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PolitiFact®, Truth-O-Meter sorting through facts in Virginia

Politicians in Virginia are now facing the Truth-O-Meter®.

PolitiFact® Virginia was launched Tuesday by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and is the eighth state partnership with PolitiFact.com, the Pulitzer Prize-winning fact-checking Web site of the *St. Petersburg Times*. The Virginia site can be accessed at www.politifact.com/virginia.

“Virginia is home to some important players in national politics and it will be great to put them to the Truth-O-Meter,” said PolitiFact Editor Bill Adair.

PolitiFact Virginia has the same journalistic approach and reader-friendly design as PolitiFact. It is integrated with the national site and uses PolitiFact’s distinctive Truth-O-Meter to rate the accuracy of statements by public officials.

Warren Fiske is leading the PolitiFact Virginia team for *The Times-Dispatch*. Fiske previously reported on Virginia government and politics for *The Virginian-Pilot* of Norfolk from 1985 to 2009. Fiske will serve as PolitiFact editor at *The Times-Dispatch*. Additional staff members will be announced at a later date.

Times Editor Neil Brown said the Virginia partnership made sense for both companies.

“We’re happy to see our PolitiFact brand in Virginia and we’re glad the *Times-Dispatch* is partnering with us,” Brown said.

The *Times* is offering affiliate opportunities to news organizations in other states.

The Virginia partnership is the eighth in a national network of affiliate sites. The others are PolitiFact Oregon, PolitiFact Wisconsin, PolitiFact Ohio, PolitiFact Rhode Island, PolitiFact Georgia, PolitiFact Texas, and PolitiFact Florida, which all launched earlier this year.

About PolitiFact

PolitiFact.com was launched in 2007 to fact-check the 2008 presidential campaign. In 2009, the site began fact-checking elected officials, lobbying groups, pundits and talk show hosts on issues such as climate change and health care. PolitiFact also launched the Obameter, a feature that tracks and rates more than 500 of President Barack Obama's campaign promises. The site has received numerous awards, including the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting, the Digital Edge Award for Best Overall News Site from the Newspaper Association of America, a National Press Foundation award for online journalism, and two Knight Batten Awards for Innovation in Journalism.