

Post-Election Report

NOVEMBER 2023



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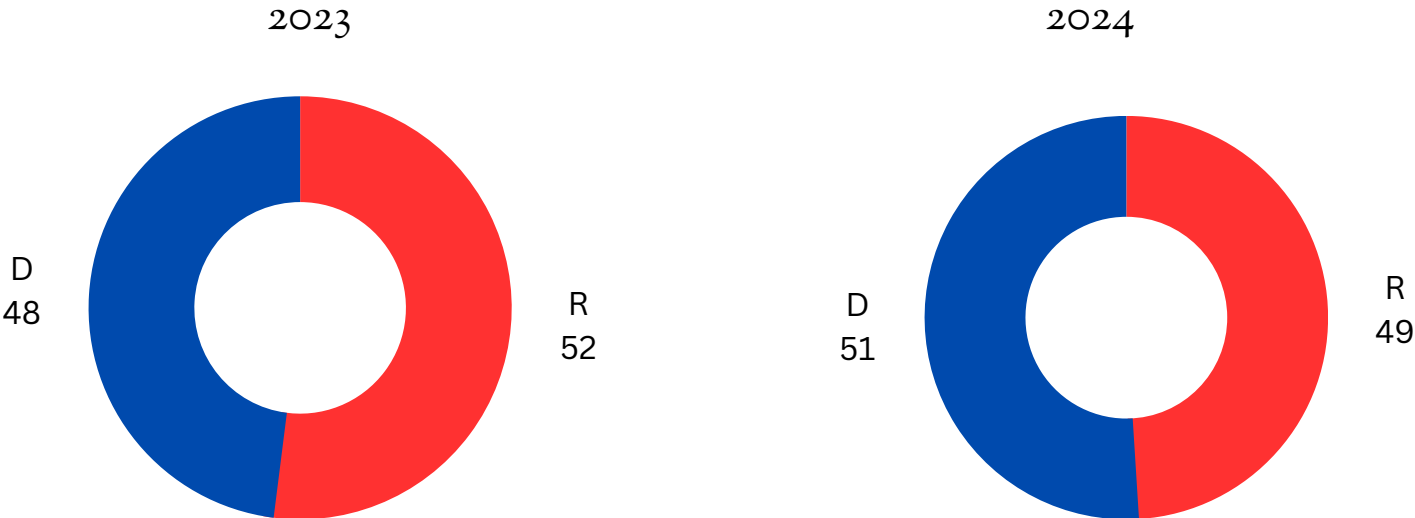
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Consulting

The 2023 elections have concluded in Virginia. In this report, you will find updates on who won the key races covered in the [Pre-Election Report I](#) authored in September, an analysis of what this could mean for the 2024 General Assembly session, and biographies of newly elected members not previously discussed in the aforementioned report. The numbers in the races mentioned below are currently unofficial.

