

# Pre-Session Report

JANUARY 2024



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The 2024 Virginia General Assembly Session is quickly approaching. Members have settled into their new office building, and many will be navigating through their first legislative Session. The House of Delegates, the oldest legislative body of the New World, will elect its first-ever black Speaker. The Senate will gavel in with a new leader of the Democratic Caucus for the first time since 1997 and Republicans for the first time since 2007. What remains the same is that this will be a long Session, which means members will have 60 days to review roughly 3,000 bills.

Governor Glenn Youngkin faces a “Blue Wall” from the Senate and House as Democrats hold a one-seat majority in both chambers. I wrote a post-election report detailing what happened in November, which can be found [here](#).

Virginia operates on a biennial budget cycle, and this is the Governor’s first budget he can claim as his own. The Governor presented his budget to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committees in December, which can be reviewed [here](#). The budget proposals of Governors are recommendations. The ultimate power lies with the General Assembly, and the final budget will look vastly different than that proposed by Youngkin.

The General Assembly is still changing. Two Special Elections will be held on January 9th to fill vacancies left by Delegate Les Adams and Senator Frank Ruff. These are strong Republican districts that should not alter chamber composition. Information on the candidates running is detailed later in this article. With the retirement of Senator Ruff, every Republican member of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee from the previous Session is no longer a member of the General Assembly—the most direct example of why this Session is an unknown.

This year will be the first of the new General Assembly building, pictured on the front of this report, which officially opened its doors in October 2023. The \$300 million project took six years to complete and occurred during the tenure of three Governors. There is also a new email format to contact Senate offices. The updated emails for each office can be found on the Legislative Information Services [website](#), where you can also track legislation.

In this primer for the upcoming Session, you will find policy questions (page 2), an anticipated committee calendar (pages 3-4), a layout of the new General Assembly Building (page 5), a list of House (pages 6-9) and Senate (pages 10-12) Chairs. Additionally, there is information on the House District 48 (page 13) and Senate District 9 (page 14) Special elections.

I will be providing a Post-Session update on everything that happened this year. Thank you for taking the time to read this report. I hope you find it informative.



Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zach LeMaster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Zach LeMaster  
Government Affairs Manager  
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# Policy Questions

The first bills and Constitutional Amendment's filed by House and Senate Democrats as priority issues are listed below. These are statement bills meant to draw a contrast between the parties and for the majority to show their base that they are working diligently on their core issues.

- **HJ1/SJ1:** Constitutional Amendment for Fundamental Right to Reproductive Freedom.
- **HJ2/SJ2:** Constitutional Amendment for the Restoration of Rights.
- **HB1/SB1:** Increases the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.
- **HB2/SB2:** Assault weapons ban.

Below are some of the anticipated major issues that the General Assembly will discuss this Session:

- **Budget:** The most important bill in every Session is the budget. It funds priorities, and its language supersedes the Virginia Code. The biggest question is how incoming Senate Finance and Appropriations Chair Senator Lucas leaves her mark on the budget.
- **Casinos:** There have been recent reports of legislation being introduced to allow a casino in Northern Virginia. Will Virginia add a new casino slot, and how will the General Assembly handle the debate surrounding Richmond/Petersburg locations?
- **Data Centers:** Virginia has worked to become a hub for data centers, but there has been pushback from some regarding their development and questions about how to meet their vast energy needs.
- **Election of State Corporation Commission Judges:** The General Assembly failed to make these appointments in 2023. This issue will certainly be resolved, but who will be placed on the Commission?
- **Retail Cannabis Market:** An issue that has been in limbo since Democrats legalized consumption without creating a retail market. Will they gain a consensus approach, and what will the Governor do with the legislation if it makes it to his desk?
- **Legacy Admissions:** Senator Vanvalkenbrug and Delegate Dan Helmer have introduced companion bills to ban legacy admissions at Virginia's institutions of higher learning. Will this garner bi-partisan support, and how will individual institutions react?
- **Potomac Yard Arena:** In the recent history of the General Assembly, they failed to attract the Washington Commanders to Virginia. Will Governor Youngkin's major announcement about the Capitals and Wizards moving to Alexandria happen? Senate Chair of Finance and Appropriations Louise Lucas appears to be a significant hurdle. Additionally, there is the question of how this would impact the struggling Metro system.
- **Shared Solar:** Commonly known as community solar in other states. There were two bills last session that will be returning this year to look at expanding the Dominion Energy Program and putting shared solar in Appalachian Power territory.
- **Small Modular Nuclear Reactors:** SMRs were part of the Governor's push last Session for an all-inclusive energy solution. Will a pilot program come to Virginia, and if so, how will it be structured?
- **Utility Scale Solar and Mitigation:** There has been legislative discussion in Virginia over the last two years and around the country attempting to balance the need for renewable energy sources with farm and forest conservation. How will Virginia work to meet its VCEA and Chesapeake Bay Goals?

