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# EDITORIAL

## Voters must put House in order

### The Dominion Post endorses six to become delegates in local districts

There are always fresh faces among the 100 delegates the state's voters elect every two years. We hope to see more of them when the Legislature convenes on Feb. 9, 2005, in Charleston. However, there are incumbents we trust are worthy of our support and should be re-elected by virtue of their experience and overall record. Our endorsement of six candidates in the 44th, 45th and 46th House of Delegates districts is not a prediction. Though we don't question these candidates' character, we have questioned them all on their judgment and will continue to do so. But based on our meetings with them, their service to their community, and what they bring to these districts' tables we endorse the election of: Nancy Houston, Democratic incumbent in the 44th House District; Barbara Fleischauer, Democratic incumbent in the 44th House District; Jim Manilla, Republican challenger in the 44th House District;

Jack Kent Pauley, Republican challenger in the 44th House District.

David C. Batson, Republican challenger in the 45th House District;

Deborah Stevens, Republican challenger in the 46th House District;

These three men and three women we believe are well-equipped to represent the future interests of people, businesses, public and higher education and our communities.

Our state is facing challenges — some may say even grave consequences unless we put our house in order.

These candidates, we believe, are a good first step to straightening up the House of Delegates.

What Houston brings to the table is reams of experience on the Board of Education, two terms in the House, a background in special education and law. And she shows no reservation about admissions of error or her passion for correcting them.

Though we have taken Fleischauer to task in the past we think her critical approach to issues can be an asset. She lists children and higher education at the top of her agenda. Among others they are at the tops of ours, too.

Longtime city resident Manilla is especially suited to export the success of Morgantown to other parts of the 44th District, and even the state. His small business background and experience on City Council is a plus that he balances with candor about controversial issues.

Pauley brings reams of experience about small business and growth to our delegation and his family's roots in this area go deep. He leans to the conservative on many issues, but he is not afraid to question old ideas of how things are done and try new ideas from either party.

This will be Stevens' second attempt to unseat the incumbent in the 46th District. She brings her small business acumen to this effort with an intense interest in restoring the availability of insurance to homeowners and reviving agriculture and small business interests.

Batson echoes two words we heard repeatedly during our endorsement process as the single most important issue before legislators: Workers Comp. What we heard from him inclines us to believe he is as willing to square off with a subculture that relies on this program for its livelihood, as he is delinquent businesses.

Together, this delegation from our readership area can be effective in not only securing our piece of the pie, but teaching others the recipe for making it.