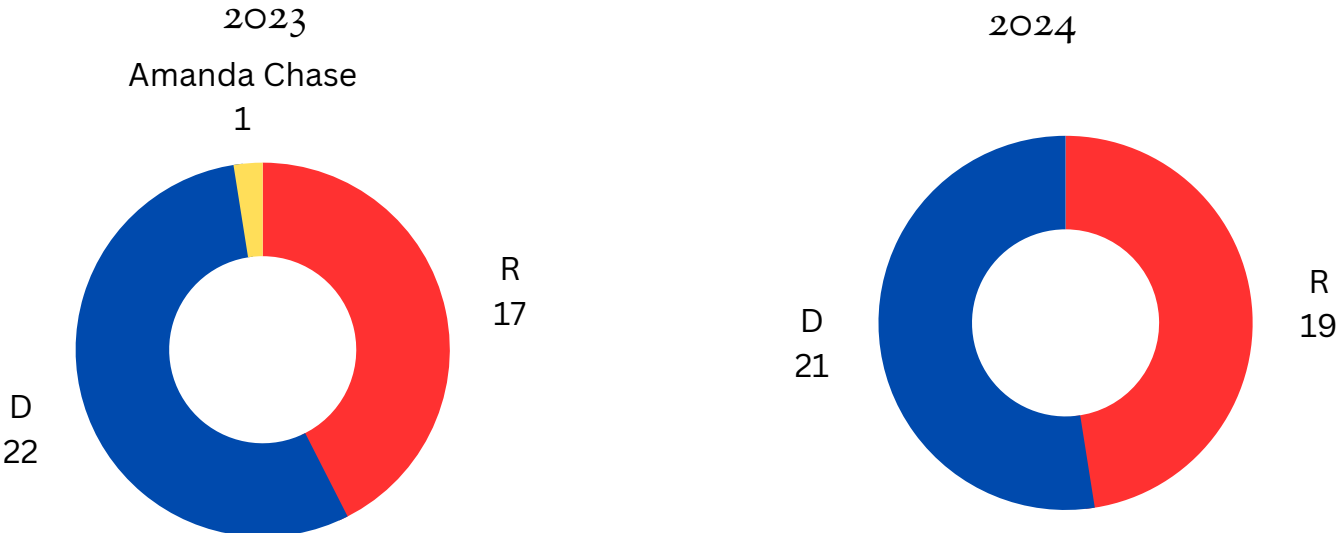
Chamber Control

Election night was certainly not one that the Governor or Virginia Republicans will want to remember. Two years after sweeping statewide offices and regaining control of the House, they failed to retake the Senate and lost the House of Delegates. Republicans may take solace in their performance in the five House districts that swung from red to blue in the 2021 to 2022 elections. They won two of the five, but their candidates outperformed the 2022 percentages in three of the five. In the end, Democrats gained three seats in the House, and Republicans gained one seat in the Senate.

House Chamber Control



Senate Chamber Control



Policy Implications

From a policy perspective, there may be fewer wholesale changes in what is signed into law than people would expect. The policies introduced and the discourse around them will more closely mirror the later years of the Northam administration. Still, Virginia was already operating under a divided government, and the Senate's "Brick Wall" effectively defeated Youngkin's policy objectives. Democratic initiatives received similar treatment in the GOP-controlled House last year.

The most significant changes will likely be the Governor's use of his veto power and budget conferee negotiations. Below is a list of some areas that could be at the forefront of 2024 policy discussions.

- **Election of State Corporation Commission Judges:** The General Assembly failed to make these appointments in 2023. With a fully Democratic General Assembly, this issue should resolve itself.
- **Petersburg or Richmond Casino:** With the Richmond Casino referendum failing again, the General Assembly will need to decide how to handle a possible fifth casino location.
- **Retail Cannabis Market:** When Democrats controlled both chambers and the Governor's office, they passed legislation allowing the consumption of cannabis but delayed the creation of the means to buy and sell it in a regulated open market. This issue could be heading to the Governor's desk with Democrats regaining control of the General Assembly.
- **Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act and Housing:** This has become an even more robust area for policy discussion since the COVID-19 Pandemic. During this past session, legislation was introduced in both chambers to bring rent stabilization to Virginia.
- **Gray Machines/Skill Games:** Delegate Krizek and Senator Ebbin recently wrote an op-ed detailing their concerns with these gaming machines; legislation will likely be introduced to address this issue.
- **Prescription Drugs:** Legislation to create a Prescription Drug Affordability Board was introduced last session. Additionally, there was legislation to consolidate state agency prescription drug purchasing and reimbursement programs. With the cost of drugs continuing to impact household budgets, this will be an expected area for the General Assembly to debate.
- **Renewable and Clean Energy:** After passing the Virginia Clean Economy Act, Democrats have focused on defending their gains. With complete control of the General Assembly, how might it be expanded? One facet that will be discussed is shared solar.
- **Electric Vehicles:** Republicans ran on removing Virginia from California's EV goals of having all new vehicles sold to be zero-emission by 2035. With Democrats in control of both chambers, additional legislation and funds should be expected to help grow Virginia's EV charging infrastructure.

House Committee Chairmanships

While we know party control in the House has shifted, committee assignments still need to be made. The outcome of legislation will be significantly impacted by which particular set of members are seated on the dais. At this point, who Speaker-Designee Don Scott will place on certain committees is still being determined. Delegate Luke Torian has been named Chair of the House Committee on Appropriators, a position he held during the last Democratic Majority. In the table below are the list of former Chairs from when Democrats were last in control and potentially who could regain the Chairmanship. At a minimum, House Democrats will need to name new chairs, compared to their previous majority, for the following committees:

- Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources
- Counties, Cities and Towns
- Education

Committee	Former Chair
Commerce and Energy	Ward
Communications, Technology, and Innovation	Hayes
Courts of Justice	Herring
Finance	Watts
General Laws	Buolva
Health, Welfare, and Institutions	Sickles
Privileges and Elections	Simon
Public Safety	Hope
Rules	Speaker
Transportation	McQuinn

Senate Committee Chairmanships

Even though the Senate Chamber control has not changed, there will still be a shake-up in committees as the Chamber will have 17 new members. Additionally, Senator Bagby was elected in a Special Election and has not been placed on any committees. Retirements and elections drastically impacted Committee Chairs. At a minimum, five committees need new Chairs and likely more when other Senior members shift into vacant positions, including the anticipated announcement of Senator Lucas as Chair of Senate Finance and Appropriations. Senate Democrats will also need to decide who, if anyone, will serve as Co-Chair with Senator Lucas. Below is a list of Senate Committees, those bolded will require a new Chair.

