

Virginia State Flag

# LEGISLATION & POLICY COMMITTEE

December 10, 2025

## **VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP AUTHORITY LEGISLATION AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**DECEMBER 10, 2025 | 1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM**

**JAMES CENTER ONE, BOARD ROOM, 9<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
901 EAST CARY STREET, RICHMOND, VA 23219**

<b>1:00 – 1:02 PM</b>	<b>Welcome and Call to Order</b> – Steven Stone, Chair
<b>1:02 – 1:05 PM</b>	<b>Public Comment Period</b> – Steven Stone
<b>1:05 – 1:07 PM</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes for June 11, 2025 and September 17, 2025 Meetings</b> – Steven Stone
<b>1:07 – 1:10 PM</b>	<b>Approval of Electronic Meeting Policy</b>
<b>1:10 – 1:15 PM</b>	<b>General Assembly Special Session Update</b> – Lindsay Akers
<b>1:15 – 1:30 PM</b>	<b>Election Update</b> – Lindsay Akers
<b>1:30 – 1:50 PM</b>	<b>CLOSED SESSION</b> – Lindsay Akers <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Budget and Legislative Proposals</li><li>▪ 2026 General Assembly Session Strategy</li></ul>
<b>1:50 – 1:52 PM</b>	<b>Return to Open Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting</b> – Lisa Wallmeyer
<b>1:52 – 2:00 PM</b>	<b>Open Discussion and Anticipated Topics</b> – Steven Stone
<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>

**Legislation and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership**  
**June 11, 2025**  
**2:30 p.m.**

One James Center, 9th Floor – Board Room  
Richmond, Virginia

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair Steven Stone called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

In-person Committee members: John Hewa, Anne Oman, Nick Rush, Steven Stone

Committee members absent: Nancy Agee, Sonya Montgomery

Other Board members present: Secretary Stephen Cummings, Stephen Edwards, Rick Harrell, Todd House, Pace Lochte, Connie Loughhead, Secretary Juan Pablo Segura

**Public Comment Period**

Chair Stone solicited public comments. There were none.

**Approval of Minutes for March 5, 2025, Meeting**

Chair Stone requested approval of the March 5, 2025, minutes. Upon motion by Mr. Rush, seconded by Mr. Hewa, the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Legislative and Budget Update**

Before beginning the Legislative and Budget Update, Mr. Stone spoke in memory and honor of Representative Gerry Connolly, who passed away on May 21, 2025. He shared the Representative Connolly was a consummate public servant and family man, and his passing was a loss for the Commonwealth and Northern Virginia in particular. Mr. House noted Representative Connolly's contributions to economic development, noting the key role that he played in extending Metro service to Dulles.

Abigail Wescott, Managing Director of External Affairs, provided an update on finalized budget and legislative items from the 2025 Session of the General Assembly Session that impacted economic development. She also provided an overview of candidates and issues for the upcoming November 2025 elections. A copy of her presentation is included in the Committee meeting materials.

### **Closed Session**

Mr. Rush motioned, seconded by Ms. Oman, to convene a closed meeting to discuss elements of VEDP's Strategic Plan, Marketing Plan, and Operational Plan pursuant to Subdivision A 50 of §2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, which allows for the discussion of such activities that would reveal to Commonwealth's competitors for economic development projects the strategies intended to be deployed, thus adversely affecting the financial interests of the Commonwealth.

The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Certification of Closed Meeting**

After the Committee reconvened in open meeting, Counsel certified the closed meeting via a roll call vote:

Do you certify, that to the best of your knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of FOIA were discussed in the closed meeting, and (ii) only such matters as were identified in the motion to go into the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting?

Upon the vote:	Ms. Agee	Not present
	Mr. Hewa	Aye
	Ms. Montgomery	Not present
	Ms. Oman	Aye
	Mr. Rush	Aye
	Mr. Stone	Aye

### **Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Legislation and Policy Committee will take place on September 18, 2025. There being no further business, Chair Stone adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

**Legislation and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes  
Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership  
September 17, 2025  
10:30 a.m.**

**James Madison University, Student Success Center, Room 1075  
738 S. Mason Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22807**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Todd House (acting chair in Steven Stone's absence).

In-person Committee members: Todd House, Sonya Montgomery, Nick Rush

Committee members absent: Steven Stone, Anne Oman

Other Board members present: Stephen Edwards, Bill Hayter, John Hewa, Emily O'Quinn

**Public Comment Period**

Acting Chair House solicited public comments. There were none.

