

Celebrating Excellence

ACPS inducts Class of 2025 Athletic Hall of Fame.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Electricity filled the air as Alexandria City Public Schools honored its 2025 Athletic Hall of Fame class Oct. 11 at Alexandria City High School.

Newly installed honorees included stand-out athletes, coaches, and teams during the ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

"It is an honor to be here today," said Vernon Attles, who was inducted as part of the 1979 Indoor Track Team. "It was a great track team and we are still in contact to this day. The camaraderie that we built back there in 1979 never went away. They are truly my brothers and sisters."

The event has been held annually since 2014 and recognizes individuals and teams whose contributions have left a lasting im-



Vernon Attles was honored as part of the 1979 State Champion Indoor Track Team.

nations and School Board approval in June.

This year's ceremony featured remarks from School Board vice chair Chris Harris, ACPS Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt, ACHS Acting Executive Principal Lance Harrell, and James Parker, Executive Director of Athletics and Student Activities.

"This ceremony is more than just recognition," said Superintendent Kay-Wyatt. "It's a celebration of the values that sports instill —

"The camaraderie that we built back there in 1979 never went away."

— Vernon Attles, 1979 Indoor Track Team member

pact on Alexandria's athletic legacy. The 2025 inductees were selected by the AHOF Advisory Committee following public nomi-



Newly honored members of the ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame pose for a photo at the induction ceremony Oct. 11 at Alexandria City High School.

teamwork, perseverance, and leadership."

Plaques commemorating each inductee were unveiled as part of the ceremony and will be on display at Alexandria City High School.

The ceremony recognized three athletic

teams: The 1947 George Washington High School Baseball Team, Virginia State Champions; the 1979 T.C. Williams Boys Indoor Track Distance Medley Relay Team, which set a national record at the U.S. Naval Acad-

SEE ACPS INDUCTS CLASS, PAGE 6



Champion boxer Tony Suggs, second from right, is inducted into the ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame Oct. 11 at Alexandria City High School. Suggs is the first boxer to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Behind him at left are school board vice chair Chris Harris and ACPS Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt.



Newly inducted Hall of Fame honorees look at the unveiled wall of plaques Oct. 11 at Alexandria City High School.



Former principal John Porter, left, chats with soccer coach Marty Nickley following their induction into the ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame Oct. 11.



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NEWS

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE



Erica Moyler, Jane Hughes and Jennifer Patrick enjoy the SSA Oktoberfest Oct. 8 at Port City Brewing.



Former SSA board member Art Sauer, left, with SSA board members Barbara Geyer Watts and Bill Watts at the SSA Oktoberfest Oct. 8 at Port City Brewing.



Jim and Karen Zalewski toast as musicians with M+J Volksmusik perform at the Senior Services of Alexandria Oktoberfest Oct. 8 at Port City Brewing Company.

Prost!

SSA raises \$41k at Oktoberfest.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The lederhosen and traditional dirndls were on display as Senior Services of Alexandria celebrated with its traditional Oktoberfest fundraiser Oct. 8 at Port City Brewing Company.

"We had over 150 guests and more sponsors than ever before," said SSA executive director Mary Lee Anderson. "This was the 14th annual SSA Oktoberfest and our 'Edelweiss' presenting sponsor this year was Atlantic Union Bank."

The event raised over \$41,000.

"The money raised will support SSA's



Amber and Gautam Sultane enjoy traditional German fare at the SSA Oktoberfest Oct. 8 at Port City Brewing.

programs for Alexandria's older adults, including Meals on Wheels, Groceries to Go, Friendly Visitors and Callers, and our Senior Ambassadors," Anderson added.

Attendees sampled traditional fare from Old Blue BBQ along with the best of local



Tina Townsend and Jennifer Ferrara at the SSA Oktoberfest Oct. 8 at Port City Brewing.

brewery Port City Brewing Company. Tours of the brewery were available throughout the evening with attendees entertained with traditional Bavarian folk music.

"Port City has hosted this event since it began," Anderson said. "It was definitely a



Past SSA board chair Gregg Murphy and former SSA board member Art Sauer at the SSA Oktoberfest Oct. 8 at Port City Brewing.

very fun evening, and so great to see many current and past board members, and the wonderful sponsors who make it possible."

For more information, visit www.senior-servicesalex.org



Tom Collelo, Maryanne Beatty, Eva Donley and Charles Sims enjoy the SSA Oktoberfest Oct. 8 at Port City Brewing.



Connie Hammell and Jessica York at the SSA Oktoberfest Oct. 8 at Port City Brewing.



Former SSA board members Art Sauer and Mitch Opalski at the Oktoberfest Oct. 8 at Port City Brewing.

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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ OCTOBER 16 - NOVEMBER 5, 2025 ♦ 3

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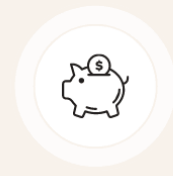
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News

Les Conteuses in 1890s Craft Original Fairy Tales

New book describes the women behind the tales and what they wrote.

By SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Everyone loves a good story with a princess, a silver tower, birds turned to dragons, a frog and — of course — a fairy or two with special talents and surprising abilities.

Jane Harrington has written a new book, “Women of the Fairy Resistance” that tells the stories of the women in the French salons of the 1890s who originated the fairy tales we know today. One of these women coined the term fairy tale. Over the years these female writers have been intentionally ignored and forgotten by a world controlled by men who respun the women’s tales and took credit for them.

The French female storytellers (les conteuses) wrote their seemingly harmless stories, cleverly disguising their tales of rebellion against the misogynistic and homophobic world controlled by Louis XIV. Their stories were popular with the people for a century but gradually became erased by the later fairy tales of Hans Christian Anderson and the Brothers Grimm.

Harrington’s carefully researched book details seven of the salon sisters accompanied by a dozen of the retold original tales based on the original French translations. Harrington explains there were about 70 tales but she wanted to select the ones that reflected the authors resisting societal norms under Louis XIV “so I zeroed in these.”

These fairy tales boldly featured female protagonists instead of the familiar compliant Cinderella or naive Snow White. The introduction explains “the plot lines push against a prevalent viewpoint that women are weak and of limited intelligence, a viewpoint that favors men as public beings while women are expected to remain hidden.” Les conteuses view their tales as liberation from a culture that ignores and disparages them.

Harrington says a lot of the original stories had not been translated into English and others had been translated in the 19th century but never made it across the ocean. She said since she doesn’t read French that she had to rely on translation software and if she wanted to start with the original, the translation software couldn’t handle the odd old print. So sometimes she had to go sentence by sentence.

“I started pecking away on this book 8-9 years ago when I started teaching fairy tales in college. I would do a little research and build on what I knew. Two years ago I thought I had amassed enough research and put a proposal together.” She says her propos-



Author Jane Harrington, former Alexandria resident, at home in Appalachia

al was accepted but they wanted some more research. She found some of the information from the English scholars wasn’t true after all, “and I had to go back and rewrite some of my previous work. Every storyteller has their own spin, and translations can be wildly subjective and creative. It was a really intensive year.”

In addition, she had been relying on information that came out of Germany that focused mostly on the Brothers Grimm who purposely insulted les conteuses, comparing them to animals and warning of their depravity. This criticism was repeated, and their popularity was suppressed.

Harrington grew up in Fairfax and moved to Alexandria in the 1990s where she was married and raised their children. She was well known for her children’s books and her active participation teaching in public and private schools and the park system.

She now lives in Appalachia where she currently crafts literary fiction and creative nonfiction, and her work has been widely acclaimed. Her recently published novel earned a starred review from a library journal who wrote, “It belongs on every shelf of literature relating to this art form.”

She also teaches a course in fairy tales at Washington and Lee University. She says her class work requirements originally included literary criticism but, “I learned that AI can generate an essay in less than a minute that would probably get an A.” So she has moved to more creative writing over time. “I usually do try to have them write a fairy tale using their own experience. Let’s write something with a heart that a robot can’t write.”

Harrington will be appearing at Old Town Books in Alexandria on Nov. 16 from 7-8 pm for a book talk and signing.

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ALEXANDRIA FILM FESTIVAL



Plan Ahead: Alexandria Film Festival Opens Nov. 2

62 films, many local and 70 percent premieres.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

The 19th annual Alexandria Film Festival released its 62 selections for the upcoming season to be shown at several venues around the area beginning Nov. 2 and continuing Nov. 7-9. Patti North, Executive Director of the Alexandria Film Festival says, "This year we're excited to offer four different spaces including Virginia Tech Alexandria which is new this year. It has a nice modern building with plenty of parking and offers more screening space so we could show a few more films this year than in the past."

North adds, "This year is a little different because more than half of the screenings are for films by local and regional authors. This says something about how film is developing in our area." North adds that already 49 filmmakers are planning to attend the screenings, and there will be a number of Q&A sessions after the screenings for the audience.

One of these local films is by Maggie Burnette Stogner who is the executive director of the Center for Environmental Filmmaking at American University. This documentary, "Upstream: Downriver,"

Uniting for Water Justice" explores the issue of polluted waters in communities around the country and their united fight to clean their water.

North explains the films incorporate a number of themes including fantasy, social justice, comedies and everyday drama. The films range from "Coexistence My Ass" which is very funny but profound; to "Comparsa" where victims of sexual abuse fight back by using art. There are a number of documentaries, some with international themes like "Chickpea Zoom" where people in Ukraine came together to move all animals from a zoo to safety. "It's full of pathos but humanity unites them. There probably won't be a dry eye in this one."

An interesting film in the world of fantasy, "Turn Me On," by Angela Bourassa is about a Utopian community of the future where people are freed from their emotional complications. They just woke up happy. But one day someone forgot to take the necessary pill and started feeling emotions they weren't familiar with which puts them in unexpected danger. "It's a very well made film. A little bit of the Body Snatchers, a little bit of the Handmaiden's Tale with twists and turns."

North says, "We accept filmmakers with all different points of view all the time. We know some of our films will be crowd pleasers but we know some won't be big ticket items but deserve to be screened."

North explains, "When I was in school no one even thought about

becoming a filmmaker. It was too complicated and expensive. You couldn't do it without a studio, equipment and all of the technical things it took to produce a film. But now by 8-10 years old most kids have already made a film using their phone or computer. They may not be sophisticated but they have done it."

Films run from "Right Hand

Man" at 3 minutes and "Bats in the Belfry" at 12 minutes to "Kemba" at 118 minutes and "Checkpoint Zoo" at 103. The screenings are held in different locations including Virginia Tech Alexandria at Potomac Yard, the Alexandria History Museum Lyceum, Patagonia Old Town and Charles E. Beatley Library.

The screenings begin Nov. 2 and

continue Friday-Sunday, Nov. 7-9. Playbills for all the films with a summary of the film and time and place are available online. Tickets may be purchased at <https://aff-filmsthatmatter2025.eventive.org/welcome>

The second in this series on the Alexandria film fest will feature interviews with several local filmmakers.