Committee	2023 Chair
Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Petersen
Commerce and Labor	Saslaw
Education and Health	Lucas*
Finance and Appropriations	Howell and Barker
General Laws and Technology	Ebbin
Judiciary	Deeds
Local Government	Lewis
Privileges and Elections	Spruill
Rehabilitation and Social Services	Favola
Rules	Locke
Transportation	Marsden

House Leadership

The weekend following Election Day, the Republican and Democratic Caucuses met to elect their leadership. As expected, Minority Leader Don Scott was named Speaker-Designee. Del. Charniele Herring was selected as the Majority Leader-elect, and Del. Kathy Tran was named Caucus Chair.

House Republicans kept their leadership team intact, with Del. Todd Gilbert being named Minority Leader, Del. Amanda Batten being re-elected as Caucus Chair, and Del. Michael Webert as Republican Whip.

Senate Leadership

At the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee meetings, the Republican and Democratic Caucuses met to elect their leadership. Senate Democrats selected Sen. Scott Surovell as the new Majority Leader. Senator Locke remained as Caucus Chair. Additionally, Sen. Ebbin was named Vice Chair, Sen. Aaron Rouse was named Secretary, and Sen. Ghazala Hashmi was Treasurer. Both Sen. Lamont Bagby and Sen. Barbara Favola were named Whips.

Senate Republicans named Ryan McDougale as the next Republican Leader. Senator Mark Obenshain was named Caucus Chair. Both Sen. Bill Stanley and Bruce Reeves were named as Whips.

Future Reports

Thank you for taking the time to read this Post-Election Report. I hope you found it informative and engaging. As Virginia moves closer to the 2024 General Assembly Session, Gentry Locke Consulting will continue to provide in-depth looks at a variety of issues impacting businesses in the Commonwealth.

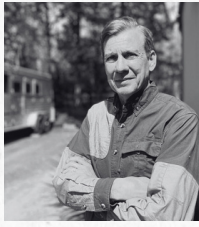


Zach LeMaster
Government Affairs Manager
804-385-6076
lemaster@gentrylocke.consulting

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zach LeMaster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Key Races



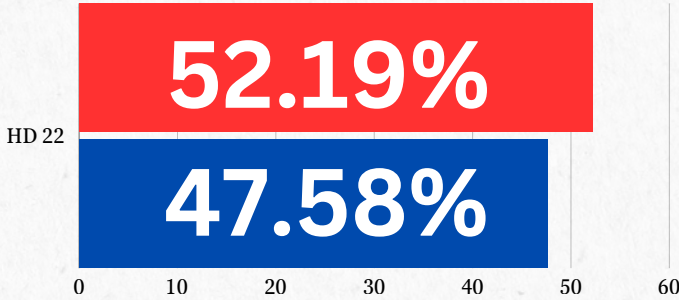
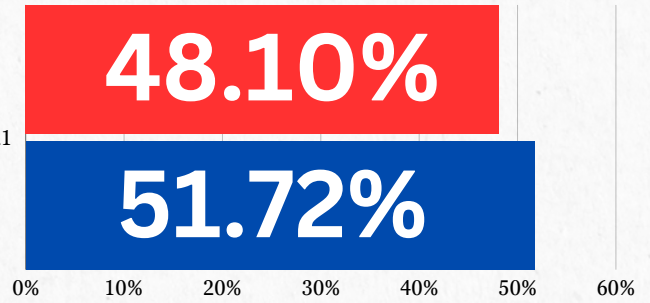
House District 21

Hon. John Stirrup (R)



Mr. Josh Thomas (D)

HD 21



HD 22



Hon. Ian Lovejoy (R)

House District 22



Mr. Travis Nembhard (D)



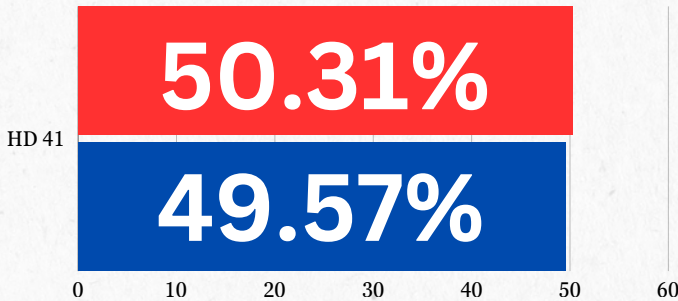
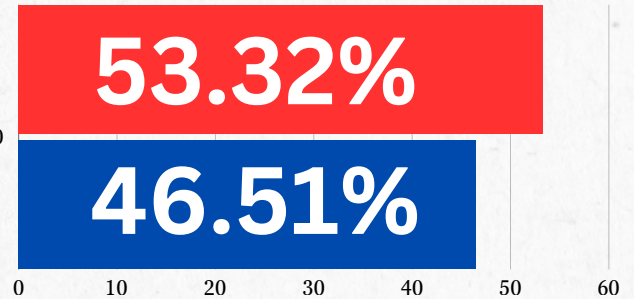
House District 30

Mr. Rob Banse (D)



Hon. Geary Higgins (R)

HD 30



HD 41



Ms. Lilly Franklin (D)

House District 41



Mr. Chris Obenshain (R)