**Approval of Minutes for June 11, 2025**

Approval of minutes was not considered due to lack of quorum.

**Election Update**

Ms. Lindsay Akers, VP of External Affairs, provided an update on the upcoming federal elections. In September a special election was held for the late Rep. Gerry Connolly's seat in the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District with James Walkinshaw, a Fairfax Board of Supervisors member, winning that seat.

This November's elections include a historic race for the 75<sup>th</sup> Governor of Virginia where the two major-party nominees are former Democratic Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger and current Republican Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears. The winner of the election will be the first woman to serve as Virginia's Governor. Voters will also elect the Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General, as well as all 100 members of the House of Delegates.

**Key dates for the upcoming General Election:**

- September 9, 2025 – Special Election for CD11
- September 19, 2025 – Early in-person voting begins
- October 24, 2025 – Deadline to register to vote and request mail-in ballot
- November 1, 2025 – Last day of early voting
- November 4, 2025 – Election Day

A copy of the presentation is included in the Committee materials.

## **Virginia FY25 Revenues and Potential FY26 Impacts**

Kevin Farrelly, Manager of Economic Competitiveness, provided an update on the FY25 Revenues for Virginia and the potential impacts in FY26. Fiscal Year 2025 revenues exceeded the Chapter 725 forecast by \$572M (1.9%) and were \$1.78B (6.1%) higher compared to Fiscal Year 2024 collections. The \$1.8B includes the \$572M surplus, \$832.7M from 2025 Governor vetoes less the required set aside, \$200M in unspent appropriations, and \$144.7 from excess revenues in July (FY26). Mr. Farrelly went on to state that federal tax and spending legislation (H.R. 1) is likely to have substantial impact on Virginia's budget & economy. A copy of the presentation is included in the Committee materials.

## **Closed Session**

Mr. Rush motioned, seconded by Mr. House, to convene a closed meeting to discuss elements of VEDP's Strategic Plan, Marketing Plan, and Operational Plan pursuant to Subdivision A 50 of §2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, which allows for the discussion of such activities that would reveal to Commonwealth's competitors for economic development projects the strategies intended to be deployed, thus adversely affecting the financial interests of the Commonwealth.

The motion was unanimously approved.

## **Returned to Open Meeting, Certification of Closed Meeting – Followed by a Roll Call Vote**

Ms. Wallmeyer read the following certification and then conducted a roll call vote:

Do you certify, that to the best of your knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of FOIA were discussed in the closed meeting, and (ii) only such matters as were identified in the motion to go into the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting?

Upon the vote:

