

2021 VIRGINIA ELECTION REPORT

November 3, 2021

On Tuesday, November 2, Virginians went to the polls to select a new Executive Branch of the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as all 100 House seats in the General Assembly. The gubernatorial election has received extensive nationwide attention, as the election is seen as a harbinger for the national mid-term elections in 2022. State elections across the country have increasingly become national-centric, and 2021 has been no different in that regard; attracting endorsements and campaign contributions from across the country. No Republican has won statewide office in Virginia since 2009, but that trend ended in 2021, with the election of Glenn Youngkin as the 74th Governor of Virginia.

GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION



Terry McAuliffe (D) – 48.55%



Glenn Youngkin (R) – 50.68%

Princess Blanding (I) – 0.69%

At the top of the ticket were the Democratic nominee for Governor, Terry McAuliffe, former Governor of Virginia from 2014-2018, and Republican Glenn Youngkin, a political newcomer who made his fortune as the former co-CEO of private equity giant The Carlyle Group. Glenn Youngkin gained tremendous ground in the polls as the election season progressed. According to FiveThirtyEight.com, the race was McAuliffe's to lose in August, as he held a 7.9% advantage in polling. As of October 29th, the majority of polls conducted showed the race was a statistical dead heat, with one poll showing Youngkin with an eight point lead.

With margins as close as they were this year, the inclusion of a third-party candidate could have determined the outcome of the race. Princess Blanding, the Liberation Party candidate, didn't receive a fraction of the media attention the major party candidates have enjoyed, but her inclusion on the ballot could have swung the election to the GOP. In polling with all three candidates listed, Princess Blanding had been polling at 2%. Although the chances of a Blanding win were extremely unlikely, the margin of victory between McAuliffe and Youngkin was expected to land between 1-2%. If Blanding eroded any of McAuliffe's progressive support, the Liberation candidate could have spoiled the Democrats' electoral chances. Ironically, McAuliffe has a third-party candidate to thank for his 2014 gubernatorial win. Libertarian Robert Sarvis, whom Republicans urged to pause his 2014 gubernatorial campaign, stormed ahead with his candidacy and won 6.5% of the electorate in the November 2013 election. Without Sarvis in the race, Ken Cuccinelli would have been the 72nd Governor of Virginia. In the end, Glenn Youngkin's extremely strong performance in rural and suburban areas won him the race, with 50.68% of the vote, to McAuliffe's 48.55% of the vote.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



Hala Ayala (D) – 49.08%



Winsome Sears (R) – 50.82%

In the historic Lieutenant Governor race, the Democrats hoped that Hala Ayala, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, could prevail over Republican nominee Winsome Sears. The Lieutenant Governor race was notable, as either candidate would become the first woman of color in the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia to hold office in the Executive Branch. Ayala, a former cybersecurity specialist with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, looked to become the potential tiebreaking vote in the Virginia Senate, which is controlled by Democrats 21-19. After all votes were tallied, Winsome Sears declared victory, with 50.82 % of the vote to Ayala's 49.08 % of the vote.

ATTORNEY GENERAL



Mark Herring (D) – 49.43%



Jason Miyares (R) – 50.49%

The Attorney General race featured incumbent Democrat Mark Herring, the 47th Attorney General of Virginia, who was looking to win a third-consecutive term as the Commonwealth's top attorney. Herring, who has held the position for the last eight years, faced Delegate Jason Miyares, who represents the 82nd district in Virginia Beach. Miyares, the first Cuban-American ever elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, makes history as the first Cuban-American to hold statewide office. Miyares has espoused tough on crime rhetoric during the campaign, which was successful in the general election.

EARLY VOTING AND TURNOUT IN VIRGINIA

One intriguing component of the 2021 Virginia gubernatorial election is the impact of early voting and same day turnout. As COVID-19 changed the patterns of daily life in many ways, including casting a vote, early voting may be a permanent fixture in the Commonwealth. In 2020, 2.687 million Virginians filled out an absentee ballot, marking a 300% increase from the last presidential election. COVID-19 had a major impact on those numbers, as people were presumably fearful of the long lines and packed voting precincts during the height of a global pandemic. In 2021, buoyed by GOTV campaigns from both parties, early voting numbers were astronomical for an off-year election. As of October 31, 1.142 million Virginians voted before election day. These figures are astonishing if you look at previous gubernatorial elections. In 2017, there were a total of 192,397 absentee ballots submitted. That's a 500% increase in absentee ballots in one election cycle.

