



# 2023 NoVA PRIMARY JEWISH VOTER'S GUIDE



Dear Members of the Northern Virginia Jewish Community:

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) and the Washington Jewish Week (WJW) have teamed up to offer you this 2023 Virginia Jewish Primary Voter's Guide. This year's election will be based on new legislative districts approved by the Virginia Supreme Court on December 28, 2021. This Guide will provide the information you need to be an informed voter. You can use the links below to determine which district is yours, which candidates are running for their party's nomination, and where and how you can cast your ballot. Get started at [Who's My Legislator?](#) from the Virginia General Assembly to find your current legislators and your legislative district designations.

Once you know which district is yours, you can look for the corresponding candidate statements in these pages. We have collected statements only from candidates facing contested primaries. Some districts have only one candidate seeking the party nomination, and those candidates are not included here. The statements in this Voter's Guide were compiled by inviting each candidate in a contested race for their party's nomination to provide a photograph, a link to their campaign website, and a 300-word statement to the Jewish Community. We have provided the responses (in full) for each candidate who replied and a link to the public website for each candidate who did not. Contested primaries in our region include the Democratic primaries in Senate districts 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, and 40, and House of Delegates districts 2, 7, 15, 19, and 26, and Republican primaries in Senate districts 29 and 30 and House of Delegates District 21.

Election Day in Virginia is Tuesday, June 20, 2023. In-person early voting is open between May 5 and June 17 at [local voter registration offices](#). Check the [Virginia Department of Elections website](#) to register to vote or check your registration status, to find your polling place, and to apply to receive an absentee ballot. Other statewide resources can be found here:

[Who's My Legislator?](#)

[Voting on Election Day](#)

[Absentee and Early Voting](#)

[Accessible Voting](#)

[Election Calendar](#)

**Resources to specific localities can be found below:**

**Alexandria City: ([alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov))**

[Voter Registration & Elections | City of Alexandria, VA](#)  
[Voting Resources Viewer | City of Alexandria, VA](#)  
[Key Absentee Voting Dates & Deadlines | City of Alexandria, VA](#)  
[Voter Services for Persons with Disabilities | City of Alexandria, VA](#)

**Arlington County: ([arlingtonva.gov](http://arlingtonva.gov))**

[Home – Arlington County VA Voting and Elections](#)  
[Polling Places – Arlington County VA Voting and Elections](#)  
[Early Voting – Arlington County VA Voting and Elections](#)  
[Vote by Mail – Arlington County VA Voting and Elections](#)  
[Disability Services – Arlington County VA Voting and Elections](#)

**Fairfax City: ([fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov))**

[City Polling Locations | City of Fairfax, VA](#)

**Fairfax County: ([fairfaxcounty.gov](http://fairfaxcounty.gov))**

[Office of Elections | Elections](#)  
[In-Person Early Voting | Elections](#)  
[Vote by Mail | Elections](#)  
[Disability Services and Elections | Elections](#)  
[Frequently Asked Questions | Elections](#)

**Falls Church City Resources: ([fallschurchva.gov](http://fallschurchva.gov))**

[Voter Registration & Elections Office | Falls Church, VA - Official Website](#)  
[Polling Locations | Falls Church, VA - Official Website](#)  
[Early Voting | Falls Church, VA - Official Website](#)

**Loudoun County: ([loudoun.gov](http://loudoun.gov))**

[Elections & Voter Registration | Loudoun County, VA - Official Website](#)  
[Find Your Polling Place | Loudoun County, VA - Official Website](#)  
[Vote on Election Day Information | Loudoun County, VA - Official Website](#)  
[Early Voting Information | Loudoun County, VA - Official Website](#)  
[Vote at Home Information | Loudoun County, VA - Official Website](#)  
[My Elected Representatives, Loudoun County, VA](#)

**Manassas City Resources: ([manassasva.gov](http://manassasva.gov))**

[Elections Manassas, Virginia](#)  
[Polling Places](#)  
[Vote by Mail](#)  
[Early Voting](#)  
[Ballot Drop Box Manassas, Virginia](#)

**Prince William County Resources: ([pwcva.gov](http://pwcva.gov))**

[Office of Elections](#)

**We hope this resource is a valuable tool to facilitate your participation in our democratic process.**

**For additional information, contact Vicki Fishman at the JCRC at [vfishman@jcouncil.org](mailto:vfishman@jcouncil.org).**

# NoVA Voter's Guide

## Senate District 29

### Democratic Primary Candidates:

#### Elizabeth Guzman

[elizabethguzmanforvirginia.com](http://elizabethguzmanforvirginia.com)



Delegate Elizabeth Guzman has taken on the toughest fights in Virginia's House of Delegates and delivered big legislative wins for our Democratic values. She is ready to take that fight to the Virginia Senate, where she would be the first ever Latina elected to the chamber. Guzman came to this country from Peru for the promise of an education and raised all four of her children in public schools. As Vice-Chair of the House Education Committee,

Guzman championed historic investments in funding our schools, including raising teacher pay. She was named Legislator of the Year by the Virginia Education Association for her dedication to our schools and teachers, including giving our teachers a voice on the job through her historic law that lifted Virginia's ban on public sector collective bargaining.

