

AARP Legislative Report June 2015

Local tax increases:

On 5/26 the Christiansburg Town Council unanimously approved increases to the town taxes:

Real Estate: 13¢ to 16¢ per \$100 assessed value.*

Monthly water rate (as of 6/1/15) increased \$19 to \$21 per first 4,000 gallons.

Sewer & water connection fees each increased \$2,500 to \$3,000.

On 4/28 the Blacksburg Town council voted 5-2 to increase the real estate tax to 25¢ per \$100 assessed value.*

*Town real estate taxes are in addition to the Montgomery County tax rate of 89¢ per \$100 assessed value, which the Board of Supervisors did not increase this year.

Virginia Assembly Senate race for District 21:

Virginia Senate District 21 includes Roanoke City (almost ½ of district voters), Montgomery County (⅓) and the rest in Roanoke and Giles Counties. A 3-way race (D-R-I) for the seat appears to be forming.

Donald Caldwell, Commonwealth's Attorney in Roanoke since 1979, has filed paperwork to run as an Independent in the November, 2015 race. He plans to announce in early June if he will actually run. "I want to get away from the dogma of both parties and get back to serving the reasonable people on both sides..." He does not have a website at the time this was written.

Nancy Dye is running as a Republican. Dye is a retired surgeon (in a Gastroenterological practice with her husband) interested in jobs, education, the economy ("I see crippling the coal industry as really hurting the middle class") and healthcare "...without interference from politicians." After retiring in the 1990's to raise her 3 children, she became active in civic efforts and on boards in the community. See more at <http://www.nancydye.com> .

John Edwards has been Senator since 1995. "My focus continues on improving the quality of life for the future...I have worked to help bring Amtrak to Roanoke and the New River Valley. My crowd funding legislation, that was just signed in to law, will help create new 21st century jobs right here at home. I will continue to work for our students—whether it's expanding the Roanoke Higher Education Center, making college more affordable, or making sure educators have the resources to teach our children." See more at <http://johnedwardsva.com/index.shtml>.