

RECAP: THE RTD MAYORAL DEBATE

What the Mayoral Candidates said about Child Poverty in RVA

on September 15, 2016 at the Library of Virginia

The 8 candidates were asked to respond to the following question:

“The child poverty rate in RVA is almost 40 percent. We must break the cycle, and connect the next generation to opportunity. What will you do to make sure our youth are workforce ready?”



John Baliles: "First of all, we fix finances so we know where the money's coming from and, where its' going. We put it towards things that matter... Education is one of those things. It reduces poverty, it lowers crime, it promotes economic development. And it promotes better long-term health outcomes."



Jack Berry: "There's nothing we want more than for our children to be successful. And my job will be to bring the resources ... together to unite the community in support of our schools... I'm gonna mobilize the community to surround our kids with caring adults...These kids can succeed."



Bobby Junes: "When I was younger...there would be mothers with children on the streets...We wanted to create a program where people could have a place to go seven days a week, 24 hours a day...What's the key link, to keep people out of poverty? I look at it being proper education. Housing units. And employment."



Michelle Mosby: "The best way to fight poverty is to provide opportunities... You can have a parent that can't work, and they don't have a place to live -- and you think that you're going to be able to educate their children? We have to work with our career tech education. That's why I became the chair, to ensure that our children were lined up with businesses"



Joe Morrissey: "First of all, I would expand the Mayor's Youth Academy... vendors who do business with city of Richmond ought to be providing an internship... for these kids... Let's start a pilot program with our public students wearing uniforms... give vision screening for pre-K through third grade."



Levar Stoney: "We have to start telling our children they matter again... How about making sure every child has access to a high-quality pre-K education?... Giving them a meal after school...Working with their homework...lastly, we've got to make sure in high school years, that they get the skills to compete."



Bruce Tyler: "Let's start with K-through-8 education, as opposed to K-through-5... Our middle schools have failed this city and that is why I sit here today and I watch moving vans back up to houses and move to the counties because people in this room do not feel like they can educate their children"



Laurence Williams: "The school system is supposed to track kids after they graduate, to see their success rate... the key program would be to make certain that we track our kids... to make certain they have counseling, they have job training programs. And that's important because that's why we're hearing the gun shots."

What's Next?

The Candidates will be participating in a variety of forums where they will answer your questions and elaborate on their platforms.

Sept. 29: Mayorathon, 6-9 p.m. at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 200 N. Boulevard. The event is hosted by a coalition of nonprofit groups and Richmond Magazine.

Oct. 4: Diversity Richmond Forum, 7-9 p.m. at Diversity Richmond, 1407 Sherwood Ave.

Oct. 11: Create the Vote, A mayoral forum on tapping RVA's creative culture, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Virginia Rep Theatre, 114 W. Broad St. The event is organized by CultureWorks Richmond.

November 8: Vote!

Register & find your polling location at elections.virginia.gov

For more information on the Richmond elections and children in poverty visit www.vakids.org