# Session Calendar

Assuming there are no major changes to the calendar, there have been none as of this report, the 2024 committee schedule should be as follows:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Time</b>
House Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	Wednesday 8:30am
House Appropriations	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1/2 hour after adjournment
House Communications, Technology and Innovation	Monday 10:00am
House Counties, Cities and Towns	Friday 9:00am
House Courts of Justice	Friday 1/2 hour after adjournment
House Education	Monday and Wednesday 8:00am
House Finance	Monday and Wednesday 1/2 hour after adjournment
House General Laws	Tuesday and Thursday 1/2 hour after adjournment
House Health and Human Services	Tuesday and Thursday 8:30am
House Labor and Commerce	Tuesday and Thursday 1/2 hour after adjournment
House Privileges and Elections	Friday 9:00am
House Public Safety	Friday 8:00am
House Rules	One the Call of the Speaker
House Transportation	Tuesday and Thursday 8:30am

Committee	Time
Senate Agriculture, Conversation, and Natural Resources	Tuesday 1/2 hour after adjournment
Senate Commerce and Labor	Monday 15 minutes after adjournment
Senate Education and Health	Thursday 8:00am
Senate Finance and Appropriations	Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00am
Senate General Laws	Wednesday 1/2 hour after adjournment
Senate Judiciary	Monday 8:00am and Wednesday 1/2 hour after adjournment
Senate Local Government	Monday 9:00am
Senate Privileges and Elections	Tuesday 15 minutes after adjournment
Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services	Friday 8:00am
Senate Rules	Upon Call of the Chair
Senate Transportation	Thursday 15 minutes after adjournment

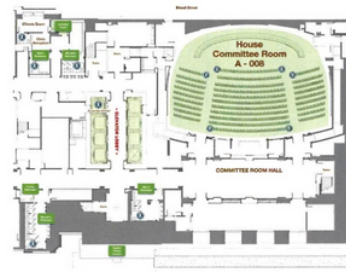
# The New GAB

**1st Floor (Public Entrances & Dining)**

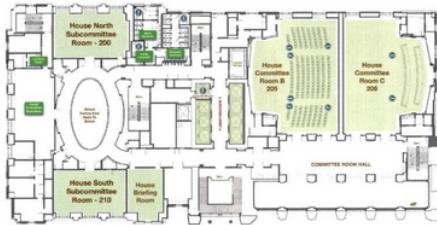


**Lower Level**

House Committee Room A



**2nd Floor**  
House Meeting Rooms



**3rd Floor**

Senate Meeting Rooms



**Lower Level**

House Room A  
Tunnel Entrance to Capitol

**1st Floor**

Information  
Capitol Police Security Screening  
Commonwealth Room  
Constituency Center  
Dining  
Press Room

**2nd Floor**

House Committee Operations  
House Rooms B and C  
House North & South Subcommittees  
House Briefing Room  
House Burgess Room

**3rd Floor**

Senate Committee Operations  
Senate Rooms A, B and C  
Senate Subcommittee Room

**4th Floor**

Division of Legislative Services  
House Information Systems  
Senate Briefing Room  
Senate Fiscal and Human Resources