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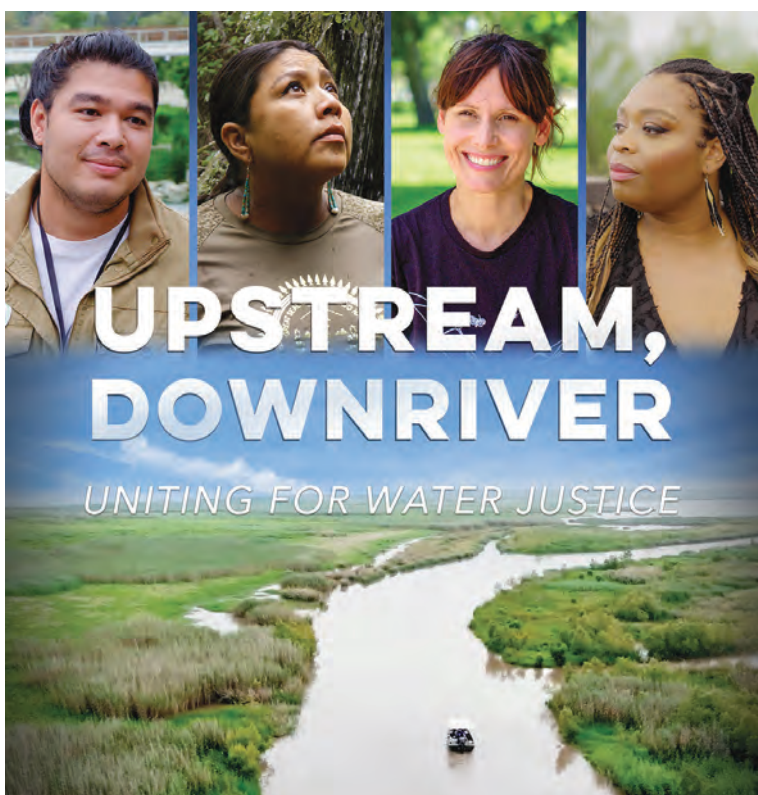


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

"Upstream: Downriver, Uniting for Water Justice," by local filmmaker Maggie Burnette Stogner.

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ACPS Inducts Class of 2025 Athletic Hall of Fame



Eugene Fleming represents his uncle Gene Fleming's induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame as a member of the 1947 George Washington High School Baseball team.

FROM PAGE 1

emy; and the 1979 T.C. Williams Boys VHSL State Indoor Track & Field Champions, the school's first state title team.

Individual inductees included: Ron Bass, T.C. Williams HS Class of 1973, Football and Track; Alfred Carter, Parker-Gray HS Class of 1944, Football; Tracye Funn, T.C. Williams HS Class of 1981,



Newly inducted Hall of Fame members of the 1979 T.C. Williams Distance Medley Relay Team share congratulations at the installation ceremony Oct. 11 at Alexandria City High School.

Track & Field; Maija Garnaas, T.C. Williams HS Class of 2002, Soccer and Tennis; Mary Higgins, T.C. Williams HS Class of 2002, Crew; Maria Lovelace, T.C. Williams HS Class of 1983, Track & Field; Marty Nickley, Varsity Soccer Coach,

TC Williams High School; John Porter, GWHS Class of 1965, ACPS Administrator; Contributor; Mike Porterfield, T.C. Williams HS Class of 1985, Football, Wrestling, Rowing; Angela Russell, T.C. Williams HS Class of 1981, Track & Field;



Newly inducted Hall of Fame members pose for a group photo Oct. 11 at Alexandria City High School.

Tony Suggs, T.C. Williams HS Class of 1984, Boxing; Greg Wright, T.C. Williams HS Class of 1983, Track & Field, Basketball, and Football; and Gary Wyatt, T.C. Williams HS Class of 1974, Cross Country and Track.

"The school is so different now than when I was here," said Attles, who traveled from New York to attend the ceremony. "They put a new track down but you could still feel that same feeling from back when we first used to run here. It's a great feeling to be back."

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PHOTO BY DELIA SULLIVAN PHOTO

Let us know about an upcoming event
www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Participants are shown in a previous Walk to Bust Cancer event in Fort Hunt Park. This year's walk, scheduled for Oct. 18, has been postponed due to the government shutdown. The walk raises funds to help and underinsured women in the fight against breast cancer. www.walktobustcancer.org

Walk to Bust Cancer Postponed

Government shutdown forces delay of breast cancer walk.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Organizers of the annual Walk to Bust Cancer, scheduled for Oct. 18 in Fort Hunt Park, have announced the postponement of the walk due to the government shutdown.

A release by the Alexandria-based National Breast Cancer Foundation, organizers of the walk, said "We are extremely disappointed to share that we must officially postpone the 10th annual Walk to Bust Cancer due to the continued federal government shutdown. With Fort Hunt Park still closed and the National Park Service scheduling system offline we are currently unable to secure a backup date."

The release went on to say that a

new date will be scheduled as soon as one is available, likely sometime in November.

"This is not the news any of us hoped for," the statement continued. "We know how deeply meaningful this event is to honor loved ones, support survivors and rally together in hope. Postponing the walk is a difficult but necessary decision rooted in safety, logistics and respect for all participants, volunteers and supporters."

Organizers stressed that the walk is not canceled, just delayed.

"As soon as the National Park Service reopens the scheduling system we will work to secure a new date and announce it immediately," said a walk representative. "Here's what you can still do today: keep fundraising, registering and cheering on your team at www.walktobustcancer.org because our fight doesn't stop even when the schedule does. Thank you for your cooperation, your resilience and your unwavering belief in this cause. Together we will walk and together we will bust cancer."

www.walktobustcancer.org

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Drug TAKE BACK Day

DISPOSE OF UNUSED OR EXPIRED MEDICATIONS

Saturday, October 25 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Pet prescriptions also accepted!



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SAFELY DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS

The U.S. is experiencing an opioid epidemic and Alexandria is far from immune. The best way to fight this epidemic is to dispose of unused or expired prescription and over-the-counter medication. Individuals can drop off medication at these designated locations during this event or year-round at a permanent drop box location. Never flush medication down the toilet or place down the sink! Unsafe disposal of drugs can harm the environment.

To learn more about the importance of safe medication disposal, visit alexandriava.gov/go/1981.

Alexandria Take Back Day Drop-Off Locations*

Alexandria Police Headquarters
3600 Wheeler Ave.

Alexandria Fire Station 210
5255 Eisenhower Ave.

The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray
2204 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Walgreens Pharmacy
3614 King St.

*NO NEEDLES ACCEPTED AT THESE SITES

Can't make it to Drug Take Back Day? Dispose of medications year-round at one of these permanent drug drop box locations!

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Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

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10.03.2025



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fwy/Grd Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Expiry Date
DINWIDDIE	5930	40	MCKENNEY HIGHWAY	MILL RUN BRANCH	9/11/2025

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit vdot.virginia.gov and navigate to Traffic and Travel/For freight operators/Truck restrictions. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov or the Load Rating Program Manager, Manjil Devkota at 804-786-4064.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730 or corina.herrera@vdot.virginia.gov.

The High Stakes of the 2025 Virginia General Election

In City of Alexandria Election, Most Candidates Are Running Unopposed.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

Voters in the City of Alexandria, Virginia, along with others in the surrounding areas and the commonwealth, face one of the most consequential general elections on Nov. 4, 2025. Choices will help determine the statewide policy course over the next two years, from abortion and reproductive rights to fiscal policy and

the cost of living, to public education, school funding, and more.

The battle centers on partisan control. For Democratic voters, the election focuses on the opportunity to secure a trifecta — control of the governorship and the House of Delegates, since they already hold the state Senate. Votes matter even in uncontested races. Numbers of votes here could indicate opposition for current policies in Washington.

For Republican voters, the strategic goal is to prevent the opposing party from gaining control. Numbers of votes here could indicate support for current policies in Washington.

We sent questionnaires to the local House of Delegates candidates running to represent the City of Alexandria, although all three incumbents are running unopposed. Depending on voters' mailing addresses, the candidates for House of Delegates running in the City of Alexandria are:

HD-4: Charniele L. Herring (D) unopposed
HD-5: Elizabeth B. Bennett-Parker (D) unopposed
HD-3: Alfonso H. Lopez (D) unopposed

At the state level, City of Alexandria voters will have choices in the race for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. The Virginia Press Association, a non-partisan group, has produced its 2025 Virginia Voter Guide which will be included with the PDF edition of this newspaper, available at <https://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/>.

Local races in the City of Alexandria include the Commonwealth's Attorney and Sheriff, although both are also unopposed. For official election details, registration, and polling information, visit: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections>

Charniele L. Herring (D), unopposed

Charniele Herring (D)
No reply received

<https://www.charnieleherring.com/>



Charniele L. Herring (D)

Elizabeth B. Bennett-Parker (D), candidate for Virginia House of Delegates District 5

Elizabeth B. Bennett-Parker (D)

Running Unopposed

Professional:
Legislator, small-business owner, and mother. Previously served as co-leader of Together We Bake, a nonprofit job training and personal development program for underserved women, and founded Fruitcycle, a social enterprise fighting food waste and food insecurity.

Education:
Graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Cornell University; served as a Fulbright Fellow; earned a master's from the University of London.

Personal:
Born in Alexandria; mother to a 2-year-old



Elizabeth B. Bennett-Parker (D)

Public Service:
Delegate, HD-5 (running for a third term). Currently serves in leadership on the House Finance and Counties, Cities, and Towns Committees and is a member of the General Laws Committee. Previously served as vice mayor of Alexandria and as the chair of the Operation Board of the Virginia Railway Express.

Legislative Priorities:
Ensuring economic equity; protecting rights and freedoms (including reproductive freedom, marriage equality, and voting rights restoration); providing world-class education; enacting gun safety reforms and paid leave; and fighting climate change. Residents' Biggest Challenge: The rising cost of living and the impact of federal layoffs, funding cuts, and the shutdown on livelihoods. Proposed Legislative Solution: Bills

address the housing crisis and prevent evictions/foreclosures. One bill enables localities to better preserve affordable housing. Another requires large landlords to offer a payment plan for tenants one month or less behind on rent before eviction. These bills were co-patroned but vetoed

Data Centers:
Data centers provide economic benefit, but development must not cost the environment or residents. Co-patroned legislation directs the State Corporation Commission to ensure data centers are reasonably charged for energy. Also co-patroned bills requiring site assessments for noise impact on residential areas/schools and clarifying that localities can require information on impacts to water, agriculture, parks, and electric utility infrastructure

State Underfunding Public Education:
Supported creating the Joint Subcommittee on Education Funding. The 2025 budget fully funds the outdated support cap, but more is needed, including adding support services

to the biennial rebenchmarking process. Also seeks LCI changes to account for Alexandria's high proportion of English Language Learners and free/reduced-meal students.

Casinos:
The 2020 law allowing cities to hold a referendum on casinos was successful in four cities, creating jobs. Concerned the 2025 bill lacked Fairfax Board of Supervisors' support. Alternatives include investing in sectors like AI, biotech, and space (per the NOVA Road Map) or implementing a fair share tax on high-income earners.

Other Information
The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce's NOVA Road Map lays out promising ways to strengthen Northern Virginia's economy and boost revenue by investing in and expanding sectors like AI, quantum computing, biotech, semiconductors, and space. I am interested in these ideas in the face of the impacts of the federal government.

<https://www.elizabethfordelagate.com/>

Alfonso H. Lopez (D), candidate for Virginia House of Delegates District 3

Alfonso H. Lopez (D)

Running Unopposed

Profession/Experience:
Federal advocate (public and government relations firm).

Education:
BA, Vassar College; JD, Tulane University Law School; Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia (Fellow - Political Leaders Program).



Alfonso H. Lopez (D)

Personal/Activities:
Hometown: Arlington, Virginia. First Latino Democrat elected to the Virginia General Assembly; founder of the Virginia Environment & Renewable Energy and the Virginia Latino Caucuses.

Public Service:
Seven-term member of the Virginia House

of Delegates. Former Obama Administration political appointee and cabinet-level appointee in then-Gov. Tim Kaine's administration. Senior member of the House Labor and Commerce Committee, the Public Safety Committee, and the chair of the House Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources Committee. Has been the patron, co-patron, or chief co-patron of over 150 bills enacted into law.

