



Report from Richmond

Delegate David Bulova and Senator Chap Petersen

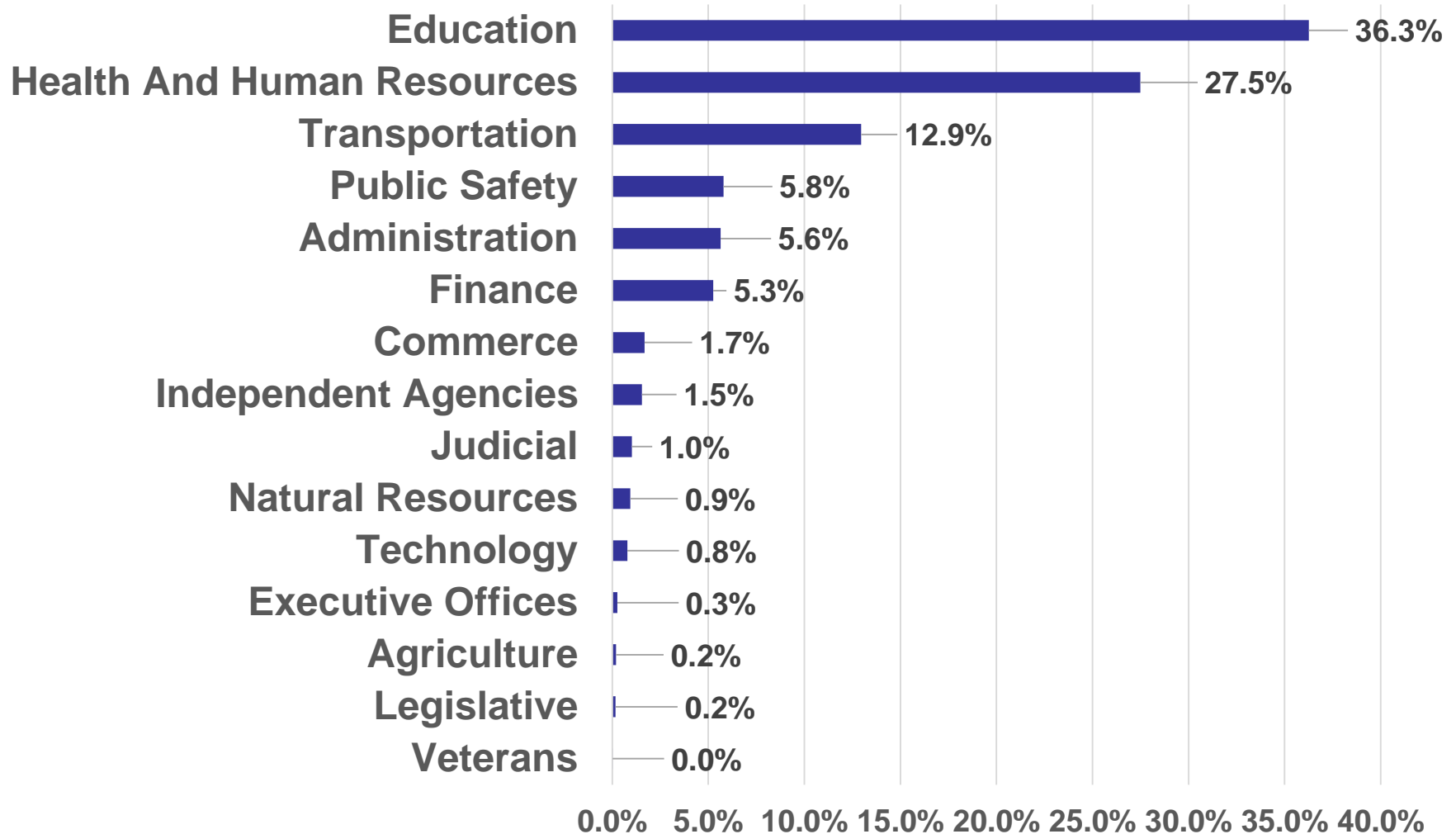
February 11, 2017

Session Overview

- Convened on January 11th
- Short session – ends February 25th
- 1,086 bills introduced in the House;
813 in the Senate
- February 7th was “cross-over”
- Committee assignments