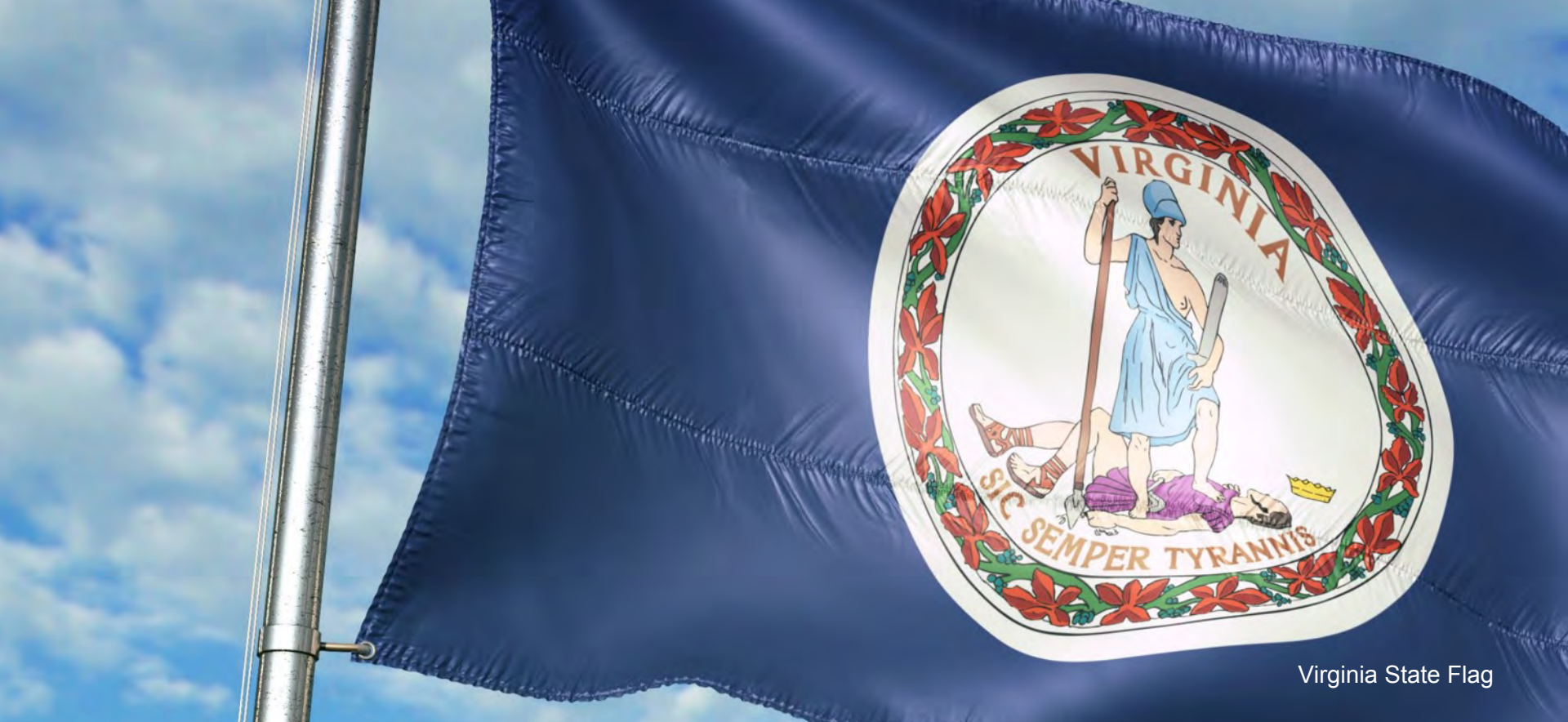
Mr. House	Aye
Ms. Montgomery	Aye
Ms. Oman	Not present
Mr. Rush	Aye
Mr. Stone	Not present

## **Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Legislation and Policy Committee will take place on December 10, 2025. There being no further business, Acting Chair House adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

# APPROVAL OF ELECTRONIC MEETING POLICY





Virginia State Flag

# LEGISLATION & POLICY COMMITTEE

December 10, 2025



# PRESENTER



**Lindsay Akers**

Vice President, External  
Affairs

[lbakers@vedp.org](mailto:lbakers@vedp.org)

804.516.7658

# AGENDA

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## General Assembly Special Session Update

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Election Update

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Closed Session: Budget and Legislative Proposals

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Closed Session: 2026 General Assembly Session Strategy

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# LEGISLATORS RECONVENE TO INITIATE PROCESS OF MID-DECADE CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

## What Happened

- House Democrats called members to reconvene the 2024 Special Session I on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>
- A resolution was passed to allow the General Assembly to consider a proposed constitutional amendment to redraw Virginia's congressional districts mid-decade

## What's Next

- The resolution that was approved will need to be taken up again in the 2026 General Assembly session
- If it passes in the 2026 session a special referendum will be called for a constitutional amendment to be put before voters
- If passed by voters, the General Assembly would likely move quickly to redraw maps in time for party primaries ahead of the November 2026 congressional midterms



# AGENDA

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General Assembly Special Session Update

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## Election Update

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Closed Session: Budget and Legislative Proposals

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Closed Session: 2026 General Assembly Session Strategy

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# HISTORICAL ELECTION CLOSES WITH DEMOCRATS TAKING ALL THREE STATEWIDE OFFICES FOR TOTAL DEMOCRATIC CONTROL



**Abigail Spanberger,  
Governor-Elect**

Age: 46  
From: Red Bank, NJ  
Most Recent Office: U.S.  
Representative for Virginia's 7th  
Congressional District (2019 –  
2025)

Democrat	%	Republican	%
Abigail Spanberger	57.58	Winsome Earle - Sears	42.22



**Ghazala Hashmi, Lt.  
Governor-Elect**

Age: 61  
From: Hyderabad, India  
Most Recent Office: Virginia  
Senate, 15th District (2019 –  
Present)

Democrat	%	Republican	%
Ghazala Hashmi	55.65	John Reid	44.09



**Jay Jones, Attorney General-  
Elect**

Age: 36  
From: Norfolk, VA  
Most Recent Office: Virginia  
House of Delegates, 89th  
District (2018 – 2022)