Guzman believes our children have a right to be safe at school, which is why she voted to ban military-style assault weapons and introduced legislation to expand a "See Something, Say Something" anonymous tip line for public school students to report the presence of weapons and threats of harm.

Guzman was born less than a month after Roe v. Wade was decided in a country where abortion is illegal. She became pregnant as a teenager, and although she wanted her baby, those years were hard and she would never take that choice away from another woman. This year, she was one of three women in the House of Delegates to serve as a lead patron on a Constitutional amendment to protect our reproductive freedom.

Guzman has taken on the toughest fights for marginalized communities and stands with the Jewish community in their fight against anti-Semitism. She recently gave a speech on the Floor of the House of Delegates on Holocaust Remembrance Day that can be viewed at [bit.ly/HolocaustRemembranceDayFloor](http://bit.ly/HolocaustRemembranceDayFloor)

#### Jeremy McPike (incumbent)

[mcpike4va.com](http://mcpike4va.com)



During my previous two terms in office, I have worked tirelessly to address the issues that matter most to Virginians, including healthcare, education, public safety, and infrastructure. I have successfully sponsored and passed bills that help expand healthcare access for Virginians, increase funding for schools, protect our families and communities from gun violence, and improve our roads, bridges, and transportation infrastructure.

In addition to these accomplishments, I have been a strong advocate for small businesses and economic growth, working to create jobs, promote tourism, and support small businesses. I believe that Virginia has a bright future, and by continuing to prioritize economic development, we can build a better, stronger Commonwealth for all.

I will continue to fight for the issues that matter most to our community, including affordable healthcare, quality education, public safety, and infrastructure improvements. I will work to create policies that promote economic growth, support small businesses, and create jobs for our citizens.

I am committed to transparency and accountability in government and will continue to remain accessible to my constituents, listening to their concerns and working to address their needs. I've served in the minority as well as the majority in the state senate and have one of the

most effective records from both parties in solving our kitchen table issues for working class families. Please reach out to me or my team if we can answer any questions that you may have.

It's an honor and privilege to serve the 29th district and the Commonwealth of Virginia. I hope to earn your vote for re-election and be able to continue to serve you.

Thank you.

### Republican Primary Candidates:

#### Nikki Baldwin

[nikkibaldwin.com](http://nikkibaldwin.com)

#### Maria Martin

[mmartin4virginia.com](http://mmartin4virginia.com)

## Senate District 30

### Republican Primary Candidates:

#### Robert Ruffolo

[voteruffolo.com](http://voteruffolo.com)

#### William Carroll Woolf III

[woolf4va.com](http://woolf4va.com)

## Senate District 31

### Democratic Primary Candidates:

#### Zach Cummings

[zachcummings.com](http://zachcummings.com)



Zach Cummings was elected to the Leesburg Town Council in 2020, and quickly got to work by spearheading small business grants to help local businesses successfully navigate through COVID-19. During his current tenure, he has led the effort to streamline citizen and small business interaction with the town government. Zach works to hold the line against attempts to raise taxes.

As an elected official, Zach has worked with members of both political parties to do what's right for Leesburg and Virginia. As State Senator, Zach will fight to deliver for Loudoun and Fauquier Counties. The 31st State Senate District contains people from many different walks of life, backgrounds, and beliefs and Zach will fight for everyone equally. Zach knows that the strength of our community lies in its people. Zach is a champion for working families, and he is committed to fighting for policies that promote economic growth, job creation, and financial security for all Virginians. He is also a staunch advocate for expanding access to healthcare, protecting our environment, and investing in education.

Zach will always stand up for the protection of every Virginian. He trusts women to make their own decisions when it comes to their reproductive health. As a state senator, he will vote to codify abortion rights in Virginia. Zach won't back down from attacks on an individual's right to vote, marry whomever they love, and to secure full equality for all under the law.

As a State Senator, Zach will bring his years of experience and deep commitment to his community to the legislature, where he will work tirelessly to promote policies that will improve the lives of all Virginians. With his passion, dedication, and proven track record of leadership, Zach is the right choice for Virginia State Senate.

#### Russet W. Perry

[russetperry.com](http://russetperry.com)



Russet Perry has lived in Loudoun County for over a decade. After graduating Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa with two degrees from The George Washington University, Russet took her first job in Loudoun, working full time to fund her schooling at the Georgetown University Law Center. There, Russet focused on issues related to advocacy, criminal justice, women, and minorities - ultimately securing a spot in the Georgetown

Law Domestic Violence Clinic.

Russet has continued to dedicate her life to public service. As a prosecutor in the Loudoun County Commonwealth's Attorney office, Russet successfully prosecuted all manner of charges, including domestic assault, rape, child abuse, and murder.

Russet also served as a CIA Officer, working alongside people of various ideologies for a higher cause: protecting American citizens and our democracy.

