

Toll road project is big issue

BY AMY FLOWERS UMBLE | Posted: Friday, November 4, 2011 12:06 am

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One thing is for certain in Tuesday's election: A Republican will represent the Courtland District on the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors.

In that district, a member of the Spotsylvania Republican Committee is challenging the party's nominee, who's also the incumbent supervisor.

"It's an unusual situation," said Steve Thomas, chairman of the Spotsylvania GOP.

Earlier this year, the committee chose Courtland Supervisor Jerry Logan as the Republican nominee.

Weeks later, David Ross entered the race as an independent. Ross is a member of the Spotsylvania GOP.

In some committees, a member is automatically kicked out for challenging the Republican nominee. But Thomas said that isn't the case in the Spotsylvania committee.

He said that he expects Logan to win, but that "both men are good candidates."

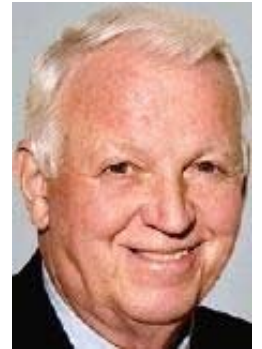
As Republicans, Logan and Ross share opinions on many issues. They are running on platforms of low taxes, economic development and property rights.

But they sharply differ on one issue: a proposed toll road in the county.

The Rappahannock Parkway would start at a new Interstate 95 interchange near the Virginia Welcome Center in Fredericksburg, head west between State Route 3 and the Rappahannock River, and connect with Route 3 near Gordon Road.

The highway was originally designed to open up access to Celebrate Virginia South and ease congestion on Route 3. Logan serves on the regional George Washington Toll Road Authority, which oversees the project study.

Ross opposes the toll road, saying that it would impact too many properties and might not improve the traffic situation.



Two Spotsy elections may lead to recounts

Logan said that he would not support the toll road if its alignment creates environmental issues or infringes property rights.

The road is still in the planning stages, and construction wouldn't start for at least two years.

Logan recently held two town-hall meetings about the toll road. Most of the people who attended the meetings opposed the road.

Ross, 46, lives near Motts Run Reservoir with his wife and six children. He is a retired Marine and an information technology program manager for a defense contractor.

Logan, 69, lives in River Bluffs with his wife, Mary. He has five children and 14 grandchildren. He is a retired electrical contractor.

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