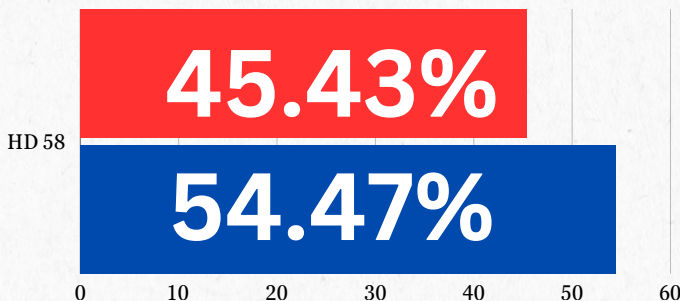
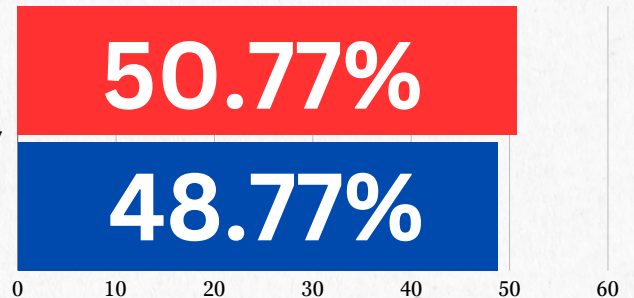
House District 57

Mrs. Susanna Gibson (R)



Mr. David Owen (R)

HD 57



HD 58



Hon. Rodney Willet (D)

House District 58



Mrs. Riley Shaia (R)



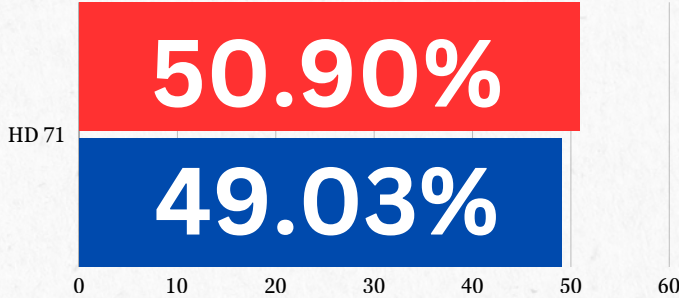
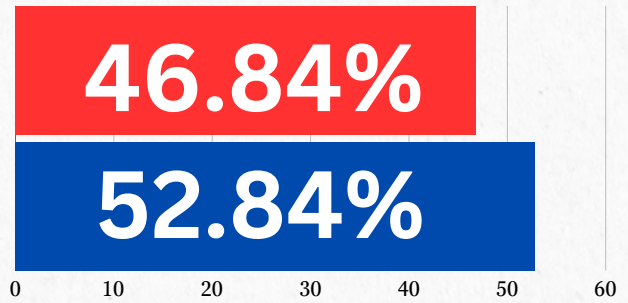
House District 65

Hon. Joshua Cole (D)



Mr. Lee Peters, III (R)

HD 65



HD 71



Hon. Amanda Batten (R)

House District 71



Mrs. Jessica Anderson (D)



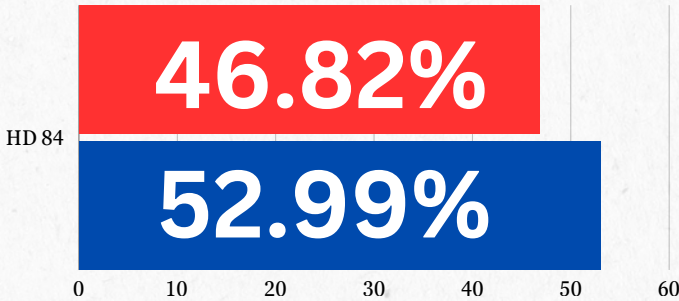
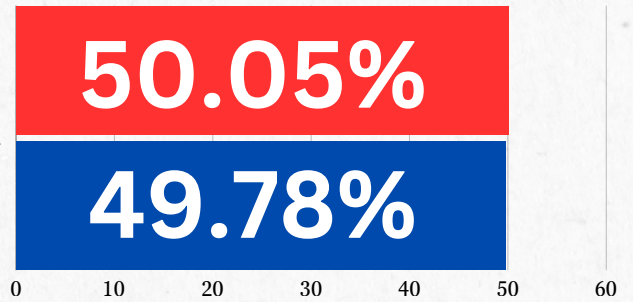
House District 82

Hon. Kim Taylor (R)



Mrs. Kimberly Pope Adams (D)

HD 82



HD 84



Hon. Nadarius Clark (R)

House District 84



Mr. Mike Dillender (D)



