

RNC Research BRIEFING

What 2 Watch 4: Virginia Debate

Another Debate, Another Performance That Will Highlight McAuliffe As A Deeply Unprepared Candidate With Significant Baggage

MCAULIFFE'S MASTERY OF THE ISSUES? "DEEPLY UNSERIOUS" ... "UNINFORMED" ... "SUPERFICIAL"

Terry McAuliffe Is "A Deeply Unserious Candidate"

Richmond Times-Dispatch: McAuliffe's "Troubling Lack Of Mastery And Odd Flippancy Combine To Paint A Portrait Of A Deeply Unserious Candidate." "When it comes to raking together piles of cash, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe is without peer. On questions of actual governance, though, his troubling lack of mastery and odd flippancy combine to paint a portrait of a deeply unserious candidate." (Editorial, "Unserious," [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#), 9/23/13)

- **"Taken Individually, None Of These Episodes Is Terribly Damaging. But Taken Together, They Add Up To The Impression That, Despite Four Years Of Prep Work After His Last Gubernatorial Run, McAuliffe Still Isn't Ready For The Office He Seeks."** (Editorial, "Unserious," [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#), 9/23/13)

McAuliffe's Superficiality And Lack Of Knowledge Cost Him A Crucial Endorsement

In An Endorsement Interview With The Board Of The Northern Virginia Technology Council, McAuliffe Came Off As "Uninformed And Superficial." "The reasoning behind the NVTC TechPAC's nod — Cuccinelli had detailed responses to questions in candidate interviews, three board members said, while McAuliffe was uninformed and superficial — bolsters the view that the Democrat's breezy style doesn't sit well with some Virginians. Two of the people said they were leaning toward Cuccinelli before the interviews; one disliked both candidates." (Laura Vozzella, Antonio Olivo, And Fredrick Kunkle, "McAuliffe Camp Erupts Over Business PAC's Choice Of Cuccinelli For Virginia Governor," [The Washington Post](#), 9/15/13)

- **"Terry...Didn't Want To Get Pinned Down To Any Details. He Didn't Give Any Details. He Was All About Jobs, Jobs, Jobs — 'I'm Just Going To Take Care Of The Situation When The Time Comes. I'm Just Going To Do It.' It Was All [Expletive]."** (Laura Vozzella, Antonio Olivo, And Fredrick Kunkle, "McAuliffe Camp Erupts Over Business PAC's Choice Of Cuccinelli For Virginia Governor," [The Washington Post](#), 9/15/13)

When Asked About A Specific Issue, McAuliffe Replied "I Don't Know What That Is." "On a question

about whether Virginia should stay in something called the “open-trade-secrets pact,” Cuccinelli gave a thoroughly researched response, the person said. But McAuliffe answered, according to the source: “I don’t know what that is. I’ll have to look it up later.” (Laura Vozzella, Antonio Olivo, And Fredrick Kunkle, “McAuliffe Camp Erupts Over Business PAC’s Choice Of Cuccinelli For Virginia Governor,” [The Washington Post](#), 9/15/13)

McAuliffe Told The NVTC Board That He Would Accomplish His Goals As Governor By Taking Legislators Out Drinking. “Two people present said that in response to a question about how he’d accomplish his goals as governor, McAuliffe told the PAC board that as an Irish Catholic he’d be adept at taking people out for drinks and doing whatever it takes to get things done. McAuliffe is well known as a schmoozer, but he seemed to badly misread his methodical audience with that answer, several of those present said.” (Laura Vozzella, Antonio Olivo, And Fredrick Kunkle, “McAuliffe Camp Erupts Over Business PAC’s Choice Of Cuccinelli For Virginia Governor,” [The Washington Post](#), 9/15/13)

McAuliffe Couldn’t Even Name The Positions In The Virginia Governor’s Cabinet

In A March Interview, McAuliffe Refused To List The Positions In The Virginia Governor’s Cabinet, Calling It A “Gotcha Question.” “In a recent interview, McAuliffe wouldn’t give specific responses when asked about technical aspects of legislative and governor’s office operations. Asked if he could name the positions in the governor’s Cabinet, for instance, McAuliffe said: ‘Maybe could, maybe couldn’t. That’s not what I’m going to do here today because that’s not what I’m talking about.’ McAuliffe called such queries ‘gotcha’ questions that he wouldn’t answer, saying Virginians care more about kitchen-table issues.” (Julian Walker, “McAuliffe Faces Cuccinelli, Inexperience In Race,” [The Virginian-Pilot](#), 3/13/13)

MCAULIFFE’S POSITION ON JOB-KILLING POLICIES IMPACTING VIRGINIA? IT’S ANYONE’S GUESS

McAuliffe Is Nowhere To Be Found On Obama’s New Job-Killing Regulations On Coal

FLASHBACK: In 2009, McAuliffe Said “We Have Got To Move Past Coal. As Governor, I Never Want Another Coal Plant Built.” (Terry McAuliffe, [Democratic Gubernatorial Primary Debate](#), Blacksburg, VA, 4/29/09)