Legislative Priorities/Challenges/Solutions:
Legislative Priorities: Top priorities in-

clude addressing inflation and cost-of-living issues, combating threats to democracy, improving K-12 education, supporting small businesses, improving protections for New Americans and immigrants, environmental protection, and expanding renewable energy sources. Residents' Biggest Challenge: Cost-of-living/housing affordability, exacerbated by the housing crisis and federal employment cuts. Proposed Legislative Solution: Will work to remove supply chain

SEE ALFONSO H. LOPEZ, PAGE 10
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Taste for Giving

TO BENEFIT ALEXANDRIA CHARITIES



Alexandria Rotary Foundation

On November 7, 2025, the Alexandria Rotary Foundation will host the **18th Annual Taste for Giving** at the Atrium Building in Old Town Alexandria.

Now one of the city's premier events, Taste for Giving draws hundreds of guests for an evening of gourmet food and desserts from local restaurants, wine and beer from area wineries and breweries, live music, a lively auction, and—most importantly—a celebration of community and giving.

Proceeds benefit Alexandria-based charities, supporting vital programs and services for those in need.

[Buy Tickets at alexandriarotary.org](https://alexandriarotary.org)

**FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 7, 2025
7:00 - 9:30 P.M.**

**Atrium Building
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Alexandria, Virginia**

2025 RESTAURANT PARTNERS



ALEXANDRIA ELECTION GUIDE

THIS GUIDE DESIGNED, COMPILED,
CURATED AND EDITED BY MERCIA HOBSON
GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT BY GEOVANI FLORES

Alfonso H. Lopez (D)

obstacles, expand the supply of housing options, reduce home prices, increase labor options, and reduce income inequality. Also aims to address occupational licensing rules and make it easier to access child care resources/services.

Data Centers:

While data centers bring some economic

benefits, they also bring concerning environmental impacts and energy consumption levels that could affect electric bills for regular Virginians. Regulators need to charge data centers for the costs they incur instead of putting increased costs on residential customers and require these facilities to make investments in energy efficiency and clean energy.

Public Schools Education Funding:

Virginia's K-12 public schools should be

the best in the nation, but funding formulas across the commonwealth need to be updated. Significant uncertainty exists regarding federal pass-through funding (e.g., Title 1, school meals, and IDEA/Medicaid). Localities, especially poorer ones, lack access to local revenue to fill gaps that address varied student learning needs; these considerations must be baked into funding formulas from the start.

Casinos:

Does not oppose casinos in concept, provided a locality requests it, voters approve it via referendum, workers are afforded worker protections and the right to unionize, and sufficient set-asides are made to address problem gambling.

<https://www.alfonsolopez.org/>

Early Voting Runs Through Nov. 1

Extended hours begin Oct. 18.

Early voting for Virginia's Nov. 4 general election is underway and runs through Nov. 1. The first day of in-person early voting began Sept. 19 at the Alexandria Office of Voter Registration and Elections at 132 N Royal St, Suite 100.

Voting takes place during normal business hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Weekend and extended hours begin at the Registrar's Office Oct. 18 with the Charles Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, open for early voting beginning Oct. 24.

A secure outdoor ballot drop box for

voters with absentee ballots will be available in front of the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, from the start of early voting till 7 p.m. on Election Day. This drop box is under video surveillance and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Ballot drop boxes will also be available at all polling places on Election Day from 6 a.m.-7 p.m.

Military and overseas citizen absentee voters may receive their ballots by email, but the ballot must be returned by either U.S. mail or commercial courier (UPS, DHL, FedEx, etc.) so that your ballot is postmarked by Election Day and that we receive your voted ballot no later than Noon on the Friday after the election.

Complete information for voting in Alexandria is available at the city's website: www.alexandriava.gov/elections/key-early-voting-dates-deadlines.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Early voting has begun and runs through Nov. 1. Currently open at the Office of Voter Registration and Elections at 132 N. Royal Street, early voting will begin at the Charles Beatley Jr. Central Library Oct. 24.

Honoring the Fallen

Ivy Hill ceremony honors fallen firefighters.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria firefighters were joined by city officials as the public gathered at Ivy Hill Cemetery Oct. 10 to honor its fallen fire and EMS personnel during the annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony. Held in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week, the event paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the line of duty and remembered department members who passed away in the past year.

"Today we are honoring all of those we have lost serving the community," said Alexandria Fire Department Chief Filipe Hernandez. "This ceremony has a lot of meaning to those who participate. It's always important to remember those from the past and also learn from what happened in the past to prevent those tragedies from occurring again."

The ceremony, a tradition dating back to 1856, took place in front of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial obelisk, a granite monument erected in memory of seven firefighters who perished in the Dowell China Shop Fire of 1855. This year also marked the 170th anniversary of that fire, adding historical weight to the proceedings.

Hernandez and Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department President Jay Johnson led the

SEE HONORING THE FALLEN, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

AFD Chief Filipe Hernandez, right, and Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department president Jay Johnson place a wreath at the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Oct. 10 at Ivy Hill Cemetery.

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Chuck Lyons, center, places a rose in memory of his father and uncle, who were both firefighters, during the fallen firefighters memorial Oct. 10 at Ivy Hill Cemetery.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



AFD retiree Cathy Kroohs places a remembrance rose during the Fallen Firefighters ceremony Oct. 10 at Ivy Hill Cemetery.

Honoring the Fallen

FROM PAGE 10

wreath-laying portion of the ceremony, saluting the memorial as the names of the fallen were read aloud during the Roll Call of the Fallen.

City officials stood alongside uniformed firefighters, retirees, and family members of the fallen as roses were placed in remembrance of those lost. Former AFD Chief Robert Dube was among those placing a wreath in remembrance of a fallen firefighter.

Honored firefighters lost in the line of duty or from line of duty related illness include Harry Moss (1975), Louis Farri (2002), Joseph Underwood (2010), Joshua Weissman (2012), Charles Davis (2018), Briant Atkins (2023), and Brian Hricik (2023). Recent-

ly deceased AFD members include Rebecca Bohn, Cecil Carr, Elizabeth Kirk, Deidre Marr, and Pamela Boggan.

Historian Catherine Weintraub delivered the keynote remarks followed by Chris Moss of Alexandria Pipes and Drums playing Amazing Grace.

The ceremony concluded with a moment of silence and the tolling of a ceremonial bell, a symbolic gesture marking the final call for those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"It's great to see the camaraderie here of people participating in this event," Hernandez said. "It's good to see familiar faces and I think it shows how special this ceremony is to everyone coming here."

Old Town Boutique Community, Fall Into Fashion

A one-day showcase of style, small businesses, and seasonal fun in historic Old Town.

What: Fall Into Fashion: Alexandria Days
When: Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025
Time: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Where: Old Town Alexandria, VA

Celebrate the return of Fall Into Fashion, Alexandria Days with Old Town's vibrant independent business community. Presented by the Old Town Boutique Community, a collective of 30+ independently owned boutiques, the neighborhood-wide event takes place Saturday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Explore Old Town's fashion and restaurant scene with exclusive fall collections, interactive in-store activations, seasonal bites and sips, and Instagram-worthy moments

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that spotlight Old Town.

Alexandria Days began in 1959 as a cooperative campaign between local merchants and City leaders to champion small businesses during the late-summer season. The Old Town Boutique Community is bringing the initiative back, inviting visitors to experience Old Town through interactive programming and discovery.

Giveaways will be at participating stores, including a Grand Prize of a \$1,000 gift card and Aiyana Atelier Private Line products: Reverse & Regrow, and a Second Place Prize of a \$500 gift card to the participating boutique of your choice.

Learn more: <https://oldtownboutiquecommunity.com>

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Supporting Healthy Youth and Healthy Families: Celebrating Safely

As fall begins and homecoming approaches, SAPCA encourages parents and teens to celebrate safely and substance-free and to know the legal consequences related to underage drinking.

Parents and Caregivers: It is against the law to provide alcohol to any persons under the age of 21. Don't be a party to teenage drinking.

Support our youth to be happy, healthy, and substance-free by making your values clear about substance use -- particularly underage use of substances -- with your children and other parents, and pledge to keep celebrations for youth substance-free.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION COALITION OF ALEXANDRIA

Learn more at PreventItAlexandria.org

ENTERTAINMENT

MEETS EVERY SUNDAY

Bird Walks. 8 a.m. At 6401 George Washington Memorial Parkway, Alexandria. Friends of Dyke Marsh organizers lead bird walks every Sunday morning. Meet at 8 a.m. in the south parking lot of the Belle Haven picnic area. Walks are led by experienced birders and everyone is welcome to join us.

MEETS EVERY MONDAY

Monday Morning Bird Walk. 7 a.m. Meets at 3701 Lockheed Boulevard

Alexandria. The Monday Morning Bird Walk is sponsored by the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and takes place every Monday at 7 a.m. April-September and 8 a.m. October-March. Following the walk, members of the group gather at the nearby Denny's for breakfast and to compile the morning's bird list. Call (703) 768-2525.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Wednesday Night Bingo. 7 p.m. At Atlas Brew Works, 2429 Mandeville Lane, Alexandria. The Capital City Showcase, the company that brings you some of the DC area's best events, is hosting an amazing night of everyone's favorite game at Atlas Brew Works Alexandria. Win prizes on every round, and the winner of the final round gets a \$50 Atlas Brew Works gift card for your next visit! There's also \$6 select Atlas drafts! Plus pizza served from the world famous Andy's Pizza! Email at capitalcityshowcase@gmail.com

NOW THRU NOV. 2

Women Artists of the DMV. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Artist's Reception: Sunday, September 28, 4 — 6 p.m. Local artist, curator, and advocate for the arts, F Lenny Campello, has assembled a survey exhibition of women artists spanning the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia that features over 400 artists in 18 different galleries across the region. Women artists of the DMV presenting at The Athenaeum include: Cathy Abramson, Suzi Balamaci, Sara Bardin, Jennifer Barlow, Jennifer Lynn Beaudet, Julia Bloom, Lisa Brotman, Carol Brown Goldberg, Shante Bullock, Anne Cherubim, Amanda Coelho, Andrea Cybyk, Anna U. Davis, Cynthia Farrell Johnson, Sharon Fishel, Cianne Fragione, Marilyn Horrom, M. Jane Johnson, Jessica Kallista, P D Klein, Kara Lin, Anne Marchand, Amy Marx, Ann Meagher-Cook, Carol Newmyer, Tea Okropiridze, Madeleine Sargent, Adi Segal, Susan Shalowitz, Pritha Srinivasan, Jenny Walton, Suzanne Yurdin, and Helen Zughuib.

MGNV PLANT CLINICS ARE OPEN

The Alexandria Old Town Farmer's Market Plant Clinic at 301 King St., Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 7 - 9:30 a.m. Del Ray Farmers Market Plant Clinic at Oxford & Mt. Vernon Avenues, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 8:30 - 11 a.m. The Arlington Farmers' Market at N. 14th and N. Courthouse Roads, Arlington operates on Saturdays from 8 - 11 a.m. The Fairlington Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington, operates on Sundays from 9 - 11 a.m.

YEAR ROUND ON SUNDAYS

Farmer's Market. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Casa Chirilagua Community Center, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Experience fresh foods, native plants, artisan crafts, music and community at Four Mile Run Farmers & Artisans Market in the heart of Arlandria outside the Casa Chirilagua Community Center, every Sunday 9-1 p.m.

