



# Report from Richmond

**Delegate David Bulova and Senator Chap Petersen**

**February 10, 2018**

# Session Overview

- Convened on January 10<sup>th</sup>
- Long session – ends March 10<sup>th</sup>
- 1,609 bills introduced in the House;  
993 in the Senate
- February 13<sup>th</sup> is “cross-over”
- Committee assignments

# Biennial Budget

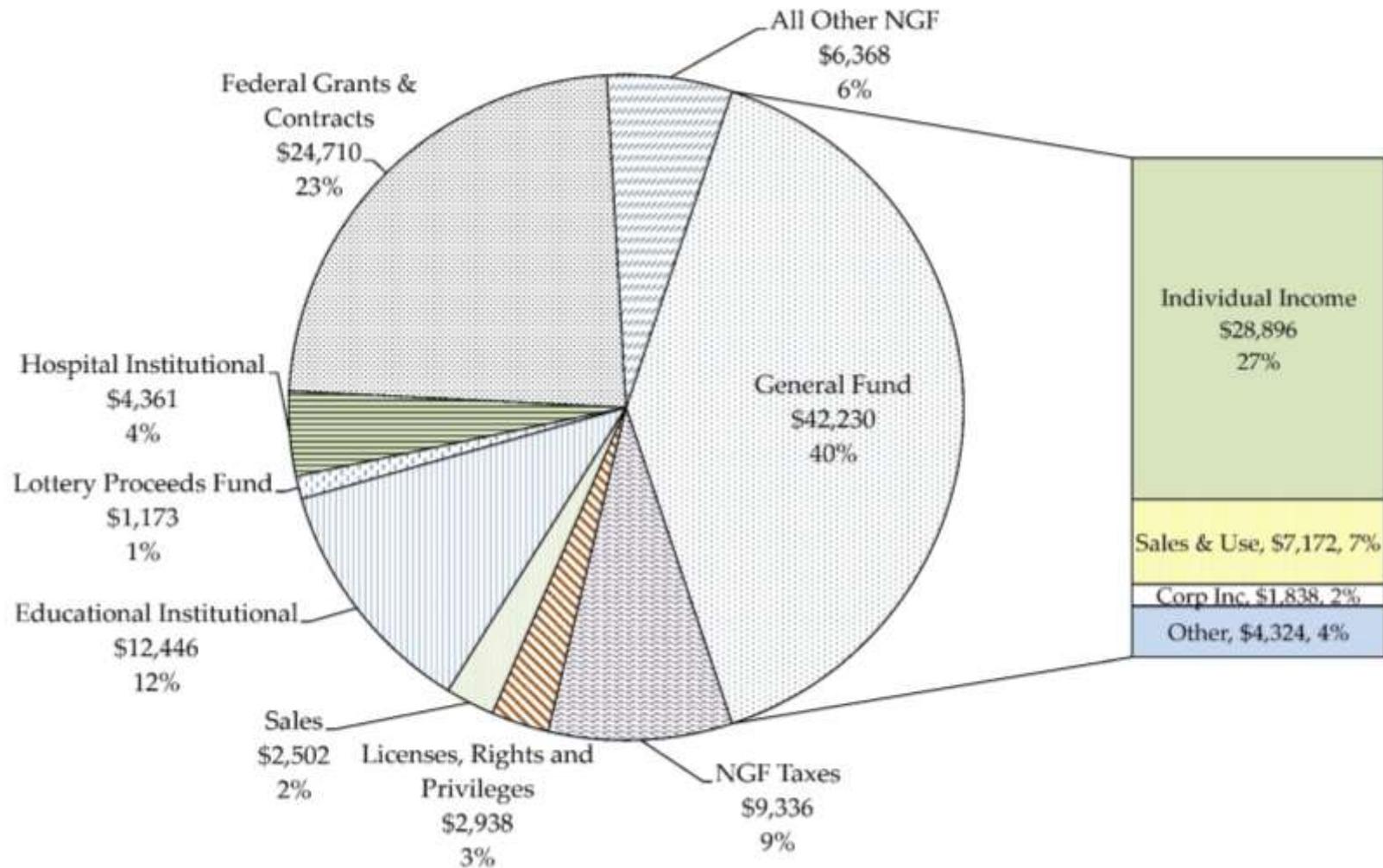
- A happier budget outlook than 2017!
- Overall growth rates expected in the 4.0% range for next two years.
- Still less than historical levels of growth.
- Continued concern regarding Virginia's reliance on federal spending.
- Federal tax changes could affect Virginia revenue.

