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Obama Campaign Announces Virginia Women for Obama Leadership Committee

First Lady Anne Holton Chairs WFO, Kicking Off a Dozen Statewide Families for Change Events

RICHMOND, VA – Led by First Lady Anne Holton, prominent Virginia women today announced their endorsement of U.S. Sen. Barack Obama for president and the formation of the commonwealth's Women for Obama (WFO) leadership committee. Holton, the group's Chairwoman, was joined by Co-Chair State Delegate Jennifer McClellan and area women and families at the statewide kickoff of the WFO's Families for Change event held at the Roundhouse in Byrd Park. The women cited Obama's commitment to strengthening Virginian families and his leadership on policies that help working women achieve financial security, including pay equity, universal health care coverage and paid sick leave for the more than 22 million working women currently with none.

"Today, women are facing so many different obstacles; lower wages, lack of quality healthcare, no flexibility to leave work when a loved one needs them, the list goes on and on," Holton said. "There is a stark difference in this election on the issues important to women and families. Unlike his opponent, Barack Obama has proven time and again that he is committed to tackling the tough challenges facing Virginia families and offers policies that support working women."

Holton said that Virginia women's support for Obama will help determine the election in November and encouraged participants to register their neighbors and organize their local communities. McClellan, a Superdelegate to the Democratic National Convention, echoed Holton's sentiments and said that Barack "simply gets it."

"There is an excitement in Virginia and across America for Senator Obama's candidacy that I've not seen in decades," McClellan said. "Barack touches something in all of us, and has the vision that we've been craving in a national leader. He understands what middle-class Americans are grappling with and has a plan to turn around our economic policies."

As president, Obama will expand the Child and Dependent Care tax credit to an additional 7.5 million working women, double funding for afterschool programs to serve 1 million more children and provide 71 million working women with a tax cut of up to \$500 – or \$1000 per family – to help offset the impact of stagnant wages and skyrocketing costs.

Families for Change events were held in a dozen locations across the state, including Charlottesville and Hampton Roads and two in northern Virginia . Area women and their families participated in kid-friendly activities and ate lunch before canvassing surrounding communities.

Additional names will be added to the WFO Leadership Committee. Below are the members to date.

Women for Obama Virginia Leadership Committee

First Lady Anne Holton	Chairwoman
First Lady Lisa Collis	Co-chair
Ethel Skakel Kennedy	Co-chair
Lynda Bird Johnson Robb	Co-chair
Del. Jennifer McClellan	Co-chair
Del. Kristen J. Admunson	Co-chair
Megan C Beyer	Co-chair
Eileen Doherty	Co-chair
Senator Mamie E. Locke	Co-chair
Senator Louise L. Lucas	Co-chair
Senator Yvonne B. Miller	Co-chair
Senator Margaret Whipple	Co-chair
Senator Janet Howell	Co-chair

Colonel Sandra V. Richardson	Co-chair
Judy Anderson	Co-chair
LuAnn Bennett	Co-chair
Leslie Byrne	Co-chair
Patti Church	Co-chair
The Honorable Julia A. Connally	Co-chair
The Honorable Marian Van Landingham	Co-chair
Cathy Smith (Connolly)	Co-chair
Del. Rosalyn Dance	Co-chair
Leni Gonzalez	Co-chair
Grindly Johnson	Co-chair
Sheila Johnson	Co-chair
Gaylene Kanoyton	Co-chair
Suchada Langley	Co-chair
Del. Mamyé BaCote	Co-chair
Kathy Moore	Co-chair
Lillian Salerno	Co-chair
Susan Swecker	Co-chair
Dietra Trent	Co-chair
Del. Shannon Valentine	Co-chair
Emma Violand-Sanchez	Co-chair
Jody M. Wagner	Co-chair
Del. Jeion Antonia Ward	Co-chair

Del. Vivian Watts

Co-chair