Last Week, The Obama Administration Announced Devastating New Regulations On New Coal-Fired Power Plants. “Linking global warming to public health, disease and extreme weather, the Obama administration pressed ahead Friday with tough requirements to limit carbon pollution from new power plants, despite protests from industry and from Republicans that it would mean a dim future for coal.” (Dina Cappiello, “Obama Takes On Coal With First-Ever Carbon Limits,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/20/13)

- **The Proposed Rule Would Effectively Ban New Coal-Fired Power Plants** “Despite some tweaks, the rule packs the same punch as one announced last year, which was widely criticized by industry and by Republicans as effectively banning any new coal-fired power plants.” (Dina Cappiello, “Obama Takes On Coal With First-Ever Carbon Limits,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/20/13)

McAuliffe Has Refused To Give His Position On Obama’s New Job-Killing Regulations. “[McAuliffe] said he would review the new rules ‘very quickly’ but would not specify how long it would be before he would take a firm position on them. McAuliffe also did not give a direct answer when asked whether he believed any more coal-fired power plants should be built in Virginia. (He said during the 2009 Democratic primary that he hoped to never see another coal plant open in Virginia.)” (Ben Pershing and Fredrick Kunkle, “McAuliffe Avoids Position On EPA Rules, Cuccinelli Dodges On House Spending Vote,” [The Washington Post](#), 9/20/13)

The Coal Industry Directly And Indirectly Supports 45,210 Jobs In Virginia. (Coal In Virginia, [National Mining Association](#))

- **Coal Jobs Contributed \$3.4 Billion In Wages To Virginia Workers In 2011.** (Coal In Virginia, [National Mining Association](#))
- **16 Coal-Fired Electric Generating Units In Virginia, Representing 2,349 Megawatts, Are Already Shutting Down Due To EPA Policies.** (Coal Unit Shutdowns, [American Coalition For Clean Coal Technology](#), 7/25/13)

McAuliffe's Position On Offshore Drilling: He Was Against It Before He Was For It

In 2009, McAuliffe Said, Unequivocally "I Do Not Support Drilling For Oil Off Our Coast." (Race to Richmond: Terry McAuliffe, [Washington Post](#), 5/20/09)

- **In 2011, McAuliffe Still Opposed Offshore Oil Drilling And Sneered That "It Will Not Create One Job."** "Oil drilling. You can talk about it. We don't make a penny on it here in Virginia. It will not create one job,' [McAuliffe] said during a June 2011 episode of Reston Impact, a Northern Virginia cable television program. "There's no new technologies in oil drilling, unlike wind farms ...'" (Julian Walker, McAuliffe Once Dismissed Offshore Technology He Now Touts, [Virginian Pilot](#), 06/04/13)

McAuliffe Now Claims To Have Had A Change Of Heart, Saying "I'm For Responsible Off-Shore Drilling." (Jim Nolan, "Bolling exit clarifies race for governor," [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#), 5/17/13)

Politifact Rated McAuliffe's Reversal A "Full-Flop." "McAuliffe has clearly shifted on offshore oil drilling. We rate it a Full Flop." ("McAuliffe Flip-Flops On Offshore Oil Drilling," [Politifact](#), accessed 6/6/13)

MCAULIFFE'S GREENTECH STRATEGY? PRAY THAT IT DOESN'T COME UP

McAuliffe Claims He Left GreenTech In December; GreenTech Says Differently

This Weekend, The Washington Post Reported That GreenTech Told Prospective Investors In March Of This Year That Terry McAuliffe Was Still Affiliated With The Company As Its "Chairman Emeritus." "That founder, Virginia gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe (D), is listed in a recent confidential memorandum to prospective investors as GreenTech Automotive's "chairman emeritus." The 70-page document includes photographs and references to McAuliffe's close ties to former president Bill Clinton. It recounts his political pedigree in detail, from serving as finance director for Jimmy Carter's 1980 presidential reelection campaign to breaking fundraising records for the Democratic Party and chairing Hillary Rodham Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign." (Tom Hamburger And Peter Wallsten, "GreenTech Fits Pattern Of Investment That Has Made Big Profits For Terry McAuliffe," [The Washington Post](#), 9/21/13)

- **According To The GreenTech Prospectus, As Chairman Emeritus, McAuliffe Would Have "Such Duties And Responsibilities As Designated By The Board Of Directors From Time To Time."** "'On January 7, 2013, the board of directors of GTA assigned to Mr. McAuliffe as Chairman of the Company the duties and responsibilities appropriate for a Chairman Emeritus during the course of his gubernatorial campaign,' the memo added. Describing that job, it says: 'The Chairman Emeritus of the Company will have such duties and responsibilities as designated by the Board of Directors from time to time.'" (Tom Hamburger And Peter Wallsten, "GreenTech Fits Pattern Of Investment That Has Made Big Profits For Terry McAuliffe," [The Washington Post](#), 9/21/13)

McAuliffe Is Also Listed In The Prospectus As GreenTech's "Largest Individual Shareholder."

