the classroom. Great teachers are the key to bright futures for our children.”

*[Capital News Service](#) is a student news-gathering program sponsored by the School of Mass Communications at Virginia Commonwealth University.*

**Original URL:**

<http://www.rappnews.com/2013/02/05/senate-passes-education-fairness-act/110257/>



## Va. Lawmakers Fail to Repeal Gay Marriage Ban

February 18, 2013 By Amber Galaviz, Capital News Service

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RICHMOND – State officials joined gay rights activists at a press conference on Valentine’s Day to discuss their disappointment in the failure to repeal Virginia’s constitutional ban against same-sex marriage.

“I believe that marriage is about loving, committed couples wanting to make lifelong promises to each other – take care of each other, be responsible for each other and support each other,” Del. Scott Surovell, D-Fairfax, said at the event at the General Assembly Building.

“And I think that if anybody – gay, straight – wants to stand up in front of their family and friends and make that commitment to grow old together, it’s not for me, or the judge or the state to deny them that opportunity or that right.”

This legislative session, Surovell had sponsored House Joint Resolution 665, which sought to rescind the constitutional amendment that Virginians approved in November 2006.

That amendment defines marriage as “only a union between one man and one woman” and prohibits the state and local governments from creating or recognizing marriages, unions or similar relationships between couples of the same sex. It was ratified by 57 percent of the vote in a statewide election.

Last month, the Constitutional Amendments Subcommittee of the House Committee on Privileges and Elections recommended that HJ 655 be “passed by indefinitely” – effectively killing it for this legislative session.

Surovell’s resolution was co-sponsored by 22 other House members, all of them Democrats.

Thursday’s press conference included representatives of several groups that support same-sex marriage: the Alliance for Progressive Values, People of Faith for Equality, First Unitarian Church of Richmond and GetEQUAL-Virginia. They said Virginia’s ban against same-sex unions hurts individuals and the state.

Surovell was joined by supporters of his resolution, including Sen. Adam Ebbin, D-Alexandria, and Democratic Dels. Betsy Carr of Richmond, Kaye Kory of Fairfax, Mark Keam of Fairfax, Alfonso Lopez of Arlington, and Robert Krupicka of Alexandria.

The Rev. Robin Gorsline, a minister with the Metropolitan Community Church of Richmond and the president of People of Faith for Equality in Virginia, was among the speakers at the news conference. With his partner, Jonathan Lebolt, at his side, Gosline said Virginia’s laws don’t reflect the real lives of committed same-sex couples.

“We aren’t asking for the right to marry; we’re already married,” Gosline said. “Instead, we’re telling local and state authorities that we want them to catch up and fix their laws.”



Gay rights activists attend a press conference that addressed some lawmakers’ disappointment in the General Assembly for not repealing the gay marriage ban this session. (Capital News Service)

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