



Senator Jim Mathias files for Re-election

Supporters praise his bipartisan workmanship and leadership in Annapolis

Ocean City, MD – Today, with the full support of his family and friends, Senator Jim Mathias filed to run for reelection to the Maryland Senate to represent Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. “When I wake up every morning, my number one priority is doing everything I can to help the people I was elected to serve. By working together, we have been able to make sure that the voices and the needs of the citizens of the Lower Shore have been heard in Annapolis.”

In his announcement, Mathias pointed to some of his proudest accomplishments over the last four years, including:

- Co-sponsoring legislation to make it easier for small businesses to hire veterans by streamlining the process of allowing a veteran’s military expertise and training to transfer to civilian life.
- Being a main sponsor on legislation to create parity in chemotherapy treatments to ensure that insurance companies cannot deny people the life-saving treatments they need.
- Working to achieve the #1 schools in the nation for five years in a row by securing \$169.7 million in school funding for the Lower Shore, \$50 million in new school construction for Lower Shore schools, and \$25 million for school safety enhancements.
- Being the lead sponsor on legislation making it easier for veterans to get the benefits they deserve by adding their veteran status to their driver’s license.
- Convincing FEMA to reverse its denial of individual assistance for Somerset County after Superstorm Sandy, as well as securing millions of dollars in grants to help with rebuilding efforts.
- Voting to protect our farming heritage by eliminating the first \$5 million in estate taxes on family farms.
- Making our highways safer by working with the State Highway Administration to secure funding to continue efforts to dualize Route 113.
- Helping our senior citizens by voting to extend the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program, and making quality healthcare more accessible by expanding telemedicine.
- Working collaboratively with the Maryland Higher Education Commission to make college more affordable by increasing funding to community colleges and four-year public universities.
- Sponsoring legislation to allow bars and restaurants in Worcester County to purchase their alcoholic beverage needs on the free-market.
- Being the lead sponsor on legislation to study the impact of a post-Labor Day start for schools in Maryland.
- Working with state leadership to secure funds for the renovation and expansion of the Ocean City convention center.

- Supporting a balanced and environmentally friendly energy policy by voting to include wind, solar, and other renewable energies in Maryland’s energy portfolio.

“We were able to accomplish these goals through team-building to make sure that my colleagues and state leadership in Annapolis understood our needs and were willing to work with us,” Mathias stated. “While we weren’t able to win every fight, I made sure that all the members of the Maryland General Assembly knew what was important to the citizens of the Lower Shore.” During his time in Annapolis, Mathias has fought for our Eastern Shore values by:

- Voting against an onerous increase in the state’s gas tax
- Voting against increased sales taxes
- Voting against increased income taxes, alcohol taxes and other taxes
- Voting against the egregious gun bill during the 2013 legislative session
- Voting against the repeal of the death penalty
- Voting for harsher penalties for sexual predators

“Throughout this campaign I look forward to talking with, and continuing to hear from you, about the issues important to our families right here on the Lower Shore – growing our economy through small business, tourism, agriculture, the seafood industry, and emerging technology, keeping taxes low, funding our schools, protecting our environment, and keeping our families safe,” said Senator Mathias. “Working together, we have made great strides for the families of the Lower Shore, but there is still more to do and I look forward to continuing to work for you for the next four years.”

In supporting Senator Mathias’s re-election, Lower Shore residents said the following:

MSGT William L. “Sarge” Garlitz, USAF-Ret.: “A few weeks ago I was asked by some fellow Veterans, ‘are we going to send Mathias back to Annapolis?’ and without hesitation I replied ‘you betcha’. I worked with Jim to expand slot machines into Veterans clubs in Worcester County. Since that bill passed, over three-quarters of a million dollars have been given to local charities. Senator Mathias worked tirelessly to allow Veterans to display their military status on their driver’s licenses, making it easier for them to get the benefits they have earned. Our military men and women serve this country faithfully and admirably; it’s comforting to know that we have someone like Jim Mathias fighting for us.”

Beth Shockley-Lynch – 1st Grade Teacher, Snow Hill Elementary School: “Educating our students needs to be the top priority, and in Jim Mathias we have an eager partner to fund our schools and provide better opportunities for teachers and students. Senator Mathias has supported increased funding for school construction priorities across the shore because he knows that modern and safe classrooms are necessary to make certain our children are receiving the best possible education.”

Tim Keane – Sergeant, Ocean City Police Department, Retired; Dep. Sheriff, Worcester County Sheriff’s Department, Retired: “When SB 281 was introduced in Annapolis, we knew that Jim Mathias was an ally we could count on. As a retired 42-year law enforcement officer with the Ocean City Police Department and the Worcester County Sheriff’s Department, I know

how important it is that our 2nd amendment rights be protected. Jim fought for amendments to the bill on the floor and voted against it while strongly urging his colleagues to do the same. Gun owners and law enforcement have no better friend than Jim Mathias.”

Frankie Pruitt – Crisfield Fire Chief: “After Superstorm Sandy we were afraid we would be on our own, but Jim Mathias was there alongside us. When the federal government was slow in gaining the aid for our businesses and families, Jim was there – calling and meeting with people on the federal, state, and local level to make sure we got the help we deserved. Some politicians only come around in an election year – Jim has been there from the beginning, and will continue to look out for the needs of Crisfield and all the Lower Shore in the Senate.”

Leighton Moore – Owner – Seacrets in Ocean City: "I've watched Jim Mathias effectively work for his constituents with his whole heart and soul. As a business owner I tremendously appreciate Jim's eagerness to work with everybody, regardless of their party affiliation in his work to get things done for us here on the Lower Shore. For Mathias, it isn't a matter of Democratic or Republican – it's a matter of what's best for our jobs and economy.”

Virgil Shockley – Worcester County Farmer and County Commissioner: "In the last six months the poultry and farming industry on the Eastern Shore has been under attack with proposed regulations that, if implemented, would be devastating to our industry. Jim has been at the forefront of fighting alongside the farming community against these regulations. He truly understands that Agriculture is the economic engine of the Eastern Shore."

Dr. Roxie Dennis – Educational Support Advisor at Bennett Middle/North Salisbury Schools and Worcester County NAACP President: "With Jim Mathias the Lower Shore has a State Senator who champions what is best for his constituents, he never worries about what is politically 'smart' or 'safe'. When I call Jim, the first question he asks is 'what can I do to help you?'. The only thing that matters to Jim is being a strong and effective voice for the people of the 38th district."

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Senator Mathias represents District 38, which includes all of Somerset and Worcester Counties and part of Wicomico County on the Lower Eastern Shore. He is a member of the Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over healthcare, energy, and business legislation. Prior to his election to the Senate, he served the residents of the Lower Shore as a member of the House of Delegates and as Mayor of Ocean City.