**5th Floor**

Senate Member Offices  
Senate Post Office  
Senate Subcommittee Room  
Senate Support Services

**6th Floor**

Senate Member Offices  
Senate Subcommittee Room North & South

**7th Floor**

House Member Offices  
House North and South Conference Rooms

**8th Floor**

House Member Offices  
House 8th Floor Meeting Room

**9th Floor**

House Member Offices  
House 9th Floor Meeting Room

**10th Floor**

House Member Offices  
House 10th Floor Meeting Room

**11th Floor**

House Member Offices  
House Human Resources  
House Finance  
House Post Office  
House Support Services

**12th Floor**

House Appropriations Chair & Vice Chair  
House Appropriations Room  
House Appropriations Staff  
House Training Room

**13th Floor**

Senate Finance and Appropriations Room  
Senate Finance and Appropriations Staff  
Senate Information Systems

**14th Floor**

House Speaker  
House Majority and Minority Leaders  
Senate Leadership  
Senate Leadership Conference Room  
Speaker's Conference Room

# House Committee Chairs



Del. Alfonso Lopez (D)

## **Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources**

Delegate Lopez has been a member of the House since 2012. He represents the 3rd House District, which is comprised of portions of the County of Arlington and the City of Alexandria. From 2020 to 2022, he served as the Majority Whip. Delegate Lopez is a founder and co-chair of the Virginia Environment and Renewable Energy Caucus.



Del. Luke Torian (D)

## **Committee: Appropriations**

Delegate Torian has been a member of the House since 2010. He represents the 24th District, which is comprised of portions of Prince William County. He is a former Chair of the Appropriations Committee. Delegate Torian is a member of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission and the MEI Project Approval Commission.



Del. Cliff Hayes (D)

## **Committee: Communications, Technology, and Innovation**

Delegate Hayes has been a member of the House since November 2016. He represents the 91st District, which is comprised of portions of the Cities of Chesapeake and Portsmouth. He is a former Communications, Technology, and Innovation Committee Chair. Delegate Hayes is a member of the Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) and the Virginia Data Advisory Commission.



Del. Candi Mundon King (D)

## **Committee: Counties, Cities, and Towns**

Delegate Mundon King has been a member of the House since 2021. She represents the 23rd District, which is comprised of portions of the Counties of Prince William and Stafford. Delegate Mundon King is a Task Force on Maternal Health Data and Measures member.



Del. Patrick Hope (D)

### **Committee: Courts of Justice**

Delegate Hope has been a member of the House since 2010. He represents the 1st District, which is comprised of portions of Arlington County. He has previously served as Chair of the House Committee on Public Safety. Delegate Hope is a member of the Behavioral Health Commission and the Virginia Addiction Recovery Council.



Del. Sam Rasoul (D)

### **Committee: Education**

Delegate Rasoul has been a member of the House since 2014. He represents the 38th District, which is comprised of portions of the City of Roanoke. Delegate Rasoul is a member of the Behavioral Health Commission, Roanoke Higher Education Authority, and the Western Virginia Public Education Consortium.



Del. Vivan Watts (D)

### **Committee: Finance**

Delegate Watts has been a member since 1996 and served in the House from 1982-1985. She represents the 14th District, which is comprised of portions of Fairfax County. She served as Chair of Finance during the Democrat's previous majority. Delegate Watts formerly served as the Virginia Secretary of Transportation and Public Safety from 1986 to 1990.



Del. David Bulova (D)

### **Committee: General Laws**

Delegate Bulova has been a member of the House since 2006. He represents the 11th District, which is comprised of the City of Fairfax and part of Fairfax County. He previously served as Chair of the General Laws Committee. Delegate Bulova is a member of the Virginia Housing Commission, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the State Water Commission.





Del. Mark Sickles (D)

### **Committee: Health and Human Services**

Delegate Sickles has been a member of the House since 2004. He represents the 17th District, which is comprised of portions of Fairfax County. He previously served as Chair of this committee when it was named the Committee on Health, Welfare, and Institutions. Delegate Sickles is a Joint Subcommittee for Health and Human Resources Oversight member and on the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates.



