



Press Release

The American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC)¹ closely watches the gubernatorial election campaigns in the Commonwealth of Virginia where voting is scheduled to take place on November 2, 2021.

AEPAC, in collaboration with its partners, organized a public rally attended by thousands of voters at the Fall Festival in Alexandria, VA on Sunday, October 24, 2021, and invited the two Virginia gubernatorial candidates – the Democratic Party candidate former Governor Terry McAuliffe and the Republican Party candidate Businessman Glenn Youngkin to attend this event.

AEPAC requested the candidates to publicly declare their positions on the current US/Ethiopia relations so that AEPAC will endorse a candidate whose position will be in line with AEPAC mission of promoting and strengthening US/Ethiopia relations.

We are grateful that both candidates accepted the invitation and sent their representative to the rally.

Regrettably, both refrained from officially declaring their positions regarding the current political situation in Ethiopia.

We are glad that both candidates and their campaigns expressed their willingness to work with the Ethiopia community in Virginia.

However, a general statement like the one made by both candidates is not sufficient for AEPAC to endorse either of these candidates.

Therefore, AEPAC would like to advise its members, supporters, partners, American supporters of Ethiopia and members of the Ethiopian American community to cast their vote to whomever their conscious and value align with.

Seizing this opportunity, we strongly encourage all voters to exercise their voting rights and fulfil their civic duty by casting their votes.

Finally, we wish the two candidates good luck and look forward to working with a candidate who will secure a mandate from voters in the great state of the commonwealth of Virginia.

Done: Friday, October 29, 2021

¹ The American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC) is an American political action organization that is registered and operates under the laws and regulations of the Federal Election Commission (FEC). It is a non-partisan organization, working with all US political parties, groups and individuals that support or have the potential and willingness to support its mission. Please visit our website at: <https://aepact.org/>