"Dated March 12, the previously undisclosed prospectus, provided to The Washington Post by the nonprofit watchdog group Cause of Action, notes that McAuliffe is "currently the largest individual shareholder" of GreenTech." (Tom Hamburger And Peter Wallsten, "GreenTech Fits Pattern Of Investment That Has Made Big Profits For Terry McAuliffe," [The Washington Post](#), 9/21/13)

McAuliffe Has Insisted That He Left GreenTech In December. “McAuliffe noted in a statement Saturday that he left GreenTech in December to campaign for Governor full time.” (Andrew Cain, “McAuliffe Denies Seeking Special Help For Firm,” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 8/4/13)

GreenTech Is Currently Embroiled In Two Separate Federal Investigations

The Securities And Exchange Commission Is Investigating GreenTech “Over Its Conduct In Soliciting Foreign Investors.” “An electric-car company co-founded by Virginia gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe (D) is under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission over its conduct in soliciting foreign investors, according to law-enforcement documents and company officials.” (Tom Hamburger and Ben Pershing, “Company With Ties To Terry McAuliffe Is Under SEC Investigation,” *The Washington Post*, 8/2/13)

- **The SEC Believes That GreenTech May Have Improperly Told Investors That They Were Guaranteed A Return On Their Investment.** “The SEC subpoenaed documents in May from GreenTech Automotive and bank records from a sister company, Gulf Coast Funds Management of McLean. The investigation is focused, at least in part, on alleged claims that the company “guarantees returns” to the investors, according to government documents.” (Tom Hamburger and Ben Pershing, “Company With Ties To Terry McAuliffe Is Under SEC Investigation,” *The Washington Post*, 8/2/13)

U.S. Citizenship And Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Alejandro Mayorkas, President Obama’s Nominee For The No. 2 Post At The Department Of Homeland Security, Is Under Investigation For Allegations That He Improperly Intervened On GreenTech’s Behalf In Matters Before His Agency. “The Department of Homeland Security’s inspector general has launched a preliminary investigation into whether U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Alejandro N. Mayorkas improperly intervened on behalf of GreenTech and other firms as they sought to raise capital from foreign investors.” (Fredrick Kunkle and Tom Hamburger, “McAuliffe’s Business Partners Under Scrutiny Amid Federal Inquiry Into Greentech,” *The Washington Post*, 8/24/13)

Mayorkas Allegedly Attempted To Push Through A Visa Application For GreenTech After It Has Been Denied And An Appeal Rejected. “DHS is currently investigating whether Mr. Mayorkas used undue influence in pushing through a visa application for Gulf Coast after it had been denied and an appeal rejected. Gulf Coast processes the visas on behalf of GreenTech Automotive, which Mr. McAuliffe founded in 2009.” (David Sherfinski, “E-mails: ‘Political Pressure’ In Gulf Coast Visa Case,” *The Washington Times*, 8/9/13)

- **Mayorkas: “Give It To Me, I’ll Write The F-Ing Thing Myself.”** (David Sherfinski, “E-Mails: ‘Political Pressure’ In Gulf Coast Visa Case,” *The Washington Times*, 8/9/13)

In 2011, McAuliffe And GreenTech CEO Charles Wang Personally Met With Mayorkas And Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano’s Chief Of Staff To Discuss GreenTech’s Issues With The Agency. “A year later, Wang and McAuliffe met with Mayorkas; Napolitano’s chief of staff also sat in. Wang said he and McAuliffe were seeking to overturn the denial of an effort to expand into Virginia. E-mails released by Grassley show that GreenTech and Gulf Coast officials also were complaining — as other EB-5 firms had done — that their business venture had been put in jeopardy by delays in the approval of dozens of foreign investors.” (Fredrick Kunkle and Tom Hamburger, “McAuliffe’s Business Partners Under Scrutiny Amid Federal Inquiry Into GreenTech,” *The Washington Post*, 8/24/13)

Whistleblowers Have Indicated That The Level Of Access Enjoyed By McAuliffe And GreenTech Was “Extremely Irregular.” “Whistleblowers from within USCIS have indicated to me that this level of detailed interaction with a regional center’s attorney regarding specific visa applications is extremely irregular.” (Senator Charles Grassley, [Letter To Alejandro Mayorkas](#), 7/31/13)

Eight Career DHS Employees Have Requested Whistleblower Status So They May Testify Regarding Preferential Treatment Given To McAuliffe And GreenTech By The Department Of Homeland Security. “But eight career employees of the division have requested “protected status” as whistleblowers so they can make their “preferential treatment” case to members of Congress. Sens. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) and Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) have reviewed the employee complaints and say they are concerned. Many of the whistleblowers cite alleged favors provided to McAuliffe’s company — among others — to support their claim.” (Tom Hamburger And Peter Wallsten, “GreenTech Fits Pattern Of Investment That Has Made Big Profits For Terry McAuliffe,” [The Washington Post](#), 9/21/13)