Del. Jeion Ward (D)

### **Committee: Labor and Commerce**

Delegate Ward has been a member of the House since 2004. She represents the 87th District, which is comprised of portions of the City of Hampton. She previously served as Chair of the Labor and Commerce Committee. Delegate Ward is a Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization Board member and Virginia-North Carolina High-Speed Rail Compact Commission member.



Del. Cia Price (D)

### **Committee: Privileges and Elections**

Delegate Price has been a member of the House since 2016. She represents the 85th District, which is comprised of portions of the City of Newport News. She is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Delegate Price helped found and currently serves as the Director of the non-profit Virginia Black Leadership Organizing Collaborative.



Del. Marcus Simon (D)

### **Committee: Public Safety**

Delegate Simon has been a member of the House since 2014. He represents the 13th District, which is comprised of the City of Falls Church and parts of Fairfax County. He previously served as Chair of the Privileges and Elections Committee. Delegate Simon serves on the Virginia Redistricting Committee.



Speaker Don Scott (D)

### **Committee: Rules**

Speaker Don Scott has been a member of the House since 2020. He represents the 88th District, which is comprised of portions of the City of Portsmouth. As the Speaker, he will Chair the Rules Committee. Speaker Scott also serves as a member of the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation and the Joint Subcommittee to Study Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform.



Del. Karrie Delaney (D)

### **Committee: Transportation**

Delegate Delaney has been a member of the House since 2018. She represents the 9th District, which is comprised of parts of Fairfax County. Delegate Delaney serves as a member of the Virginia State Crime Commission, the Task Force on Services for Survivors of Sexual Assault, and the Commission on Youth.

# Senate Committee Chairs



Sen. Dave Marsden (D)

## **Committee: Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources**

Senator Marsden has been a member of the Senate since 2010 and previously served as a member of the House from 2006-2010. He represents the 35th District, which is comprised of portions of Fairfax County. He previously served as Chair of the Transportation Committee. Senator Marsden is a member of the Joint Commission on Technology and Science and the Board of Trustees of the Land Conservation Foundation.



Sen. Creigh Deeds (D)

## **Committee: Commerce and Labor**

Senator Deeds has been a member of the Senate since 2001 and previously served as a member of the House from 1992-2001. He represents the 11th District, which is comprised of Albermarle County, Amherst County, Charlottesville City, Nelson County, and part of Louisa County. He previously served as Co-Chair of the Judiciary Committee.



Sen. Ghazala Hashmi (D)

## **Committee: Education and Health**

Senator Hashmi has been a member of the Senate since 2020. She represents the 15th District, which is comprised of portions of Chesterfield County and Richmond City. Senator Hashmi is a member of the Joint Commission on Health Care, the Housing Commission, and the Joint Commission on Technology and Science.



Sen. Louise Lucas (D)

## **Committee: Finance and Appropriations**

Senator Lucas has been a member of the Senate since 1992 and is the President pro tempore. She represents the 18th District, which is comprised of parts of the Cities of Chesapeake and Portsmouth. She previously served as Chair of the Education and Health Committee. Senator Lucas is a member of the Virginia State Crime Commission, the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation, and the Joint Commission on Health Care.



Sen. Adam Ebbin (D)

### **Committee: General Laws and Technology**

Senator Ebbin has been a member of the Senate since 2012 and previously served in the House from 2004 to 2012. He represents the 39th District, which is comprised of the City of Alexandria and portions of Arlington County and Fairfax County. He previously served as Chair of the Privileges and Elections Committee.



Sen. Scott Suorvell (D)

### **Committee: Judiciary**

Senator Suorvell has been a member of the Senate since 2016 and previously was a member of the House from 2010-2016. He is the current Majority Leader of the Senate. He represents the 34th District, which is comprised of portions of Fairfax County. Senator Suorvell serves as Chair of the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation and a Virginia State Crime Commission member.