ONGOING

Revolutionary War Exhibit. At the National Museum of the U.S. Army, Alexandria. The National Museum of the United States Army has opened a special exhibition, Call To Arms: The Soldier and the Revolutionary War. The two-year exhibition commemorates this year's 250th Birthday of the U.S. Army and next year's 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This 5,000 square-foot



The ALX Pink Weekend takes place Oct. 17-19, 2025 in Old Town Alexandria.

exhibition features a rare collection, specially curated by the Museum, that includes Revolutionary War artifacts from the original colonies, England, France and Canada. Among the exhibit's highlights are a pair of General George Washington's pistols, the original flag of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment carried by the Army's first African American Soldiers, and a complete Loyalist uniform—one of the rarest items in the collection. The sword of British General Charles Lord Cornwallis,

presented to Washington at the surrender at Yorktown, Virginia, will also be displayed for a limited time.

OCT. 3 TO NOV. 1

The "Bump in the Night" art exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. This show explores those unsettling moments when you hear something strange and unexplained in the dark.

Prepare for the shadows to take shape and for the mysterious bumps in the night come to life. Opening Reception: Friday, October 3, 7-9 p.m. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

FRIDAY/OCT. 17

The Thirteen Performs. 7:30 p.m. At Immanuel Chapel at Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria. The Thirteen performs works of remembrance and celebration with Durufle's poignant Requiem and, in honor of the 500th anniversary of Palestrina's birth, the composer's most renowned work, the Missa Papae Marcelli. Palestrina's mass represents the high point of Renaissance polyphony, with a purity of counterpoint, deeply affecting dissonance, and clear text setting—qualities that formed the basis of an enduring myth that through this work, Palestrina saved Church music. Durufle's 1941 Requiem, also based on Gregorian chant, was begun under the Vichy occupation but completed after the liberation of France.

OCT. 17-19

ALX Pink Weekend. Old Town Alexandria ALX Community and the National Breast Center Foundation are teaming up for the inaugural Pink Weekend—a 10th-anniversary celebration of lifesaving breast-cancer care. The weekend features two marquee events: the ALX Pink Gala on Friday, Oct. 17 at 7 PM (ALX Community "The Atrium") and the 10th Annual Walk to Bust Cancer on Sunday, Oct. 19 at 7:30 AM (Fort Hunt Park).

With a fundraising goal of \$400,000, proceeds directly support mammograms, diagnostics, and treatment access for neighbors in need—because missing even one annual mammogram can be life-altering.

Tickets are \$100 (the cost of a mammogram) at alxpinkgala.org; walk registration is open at pinkweekend.org. Join us to walk and dance with purpose—early detection saves lives. Visit www.pinkweekend.org.



The 10th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon Community Bike Ride takes place on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 in Mount Vernon.

ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY/OCT. 18

10th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon (TdMV) Community Bike Ride. 8:30 a.m. Starting and ending at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, Alexandria. The TdMV takes cyclists on a scenic 40- or 20-mile ride through the northern and central parts of the Mount Vernon District, and ends with music, La Prima's famous sweet potato chili, beverages from Bunnyman Brewing (for purchase) and camaraderie. This is the perfect event for those of you who love biking and fun socks! Riders will receive a pair of limited-edition tie-dye TdMV socks (while supplies last).

SATURDAY/OCT. 18

10th Annual Science Expo. 3 to 7 p.m. At Patrick Henry Recreation Center, Alexandria. Join the 10th Annual Spooky Mad Science Expo at Patrick Henry Recreation Center in Alexandria. This event is a free, youth-powered STEAM festival with a high-energy, Halloween-themed event features over 100 hands-on STEAM stations led by universities, nonprofits, federal and local agencies, and teen STEM teams. Highlights include a STEM costume parade, walk-in planetarium, teen-led podcast studio and Science Café, food trucks, live music with the Alexandria Sympatico Orchestra, and more. The Expo serves thousands of families, especially students from under-resourced schools, and celebrates creativity, discovery, and community engagement. Visit <https://chrysalisdg.org/spooky-mad-science-expo/>

SATURDAY/OCT. 18

AWARE! 1-3 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Great Publishing LLC in conjunction with The Athenaeum presents the 9th Annual AWARE! Event orchestrated by Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association's Poet in Residence, KaNikki Jakarta. AWARE is a community-based collaboration with a mission to entertain and inform the community. Ten

pre-selected poets, musicians, and storytellers will provide an artistic awareness that focuses on important topics bringing forth their knowledge, personal experiences, and perspectives using the Power of Words and Voice to focus on their chosen topic.

SATURDAY/OCT. 18

FocusMusic and WFMA present Ali Tod. 7 p.m. At Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Rd., Alexandria. Tickets \$25 in advance (members \$22.50) / \$30 at door (members \$25), \$15 virtual. Scottish guitarist and singer Ali Tod fuses classical training with percussive fingerstyle guitar, loop-pedal wizardry, and raw, soul-stirring vocals—drawing comparisons to Rodrigo y Gabriela and KT Tunstall. Info and tickets at <https://focusmusic.org/shows#sat-10-18-ali-tod-alexandria-virtual>

SUNDAY/OCT. 19

The Carpenter's Cook-off. 12 to 3 p.m. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Carpenter's Shelter is hosting their signature fundraising event, Carpenter's Cook-Off 2025. Top-rated local restaurants, caterers and bakeries will showcase their delicacies, which visitors get to taste and judge. There will be live music from DJ Infinite Sounds, live and silent auctions, raffles and fun for the whole family. Board Alum Jennifer Poersch will receive the Val Hawkins award which recognizes dedicated champions who work to further the mission and vision of Carpenter's Shelter. Buy Tickets: CarpentersShelter.org/CookOffTickets

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 22

What's New in Alexandria History? AHS Golden Grantees Tell What They Found. 7 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria. Last year, as part of the 50th Anniversary celebration, Alexandria Historical

Society awarded a series of Golden Grants to support new local history research. This special event brings several of those grantees together to share what they uncovered about Alexandria's past — from 18th-century archives to the stories of Civil War hospitals and the city's LGBTQ+ community.

Speakers include:

Hannah Lecomte, Out and About in Northern Virginia Project
Dr. Benjamin Skolnik, Office of Historic Alexandria – Douglas Cemetery Records Project
Madeline Feierstein, Historian and Author – Confine & Fortify: The Military Government of Civil War Alexandria

SATURDAY/OCT. 25

Oktoberfest. At The Royal Restaurant, Alexandria. The Royal will host its inaugural Oktoberfest celebration, further marking its transformation into a dinner and drinks destination. The menu will feature German staples including bratwurst from Stachowsky's, Oktoberfest roast chicken, pretzels with beer cheese, potato salad, sauerkraut, and apple strudel cakes. Beers on tap will include Port City Oktoberfest and Hofbräu. The event will take place on the open-air, weatherized patio, with plenty of space for guests and fun!

SATURDAY/NOV. 1

First Saturday Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional> for information on other days and times for the library's ongoing book sale.

NOV. 7-30

"The Mini World: Small Works of Art" showcases tiny creations by Del Ray Artisans members in a variety of media and styles. Step into this miniature world and discover the joy of life's little things. View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Join in the Opening Reception on Friday, November 7, 7-9pm. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

OCTOBER

Wed. 15: Joshua Radin and his band, with Brendan James \$45.00
Thu. 16: Young Gun Silver Fox w/ Gordon Sterling & The People (Acoustic Trio) \$35.00
Fri. 17: Shaun Cassidy "The Road To Us" \$69.50 SOLD OUT!
Sat. 18: The SteelDrivers - 20th Anniversary Tour \$55.00 SOLD OUT!
Sun. 19: The SteelDrivers - 20th Anniversary Tour \$55.00
Tue. 21: Squirrel Nut Zippers \$45.00
Wed. 22: Noah Reid: Live Again w/ Sarah Grace White \$45.00
Thu. 23: Thomas Dolby "The Iconic 80's" w/ Gail Ann Dorsey \$45.00
Fri. 24: Jeffrey Osborne \$99.50 SOLD OUT!
Sat. 25: Jeffrey Osborne \$99.50 SOLD OUT!
Sun. 26: Phil Vassar (Band) – 25 Years of Paradise w/ Crawford & Power \$59.50
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Fri. 31: Tom Paxton & Friends with The Don-Juans \$45.00

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Ghouls Just Wanna Have Fun



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET
The 29th annual Del Ray Halloween Parade will take place Oct. 26 on Mount Vernon Avenue.

Celebrating Halloween across the city.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Tis the spooky season as residents and businesses prepare to celebrate Halloween, a holiday that blends ancient traditions with frightful fun. Across neighborhoods, streets are alive with jack-o'-lanterns, costumed children, and the eagerly awaited sound of rustling candy wrappers.

Kicking off the celebration is the annual Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch, now in its 32nd year. Known as the region's largest Pumpkin Patch, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill operates its month-long fundraiser to support local charities.

In addition to pumpkins, also for sale are gourds, home-made soups and baked goods, and autumn-Halloween-themed crafts. All Patch profits go to more than 25 local, national, and international charities that directly support feeding, housing, educating, and caring for vulnerable communities.

In Alexandria, supported organizations include Carpenters Shelter, ALIVE!, Senior Services of Alexandria, Community Lodgings, and Child and Family Network Centers among others. The pumpkins are grown on the Navajo Indian Reservation in New Mexico and are distributed and consigned to Immanuel and over 1,300 other churches of various denominations throughout the country. These partnerships support over 300 jobs on the reservation and the programs of participating churches nationwide.

The Pumpkin Patch is open daily through Oct. 31.

Del Ray Halloween Parade

Another favorite tradition is back in Del Ray, with the 29th Annual Del Ray Halloween Parade taking place on Sunday, Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. along Mount Vernon Avenue. Children, pets, and decorated strollers are invited to march and show off their costumes. This parade ends with live music and an award presentation at the Mount Vernon Rec Center field. This hometown favorite has been named one of the 10 best Halloween parades in the country by USA Today.



Students from St. Stephen's/St Agnes prepare for Halloween Oct. 12 at the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch. The Patch will be open through Oct. 31



Nightmare on the Avenue, the annual Halloween iteration of Del Ray's rotating pop-up bar, is adorned with spooky decorations like clowns, skeletons, and gravestones. Nov. 2 is the last day to visit. 2312 Mount Vernon Ave.

Also returning to Del Ray is Nightmare on the Avenue, the annual Halloween iteration of Del Ray's rotating pop-up bar located at 2312 Mount Vernon Avenue. Visitors encounter spooky decorations like skeletons and gravestones. The menu continues the theme with appetizers like bat wings and cocktails like the Death Eater Negroni. Nov. 2 is the last day to visit.

Whether you're dressing up as a ghost, superhero, or something unexpected, light your lanterns, grab your candy bags and get ready for a night of frightful fun.

Dish Soap "Dissin"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

What; no line on the "refill" bottle of dish soap to tell me when I should make another purchase/refill? You (the manufacturer) felt confident and arrogant enough to put lines and arrows on my regular/non-refill sizes but nothing on the actual "refill" size. What are you afraid of? Creating a dependency of line-reading on your bottles? Are you thinking that if a consumer has purchased a regular size bottle of your dish soap - the ones with the refill line and arrows, he/she doesn't need a similar reminder; especially since they swallowed their previous bottles' advisory and actually bought the "refill" sized bottle? I can understand the company's motivation in reminding me, but why are you stopping so soon after starting?

I mean; you (again the manufacturer) lead me down this garden path (not the rose garden path because then you would have been plowed over - literally) to advise/coerce me to buy another bottle of dish soap - before the one I'm currently using is even empty. Then, once I've followed your stupid line/arrow and then bought and used the "refill" bottle enough times to where I've nearly emptied of its soapy contents, there's no such line/arrow to encourage me to buy another bottle. What kind of relationship is that? As my late father would say, many times about such behavior: "They name street signs after people like you: one way." Having primed my pump, so to speak, you don't follow through. You figure our relationship has been cemented in plastic and since I already purchased a regular-sized bottle and then a "refill" bottle then you've secured my dish soap dollars forever and thus need not care about me anymore? Since when is abandoning the consumer/customer in his/her hour of vulnerability a prudent advertising/branding strategy?