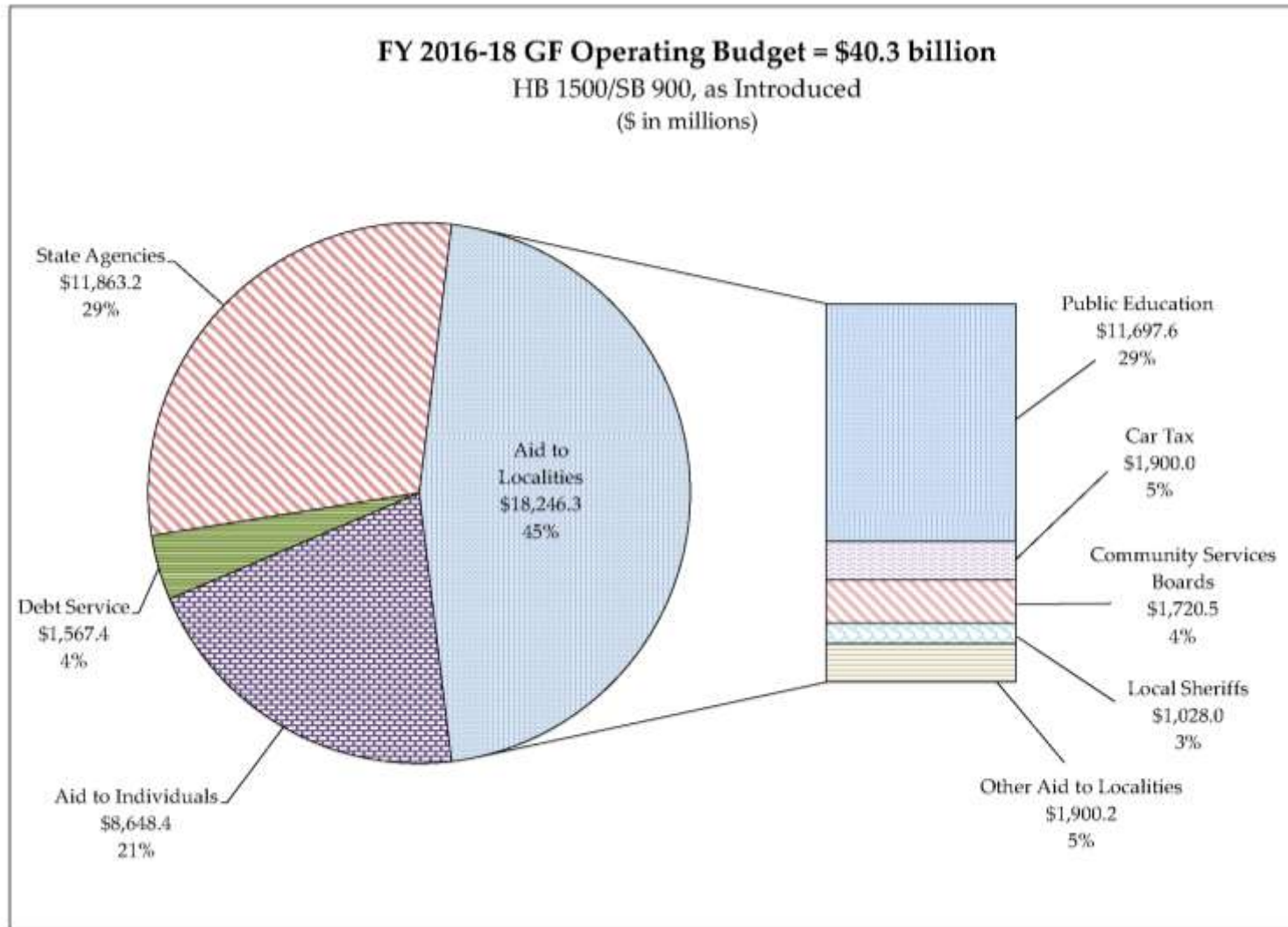
Budget Challenge - \$1.2B Gap

Budget drivers -- how our tax dollars are spent.