Sen. Jeremy McPike (D)

### **Committee: Local Government**

Senator McPike has been a member of the Senate since 2016. He represents the 29th District, which is comprised of portions of Prince William County and Stafford County. Senator McPike is a member of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, the Cannabis Oversight Commission, and the Gaming Subcommittee.



Sen. Aaron Rouse (D)

### **Committee: Privileges and Elections**

Senator Rouse has been a member of the Senate since 2023. He represents the 22nd District, which is comprised of parts of Virginia Beach. Senator Rouse served as the Vice Chair of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and is a former member of the Virginia Beach City Council.



Sen. Barbara Favola (D)

### **Committee: Rehabilitation and Social Services**

Senator Favola has been a member of the Senate since 2012. She represents the 40th District, which is comprised of parts of Arlington County. Senator Favola is a member of the Behavioral Health Commission, the Disability Commission, and the Commission on Youth.



Sen. Mamie Locke (D)

### **Committee: Rules**

Senator Locke has been a member of the Senate since 2004. She represents the 23rd District, which is comprised of the City of Hampton and parts of the City of Newport News. Senator Locke is Chair of the Virginia Housing Commission and a member of the Virginia Redistricting Commission.



Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D)

### **Committee: Transportation**

Senator Boysko has been a member of the Senate since 2019 and previously served in the House from 2016 to 2019. She represents the 38th District, which is comprised of parts of Fairfax County. Senator Boysko serves on the Metro Reform Committee and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

# House District 48

Strong R



Eric J. Phillips (R)

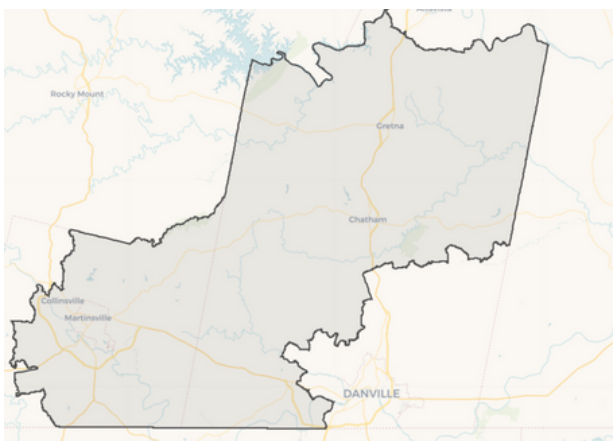
Eric is a small business owner and Chair of the Henry County-Martinsville Republican Committee. Eric serves in a public capacity on several boards, commissions, and authorities, including the Chair of Martinsville's Industrial Development Authority, a member of the Uptown Partnership Board of Directors, and a member of The Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor Committee. Additionally, he is the Chairman-Elect of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce. Lastly, he is a member of the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of the Blue Ridge.



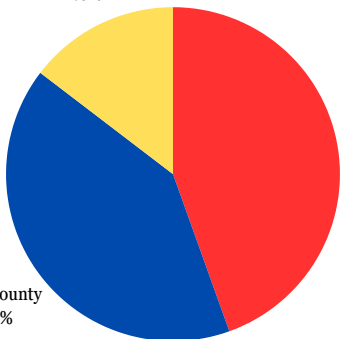
Melody Ann Cartwright (D)

Melody is a freelance graphic designer who worked for the Virginia Museum of Natural History for over twenty years. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University.

