



Smith Mountain Lake Democrats

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NEWS RELEASE

SML Democrats Host Del Sam Rasoul for Legislative Update

March 24, 2021 – Smith Mountain Lake Democrats held a virtual meeting with Del. Sam Rasoul (D-11th Dist.) on March 22, 2021, to update them on changes to Virginia law resulting from the recent Session of the General Assembly. He focused on the House of Delegates’ work on the state’s budget, which passed with broad bipartisan support.

Pleased with the 5% raise for teachers contained in the budget, Delegate Rasoul, who represents Roanoke, outlined some of the ways a recently discovered budget surplus could positively impact SW Virginia. Specifically he explained the surplus could be used to remove the requirement that local governments match teacher raises.

The surplus also could help schools meet the gold standard of student to counselor ratio, which is 250:1. Del. Rasoul favored additional funding for the Rebuild VA Grant Fund which provides loans and grants to help small businesses whose normal operations were disrupted by COVID-19.

Club members asked Delegate Rasoul to report on the General Assembly’s most current actions on other topics including school construction funding, the provision of vaccines, gun control measures, access to voting, reinstatement of felons’ voting rights, hate crime laws and local militias.

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