# How revenue is generated.

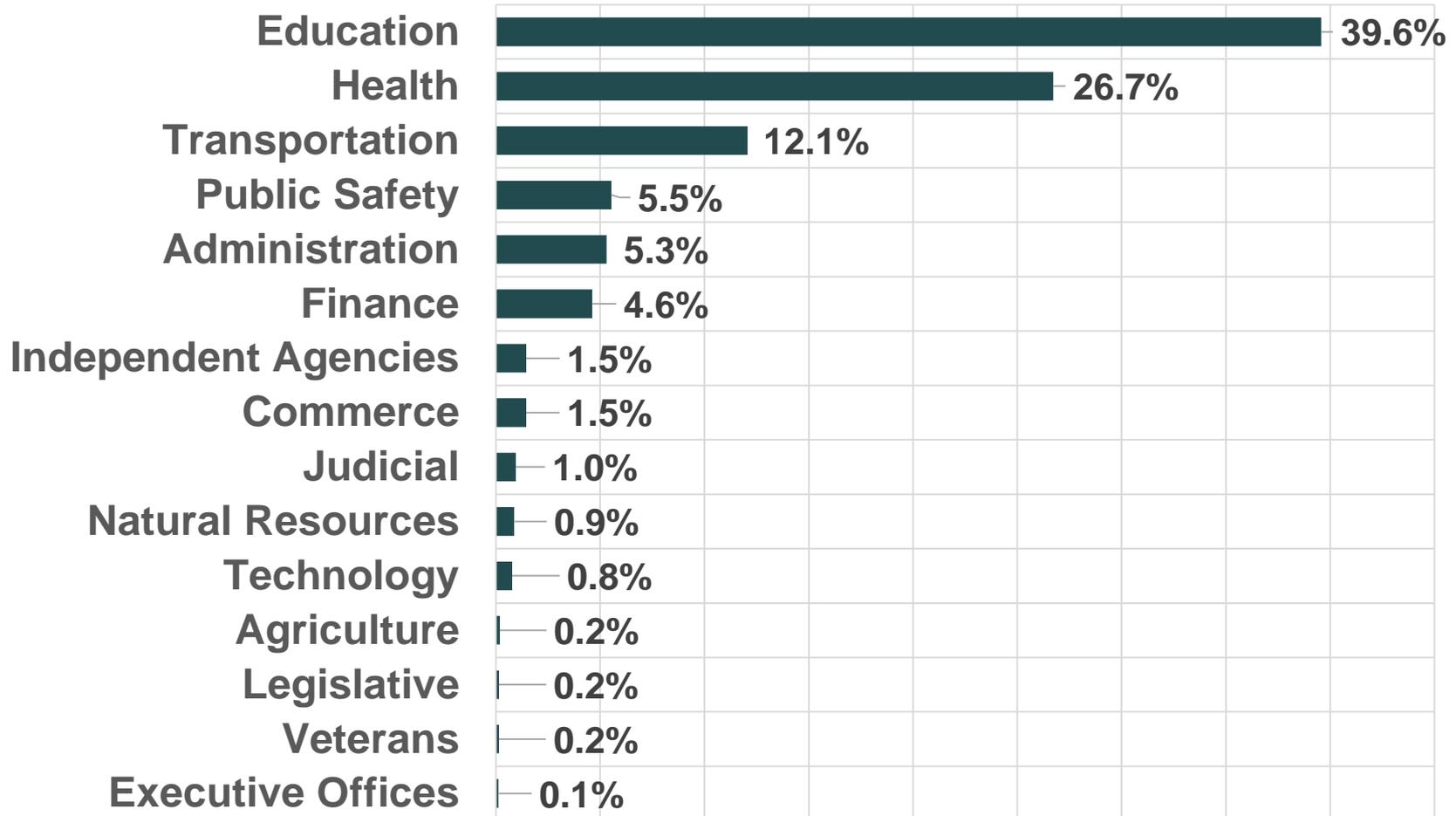
FY 2018-20 Total Revenues = \$106.1 billion

HB/SB30, as Introduced

(\$ in millions)



# Budget drivers -- how our tax dollars are spent.



# Biennial Budget

- Outgoing Governor introduced biennial budget in December.
- Proposes to increase net spending by \$1.78 billion compared to FY16-18.
- Includes \$2.5 billion in spending offset by \$711.7 million in savings, primarily from Medicaid Expansion.