Democrat	%	Republican	%
Jay Jones	53.14	Jason Miyares	46.45

# MANY OF GOVERNOR-ELECT SPANBERGER'S PUBLISHED PRIORITIES IMPACT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Economy

- Intends to strengthen VEDP's **VBRSP** and **Talent Accelerator Program**
- Plans to boost VEDP's **marketing efforts** to promote the state to businesses and entrepreneurs
- Open to extending the 2035 **Data Center Sales and Use Tax Exemption**

## Trade

- Interested in working with VEDP to **strengthen trade** and the ability for domestic businesses to sell abroad
- Would like to leverage Virginia's assets (the Port of Virginia, Dulles International Airport) to embrace the Commonwealth's role as a **gateway to global markets**
- Supports strengthening the Port of VA and is interested in an additional **inland port in SWVA**
- Wants to increase **participation in air shows** and other avenues to demonstrate to international defense companies why Virginia is the best place to manufacture their products
- Aims to **increase agriculture and forestry exports** from the Commonwealth
- Intends to protect small business owners from tariffs and other federal regulations affecting trade opportunities

## Energy

- Supports increasing local generation of electricity (solar, wind, battery storage) so Virginia is less reliant on out-of-state sources
- Wants to implement fair cost-sharing for high-demand users

## Workforce

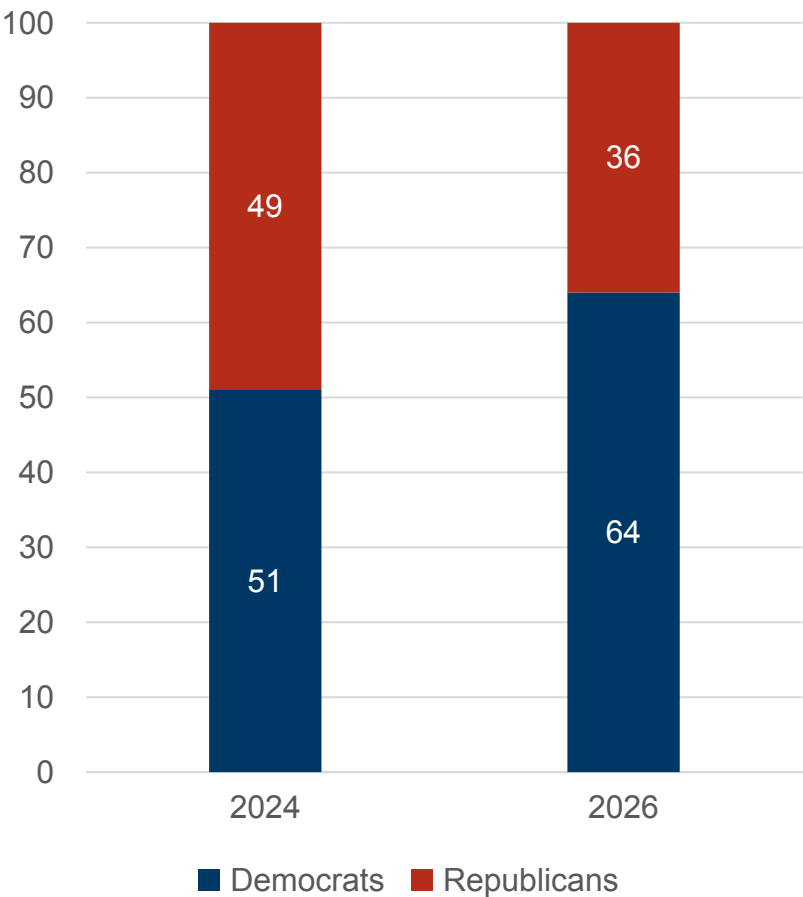
- Support for **paid internships** and **work-based learning opportunities** to strengthen workforce development
- Wants to work with SCHEV and VEDP to create resources **connecting students to internships**
- Does not support a full repeal of the existing right-to-work statute but is open to reforms
- Wants to work with the Board of Workforce Development, Virginia Works, and VEDP to recommend adjacent job opportunities for workers impacted by federal layoffs