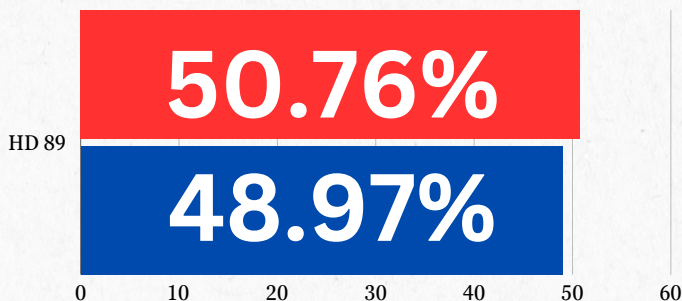
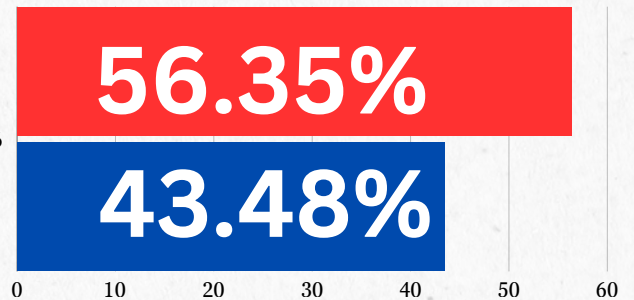
House District 86

Hon. A.C. Cordoza (R)



Mr. Jarris Taylor (D)

HD 86



HD 89



Mr. Baxter Ennis (R)

House District 89



Mrs. Karen Jenkins (D)



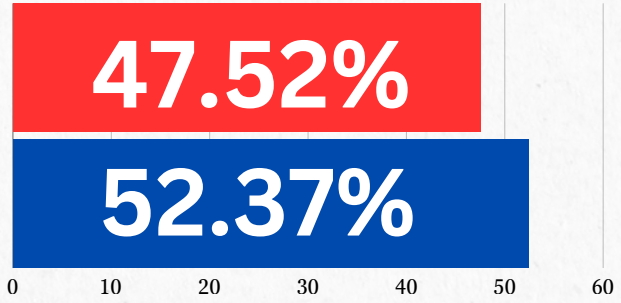
House District 97

Hon. Karen Greenhalgh (R)

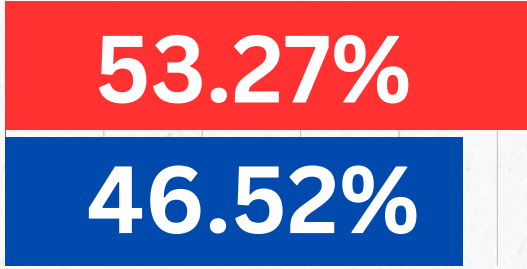


Mr. Michael Feggans (D)

HD 97



SD 4



Hon. David Suetterlein (R)



Hon. Trish White-Boyd (D)

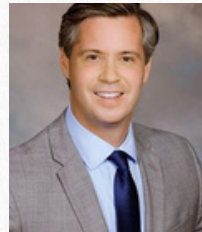
Senate District 4

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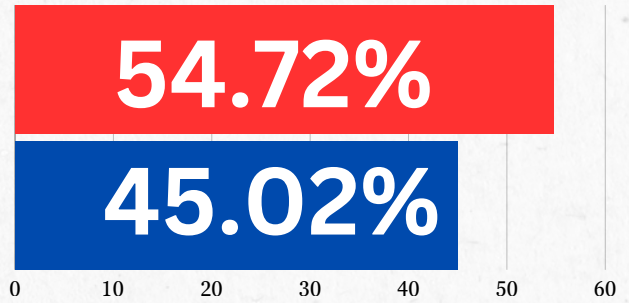
Mr. Natan McKenzie (D)

Senate District 12



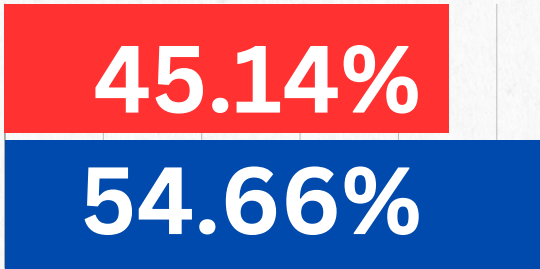
Hon. Glen Sturtevant (R)

SD12



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SD 16



Hon. Siobhan Dunnivant



Hon. Schuyler VanValkenburg (D)

Senate District 16

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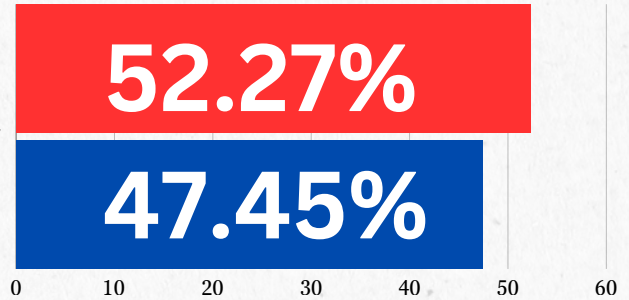
Hon. Emily Brewer (R)