I just so happen to be one of your best customers: a homeowner living in a nearly 300-year-old home - with no dishwasher. Let me amend that: I (Kenny) have no dishwasher. My wife, Dina however, has a dishwasher: me. And my tools of the trade are rubber gloves, a scrub brush and wait for it: dish soap, and plenty of it. Take away any of these three co-equal tools (now where have I heard that before?) and the task becomes unnecessarily more difficult. If I didn't have the view I have in our kitchen, standing over our double-sinks looking out any one of the three windows to see our two acres, I might find myself less inclined/certainly less frequently engaged, in this rather dreary but reoccurring and extremely dull task.

This is the kind of consequence your presumption that I am a customer for life and need not be reminded/encouraged to back-up/buy a dish soap "refill" size when my current one reaches the same low point as is "lined" and "arrowed" on your regular-sized bottle is difficult to understand. You've built a friendship here. Dare I say you've created a sort of dependency that doesn't bode well for the consumer if he/she is neglected and left to wither on the vine in this manner. When you assume - as is so often said: "You make and ass out of you and me." I just want/need to wash dishes at my convenience, not yours. Give me the tools and I'll give you the dollars.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

corcoran

MCENEARNEY

OPEN SUN 10/19, 2PM-4PM



Monticello Park
604 Crestwood Drive

\$2,500,000 | 5-bed, 4.5-bath new construction featuring a home office, designer kitchen, luxurious finishes, screened porch, and lower level guest suite and recreation room.

Micki MacNaughton : 703.622.1080
JenWalker.com

OPEN SAT 10/25 & SUN 10/26 12PM-2PM



Belle Haven
6414 16th Street

\$950,000 | 4-bed, 3.5-bath home tucked away on a quiet street. Minutes away from shopping and restaurants Basement in-laws suite with full kitchen remodeled 2025.

Jillian Hogan Homes : 703.951.7655
JillianHoganHomes.com

OPEN SUN 10/19, 2PM-4PM



Holly Acres
3335 Beechcliff Drive

\$815,000 | 4-bed, 3.5-bath townhome featuring over 3,200 sq ft, 2-car garage, sun-filled living areas, gourmet kitchen, and flexible lower level.

Miriam Miller : 703.598.6619
MM-RealEstate.com



Franconia Forest
6013 Franconia Forest Lane

\$809,900 | Price reduced! Classic brick colonial with 5 beds, 3.5 baths, spacious kitchen, sunroom, finished lower level, and private backyard with patio.

Miriam Miller : 703.598.6619
MM-RealEstate.com

OPEN SUN 10/19, 2PM-4PM



Hollindale
1506 Hollindale Drive

\$795,000 | 3-bed, 2-bath, 1-level living (with bonus basement) on beautiful half-acre lot in prime location. Renovated kitchen and baths, wood burning FP, circular driveway, and fenced backyard.

Heidi Burkhardt : 703.217.6009
RealtorHeidiB.com

OPEN SUN 10/19, 2PM-4PM



Kingstowne
6339 Dunman Way

\$789,000 | 4-bed, 3.5-bath townhome fully renovated in 2025 with designer finishes, open living spaces, and a flexible lower-level suite perfect for guests or extended family.

Joseph Lynch : 703.927.1098
JosephLynchRealtor.com

OPEN 10/16, 5:30-7; 10/18 & 10/19, 12-2PM



Reston
11488 Links Drive

\$689,000 | 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhome with modern finishes, open-concept living, a private fenced patio, upgraded systems, and easy access to abundant community amenities.

Kayla Napper : 703.473.4503
KaylaNapper.com



Fairfax
3878 Alder Woods Court

\$625,000 | 2-bed, 3.5-bath townhome with designer finishes, remodeled kitchen, spa-like primary suite, finished basement with flex room and bath, new deck, and upgrades throughout.

Lida Rippe : 949.991.8898
LidaRippe.com



Montebello
5901 Mount Eagle Drive #516

\$415,000 | Spacious 2-bed, 2-bath condo with private balcony, 3 glass doors bring the outdoors in. Amenity rich community just south of Old Town. 1-garage parking space conveys!

Heidi Burkhardt : 703.217.6009
RealtorHeidiB.com

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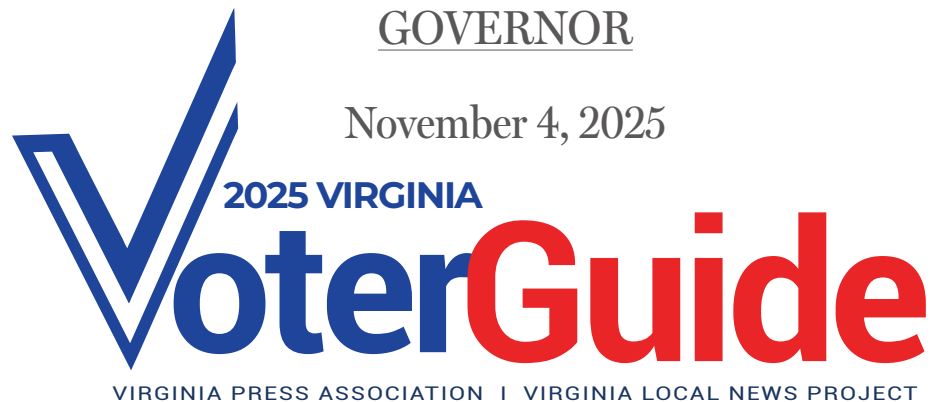


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GOVERNOR

November 4, 2025



VIRGINIA PRESS ASSOCIATION | VIRGINIA LOCAL NEWS PROJECT

The **governor of Virginia** is the state's chief executive, responsible for enforcing laws, overseeing state agencies and proposing a budget. The governor can sign or veto legislation passed by the General Assembly, appoint judges and key officials, and represent Virginia in dealings with other states and the federal government. The job pays \$175,000 a year, an amount set in 2013. Under the state constitution, governors serve a single four-year term and cannot serve consecutive terms. The governor and lieutenant governor are elected separately and may be from different political parties.

DEMOCRAT



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THE ISSUES

MINIMUM WAGE

Virginia's minimum wage is set to rise to \$12.77 on January 1, 2026. Do you support further increasing the minimum wage to \$15 or higher? If so, what timeline would you propose, and how would you ensure the increase balances the needs of workers and small businesses?

As I travel across Virginia, I hear from families who have to choose between paying rent, keeping the lights on, or putting food on the table. Every Virginian who works full time deserves the opportunity to save for their futures and their children's futures. As bills increase and Virginians are forced to spend more of their pay to keep up, working families need stronger wages to make ends meet — and I will sign into law legislation to finally raise Virginia's minimum wage to \$15 per hour. As we see attacks on Virginia's workforce and economy, it's an important step forward to ensure that Virginians who are working hard in every corner of our commonwealth can get a pay raise and keep up with increasing costs.

Virginia's minimum wage is already set to rise to \$12.77 on January 1, 2026, and I support those responsible, inflation-based adjustments because they help workers while giving small businesses the ability to plan ahead. But I do not support rushing to \$15 or higher just because that's what California did. We've all seen the results there, higher prices, fewer entry-level opportunities, and businesses cutting hours or closing altogether. That is not the future I want for Virginia.

I believe the real way to raise wages is by raising value. That's why, as lieutenant governor, I fought to raise salaries for teachers and support staff, and it's why I'll keep focusing on creating better-paying jobs through economic growth, career training, and workforce development. Mandates and one-size-fits-all policies hurt more than they help. Virginians deserve opportunity and prosperity, not California-style economic damage.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

With the median home price in Virginia at \$443,000 and median rent at \$1,700, housing affordability remains a growing concern. What specific policies would you support to lower housing costs and increase the availability of affordable housing across Virginia?

The cost and supply of housing is a top concern for Virginia families, seniors, and veterans as I travel across the commonwealth. Virginia deserves a governor who is focused on lowering costs and giving families more breathing room, which is why I rolled out my *Affordable Virginia Plan* earlier this year to build more affordable housing, work with localities to respond to Virginia's unique regional housing challenges, and reduce burdensome regulations that drive up the cost of housing and slow down production. As the next governor of Virginia, I will help direct investments towards housing that families can afford — from incentives for new construction of starter homes to increasing funding for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund. I want to make Virginia the nationwide leader in addressing the housing affordability crisis and make sure more Virginians—including first-time homebuyers—can afford to make our commonwealth their home.

Virginians are right to be worried about housing affordability. With the median home price over \$440,000 and rent climbing every month, families across the commonwealth feel squeezed. Abigail Spanberger claims she will incentivize new construction and protect affordable housing, but her record in Congress tells a very different story.

She supported Biden's Build Back Better Act, the basis for the Inflation Reduction Act, which the National Association of Home Builders opposed because it piled on new housing code mandates, radical climate goals, and wage requirements that drive up costs. That same law added countless energy mandates, worsening Virginia's cost-of-energy crisis and limiting the land available for construction. Spanberger also voted for the PRO Act, which would have gutted Virginia's right-to-work law and imposed restrictions that hurt builders, realtors, and contractors.

While she talks about protecting affordable housing, she ignores naturally occurring affordable units and instead backs government programs and regulations that risk raising prices and shrinking supply. By the NAHB's estimate, regulations already account for about 24 percent of housing costs—and Spanberger voted to make them higher.

On top of that, she supports raising the minimum wage to \$15, a policy that would cripple construction, and she wants to create yet another interagency housing council, adding bureaucracy instead of solutions.

The bottom line is simple: Spanberger's record makes housing less affordable. Virginians deserve a governor who cuts red tape, supports right-to-work, lowers energy costs, and unleashes construction. The only way we fix the housing crisis is to build, build, build.

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As a Marine, I believe in law and order, and that means securing our borders and enforcing immigration laws. I would absolutely support cooperation with the federal government, including deploying the Virginia National Guard if necessary, to stop illegal immigration and protect Virginians.

When Washington brings resources to the table, we should take advantage of them to strengthen enforcement and keep our communities safe. If the mission is to stop illegal crossings, crack down on drug and human trafficking, and keep violent criminals out of our communities, then I will make sure Virginia is a partner.

Protecting Virginians comes first, and I won't hesitate to work with the federal government when it means enforcing the law and keeping our commonwealth safe.

IMMIGRATION and NATIONAL GUARD

Would you support the federal government deploying the Virginia National Guard to enforce federal immigration policy within the state? Why or why not, and under what circumstances, if any, would you consider such cooperation appropriate?

I am a former federal law enforcement officer who worked narcotics cases and CIA case officer who tracked cartels and transnational criminal organizations. Given this experience, I know the incredible value of varied agency coordination, but if making the decision today with the set of facts we see on the ground in Virginia, I would absolutely not deploy the Virginia Guard to enforce federal immigration policy within our commonwealth. That task of detaining individuals on immigration detainers should remain within the purview of federal immigration agents, while the task of arresting those for whom an arrest warrant – for any variety of offenses – has been signed should fall to local, state, or federal agencies depending upon the charges. Notably, during my time in Congress, the Virginia Guard deployed to Texas on a border security support mission, and I supported that mission as the authorities and purpose of that mission were clear and appropriate given the guard's training and statute.

Virginia is the world's leader in data centers, and that industry is critical to our economy, our tax base, and our jobs. At the same time, we have to recognize the unique challenges data centers bring in terms of land use, energy consumption, and environmental impact. I believe the commonwealth's role is to set clear, consistent, and commonsense standards that balance economic growth with protecting our communities. That means respecting local zoning decisions, ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with demand, and pursuing an all-of-the-above energy strategy so we can power this growth reliably and affordably.