## Housing

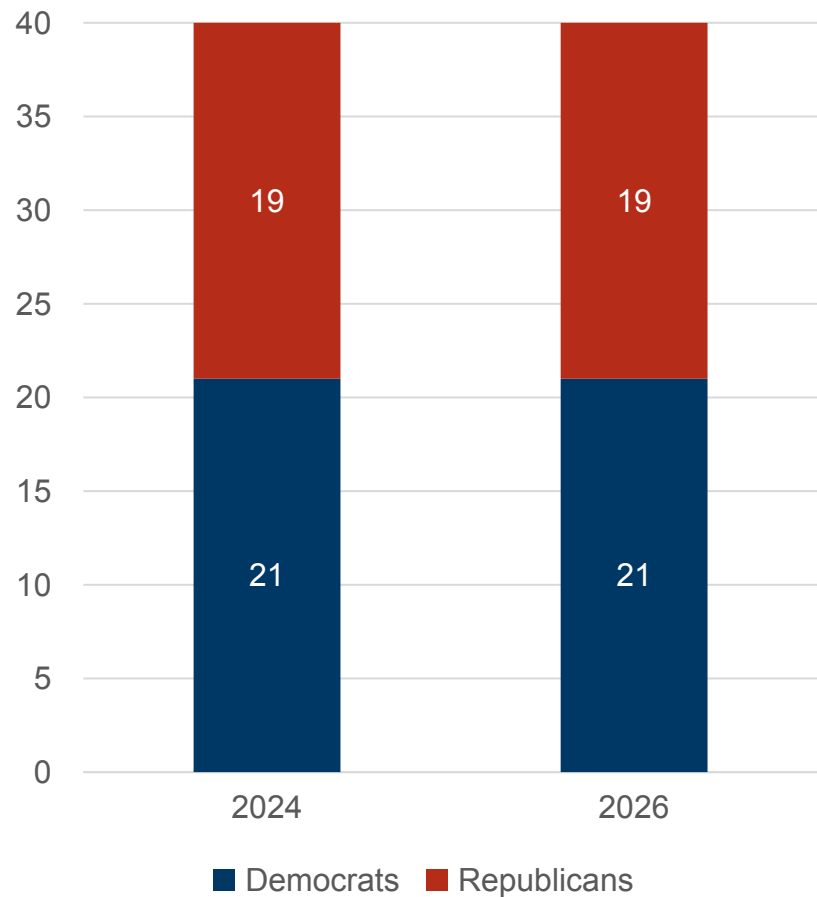
- Wants to **eliminate regulations** and make direct investments toward **affordable housing**, increasing the housing supply, and making housing more attainable

# DEMOCRATS WIDEN THEIR MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES TO THE LARGEST IN NEARLY 40 YEARS BY PICKING UP 13 SEATS

House of Delegates Makeup



Senate Makeup\*



\*Senate make-up currently remains unchanged; there will be a special election to fill SD15, but the next general election for all Senators will occur in November 2027



**DEMOCRATS PREVAILED IN ALL COMPETITIVE DISTRICTS, AS WELL AS 6 REPUBLICAN LEANING DISTRICTS, UNSEATING 12 INCUMBENTS**

District	Democrat	%	Republican	%	Other	%
HD22	Elizabeth Guzman	54.89	Ian Lovejoy*	44.96		
HD30	John Chilton McAuliff	50.89	Geary Higgins*	48.96		
HD41	Lily Franklin	53.29	Chris Obenshain*	46.59		
HD57	May Nivar	55.54	David Owen*	44.31		
HD64	Stacey Annie Carroll	53.17	Paul Milde*	46.69		
HD66	Nicole Cole	52.15	Bobby Orrock*	47.76		
HD69	Mark Downey	49.81	Chad Green*	46.51	Valerie D Beverley (I)	3.57
HD71	Jessica Anderson	53.19	Amanda Batten*	46.67		

## OF THE FIVE SEATS WITHOUT AN INCUMBENT, ONLY ONE WAS FLIPPED FROM REPUBLICAN TO DEMOCRAT

Distr ict	Democrat	%	Republican	%	Other	%
HD3 3	Catherine Elizabeth Rec	26. 38	Justin L Pence	73. 43		
HD4 6	Jamie Ralston Hendry	22. 35	Mitchell D Cornett	77. 46		
HD4 9	Gary Miller	46. 90	Madison John Redd Whittle	52. 91		
HD6 2	Sara Ratcliffe	41. 53	Karen Hamilton	58. 20		
HD8 9	Karen Robins Carnegie	54. 60	Mike Lamonea	45. 19		

# HOUSE ELECTIONS WILL RESULT IN CHANGES TO KEY COMMITTEES

## Appropriations

Torian, Sickles, Bulova, Carr, McQuinn, Krizek, Hayes, Reid, Rasoul, Willett, Sewell, Askew, Austin, Morefield, Bloxom, [Marshall](#), Hodges, [Coyner](#), Wyatt, Wiley, Campbell, Tata