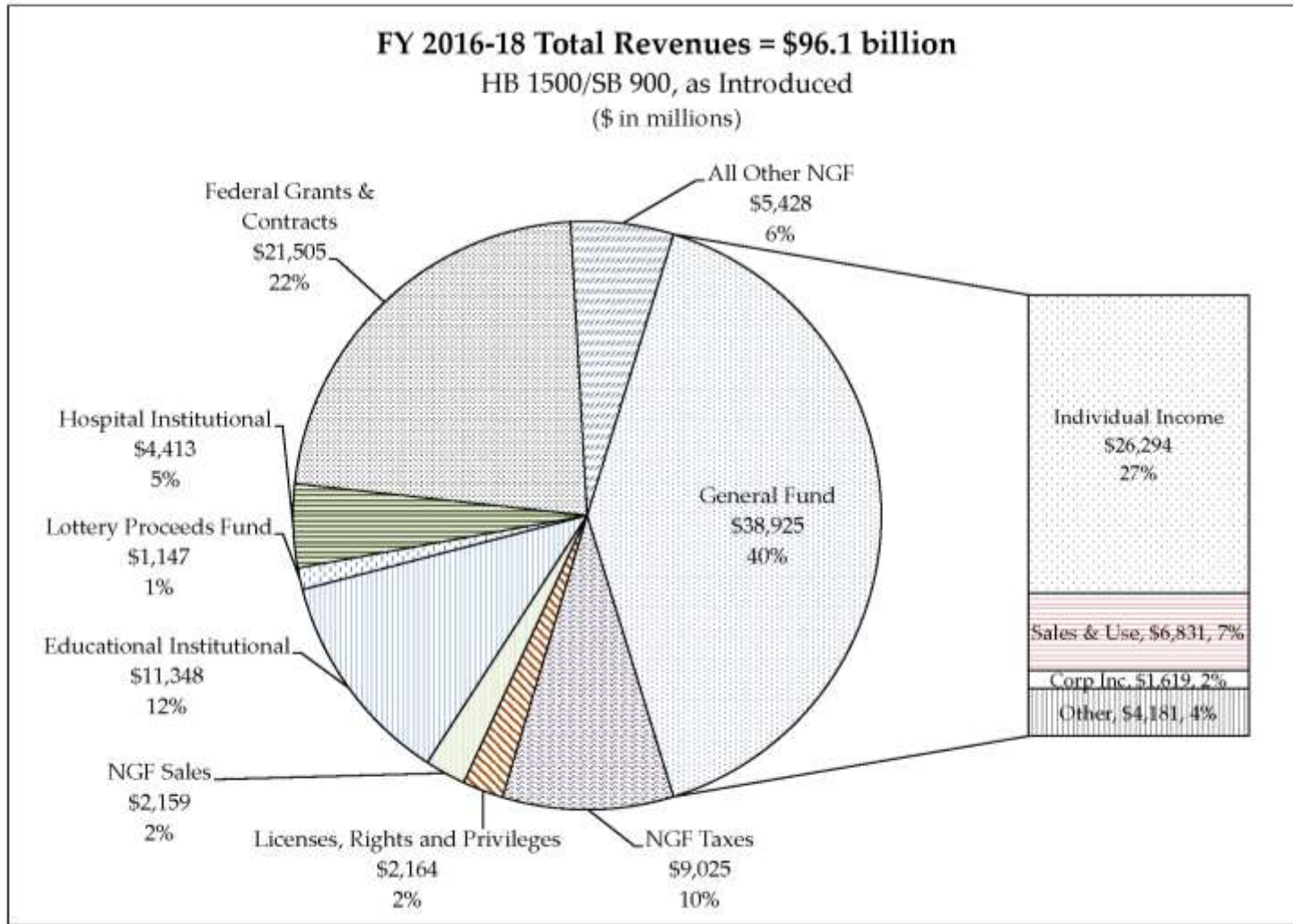


How state funding is distributed.