# Key Budget Items

- **Reserve** - Increases the reserve to ensure we can weather any uncertainty at the federal level.
- **Education** - Funds re-benchmarking of the Standards of Quality with an additional \$436 million. This is the process of determining the total share of state funding for K-12 education.
- **Higher Education** - Includes much needed support for George Mason University.
- **Metro** - Provides Virginia's \$150 million share of the \$500 million per year needed to stabilize the system. Increases the transient occupancy tax (2% to 3%) and real estate transfer tax.

# Key Budget Items

- **Medicaid Waiver Slots** - Supports 825 additional Medicaid waiver slots.
- **Mental Health** - Funding to expand mental health dockets in our courts.
- **Opioid Crisis** - New funding to combat opioid addiction – 803 deaths from fentanyl and/or heroin and 465 deaths from prescription overdoses last year.
- **Salaries** - Includes a 2% raise for state employees and the state's share of a 2% raise for teachers.
- **Medicaid Expansion** - Expands Medicaid in Virginia.

# **Major Legislative Issues**

- **Electric Utility Regulation**
  - **SB966 versus Chap's SB9**
- **Teacher Shortage Crisis**
- **Scope of Practice for Nurse Practitioners**
- **Distracted Driving**
- **Redistricting Reform**
- **Constitutional Amendments –  
Transportation Lock-Box and Regulatory  
Nullification**

# Highlights – David's Bills

- **HB 86** – Eliminates the fee for placing a security freeze on your credit report.
- **HB 623** – Establishes curriculum in career exploration with focus on vocational education.
- **HB 439** – Allows real estate licensees to refer clients to document translators.
- **HB297** – Requires public input process for state agency guidelines.
- **HB 1273** – Virginia Alternative Energy and Coastal Protection Act.
- **HB1417** – Returns I-66 inside the Beltway toll lanes to old HOV hours.

# Highlights – Chap’s Bills

- **SB10** – Bans contributions from regulated utilities.
- **SB138** – Raises felony larceny threshold from \$200 to \$500.
- **SB273** – The “Recess Freedom” bill.
- **SB278** – Requires prompt payment of funds to a land owner subject to eminent domain.
- **SB824** – Requires public comment period prior to a university raising tuition.
- **SB895** – Raises punitive damages cap from \$350,000 to \$500,000.

# What You Are Telling Us

2018 Survey – 681 Responses To-Date

- Should we increase certain regional taxes to support **investments in Metro**?
  - 54% Yes
  - 30% No
- Should localities have the ability to remove **Confederate statues**?
  - 67% Yes
  - 26% No
- Should **undocumented immigrants** be able to obtain a **driver's license**?
  - 53% Yes
  - 37% No

# What You Are Telling Us

- Do you support **tolling on I-66 inside the Beltway**?
  - 31% Support
  - 48% Oppose
- Do you support Virginia passing the **Equal Rights Amendment**?
  - 74% Support
  - 13% Oppose
- Should Virginia increase the **felony threshold** from \$500 to \$1,000?
  - 70% Support
  - 21% Oppose

# What You Are Telling Us

- **Other issues:**

85% Yes – Mandatory universal background checks for firearm purchases.

59% Yes – Eliminate cursing/swearing in public as a crime.

80% Yes – Ban regulated utilities from making campaign contributions.

58% Yes – Grant in-state tuition to DREAMers.

82% Yes – Prohibit the use of hand-held cell phones.

45% Yes – Eliminate the death penalty (40% no).

45% Yes – Prohibit local government from regulating unmanned aerial systems (38% no).

# Thank You!

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