What I won't support are heavy-handed mandates that drive investment out of Virginia or raise costs on families. As governor, I'll make sure we keep Virginia competitive, attract cutting-edge industries like data centers, and do it in a way that safeguards our land, our resources, and our taxpayers.

DATA CENTERS and STATE REGULATION

Virginia is home to over 600 data centers and handles a large portion of the world's internet and cloud computing services. What role should the commonwealth play in regulating or setting policy around data center development, especially in terms of land use, energy consumption, and environmental impact?

I believe Virginia needs a clear statewide strategy on data centers that helps localities across every corner of Virginia make informed decisions about their best path forward. Virginia can benefit from having data centers here – but to reap those benefits, we need to make sure we are accounting and planning for the energy generation, water, and other resources needed to support them. We also need to make sure they aren't driving up energy bills for everyone else. I rolled out my *Affordable Virginia Plan* to lower costs – including energy costs – and as Virginia's next governor, my strategy will focus on bringing Virginians together to meet rising energy demand while accounting for local resource needs, driving down costs for ratepayers, and supporting good-paying jobs in this sector.

Virginia cannot have strong schools without strong teachers, and right now we're losing too many of them to other states and other careers. I absolutely support building on the progress we've made with teacher raises, because pay has to be competitive if we want to recruit and keep the best educators. This is why we increased teacher pay by 18% across the board, especially in high-need areas like math, science, and special education.

But pay alone isn't enough. We need to restore respect for the teaching profession, give teachers more support in the classroom, and make sure parents and administrators are partners, not adversaries. That means cutting red tape, improving discipline policies, and focusing resources where they have the most impact. To fund these initiatives, I will prioritize education in the state budget, cut wasteful spending, and grow Virginia's economy so we can sustain higher salaries long-term.

Additionally, I am going to invest in early childhood education and ensure we attract and retain the very best early childhood educators as well. However, my plan is about more than just raising pay; it's about creating an environment where teachers feel valued, supported, and empowered to do the job they were called to do.

TEACHER PAY, RECRUITMENT and RETENTION

Teacher shortages are a pressing issue in Virginia, where teacher pay remains below the national average despite a raise this year. What is your plan to improve teacher recruitment and retention, especially in high-need areas and subjects, and do you support another raise? How would you fund these initiatives and ensure long-term sustainability?

Every student in Virginia should have access to a world-class education. Like many states, Virginia faces challenges recruiting and retaining teachers, but Virginia can be a leader in addressing this challenge. My *Strengthening Virginia Schools Plan* will focus on increasing funding for teacher residency and apprenticeship programs, expanding the recruitment pool to include federal employees, teaching assistants, and servicemembers transitioning to civilian life and increasing pay for Virginia's teachers to keep our best and brightest in the classroom. We also need to boost grow-your-own teacher preparation programs, which can help to strengthen the teacher pipeline in rural areas of the commonwealth, and improve career pathways for middle and high schoolers to enter the teaching profession through increased collaboration between K-12 schools and institutions of higher education. As governor, I look forward to working with the general assembly to give localities the option to raise funds for public school construction and renovation.

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THE ISSUES

SCHOOL VOUCHERS

What is your position on the use of public funds for private school vouchers in Virginia? Do you believe vouchers help or harm public education, and how would you address concerns around educational fairness and accountability?

I do not support efforts to defund our public schools, and unfortunately, my opponent has a decades-long track record of wanting to do just that. But as a mom of three daughters in Virginia public schools, I believe we need to focus on strengthening our schools and expanding opportunities for all students—especially at a time when Virginia ranks dead-last in the country in student math recovery. That includes making sure Virginia has an accountability system in place that provides clear insights into how our kids are progressing and allows parents and teachers to use these insights to drive improvements that respond to the needs of Virginia students. My *Strengthening Virginia Schools Plan* will provide the commonwealth's schools with the resources they need to prepare every student—regardless of their zip code—for success and give parents more options within our public school system.

HEALTHCARE COSTS and MEDICAID

Healthcare costs continue to rise for many Virginians. As governor, how would you work to contain costs while ensuring access to quality care? Do you support continued protection and expansion of Medicaid in Virginia, and if so, how would you approach funding and implementation?

Everywhere I go across the commonwealth, I hear from seniors, families, and Virginians who are worried about increasing healthcare and prescription drug costs. I know there are steps we can take right now to save Virginians money and prevent Virginians from falling into medical debt. In Congress, I helped lead the charge to give Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices, capped the cost of insulin at \$35 dollars for Medicare beneficiaries, and stood up to transnational pharmaceutical companies. Particularly in the wake of the passage of the disastrous “Big Beautiful Bill,” which my opponent has praised, we need to use every resource at the commonwealth's disposal to protect Virginians' access to healthcare they can afford. As governor, I intend to work with the general assembly to address shortfalls in Virginia's budget and protect safety net providers, and work with our attorney general to defend critical programs Virginians rely on. Additionally, my *Affordable Virginia Plan* will focus on preventing Virginians from falling into medical debt by cracking down on pharmacy benefit managers and stopping predatory billing practices. Virginia deserves a governor who is focused on lowering healthcare costs for Virginians.

I believe every parent deserves the right to choose the best education for their child, whether that's a public school, a charter school, a private school, or homeschooling. Public funds should follow the student, not the system, because education is about children, not bureaucracy.

School choice, including vouchers, gives families real options and hope for a better future. I do not believe this harms public education; in fact, competition pushes every school to do better. At the same time, I will continue to invest in our public schools, raise teacher pay, and hold all schools—public or private—accountable for results.

Educational fairness means giving every child, regardless of zip code or family income, the opportunity to succeed. As governor, I will put parents in charge and ensure Virginia's education system is built around students, not politics.

Our administration has seen successes in healthcare, like our Right Help, Right Now initiative, which has tripled the number of crisis centers and distributed life-saving drugs. We've also increased coverage to much-needed areas like OB-GYN and psychiatry. And we're adding more doctors through common-sense programs like SB 995, which allows foreign-trained doctors to gain a Virginia license if they work at least two years in an underserved area.

Additionally, fiscal responsibility is essential to keeping taxes low and making sure the state has enough money for our healthcare programs. So we should embrace a host of pro-business, pro-growth policies while also ensuring only those who really need social services receive them. Those who are able-bodied and of-age should not receive taxpayer-funded healthcare coverage without even applying to work part-time, volunteer, or go to school.

I do want to see continued protection and expansion of Medicaid in Virginia, but under those stipulations. I will prioritize rural hospitals. I want to flip the conversation from one of closure to one of opportunity: How can we be an attractive place to start a hospital? Access to infrastructure, an abundance of doctors and other human capital, and a high quality of life are all essential to answering that question.

In short: our efforts are already helping to keep down the cost of healthcare. I'll continue in that common-sense vein as governor. I will also continue our administration's fiscal sanity to keep all of our programs at peak efficiency and meet the needs of Virginians.

VOTER INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES

OCT. 24

- Last day to register or update your address to vote a regular ballot for this election
- Voters may register in person after this date, through Election Day, and vote using a provisional ballot

OCT. 24 (by 5 p.m.)

- Last day to request that a ballot be mailed to you

OCT. 25 (Saturday)

- Local voter registration offices open for in-person voting

NOV. 1 (Saturday)

- Last day to vote early in-person at your local voter registration office

NOV. 4 (Election Day)

- Vote at your polling place. Polls are open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

INFORMATION and LINKS

Register to vote or update an existing registration - <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>

- Through Friday, Oct. 24, 2025.
- Register to vote or update

an existing registration online using the Citizen Portal.

- Voters may register and vote using a provisional ballot In-Person after Oct. 24, 2025, through Election Day.
- Contact your local registrar's offices for more information.

EARLY, IN-PERSON VOTING

- Available Monday - Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25 and Nov. 1 through 5 p.m.
- Contact your local registrar's offices for all early voting and satellite location information.
- Voter registration offices will be open for early voting on Satur-



day, Oct. 25, 2025 and Nov. 1, 2025.

Apply for a ballot to be mailed to you: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/>

- Through 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 24, 2025.
- Your request must be received by your local registrar's office by 5:00 p.m.
- Apply for an absentee ballot online using the Citizen Portal.

CANDIDATE LISTS

See who is on your ballot by viewing the candidate lists.

POLLING PLACES

Find your polling place: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>

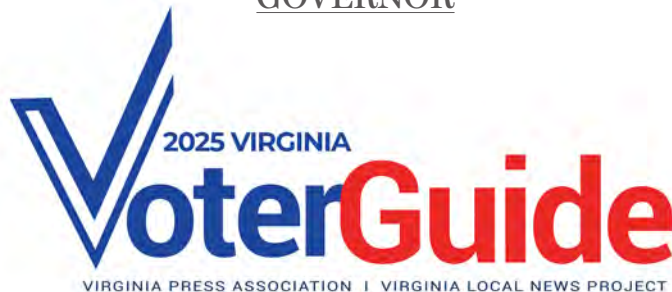
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THE ISSUES

Everywhere I go, Virginians tell me the same thing: it's getting harder to make ends meet. Groceries, childcare, utilities, and transportation are eating up more and more of family budgets, and too many hardworking people feel like they're falling behind even with full-time jobs.

As governor, I will tackle the cost-of-living crisis head-on. That means cutting taxes on essentials so families keep more of what they earn, reining in utility costs by pursuing an all-of-the-above energy strategy for affordable and reliable power, and expanding access to childcare through public-private partnerships that increase availability without driving up prices. I will also invest in better roads and transit options so Virginians spend less time and money getting to work.

My focus will be on targeted, sustainable relief policies that work for both urban and rural communities, not one-size-fits-all mandates from Washington. At the end of the day, it comes down to common sense: lower costs, more opportunity, and a government that puts families first.

COST OF LIVING and ECONOMIC RELIEF

With the rising cost of essentials such as groceries, utilities, childcare, and transportation, many Virginians report difficulty making ends meet—even with full-time employment. As governor, what specific policies would you propose to ease the cost-of-living burden for low- and middle-income residents? How would you ensure these efforts are targeted, sustainable, and effective across both urban and rural communities?

As I've talked to families across Virginia, I hear from families who are working harder and harder, yet finding it more difficult to get by, which is why I've rolled out my *Affordable Virginia Plan* to lower healthcare, housing, and energy costs for Virginia families. As governor, I'll lower prescription drug costs and protect access to affordable healthcare coverage. Additionally, I want Virginia to be the nationwide leader in addressing the housing affordability and supply crisis. And I want to see Virginia become more energy independent and become a global leader in developing the energy technologies of the future—all while saving Virginia consumers money along the way. At a time when Republicans in Washington—backed by Winsome Earle-Sears—are trying to make life more expensive for everyday Virginians, I want to work with both parties in Richmond to make sure every Virginian can afford to call the commonwealth their home.

Virginia's universities should be first and foremost places of learning, not laboratories for DEI ideology. I applauded UVA's decision to dissolve its DEI office because it was a win for merit, opportunity, and the American Dream. When institutions take federal funding, accountability naturally follows. Taxpayers have a right to demand transparency and results. That's not overreach, that's responsibility.

As governor, I will make sure our universities stay focused on academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, and preparing students for real careers. I also believe our boards of visitors must be reformed to reduce political gamesmanship and strengthen accountability to Virginians. My priority is simple: protect free speech, cut wasteful DEI bureaucracy, and ensure every dollar—state or federal—goes toward real education, not politics.