General Fund Only



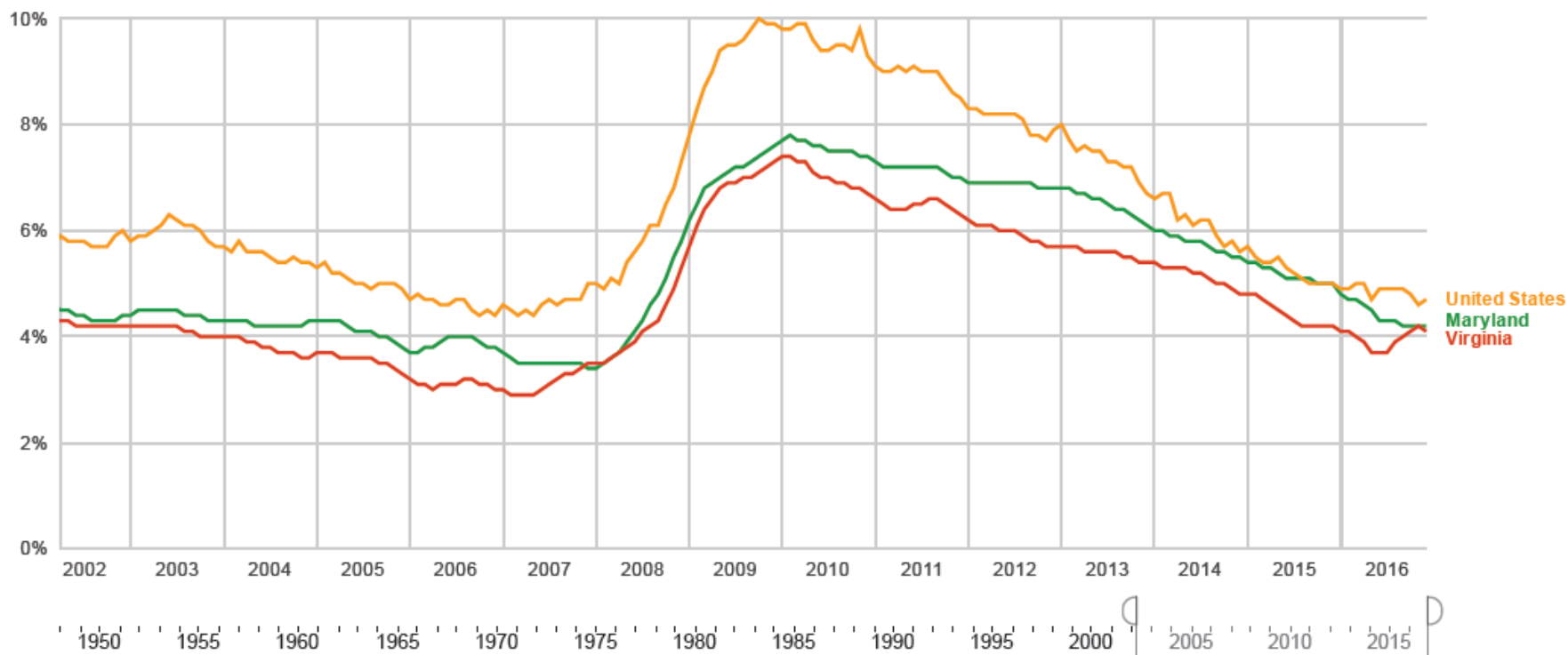
How revenue is generated.



Cause of Revenue Shortfall

- Virginia's economy continues to improve, although not at the national pace.
- FY16 growth was forecast at 2.8%; actually increased by only 1.3%.
- FY17 forecast revised from 3.5% to 1.6%.
- New jobs are not as high paying as the ones lost due to sequestration.
- Shortfall exacerbated by non-discretionary increases in Medicaid, Child Services Act, and Department of Corrections.

Unemployment Rates



Data from [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) Last updated: Feb 2, 2017

Key Budget Items

- **State Employee Compensation**
 - Stagnant for several years; resulting in many positions going unfilled.
 - House and Senate both include raises.
- **K-12 Education**
 - Generally keeps K-12 funding intact.
 - Different approaches on school funding and teacher raises (1.5% bonus for teachers vs. changes in Virginia Lottery distribution formula).
- **Higher Education**
 - Both House and Senate reduce cuts to higher education made by the Governor.
 - Cuts are still significant.

Key Budget Items

- **Economic Development**
 - Defers some initiatives (Virginia International Trade Corporation).
 - Shifts funding around to different priorities (Governor's Opportunity Fund vs. GO Virginia).
- **Mental Health and Substance Abuse**
 - All budgets include an increase over the current budget (actual amount differs).
- **Medicaid Expansion**
 - No expansion given uncertainty at federal level.

