



## **Alicia Kallen calls for pay equity in law enforcement.**

Alicia Kallen, candidate for the House of Delegates in Virginia's First District, has called for equity in pay raises for police officers. Noting that last year the Virginia State Police received an 8% raise, and other law enforcement, such as deputy sheriffs and correctional officers received a 2% raise. "I am glad that the state police received their raise, and this in no way disparages that raise." Just as the state police were losing people due to low pay, local law enforcement loses quality people regularly because the pay is inadequate.

"We have a regional jail, two prisons, and a correctional unit in the first district, and those officers have just as much right to provide a decent living for their families as the state police." Correctional work is hard, and the cost of inexperienced or poorly trained officers is prohibitive. Similarly, deputy sheriffs work just as hard as the state police, and often have to take second jobs to support their families. Town police also are underpaid, but that is not directly funded by the state, but increasing payments to the towns would help them increase the pay.

Alicia Kallen will support a 1% raise in taxes of those earning over \$150,000.00 per year to pay for the proposal. "I think this is a small price to pay to ensure quality law enforcement, so that our brave men and women who serve can make this a career." Kallen notes that her mother was a correctional officer, her uncle is a retired deputy, and her great-uncle was the police chief in Coeburn for 30 years. "I know of the sacrifices and dedication of our local law enforcement, and I want to be their voice in Richmond."