Conventional wisdom suggests early voting and same day-turnout would normally be strengths for the Democrats. This year, the Youngkin campaign and the GOP flipped this axiom on its head. Republicans have emphasized their early voting strategy since August, and it was an extremely advantageous approach.

MONEY SPENT DURING THE ELECTION SEASON

The fundraising totals for the 2021 gubernatorial election have been mindboggling. In this election cycle, Glenn Youngkin raised a staggering \$58.8 million. That figure is more than the totals for both major party candidates *combined* in 2001, 2005, and 2009. Terry McAuliffe, notorious for his fundraising prowess, has called upon his vast network to raise over \$58.2 million during the campaign. These are astronomical numbers for a statewide campaign, illustrating how critical the gubernatorial election has become to both Democratic and Republican allies. Glenn Youngkin's vast personal wealth was a key driver in his campaign's financial viability, as Youngkin self-donated \$21.025 million to his election campaign. Terry McAuliffe's top donor, DGA Action, contributed \$6.8 million during the campaign.

As has been the case for the last several election cycles, Virginia candidates have received massive campaign contributions from national political action committees, out of state contributors, and businesses.

According to information provided by the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP), the amount spent in the 2021 House of Delegates races have stabilized, as 2019 saw a dramatic increase in spending from the previous years. On October 29, spending in 2021 for all House races was \$67.05 million, slightly down from \$68.06 million in 2019. [House: Historic Trends \(vpap.org\)](https://vpap.org) Democrats have dominated in fundraising in this election cycle, totaling \$50.8 million, with Republicans raising \$20.3 million. Wendy Gooditis has raised a staggering \$2.8 million during this cycle, doubling the fundraising haul of the highest Republican on the list, her opponent in District 10, Nick Clemente.

Campaign spending has been a topic of intense debate in Virginia, as the out-of-state donations from mega PAC's have continued to flow in the new decade. Conventional wisdom suggests that PACs tend to enter statewide races at the end of each decade to influence redistricting maps. Due to the change in the redistricting process in Virginia, the excess out-of-state spending was expected to

decrease in this election cycle. The fact that the spending has remained high reaffirms the national relevance of the Virginia legislature. Virginia has become a bellweather state.

Virginia Public Access Project a nonprofit dedicated to transparency in politics, provides visualizations of campaign donations in a user-friendly format. Williams Mullen supports VPAP's work and thanks them for the information they provide. We urge you to go to [Money \(vpap.org\)](http://Money(vpap.org)) for more information.

CONTESTED RACES

In the House of Delegates, 90 of the 100 seats were contested by a major political party, and 1 seat was challenged by a third-party candidate. This is the most competitive election season in recent memory; since 1997, there have been no less than 30 uncontested races in each cycle. In 2021, there are only nine (9) uncontested races, with only one major independent candidate (David Vaught).

COMPETITION FOR INCUMBENTS

Leading up to the election, polling suggested nine House of Delegates races (of the 91 contested races in which an incumbent was running) might be competitive. In total, five races were decided by just 3% of the total vote. Below please find a chart of those races that includes the winning candidate and his or her respective party.

After the election, seven Democratic incumbents lost their seats and Republicans picked up seven seats overall. Republicans now have the majority in the House of Delegates, 52-48.

INCUMBENT CHALLENGED HOUSE COMPETITIVE RACES

**Denotes possibility of a recount. All election results are unofficial until certified by the Virginia Department of Elections.*

Blue = Democrat Red = Republican

District	Incumbent	Challenger	Winner	Party
91*	Delegate Martha Mugler	A.C. Cordoza	A.C. Cordoza	R
63	Delegate Lashrecse Aird	Kim A. Taylor	Kim A. Taylor	R
12	Chris Hurst	Jason Ballard	Jason Ballard	R
85*	Alex Askew	Karen Greenhalgh	Karen Greenhalgh	R
83	Nancy Guy	Tim Anderson	Tim Anderson	R
28	Joshua Cole	Tara Durant	Tara Durant	R
51	Rodney Willett	Mary Margaret Kastelberg	Rodney Willett	D
72	Schuyler VanValkenberg	Christopher Holmes	Schuyler VanValkenberg	D
75	Rosalyn Tyler	Otto Wachsmann	Otto Wachsmann	R

OPEN SEATS

Of the 10 seats in the House of Delegates in which the incumbent was not seeking re-election due to retirement (8) or a primary loss (2), five had been Republican controlled and all five continue to be Republican seats. Of the six open seats that Democrats held, Democrats retained all six seats. In all, Republicans now control the Virginia House of Delegates, with a 52-48 split.