FEDERAL INTERVENTION in PUBLIC UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

The Trump administration has recently delved into Virginia's public university system, resulting in the resignation of UVA's president under pressure and investigations into George Mason University's diversity, equity and inclusion practices. As governor, would you welcome that type of federal involvement in matters typically handled by university boards? If not, what specific actions would you take to oppose it? Do you support changes to how universities are governed or their boards appointed to reduce political or external influence, and if so, what changes would you propose?

Virginia's public universities are incredible assets to our communities and our economy, and should be recognized for their immense value. It has been sad to watch Governor Youngkin stand by as the Trump administration aggressively attacked the University of Virginia and now continues to do the same at George Mason University. These political games are an attack on academic freedom, Virginia's institutions, and our economy. As governor, I will expect the members of our commonwealth's boards of visitors to be uniquely focused on strengthening the individual universities they serve, and that the members of our boards demonstrate the fortitude necessary not to kowtow to any administration – whether it be in the Trump administration in Washington or mine in Richmond. As governor, I will ensure that all board appointees I select understand that they must demonstrate a standard of leadership that puts academic excellence, Virginia's students, and the strength of Virginia's public colleges and universities ahead of any political agenda.

VIRGINIA PRESS ASSOCIATION (VPA)

The Virginia Press Association is a nonprofit trade organization that represents print and online news outlets across the state. Founded in 1881, VPA supports local news through training, legal resources, advocacy, and recognition programs. The association's mission is to strengthen the role of newspapers in their communities and highlight the importance of a free press in sustaining democracy.



VIRGINIA LOCAL NEWS PROJECT (VLNP)

The Virginia Local News Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining, supporting and growing local news in every Virginia community. Founded by the Virginia Press Association in 2013, VLNP provides programs, and to help strengthen the digital capabilities of local news, train the next generation of journalists, protect press freedoms, and grow the public's understanding of the value of local news.



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LT. GOVERNOR

THE ISSUES

DEMOCRAT

GHAZALAH
HASHMI

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TIE-BREAKING VOTES AND PRESIDING OVER THE SENATE

As lieutenant governor, you would be responsible for presiding over the Virginia Senate and may be called upon to cast tie-breaking votes on key legislation. How would you approach this role to ensure fairness, transparency, and the effective functioning of the Senate across party lines? What values or decision-making principles would guide you when voting on highly contested or partisan issues?

I will approach the role of lieutenant governor (LG) with the same degree of attention and thought that I have brought to my legislative work over the past six years. As the tie-breaker in the Virginia Senate, the LG plays a crucial role, especially in a narrowly-divided Senate.

In addition to carefully reviewing all legislation that is under debate on the Senate Floor, I will engage with my Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle, discuss legislation and policy proposals with a variety of stakeholders, research and analyze the issues, and base decisions on facts, data, and merit.

Over my two terms in the Senate, I have learned the vital importance of listening to the perspectives of different parties, compromising when possible, and being able to explain one's own position to others. I will bring these same approaches to the role of lieutenant governor.

EDUCATION POLICY: SCHOOL CHOICE and SOL REFORM

Virginia continues to debate the role of school choice and the effectiveness of the Standards of Learning (SOL) system. As lieutenant governor, what is your position on expanding school choice options such as charter schools and education savings accounts? Additionally, would you support reforms to Virginia's SOL assessments, and if so, what changes would you propose to improve educational outcomes and fairness across the commonwealth?

As a public educator for nearly three decades, as the Chair of the Senate Education and Health Committee, and as a mom of two daughters who attended our public schools, I am strongly opposed to school vouchers and privatizing public education. I have stood up to Governor Glenn Youngkin's attempts to direct public school dollars into private hands. My opponent, John Reid, supports Governor Youngkin's school voucher agenda. Reid said [in January 2022] it was "time to just close the public schools," and he wants to funnel taxpayer dollars into expensive private schools instead. A recent JLARC report found that Virginia public schools have faced severe underfunding to the tune of \$6.6 billion.

For the last two sessions, I have led efforts in the general assembly to prioritize funding our public schools, and we've been able to increase public education support by almost \$3 billion. However, more needs to be done to strengthen Virginia's education system, both K-12 and post-secondary opportunities. To ensure all children in Virginia can enjoy quality education that prepares them for well-paying jobs or higher education, we must fully fund public education and lower the costs of post-secondary credentials and college degrees.

FEDERAL INTERVENTION in PUBLIC UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

The Trump administration has recently delved into Virginia's public university system, resulting in the resignation of UVA's president under pressure and investigations into George Mason University's diversity, equity and inclusion practices. As lieutenant governor, would you welcome that type of federal involvement in matters typically handled by university boards? If not, what specific actions would you take to oppose it? Do you support changes to how universities are governed or their boards appointed to reduce political or external influence, and if so, what changes would you propose?

The resignation of UVA President Jim Ryan is a deeply troubling escalation in the partisan attacks against higher education, and it should alarm every Virginian who believes in academic freedom. As a lifelong educator and as a mom, I believe Virginia's universities, both public and private, should remain dedicated to serving the people of the commonwealth with excellence and independence and not serve as playgrounds for partisan agendas.

Over the past few years, Governor Youngkin has replaced highly qualified and experienced board members with individuals whose top credentials appear to be ideological alignment and partisan loyalty. Many of the new appointees have expressed open hostility toward the initiatives and programs that support student learning and success. As Virginia's next lieutenant governor I will continue fighting to protect opportunity and academic freedom across every corner of our commonwealth.

As lieutenant governor, I will approach my responsibility to preside over the Senate with humility and fairness. My role is not to dominate debate but to ensure the chamber functions smoothly, rules are respected, and every voice has a chance to be heard. When called upon to cast a tie-breaking vote, I will use a clear set of principles: fidelity to the Constitution, commitment to limited and accountable government, and putting the interests of Virginia families first.

Too often, partisan politics in Richmond lead to gridlock or heavy-handed solutions that make life harder for working people. I believe tie-breaking votes should not be cast based on party loyalty but on what best advances freedom, affordability, and opportunity for Virginians. For example, I would oppose measures that expand bureaucracy, raise taxes, or limit parental rights. At the same time, I would support policies that lower costs, strengthen public safety, and expand choice in education and health care.

My goal as presiding officer is to ensure transparency in how the Senate conducts its business. I will foster respect across party lines by encouraging open debate and refusing to use the gavel as a partisan weapon. Virginians expect their elected leaders to govern responsibly. In the rare moments when my vote decides the outcome, I will honor that responsibility with the seriousness it deserves, guided by conservative, common-sense values, and a focus on the long-term well-being of our commonwealth.

Every parent deserves the right to choose the best education for their child. That is why I support expanding charter schools, lab schools, and education savings accounts. These tools give families real options and create competition that raises the bar across all schools. Parents—not politicians or bureaucrats—should be in the driver's seat when it comes to their children's education.

On SOL reform, it is time to move beyond a test-driven system that too often narrows learning. Assessments should measure mastery of skills and knowledge, not just test-taking ability. I would support reforms that reduce "teaching to the test," incorporate career and technical readiness and give schools more flexibility in how they demonstrate student success. Our goal should be excellence, fairness, and preparation for the real world.

Education should prepare students for life—college, career, and citizenship—not just a multiple-choice exam. By expanding choice, respecting parents, and reforming outdated testing models, we can restore rigor, fairness, and opportunity to Virginia's schools. Stronger schools mean stronger families, and that is the foundation for a stronger commonwealth.

I believe Virginia's universities should be accountable first and foremost to Virginians—not to Washington, and not to outside political agendas. Federal micromanagement of our schools is not the answer. The best way to protect academic integrity is through transparency, accountability, and strong boards of visitors who reflect the diversity of Virginia's communities and viewpoints. I support reforms to make these boards more balanced and less political, with a focus on student outcomes—graduation rates, affordability, and workforce readiness.

Universities should be centers of learning, not partisan battlegrounds. We need to protect free inquiry, encourage debate, and prepare the next generation to thrive. As lieutenant governor, I will work to ensure higher education in Virginia is focused on opportunity, affordability, and excellence—not ideology or outside interference.

REPUBLICAN



JOHN
REID

johnreidforvirginia.com



LT. GOVERNOR

THE ISSUES



DEMOCRAT

GHAZALAH
HASHMI

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SAME-SEX MARRIAGE and LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

While same-sex marriage is currently protected under federal law, recent court challenges and legislative proposals have raised concerns about the durability of those protections. As lieutenant governor, how would you approach legislation affecting the rights of LGBTQ+ Virginians, including marriage equality? If called to cast a tie-breaking vote on such issues, what principles would guide your decision?

We have a fundamental responsibility to ensure that this country's ideals of justice, equality, and fairness are a reality for all, including LGBTQ+ Virginians. After the disastrous Dobbs Supreme Court decision, Justice Clarence Thomas expressed interest in rolling back the legalization of same-sex marriage. Virginia's constitution currently does not protect same-sex marriage and leaves the rights of LGBTQ+ Virginians vulnerable to the whims of the conservative Supreme Court that has proven willing to take away freedoms.

In the past general assembly session, I voted for a constitutional amendment that would protect marriage equality. My opponent, John Reid, said he would have voted "no." I am the candidate that can be trusted to guarantee Virginia enshrines marriage equality into our constitution, and I will fight for the right of every Virginian to marry the person they love.

MINIMUM WAGE

Virginia's minimum wage is scheduled to rise to \$12.77 by January 2026. Do you support increasing it to \$15 or higher? What timeline and economic factors would inform your position, especially regarding small business impact and cost of living?

Recent reports show that Virginia families are going into debt in order to put food on the table; prices are rising much faster than wages. With the rising costs of housing, childcare, health care, and basic needs, a basic living wage is essential. That's why I support raising the minimum wage to at least \$15 and establishing an alignment of wages with inflation and cost of living.

I have championed efforts to increase the minimum wage and supported legislation to eliminate minimum wage exemptions for domestic workers and farm workers. When workers are paid a living wage, those dollars go right back into the local economy, supporting small businesses, entrepreneurs, and communities.

HEALTHCARE and MEDICAID

How would you work to protect and improve health-care access for Virginians, particularly those who rely on Medicaid? What role do you believe the state should play in addressing rising healthcare costs and protecting vulnerable populations?

Healthcare in Virginia is too expensive, too complicated, and too limited in choice. Families worry about affording a new baby, seniors struggle with prescription costs, and small business owners cannot keep up with premiums. Politicians in Richmond have layered on red tape but have not fixed the problem.

I believe Medicaid must remain strong for the vulnerable who rely on it, but we also need to make the system more efficient and accountable. Protecting Medicaid does not mean expanding bureaucracy—it means ensuring the program delivers care effectively without waste.

More broadly, we must tackle the root issue: rising costs. Virginians deserve price transparency so they know what procedures and medicines cost before they walk into a hospital or pharmacy.

We need more competition—allowing insurance purchases across state lines and encouraging innovative models like telemedicine. And we should reduce mandates that drive up premiums and limit choices.

The state's role should be to empower patients, not bureaucrats. I want families to be in charge of their healthcare decisions, with real options that fit their needs. That means fostering competition, innovation, and transparency to bring down costs and expand access. My approach is rooted in conservative, common-sense principles: protect the vulnerable, ensure efficiency, and trust Virginians to make the best choices for themselves and their families.

Republicans in Washington have passed a bill, which my opponent supports, that will rip away health care coverage from 322,000 Virginians and put rural hospitals at risk of closing. We have already begun to see the closure of clinics and hospitals in Southwest Virginia. These federal cuts to Medicaid will leave vulnerable Virginians without access to critical health care and will have ripple effects across our entire health care system.