Senate District 17



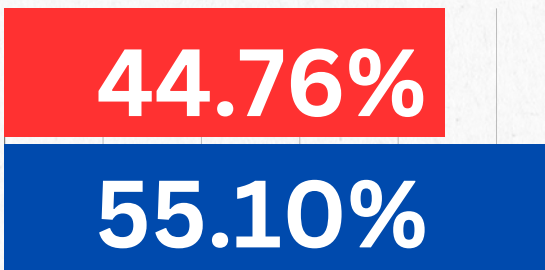
Hon. Clint Jenkins (D)

SD 17



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SD 22



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Hon. Aaron Rouse (D)

Senate District 22

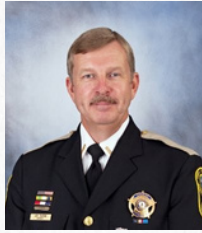


Mr. Kevin Adams (R)



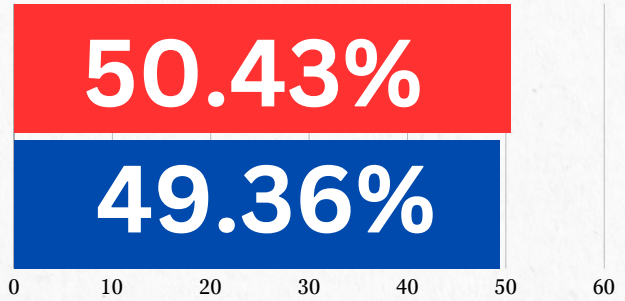
Senate District 24

Hon. Monty Mason (D)

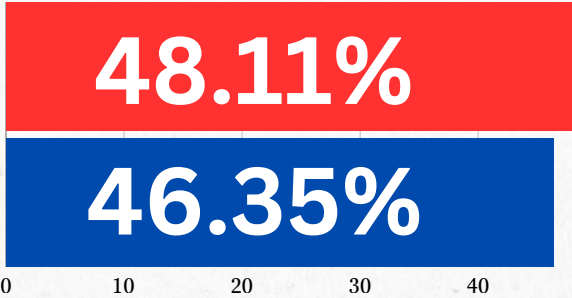


Hon. Danny Diggs (R)

SD 24



SD 27



Hon. Tara Durant (R)

Senate District 27



Mr. Joel Griffin (D)



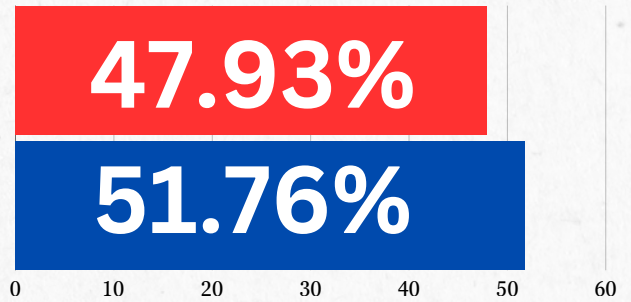
Senate District 30

Hon. Danica Roem (D)

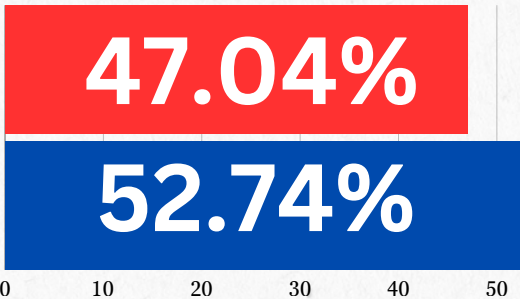


Mr. Bill Woolf (R)

SD 30



SD 31



Mrs. Russet Perry (D)

Senate District 31



Mr. Juan Pablo Segura (R)

New Members



Adele McClure (HD2-D)

Adele is a first-generation college graduate. She attended Virginia Commonwealth University and served as student Body President. Previously, Adele served as the Executive Director of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus. Additionally, she volunteered with countless organizations, including the Arlington Continuum of Care Leadership Board Action Plan to End Homelessness, the Arlington Community Services Board, as an Election Officer, and the Virginia Housing Alliance.



Karen Keys-Gamarra (HD7-D)

She served two terms as an At-Large Fairfax County School Board member. She is also a former member of the Planning Commission. She is a graduate of Tulane University and Washington University School of Law. She has practiced as an attorney in multiple states across practice areas. Karen has served as a Guardian Ad Litem for children. She is a graduate of EMERGE Virginia and is a member of the George Mason University Carter School of Political Leadership Advisory Council Board.



Laura Jane Cohen (HD15-D)

Laura Jane is a graduate of the University of Georgia. In her native Georgia, she worked for the office of Democratic Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State's Office. She later worked as the Director of Outreach for a national Parkinson's nonprofit. She has worked as a preschool teacher and served as her local PTA board president.