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HOUSE OF DELEGATES OPEN SEATS DUE TO RETIREMENT OR PRIMARY LOSS

District	Member not Returning	Republican	Democrat	Winner	Party
7	Delegate Nick Rush	Marie E. March	Derek W. Kitts	Marie E. March	R
9	Delegate Charles Poindexter	Wren M. Williams	Bridgette N. Craighead	Wren M. Williams	R
45	Delegate Mark Levine	Justin D. "J.D." Maddox	Elizabeth B. Bennett-Parker	Elizabeth B. Bennett-Parker	D
50	Delegate Lee Carter	Steve T. "Dr. Steve" Pleickhardt	Michelle E. Lopes-Maldonado	Michelle E. Lopes-Maldonado	D
51	Delegate Hala Ayala	Tim D. Cox	Briana D. Sewell	Briana D. Sewell	D
66	Speaker Kirk Cox	Mike A. Cherry	Katie A. Sponsler	Mike A. Cherry	R
79	Delegate Steve Heretick	Lawrence J. Mason	Nadarius E. Clark	Nadarius E. Clark	D
82	Delegate Jason Miyares	Anne Ferrell Tata	Scott J. Flax	Anne Ferrell Tata	R
86	Delegate Ibraheem Samirah	Julie Anna Perry	Irene Shin	Irene Shin	D
88	Delegate Mark Cole	Phillip A. "Phil" Scott	Kecia S. Evans	Phillip A. "Phil" Scott	R

UNCONTESTED RACES

In the House of Delegates, nine seats were uncontested. Eight unchallenged incumbent Republicans were re-elected, and one unchallenged Democrat was re-elected (Charniele Herring).

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Red = Republican Blue = Democrat Purple= Other third party

ALL HOUSE OF DELEGATES ELECTION RESULTS			
HOD District	Incumbent	Challenger	
1	Delegate Terry Kilgore	Unopposed	Delegate Terry Kilgore
2	Delegate Candi P. M. King	Gina R. Ciarcia	Delegate Candi P. M. King
3	Delegate Will Morefield	Unopposed	Delegate Will Morefield
4	Delegate Will Wampler	Unopposed	Delegate Will Wampler
5	Delegate Israel O'Quinn	Unopposed	Delegate Israel O'Quinn
6	Delegate Jeff Campbell	Unopposed	Delegate Jeff Campbell
7	Open Seat	Derek W. Kitts Marie E. March	Marie E. March
8	Delegate Joe McNamara	Dustin M. Wimbish	Delegate Joe McNamara
9	Open Seat	Bridgette N. Craighead Wren M. Williams	Wren M. Williams
10	Delegate Wendy Gooditis	Nicholas S. "Nick" Clemente	Delegate Wendy Gooditis
11	Delegate Sam Rasoul	Charlie H. Nave	Delegate Sam Rasoul
12	Delegate Chris Hurst	Jason S. Ballard	Jason S. Ballard
13	Delegate Danica Roem	Christopher M. Stone	Delegate Danica Roem
14	Delegate Danny Marshall	S. M. "Rhett" Deitz	Delegate Danny Marshall
15	Delegate Todd Gilbert	Emily G. Scott	Delegate Todd Gilbert
16	Delegate Les Adams	Chance B. Trevillian	Delegate Les Adams