Key Budget Items

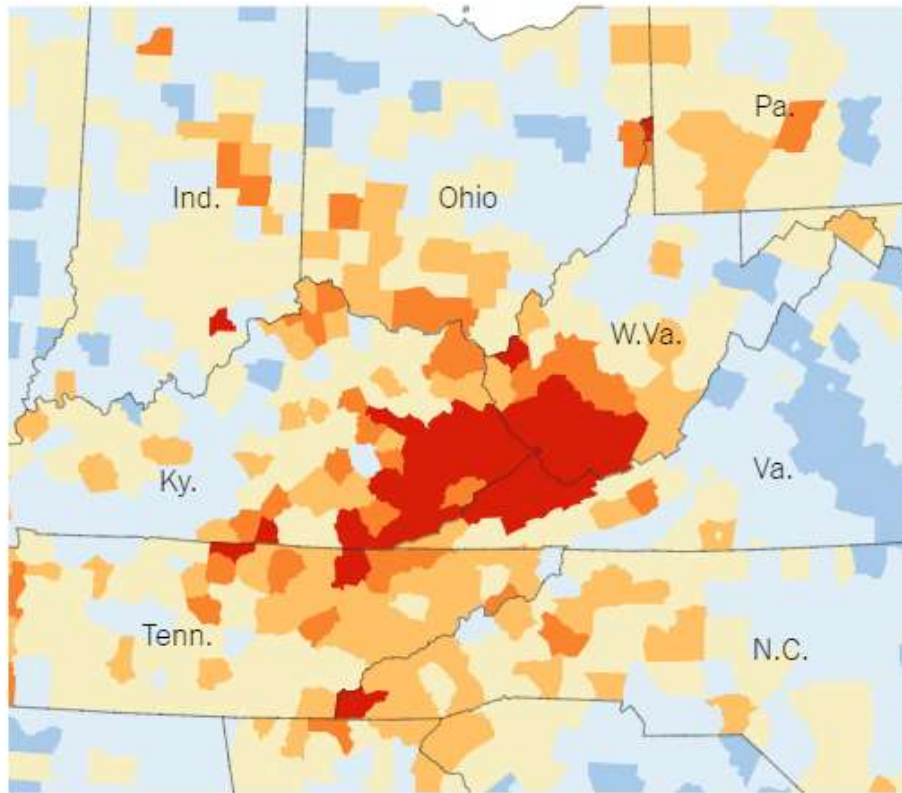
- **Metro Reform**
 - Language to implement needed WMATA safety oversight reforms.
- **Transportation**
 - Increase by \$98.6 million as a result of re-forecasting of revenue projections.
- **Tax Amnesty Program**
 - Between \$58M and \$90M in revenue.
- **Revenue Stabilization Fund**
 - One-time \$567M withdrawal.

