

# MY BUSINESS VOICE IN VIRGINIA




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## General Assembly Elections Are Key to All Business Owners

**VIRGINIA IS IN THE HOMESTRETCH** of this election season, as campaigns and candidates pull out all the stops to win your vote on Tuesday, Nov. 6. With the balance of political power in the Virginia General Assembly at stake, NFIB members need to get involved to ensure Virginia remains a pro-small-business state.

NFIB/Virginia members now have access to a complete Voter Guide with a list of certified candidates at [www.NFIB.com/VA](http://www.NFIB.com/VA). In addition to the Voter Guide, several other political resources are available to members. You can make a difference in elections in other ways, including getting involved through NFIB grassroots. Visit [www.NFIB.com/VA](http://www.NFIB.com/VA) to stay informed about the latest Virginia election and public-policy news affecting your business.

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*Before you decide who to support, review the NFIB/Virginia Voting Record to help you identify pro-small-business legislators. Download it at [www.NFIB.com/VA](http://www.NFIB.com/VA).*

## Sales-Tax Holidays Planned for 2007–08

**TWO NEW SALES-TAX HOLIDAYS** were passed during the 2007 General Assembly Session. The holiday allows for certain products to be exempt from the Virginia sales tax. Last year, the General Assembly passed the Back-to-School Sales-Tax Holiday, which occurred on Aug. 3–5, 2007. Upcoming holidays include:

**Oct. 5–8, 2007, Energy Star-Qualified Products:** During this time, purchases of products meeting the Energy Star qualifications, such as some energy-efficient appliances, are exempt from the Virginia sales tax. Each eligible product must be \$2,500 or less and be purchased for noncommercial home or personal use.

**May 25–31, 2008, Hurricane-Preparedness Equipment:** During this week, purchases of items designated by the Department of Taxation as hurricane-preparedness equipment, including portable generators, will be exempt from the Virginia sales tax. Eligible items cannot be priced higher than \$60 per item, except for portable generators, which cannot be more than \$1,000.

During any of the sales-tax holidays described above, retailers may choose to absorb the sales-and-use tax on items that do not qualify. For additional information or questions, contact the NFIB/Virginia office at 804-377-3661.

## Virginia Ranks No. 1 for Business-Friendly Climate

**FOR THE SECOND** year in a row, Virginia was named the “Best State for Business” by *Forbes.com*. In addition, *CNBC* and *CNBC.com* designated Virginia as its “Top State for Business.”

The *Forbes.com* honor highlights the Commonwealth’s low unemployment rate, high quality of life, and prospects for growth and development. *CNBC* and *CNBC.com* examined states using 40 different measures of competitiveness, including cost of doing business, technology and innovation, transportation, business friendliness, and access to capital.

“This is a wonderful accomplishment for Virginia,” says Julia Ciarlo Hammond, NFIB/Virginia state director. “Virginia’s pro-business climate and policies help businesses grow and flourish while attracting new companies to the Commonwealth. NFIB will do all that we can to secure and strengthen Virginia’s business-friendly climate.”

## NFIB Salutes Longtime Virginia Members

**THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS,** we’re able to fight every day to promote and protect free enterprise in America. Our ability to influence lawmakers in Richmond and in Washington, D.C., depends on the involvement and commitment from the small- and independent-business owners across the country. We’re grateful to all of our members for their support, and in particular, we continue to salute these members in Virginia who have reached major milestones in their membership with NFIB.

**54 Years With NFIB**  
 Connells Valet Inc., Vienna

**50 Years With NFIB**  
 T.E.M. Inc., Oak Hall  
 R. Hayden Smith Funeral Home, Hampton

**45 Years With NFIB**  
 B&Z Services Inc., Norfolk  
 Progressive Engineering Co., Richmond  
 Brown’s Hardware, Falls Church  
 Caddell Electric Co. Inc., Norfolk  
 Clarks Gun Shop Inc., Warrenton  
 Blue Stone Block Supermarket, Roanoke  
 Driver Heating Oil Inc., Waynesboro  
 Tweeds Locksmith Inc., Portsmouth  
 Foster Electric Co. Inc., Lynchburg  
 Gallion Edler Insurance Agency, Victoria  
 F.H. Gaskins Co. Inc., Norfolk  
 Kinsey Crane & Sign Co., Roanoke  
 Mink Pontiac-Buick-GMC Inc., Galax  
 Electrical Mechanical Resources, Richmond  
 Virginia Distributing Co. Inc., Roanoke  
 C.L. Pincus Jr. & Co., General Contractors, Virginia Beach  
 Blackstone Fuel & Supply Co. Inc., Blackstone  
 Hill City Wholesale Co., Lynchburg  
 James E. Zerkel Inc., Mount Jackson