ALL HOUSE OF DELEGATES ELECTION RESULTS

HOD District	Incumbent	Challenger	
17	Delegate Christopher Head	Unopposed	Delegate Christopher Head
18	Delegate Michael Webert	Douglas J. Ward	Delegate Michael Webert
19	Delegate Terry Austin	Wendy S. Rowden Dean D. Davison	Delegate Terry Austin
20	Delegate John Avoli	Randall K. Wolf	Delegate John Avoli
21	Delegate Kelly Fowler	Tanya M. Gould	Delegate Kelly Fowler
22	Delegate Kathy Byron	Gregory K. "Greg" Eaton Sarah R. Jerose	Delegate Kathy Byron
23	Delegate Wendell Walker	Natalie A. Short	Delegate Wendell Walker
24	Delegate Ronnie Campbell	Sam R. Soghor	Delegate Ronnie Campbell
25	Delegate Chris Runion	Jennifer Kitchen	Delegate Chris Runion
26	Delegate Tony Wilt	William W. "Bill" Helsley	Delegate Tony Wilt
27	Delegate Roxann Robinson	Debra D. Gardner	Delegate Roxann Robinson
28	Delegate Joshua Cole	Tara A. Durant	Tara A. Durant
29	Delegate William D. "Bill" Wiley	Delmara F. "Deetzie" Bayliss	Delegate William D. "Bill" Wiley
30	Delegate Nick Freitas	Annette H. Hyde	Delegate Nick Freitas
31	Delegate Elizabeth Guzman	Benjamin W. "Ben" Baldwin	Delegate Elizabeth Guzman
32	Delegate David Reid	H. Scott Pio Nick M. Allegro	Delegate David Reid
33	Open Seat	Paul W. Siker Dave A. LaRock	Delegate Dave A. LaRock
34	Delegate Kathleen Murphy	Gary Pan	Delegate Kathleen Murphy
35	Delegate Mark Keam	Kevin E. McGrath	Delegate Mark Keam
36	Delegate Ken Plum	Matthew J. Lang	Delegate Ken Plum

ALL HOUSE OF DELEGATES ELECTION RESULTS

HOD District	Incumbent	Challenger	
37	Delegate David Bulova	Kenny W. Meteiver	Delegate David Bulova
38	Delegate Kaye Kory	Tom L. Pafford	Delegate Kaye Kory
39	Delegate Vivian Watts	Maureen T. Brody	Delegate Vivian Watts
40	Delegate Dan Helmer	Harold Y. Pyon	Delegate Dan Helmer
41	Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn	John Michael Wolfe	Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn
42	Delegate Kathy Tran	Edward F. McGovern	Delegate Kathy Tran
43	Delegate Mark Sickles	Brenton H. Hammond	Delegate Mark Sickles
44	Delegate Paul Krizek	Richard T. Hayden	Delegate Paul Krizek
45	Open Seat	Elizabeth B. Bennett-Parker Justin D. "J.D." Maddox	Elizabeth B. Bennett-Parker
46	Delegate Charniele Herring	Unopposed	Delegate Charniele Herring
47	Delegate Patrick Hope	Laura A. Hall	Delegate Patrick Hope
48	Delegate Rip Sullivan	Edward William Monroe, Jr.	Delegate Rip Sullivan
49	Delegate Alfonso H. Lopez	Timothy E. Kilcullen Terry W. Modglin	Delegate Alfonso H. Lopez
50	Open Seat	Michelle E. Lopes-Maldonado Steve T. "Dr. Steve" Pleickhardt	Michelle E. Lopes-Maldonado
51	Open Seat	Briana D. Sewell Tim D. Cox	Briana D. Sewell
52	Delegate Luke Torian	Maria Eugenia Martin	Delegate Luke Torian
53	Delegate Marcus Simon	Sarah White	Delegate Marcus Simon
54	Delegate Bobby Orrock	Eric M. Butterworth	Delegate Bobby Orrock
55	Delegate Buddy Fowler	Rachel A. Levy	Delegate Buddy Fowler

ALL HOUSE OF DELEGATES ELECTION RESULTS			
HOD District	Incumbent	Challenger	
56	Delegate John McGuire	Blakely K. Lockhart	Delegate John McGuire
57	Delegate Sally Hudson	Philip Andrew Hamilton	Delegate Sally Hudson
58	Delegate Rob Bell	Sara H. Ratcliffe	Delegate Rob Bell
59	Delegate Matt Farriss	Benjamin A. Moses Louis V. Scicli	Delegate Matt Farriss
60	Delegate James Edmunds	Unopposed	Delegate James Edmunds
61	Delegate Thomas Wright	Trudy Bell Berry Joe J. "Joey" Paschal	Delegate Thomas Wright
62	Delegate Carrie Coyner	Jasmine E. Gore	Delegate Carrie Coyner
63	Delegate Lashrecse Aird	Kim A. Taylor	Kim A. Taylor
64	Delegate Emily Brewer	Michael H. Drewry	Delegate Emily Brewer
65	Delegate Lee Ware	Caitlin A. Coakley	Delegate Lee Ware
66	Open Seat	Katie A. Sponsler Mike A. Cherry	Mike A. Cherry
67	Delegate Karrie Delaney	Bob L. Frizzelle	Delegate Karrie Delaney
68	Delegate Dawn Adams	Mark L. Earley Jr.	Delegate Dawn Adams
69	Delegate Betsy Carr	Sheila M. Furey	Delegate Betsy Carr
70	Delegate Delores McQuinn	David B. Vaught	Delegate Delores McQuinn
71	Delegate Jeff Bourne	Nancye A. Hunter	Delegate Jeff Bourne
72	Delegate Schulyer VanValkenberg	Christopher T. Holmes	Delegate Schulyer VanValkenberg
73	Delegate Rodney Willett	Mary Margaret Kastleberg	Delegate Rodney Willett
74	Delegate Lamont Bagby	James L. "Jimmy" Brooks	Delegate Lamont Bagby
75	Delegate Roslyn Tyler	Otto Waschmann	Otto Waschmann

