

Join St Francis V.O.I.C.E. Members
4:00–6:00pm, Sunday, October 21st
at Fairfax High School

VOICE-Wide Assembly with Governor Ralph Northam and Attorney General Mark Herring

1. Reform the Criminal Justice System

VOICE leaders refuse to sit by as our nation incarcerates the largest prison population in the world and maintains a system marred by vast racial and economic inequalities. VOICE leaders believe the right place to start is the following:

- a. End a cash bail system that penalizes the poor and people of color.** This is supported by Republicans, Libertarians and Democrats alike. It is the right thing to do and a smart initiative because it will keep many people out of jail who should not be there, and save Virginia millions of dollars.
- b. Ensure treatment for non-violent offenders** who have mental health issues and/or drug addiction. Some 50% of people in Virginia prisons and jails have a mental health and/or substance abuse history.
- c. Restore returning citizens' rights** to vote, work, drive, pursue education, and rent or own a home - because past mistakes should not be a lifetime barrier to better opportunities.

2. Invest in our Children

Today, with the nation focused on school safety, VOICE leaders will **prioritize making our children safe and whole**, not just their school buildings. We will ensure that Virginia's commitment to making schools safe has a focus on lifting up *all* our children. VOICE believes we must prioritize obtaining a significant increase in funding in our public schools for mental health, after-school and summer programs, Pre-K, and educators, especially for educators of color.

3. Keep Families Together

We believe that our **communities are stronger when families are together** and not torn apart. In a time of Muslim travel bans and family separations, we will **take action to keep families together**.

For more information, contact Michelle Nicolai at 571.213.8348 or michnicolai@comcast.net