## District



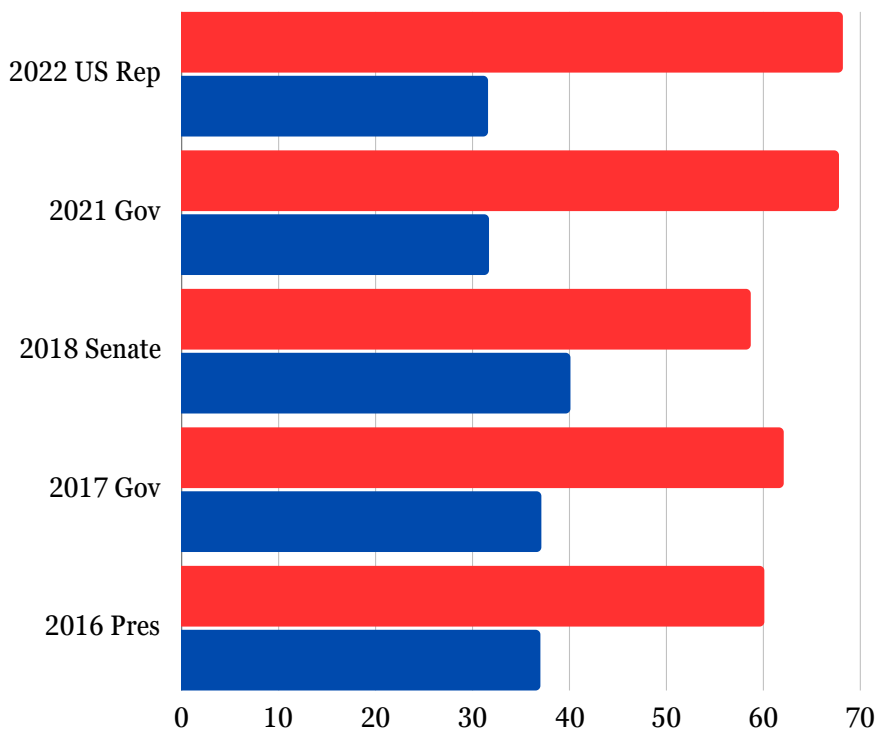
Martinsville City  
14.6%



Pittsylvania County  
44.5%

Henry County  
40.9%

## Elections



# Senate District 9

Strong R



Hon. Tammy Mulchi (R)

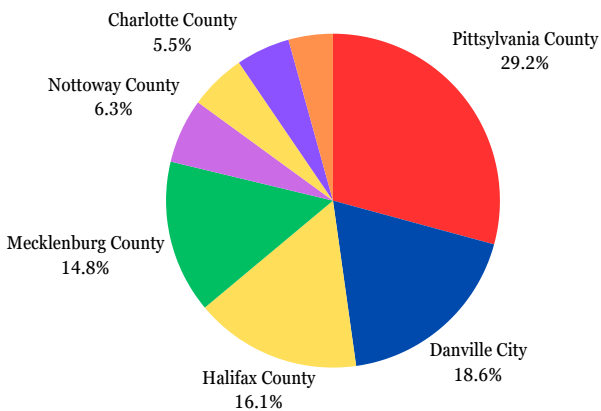
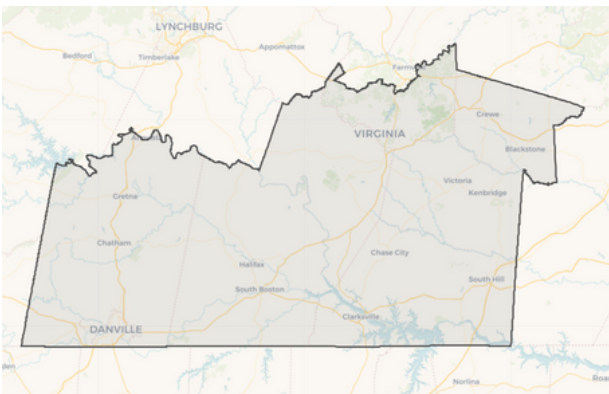
Tammy is a member of the Clarksville Town Council and a realtor. She has previously served as a legislative Delegate to Tommy Wright and Senator Frank Ruff. She created the Windsong Foundation to mentor victims of domestic abuse. Tammy has a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Psychology from Liberty University.



Hon. Tina Wyatt-Younger (D)

Tina is the former vice mayor of South Boston and Chair of the Halifax Democratic Party. While on the Town Council, she served on the Current Affairs and Finance Committees. She is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Tina has a Bachelor of Science in Government Politics & Policy from Liberty University.

## District



## Elections

