

*Washington Post* news coverage      February 23, 2013

... As legislators of both parties emphasized, [getting the transportation bill passed] [represents the kind of painful trade-offs that politicians in Washington ought to copy for the sake of the common good](#)... The deal was struck only because of political sacrifices and arm-twisting by leaders and negotiators from both parties, including four from Fairfax: Dels. Dave Albo (R) and [Vivian Watts \(D\)](#) and Sens. Dick Saslaw (D) and Janet Howell (D).

*Washington Post* editorial      October 20, 2011

... Democrat Vivian E. Watts, who represents the Springfield and Newington areas of Fairfax, is a seasoned legislator and a [bona fide expert on regional transportation](#) issues whose [popularity and strong record](#) seem to have deterred serious opponents from running against her. She has had our endorsement in the past and has it again this year.

*Washington Post* editorial      October 24, 2009

... Three candidates are vying to unseat incumbent Democrat Vivian E. Watts, whose [hard work, mastery of issues and legislative savvy have earned the respect of lawmakers in both houses](#). ... None is the equal of Ms. Watts, a former state secretary of transportation.

*Fairfax County Times*      October 21, 2009

... It's never a good thing when a longtime incumbent looks up to find three people battling for her seat, but Vivian Watts (D) remains the right person to lead this district. While not the most visible member of Fairfax County's delegation, [Watts' record is full of legislation that has benefitted commuters, senior citizens, schoolchildren, veterans and just about everyone else who calls Fairfax home](#). Most recently, Watts worked tirelessly to ensure that the Capital Beltway HOT lanes project entailed more than making money and moving cars. Thanks to her efforts, sound walls accompanying the project will be higher; countless trees will be planted or preserved; and access to Inova Fairfax Hospital from the new lanes will be much easier. Through the years, the feedback we've received from the 39th District is that [Watts genuinely cares about improving the lives of her constituents](#) and knows how to work the system in Richmond.

*Washington Post* editorial      October 24, 2007

... Democratic incumbent *Vivian E. Watts* is an especially valuable House member whose political and legislative savvy have [boosted Northern Virginia's quest for equitable state funding](#) for schools, transportation, mental health and Medicaid services.

*Washington Post* editorial      November 5, 2005

... Voters in this district are fortunate to be represented by *Vivian E. Watts* (D), whose [intelligence, hard work, and political and legislative savvy](#) have earned the respect of lawmakers from both parties. Her opponent ... is no match.

*Springfield Connection* editorial      October 28, 2005

... We have to agree with Vivian Watts that she still has a tremendous amount to offer and she is still needed in the House of Delegates. [Her experience and perspective are badly needed in a legislative body where institutional knowledge is in short supply](#).

While Watts recognizes that overall in Northern Virginia, transportation is the top issue, in her district, the rising influence of gangs is of primary concern. "As a member of the Criminal Laws Subcommittee, we've passed the toughest anti-gang laws in the nation," Watts says. "But we need additional local, state and federal law enforcement personnel — as well as local health and housing inspectors — and we need them working cooperatively to penetrate into gangs and convict those who drive the violence."

The demographics of her Annandale/Springfield district mean Watts has to be prepared to grapple with quality of life issues beyond traffic, including multiple families living in single-family homes, blighted properties and neighborhood parking issues. [She has been effective in building bridges for solutions](#) with local officials as well ...