Rozia graduated from Virginia State University, receiving a BS in Political Science. He later received his Masters from the University of Maryland University College in Business Administration. Rozia formerly worked as a Legislative Aide to Senator Henry Marsh. He is a federal contractor and Department of Homeland Security program manager. Additionally, he owns a small business as a consultant.

Rozia Henson, Jr. (HD19-D)



Kannan immigrated from India in 1992. He worked nearly 23 years in several finance roles with tech company Asurion and is currently VP of Finance with the Jose Andres Group. He serves as Chair of the Virginia Medicaid Board after being appointed by Governor McAuliffe and Northam. Kannan has served on the Loudoun Fiscal Impact Committee, Loudoun Economic Development Advisory Commission, Loudoun Free Clinic, and the George Washington University Heart and Vascular Institute.

Kannan Srinivasan (HD26-D)



Atoosa is currently a member of the Loudoun County School Board. Additionally, she was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to serve on the Community Policy and Management Team. Atoosa is a graduate of James Madison University and has her JD from George Mason University. She is a former Deputy Town Attorney. Currently, she is a general practice litigator at a law firm. She has served as a Guardian Ad Litem. Lastly, she has volunteered for LINK Against Hunger and a Scouts BSA troop.

Atoosa Reaser (HD27-D)



Marty served on the Town of Leesburg for four terms and was Vice Mayor. He served in the Air Force and was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant. He previously worked as a government contractor with the Federal Aviation Administration.

Marty Martinez (HD30-D)



Delores Oates (HD31-R)

Delores has a Bachelor of Arts in Government from Regent University. She has over twenty-five years of experience as a technical recruiter. Delores volunteers in several civic groups, with youth athletics, and as a mentor to teen mothers. Currently, he is a member of the Warren County Board of Supervisors.



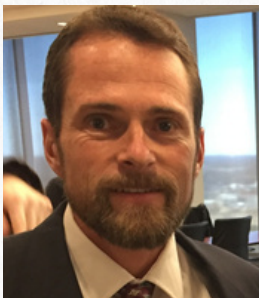
Will Davis (HD39-R)

Will is a Bridgewater College graduate with a JD from Regent University. He is a fourth-generation attorney who runs a family law firm. He is a member of the Franklin County Gun Club, a Board Member of Habitat for Humanity, and a former President of the nonprofit Community Partnership for Revitalization.



Jed Arnold (HD46-R)

Jed won a special election in August of 2023 to fill the seat of former Delegate Jeff Campbell. Jed had previously worked as Delegate Campbell's Legislative aide. He graduated from Radford University and obtained his JD from the Appalachian School of Law. He is a general practice attorney.



Eric Zehr (HD51-R)

Eric has served on the Campbell County Board of Supervisors for four years. He is a former Chair of the Campbell County Republican Party. Eric served as a member of the County's Social Services Board. He owns a small farm and a small business, American House Wash.



Tim Griffin (HD53-R)

Tim is a graduate of Liberty University and Appalachian School of Law. He served as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney. Tim has recently served as a Constitutional and Election law attorney. He is a former Chair of the Bedford County Republican Committee.



Katrina Callsen (HD54-D)

Katrina graduated from Yale University and obtained her JD from the University of Virginia School of Law. Following her graduation, she joined Teach For America/Americorps. She is a Deputy City Attorney for Charlottesville and an Albemarle County School Board Member.



Amy Laufer (HD55-D)

She is a first-generation college graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her bachelor's degree is in Geology. Additionally, Amy obtained a master's degree in secondary science education from Teachers College at Columbia University. She is a former elementary school teacher and middle school teacher. Amy volunteered in Jamaica with the U.S. Peace Corps. She is a Sorensen Institute of Political Leaders Program and Emerge Virginia graduate.



Paul Milde (HD64-R)

Paul served three terms on the Stafford County Board of Supervisors, including serving as Chair in 2017. During his time on the board, he served on several regional commissions, including the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, George Washington Regional Commission, and the Potomac Watershed Roundtable. Paul is also a Chair of the Virginia Railway Express and was appointed to serve on the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation. He also founded a preservation organization to protect Crow's Nest Peninsula.



Hillary Pugh Kent (HD67-R)

Hillary graduated from Randolph-Macon College and obtained a master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is Vice President of family-owned Al Pugh Distributing. Hillary volunteers as a GED instructor and with several local nonprofits.



Chad Green (HD69-R)

Chad graduated from the University of Alabama and obtained his law degree from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. He also worked as a commercial waterman, boat captain, and published author. Chad has served on the York County Board of Supervisors since 2015, including two years as Chair. He founded the peninsula chapter of Ducks Unlimited and was a past president of the Grafton Kiwanis Club.



Mark Earley (HD73-R)

Mark is a graduate of Virginia Tech. He earned his JD from the University of Virginia School of Law. Mark served in the McDonnell administration's Prisoner and Juvenile Re-entry Council. Additionally, he clerked with a federal judge in the Eastern District of Virginia. Currently, he is an attorney with a family-run law practice.