ALL HOUSE OF DELEGATES ELECTION RESULTS

HOD District	Incumbent	Challenger	
76	Delegate Clinton Jenkins	Michael J. Dillender, Sr. Craig L. Warren	Delegate Clinton Jenkins
77	Delegate Cliff Hayes	Geoffrey R. Burke	Delegate Cliff Hayes
78	Delegate Jay Leftwich	Melanie L. Cornelisse	Delegate Jay Leftwich
79	Open Seat	Nadarius E. Clark Lawrence J. Mason	Nadarius E. Clark
80	Delegate Don Scott	Deanna R. Stanton	Delegate Don Scott
81	Delegate Barry Knight	Jeffrey A. "Doc" Feld	Delegate Barry Knight
82	Open Seat	Scott J. Flax Anne Ferrell Tata	Anne Ferrell Tata
83	Delegate Nancy Guy	Timothy V. Anderson	Timothy V. Anderson
84	Delegate Glenn Davis	Kimberly A. Melnyk	Delegate Glenn Davis
85*	Delegate Alex Askew	Karen S. Greenhalgh	Karen S. Greenhalgh
86	Open Seat	Irene Shin Julie Anna Perry	Irene Shin
87	Delegate Suhas Subramanyam	Gregory J. Moulthrop	Delegate Suhas Subramanyam
88	Open Seat	Kecia S. Evans Phillip A. "Phil" Scott Timothy M. Lewis	Phillip A. "Phil" Scott
89	Delegate Jay Jones	Hahns L. Copeland	Delegate Jay Jones
90	Delegate Angelia Williams Graves	Sylvia M. Bryant	Delegate Angelia Williams Graves
91*	Delegate Martha Mugler	A. C. Cordoza Charles T. West IV	A. C. Cordoza
92	Delegate Jeion Ward	Benjamin J. Siff	Delegate Jeion Ward
93	Delegate Mike Mullin	Jordan M. Gray	Delegate Mike Mullin
94	Delegate Shelley Simonds	C. Russ Harper	Delegate Shelley Simonds
95	Delegate Marcia Price	David G. Wilson	Delegate Marcia Price

ALL HOUSE OF DELEGATES ELECTION RESULTS

HOD District	Incumbent	Challenger	
96	Delegate Amanda Batten	Mark Downey	Delegate Amanda Batten
97	Delegate Scott Wyatt	R. Stanton "Stan" Scott	Delegate Scott Wyatt
98	Delegate M. Keith Hodges	Ella Webster	Delegate M. Keith Hodges
99	Delegate Margaret Ransone	Linwood T. Blizzard II	Delegate Margaret Ransone
100	Delegate Rob Bloxom	Finale M. Norton	Delegate Rob Bloxom

Virginia State Government Relations Team



Hon. David B. Albo
Partner
703.760.5210
dalbo@williamsmullen.com



Patrick A. Cushing
Partner
804.420.6541
pcushing@williamsmullen.com



Mathew M. Cobb
Partner
804.420.6390
mcobb@williamsmullen.com



Hon. Patrick O. Gottschalk
Partner
804.420.6425
pgottschalk@williamsmullen.com



Nicole Pugar Lawter
Director of Government Relations*
703.760.5241 | 804.420.6437
nlawter@williamsmullen.com



Carter T. Whitelow
Government Relations Specialist*
804.420.6302
cwhitelow@williamsmullen.com

* Non-attorney