Virginia needs new leaders who take these cuts seriously and act to ensure all Virginians have access to affordable and quality health care, including reproductive health care, safe and legal abortion, contraception, and low-cost prescription drugs. As the Chair of the Senate Education and Health Committee and as the Vice Chair of the Joint Commission on Health Care, I am fully aware of the looming crisis facing Virginia with the potential loss of Medicaid expansion, Congressional failure to reauthorize the Enhanced Premium Tax Credits, and the devastating effects these cuts will have, especially on our rural communities. That's why, in 2025, I wrote the budget amendment to protect Medicaid in Virginia. I will be focused on responding to this crisis.

REPUBLICAN

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DEMOCRAT

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The **attorney general of Virginia** is the state’s chief legal officer, responsible for providing legal advice to the governor and executive agencies, representing the state in court and defending the constitutionality of state laws. The office also handles consumer protection, public safety and other legal matters affecting Virginians. The \$150,000 per year salary was set in 2006. The attorney general serves a four-year term.

THE ISSUES

The dream of homeownership should not be slipping further out of reach for Virginia families, yet rising prices and limited supply are making it harder than ever for young people and working families to buy a home. The answer is not more bureaucracy from Richmond, but smart policies that expand supply, lower costs, and respect local needs.

First, I support a first-time homebuyer tax credit of up to \$25,000 to help families build equity rather than being stuck renting forever. That kind of targeted relief empowers working- and middle-class Virginians without inflating the market further. Second, I believe in local flexibility—not a one-size-fits-all housing mandate from the state. Counties and cities should be able to use tools like bonding authority to build housing options that fit their communities’ character and needs.

We must also tackle red tape. Excessive permitting, zoning restrictions, and outdated state regulations add unnecessary costs to new housing. By streamlining processes and encouraging innovation, we can create more affordable options. Partnerships with community colleges, trade schools, and the private sector can also help train more builders and contractors to meet demand.

Finally, expanding pathways to affordable rentals while protecting property rights will ensure stability for those not yet ready to buy. Housing is about more than shelter—it is about families putting down roots and communities thriving. My approach is focused on empowering localities, cutting costs and giving every Virginian a fair shot at the American dream of homeownership.

HOUSING
AFFORDABILITY

With home prices and rents outpacing income for many Virginians, what specific policies would you support to increase affordable housing availability and reduce barriers to homeownership across the commonwealth?

My husband and I arrived in Richmond in 1991 as a young newlywed couple. Our income was limited so we lived paycheck to paycheck, severely restricted all discretionary spending, and frequently had \$50 or less at the end of every month after paying our rent. These experiences have all served to make me attuned to the hardships and insecurities that so many in our communities face because housing prices continue to go up.

All Virginians deserve housing that they can afford without having to sacrifice putting food on the table or paying for lifesaving medication. I will continue my work to find solutions that make housing more affordable, increase higher density housing development, support financial products that help first-time homebuyers, and decrease eviction rates. I was a leader in the general assembly in finding solutions to ensure people can afford clean, safe and decent housing, including my Faith in Housing Act to allow faith-based institutions and non-profits to build affordable housing on land they own.

The lieutenant governor’s office is unique in that it carries influence without a direct legislative agenda. I see that as an opportunity to use the visibility of the office to lift up voices too often ignored in Richmond—working families struggling with high costs, parents seeking better schools for their kids, small business owners weighed down by red tape, and communities left behind by one-size-fits-all policies.

I intend to be a convener, not just a presider. That means bringing together stakeholders from across the commonwealth—local leaders, entrepreneurs, educators, health providers, law enforcement, and faith communities—to find solutions rooted in real-world experience, not ideology. For example, I will use the platform of the office to highlight workforce and childcare challenges, expand conversations on affordable housing, and ensure veterans and first- responders get the support they deserve.

Because I do not carry a voting card in the Senate, I have the freedom to build bridges and elevate issues without being tied down to partisan maneuvering. That also means holding Richmond accountable when it forgets that its purpose is to serve the people, not itself.

I believe the lieutenant governor should be the voice that cuts through bureaucracy and red tape. By traveling the commonwealth, listening, and shining a spotlight on practical solutions, I can help shape the debate in a way that benefits all Virginians. My goal is to use this office to champion freedom, opportunity, and fairness—not to grow government, but to ensure it works for the people it serves.

LEADERSHIP WITHOUT A
LEGISLATIVE VOTE

The lieutenant governor doesn’t sponsor legislation or serve as a voting member except in ties. How would you use the platform and visibility of the office to influence policy, elevate underrepresented issues, or convene stakeholders across Virginia?

As the Chair of the Senate Education and Health Committee, Vice Chair of the Joint Commission on Health Care, member of the Virginia Housing Commission, as well as numerous other commissions and boards, I have built the critical relationships across state agencies and developed policy insights that will help me to serve as a strong, capable, and effective leader in Virginia’s next administration. I will use my platform to address the most pressing issues facing Virginia, including fully funding public education to put every student on the path to success, ensuring every Virginian has access to affordable health care, and bringing down costs on everything from housing to child care to make life more affordable in Virginia.

REPUBLICAN

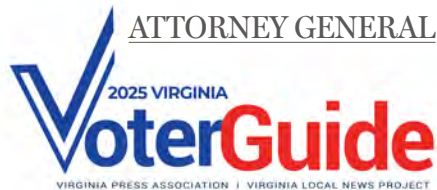


JASON
MIYARES

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The Miyares campaign declined to provide answers for the VPA/VLNP Voter Guide.



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DEMOCRAT

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Answers to each of the questions below were provided by the Jay Jones campaign.

ABORTION and STATE vs. FEDERAL LAW

If federal restrictions are imposed on abortion medications like Mifepristone, would you defend Virginians' access under existing state law, or would you support enforcing the federal limits within Virginia?

JONES: I will always defend Virginians' abortion rights under state law, and I look forward to protecting those rights in our Constitution in November. Virginia women deserve the right to make their own healthcare decisions, and as attorney general, I will use every tool available to defend these rights against federal attacks and ensure every Virginian can make personal healthcare decisions free from political interference.

As a delegate, I eliminated unnecessary barriers to abortion and safeguarded Virginians' right to birth control. I also served on the board of the Virginia League of Planned Parenthood to protect those rights and ensure women had access to critical preventive services, including breast cancer screenings.

By contrast, my opponent has an extreme anti-abortion record: urging the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, endorsing an abortion ban, voting repeatedly against Virginia's Reproductive Health Protection Act, aligning with anti-abortion extremists, and attempting to defund Planned Parenthood – the same agenda now being carried out under the Trump administration.

MIYARES: No response.

USE of NATIONAL GUARD in IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Would you support the federal government's use of the Virginia National Guard to enforce immigration policies in the commonwealth? What legal standards or precedents would guide your decision?

JONES: This is federal overreach by Donald Trump to distract voters from rising prices and his disastrous economy. Fighting crime is critically important, but you make communities safer by doing the hard work over the long run: building strong law enforcement departments, supporting officers with good training, and building ties with local communities – not by grabbing headlines. As attorney gener-

al, I'll absolutely work with partners in the District of Columbia and Maryland to fight crime over the long term in our region, and I will ensure our National Guard is ready to support us in emergency situations as intended.

MIYARES: No response.

PROTECTING PUBLIC OFFICIALS from THREATS

What role should Virginia's attorney general play in preventing and responding to violent threats against school boards, election officials, and other local public servants? How would your office coordinate with local law enforcement in such cases?

JONES: As attorney general, my office will send a very clear message that violence and hate-driven acts will not be tolerated in our commonwealth and that if you engage in violence, you will be held accountable. I will work closely with the Virginia State Police and local law enforcement to ensure Virginians are protected as threats arise.

MIYARES: No response.

CONSUMER PROTECTION and ONLINE SCAMS

With online scams, identity theft, and deceptive business practices on the rise, what specific tools or strategies would you use as attorney general to protect Virginia consumers, particularly seniors and vulnerable populations?

JONES: As an assistant attorney general in the Office of Consumer Protection, I fought to prevent higher grocery prices by working to block the Albertsons-Kroger merger and took on corporations unfairly raising prices. As Virginia's next attorney general, I'll bolster the Office of Consumer Protection and fight back against corporate landlords, predatory lenders, scams, and corporate fraud on behalf of consumers. I'll do this by cracking down on illegal price fixing and discrimination in the housing process, holding companies accountable for illegally deceiving Virginians with junk fees and deceptive pricing, and helping Virginians navigate complex healthcare billing schemes so they can fight back against insurance companies.

By contrast, Jason Miyares has done little to stand up for Virginia's consumers.

Time and again, he's sided with special interests instead of Virginia families, whether it's letting utility companies hike up electricity bills, letting corporate landlords off the hook, or failing to protect people from predatory lenders.

MIYARES: No response.

PARTISANSHIP and the AG'S OFFICE

The attorney general serves as the commonwealth's top legal officer. How would you maintain the office's independence and impartiality in politically sensitive cases, especially when they involve state agencies or the actions of elected officials?

JONES: As Virginia's next attorney general, the only client that I will ever be beholden to is the people of Virginia. Unlike Jason Miyares, I'll make decisions based on the laws and the facts, not on political pressure or personal relationships. That means if a state agency or elected official violates the law or infringes on Virginians' rights, I won't hesitate to hold them accountable, regardless of their position or party. And I'll never back down and follow orders from Washington politicians, no matter which party is in power.

MIYARES: No response.

GUN VIOLENCE and PUBLIC SAFETY

What is your position on enforcing and defending existing gun safety laws in Virginia? Are there specific public safety initiatives or legal tools you would prioritize to address gun violence in communities across the state?

JONES: Guns are the leading cause of death for Virginia kids, and as attorney general, I will not stand for it. As a delegate, I expanded background checks, passed a law holding people accountable who allow children to access loaded guns, and got guns out of the hands of domestic abusers – all measures that Jason Miyares voted against. And as an assistant attorney general, I put the nation's largest ghost gun manufacturers out of business.

As attorney general, I'll work closely with local law enforcement and commonwealth's attorneys' offices, making sure they have access to the most up-to-date technologies to trace gun crimes and prosecute bad actors, and increase interagency

cooperation with regional partners. I'll crack down on unscrupulous gun dealers who are not following the law—unlike my opponent, who has spent his administration catering to his gun lobby endorsers and refusing to hold bad gun dealers accountable. To target the root causes of gun violence, I'll expand violence interruption programs, including placing more anti-violence coordinators on the ground. Finally, I'll hold gun manufacturers who created the gun violence epidemic accountable for stopping it, like cutting off the flow of illegal guns and using settlements to fund violence interruption and gun safety programs.

MIYARES: No response.

CIVIL RIGHTS and DISCRIMINATION

How would you use the attorney general's office to protect civil rights and combat discrimination in Virginia, including in areas such as housing, employment, policing, and voting access?

JONES: We must ensure every Virginian is protected in their civil rights and civil liberties every single day. That's why one of my top priorities as attorney general is expanding the Civil Rights Division, including broadening its authority to combat predatory practices in housing and employment to lower costs for Virginians.

I'll crack down on housing discrimination by holding lenders and landlords accountable for preying on Virginia renters. As a former member of AFGE 1403, I'll strengthen enforcement against workplace discrimination and wage theft, so that every Virginian has a fair shot at earning a decent living without fear of retaliation or bias. And as I did with the NAACP, I'll protect the right to vote by fighting back against suppression tactics and defending the ballot box so every voice in Virginia is heard.

Our current attorney general, Jason Miyares, has turned a blind eye to these abuses. He's left Virginians unprotected from predatory landlords, ignored discrimination in the workplace, and done nothing to ensure fair treatment in our justice system. As attorney general, I'll make sure this office stands up for all Virginians and delivers real protections, every single day.

MIYARES: No response.