Other Major Issues

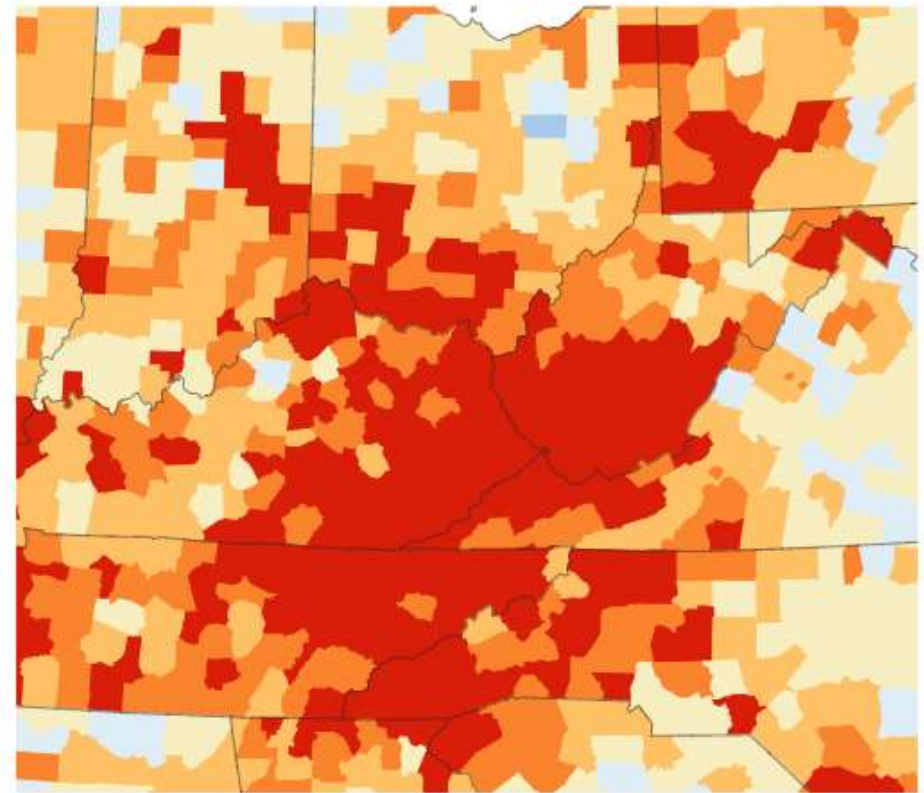
- **Opioid Epidemic**
 - Emergency room visits increased 89% in first nine months of 2016 compared to 2015.
- **Short-Term Rentals (Airbnb)**
- **Fracking**
- **Higher Education Affordability**
- **Redistricting Reform**
- **Education Reform**
 - Virtual schools
 - Public funding to sectarian schools
- **Planned Parenthood**
- **Voting Rights**
 - Proof of citizenship
 - Photo ID for absentee voting
- **Balance of Power – Review of Regulations Constitutional Amendment**

Opioid Deaths 2003 vs. 2014

Deaths per 100,000 – Red Denotes Over 20



2003



2014

*New York Times, By Haeyoun Park and Matthew Bloch,
January 19, 2016.*

Highlights – David's Bills

- HB 1552
 - Ensures that schools have a plan for providing students with information on career and technical education opportunities.
- HB 1619
 - Establishes a process for protecting the Chesapeake Bay while allowing for new economic development.
- HB 2432
 - Deals with the process of revoking a teacher license for sexual misconduct and related offenses.
- HB1620
 - Places further restrictions on predatory lending (car title lenders and open-ended credit plans).

Highlights – Chap's Bills

- SB 1095
 - Refund restoration for electric customers. Reestablishes review of earnings by the SCC. Has Governor's support.
- SB 1376
 - Requires public universities to provide public notice of tuition increases prior to a vote by the board of visitors.
- SB 925
 - Establishes a 5¢ fee for plastic bags in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Proceeds go to the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund.
- SB 1093 and SB 1593
 - Establishes limits to contributions to candidates and PACs. Bans campaign donations from regulated monopolies.
- SB 923
 - Increases felony larceny threshold. Current at \$200.

What You Are Telling Us

2017 Survey – 1,034 Responses – A New Record!

- Should the **state minimum wage** be increased?
 - 24% Yes -- \$15/hour
 - 22% Yes -- \$12/hour
 - 11% Yes – Lower amount
 - 16% No – Keep tied to federal rate
- Should school boards have the discretion to allow **security officers to carry a weapon** with proper training?
 - 51% Yes
 - 36% No
- Should Virginia call for a convention of states to amend the U.S. Constitution to require a **balanced budget**?
 - 42% Yes
 - 38% No

What You Are Telling Us

- Should local governments be restricted in their ability to **regulate short-term rentals** such as Airbnb?
 - 34% Support
 - 40% Oppose
- Should Virginia **prohibit abortion after 20 weeks** unless necessary to avert death or irreversible physical impairment of the mother?
 - 36% Support
 - 56% Oppose
- Should parents be allowed to take a portion of the state share of education funding and apply it to **sectarian education**?
 - 27% Support
 - 65% Oppose

What You Are Telling Us

- **Other issues:**

68% Yes - Automatic restoration of voting rights for non-violent felons.

54% Yes - Allow trucks on I-66 toll lanes if it brings down overall costs.

53% Yes - Require local jails to hold an individual suspected of violating federal immigration laws if requested by ICE.

51% Yes - Enter a compact that would elect the President based on national popular vote.

Thank You!

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