Debra Gardner (HD76-D)

Debra currently runs a small business as an executive and career coach. Previously, she served in leadership positions with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, the Virginia Department of Corrections, and the Richmond Office of Human Resources. Additionally, she served over twenty years as the Executive Director of the Commission on Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program.



Michael Jones (HD77-D)

Mike has served on the Richmond City Council since 2017. On City Council, he Chaired the Education and Human Services Committee. He has served as a Minister for nearly 18 years. He has a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Colorado Boulder. Additionally, Mike has a Master's Degree in Divinity from Virginia Union University and a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary.



Bonita Anthony (HD92-D)

Bonita is the Executive Director of Retention and Persistence at Virginia State University. Before her work at VSU, she served 17 years in various positions at Old Dominion University, including Director of Engineering Student Success. Bonita has a Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronics Engineering and a Master of Engineering from Old Dominion University. Additionally, she has a Master of Divinity in Theology from Virginia Union University.



Phil Hernandez (HD94-D)

Phil is Senior Vice President for Policy & Advocacy for The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis. Previously, he was a Senior Policy Analyst in President Obama's White House Domestic Policy Council. He has additionally worked as a civil rights attorney. He has a BA in Government from William & Mary and obtained his JD from the University of California Berkeley School of Law.



Alex Askew (HD95-D)

Alex is a graduate of Hampton University. He was Chief of Staff to Delegate Jay Jones and later served one term in the House of Delegates. Currently, Alex is a Community Relations Coordinator with Sentara Healthcare. He volunteers with New Jerusalem Ministries and is a founding board member of the New Leaders Council of Virginia.



Timmy French (SD1-R)

Timmy is a member of the multi-generational French Brothers Dairy and Springdale Farms. He served eight years on the Shenandoah County Agricultural and Forestal District Advisory Committee. Additionally, he is a past President of the Shenandoah County Farm Bureau Board.



Chris Head (SD3-R)

Delegate Head was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2011. He will now be a member of the Senate. He and his wife own Home Instead Senior Care, which services seniors. Chris is a graduate of the University of Georgia. He has served on the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules, School Health Services Commission, and Appalachian Region Interstate Compact Commission.



John McGuire (SD10-R)

Delegate McGuire was first elected to the House of Delegates. He will now be a member of the Senate. John served ten years as a Navy SEAL. He is the owner of SEAL Team PT Inc., a fitness organization. He served on the House's Education, Transportation, and Privileges & Elections Committees.



Lashrecse Aird (SD13-D)

Lashrecse served in the House of Delegates for three terms. She graduated from Virginia State University with a Communications degree. She is the Chief of Staff to the President at Richard Bland College of William & Mary. Previously, Lashrecse served as the chief of staff to former Delegate Rosalyn Dance.



Christie New Craig (SD19-R)

Christie served as a member of law enforcement with the Chesapeake Sheriff's Office for fifteen years. Since 2002, Christie has served as the Chief of Staff to Senator John Cosgrove. Additionally, she served as a member of the Chesapeake School Board for twelve years.



Angelia Williams Graves (SD21-D)

Angelia served in the House of Delegates since 2021. She was a member of the Norfolk City Council from 2010-2016, including two years as Vice-Mayor. Delegate Williams Graves holds an Associates Degree from Tidewater Community College and a Bachelor of Science from Old Dominion University. She is the Principal Broker and Owner of Homes by Angelia Realty & Property Management Company. In the House, she served on the following Committees: Agriculture Chesapeake and Natural Resources, Counties Cities and Towns, and Public Safety.



Suhas Subramanyam (SD32-D)

He graduated from Tulane University and obtained his JD from Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law. Currently, he is the Chairman of Pebble, an app that promotes sustainability. In the House, he served on the following Committees: Education, Counties, Cities and Towns, and Transportation.



Jennifer Carroll Foy (SD33-D)

Jennifer is a former two-term member of the House of Delegates and a candidate for Governor in 2021. She will now be a member of the Senate. Jennifer was among the first women to graduate from the Virginia Military Insitute. She later obtained her master's degree from Virginia State University and her JD from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. In her private practice, she was a criminal defense attorney.



Stella Pekarsky (SD36-D)

Stella is a George Mason University graduate with a degree in Government & Politics. She is a former public school teacher. Stella and her Husband founded Skyway Air Taxi, a local air charter company. In 2020, she was elected to the Fairfax County School Board. Additionally, she is a board member for Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters (BRAWS), President of the local PTA, on the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees.



Saddam Azlan Salim (SD37-D)

Saddam is a first-generation immigrant born in Bangladesh. Saddam attended Northern Virginia Community College and George Mason University. He obtained a Master of Public Administration focusing on Public and Nonprofit Finance. Saddam has worked as a financial consultant at PenFed Credit Union, Kearney & Co., and the United States Institute of Peace. Currently, he is a Senior Consultant at 11th Hour Service.