## Communications, Technology and Innovation

Hayes, Shin, Lopez, Ward, Clark, Glass, Seibold, Maldonado, Henson, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Martinez, McNamara, Hodges, [Taylor](#), [Cordoza](#), Wright, [Freitas](#), Wachsmann, Griffin, [Earley](#), [Lovejoy](#)

## Education

Rasoul (Chair), Simonds (Vice Chair), McQuinn, Sewell, Convirs-Fowler, Askew, Clark, Cousins, Reaser, Laufer, Cohen, LeVere Bolling, [Batten](#), [Freitas](#), [Coyner](#), Cherry, Tata, Scott, P.A., Garrett, [Ennis](#), [Green](#), Zehr

## Finance

Watts, Sullivan, Mundon-King, Bennett-Parker, Tran, Simonds, Hernandez, Laufer, Anthony, Callsen, Gardner, Keys-Gamarra, [Orrock](#), Ware, Fowler, [Freitas](#), McNamara, Walker, Runion, Garrett, Davis, Kent

## General Laws

Bulova, Carr, Torian, Price, Krizek, Simon, Delaney, Bennett-Parker, Seibold, Cole, McClure, Thomas, Knight, Leftwich, Morefield, Fowler, [Coyner](#), Austin, Bloxom, Wiley, Campbell, [Arnold](#)

## Health and Human Services

Sickles, Tran, Hope, Price, Hayes, Willett, Herring, Shin, Cole, Henson, Gardner, Singh, [Orrock](#), Hodges, Walker, Cherry, Scott, Wachsmann, [Taylor](#), [Ennis](#), [Higgins](#), [Owen](#)

## Labor and Commerce

Ward, Herring, Lopez, Sullivan, Convirs-Fowler, Helmer, Mundon-King, Maldonado, Shin, Jones, LeVere Bolling, Feggans, Kilgore, Marshall, O'Quinn, Webert, Wilt, McNamara, [Gilbert](#), Runion, Ballard, Williams

## Rules

Scott, Helmer, Watts, Ward, Sickles, Herring, Carr, Torian, Simon, Sullivan, Hayes, Tran, [Gilbert](#), Kilgore, Austin, Webert, O'Quinn, [Coyner](#)

## TWO CANDIDATES HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED THEIR CANDIDACY FOR THE IMPENDING SPECIAL ELECTION FOR SENATE DISTRICT 15



### **Del. Michael Jones (D)**

Most Recent Office: Virginia House of Delegates, 77<sup>th</sup> District

■ County of Chesterfield (part); City of Richmond (part)

Member Since: 2024



### **Del. Debra Gardner (D)**

Most Recent Office: Virginia House of Delegates, 76<sup>th</sup> District

■ County of Chesterfield (Part)

Member Since: 2024

**No Republican candidate has announced their bid for the seat**



# HOUSE DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS ELECT LEADERSHIP AHEAD OF THE 2026 SESSION



**Speaker Don Scott (D)**  
**Speaker of the House**

Most Recent Office: Virginia House of Delegates, 88<sup>th</sup> District

- City of Portsmouth (part)
- Member Since: 2020



**Del. Terry Kilgore (R)**  
**Minority Leader**

Most Recent Office: Virginia House of Delegates, 45<sup>th</sup> District

- Counties of Dickenson (part), Lee, Scott, and Wise; City of Norton

Member Since: 1994



**Del. Charniele Herring (D)**  
**Majority Leader**

Most Recent Office: Virginia House of Delegates, 4<sup>th</sup> District

- County of Fairfax (part); City of Alexandria (part)

Member Since: 2009



**Del. Scott Wyatt (R)**  
**Republican Caucus Chair**

Most Recent Office: Virginia House of Delegates, 60<sup>th</sup> District

- Counties of Hanover (part) and New Kent (part)

Member Since: 2020



**Del. Kathy Tran (D)**  
**Democratic Caucus Chair**

Most Recent Office: Virginia House of Delegates, 18<sup>th</sup> District

- County of Fairfax (part)

Member Since: 2018



**Del. Michael Webert (R)**  
**Republican Whip**

Most Recent Office: Virginia House of Delegates, 61<sup>st</sup> District

- Counties of Culpeper (part), Fauquier (part), and Rappahannock

Member Since: 2012

# OPEN DISCUSSION AND ANTICIPATED TOPICS FOR MARCH 2026