As a child, Russet's family struggled financially. Her father was a public school teacher, and her mother returned to school after surviving Stage IV breast cancer. The struggles she encountered made her passionate about issues surrounding cost of living, working families, access to affordable health care, and fully funding our public schools.

Now, Russet is running for State Senate to continue her advocacy for the 31st District and all Virginians. Growing up, Russet had to be an advocate for herself to survive and succeed, and now she has the privilege to advocate for others. She fought for democracy and for every citizen of this country at the CIA. She fought for victims of domestic violence, child abuse, and gun violence, and for the safety of our community as a prosecutor. Now, she is going to fight for us in Richmond as our next State Senator. She will fight for our right to an abortion, fight to fund our public schools, and continue to fight against gun violence in our communities.

## Senate District 32

### Democratic Primary Candidates:

#### Ibraheem Samirah

[samirahforstatesenate.com](http://samirahforstatesenate.com)



Growing up in the Chicago suburbs as an Afro-Arab Palestinian, I enjoyed a typical American childhood that completely changed in middle school, when my father traveled to Jordan to care for his ailing mother, and was denied re-entry to the U.S. by the Bush Administration. My family uprooted and relocated to stay together and fight for my father's reinstatement. It took eleven years, but we won. That experience taught me that while

the American dream is real, our country's entrenched prejudice can take it away at any moment. I worked hard in school so I could one day return to the country I loved. I graduated from American University, where though Muslim, I was a member of the historically Jewish fraternity, Sigma Alpha Mu, because I was attracted by the chapter's progressive values and respect for diversity. Afterwards, I went on to Boston University for dental school. In 2019, I was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates as a representative of Loudoun County. For three years, I tried to drive our country towards the promise of what America can be in order to address our country's injustices so that nobody else's American dream can be stolen and

pushed out of reach. I took on MAGA Republicans, confronted Donald Trump, fought corruption, and championed a progressive vision that would create better, more cohesive schools, high-quality jobs, lower costs, enshrine healthcare as a human right, and fight the climate crisis that threatens the future of our planet. Today, I'm a small business owner working to build out of the pandemic through my dental practice, helping everyday Loudouners become healthier with more opportunities to succeed. I'm running for State Senate because we need a Virginian Green New Deal, state-level Medicare for All, and quality, affordable housing for all.

## Suhas Subramanyam

[suhasforvirginia.com](http://suhasforvirginia.com)



I'm a husband, father of two girls, and small business owner who lives in Eastern Loudoun and has delivered for Virginia. As a Delegate, I won huge victories for Loudoun on everything from protecting democracy and fighting extremism to toll prices and improving our schools. I also introduced legislation to combat hate crimes and hate graffiti. I serve the community as a Member of the Virginia Small Business Commission, as a

volunteer EMT, and as a member of the Loudoun Health Council. I was a tech advisor in the Obama White House and fought for veterans, seniors, and criminal justice reform as an advisor on Capitol Hill. My wife and I live in Ashburn, and my daughter attends a Jewish preschool in Leesburg.

## Senate District 33

**Democratic Primary Candidates:**

### Hala Ayala

[halaforstatesenate.com](http://halaforstatesenate.com)



Hala understands the stress Virginia families are facing right now, because she's lived it. Growing up, Hala's family was on the knife's edge, struggling to make ends meet. When her first child was born, she worked at a gas station and had no health insurance. The Medicaid program saved her life and her son's. With just a few college credits and a government certification training, Hala went on to build a career as a single working mom, serving as a

cybersecurity specialist with the Department of Homeland Security for over 20 years. Hala has a track record of delivering for Virginia families. Inspired by the 2017 Women's March, Hala ran for House District 51 in Prince William County and won against a four-term Republican incumbent. During her two terms in Richmond, she made good on what she promised, working with both parties to lead the effort to expand Medicaid for more than 500,000 Virginians, stand up to attacks on reproductive healthcare, and — as someone who lost her father to gun violence when she was just two years old — strengthen background checks to keep guns out of dangerous hands. In 2021, Hala became the first woman of color nominated by the Democratic Party for statewide office, earning the most votes for a Democratic Lieutenant Governor candidate in history. Hala is focused on getting the Commonwealth moving forward once again for families in Prince William and Fairfax Counties. From a strong education for Virginia's kids, to quality affordable healthcare, to a

transportation system that works for each community, she will deliver for Virginia. In the State Senate, Hala will be focused on bringing down costs, investing in communities, and growing good-paying jobs so all families can thrive.

## Jennifer Carroll Foy

[jennifercarrollfoy.com](http://jennifercarrollfoy.com)



Jennifer Carroll Foy is ready to lead because she's shown she can get the job done. A public defender and one of the first Black women to graduate from Virginia Military Institute, Jennifer became one of the most effective legislators in Virginia's General Assembly, leading the fight to expand Medicaid, clean up toxic coal ash ponds, and raise the minimum wage. Serving as a foster parent and public defender, Jennifer knows the tough choices

working families face every day—whether figuring out how to afford the increasing costs of living in Prince William and Fairfax counties or navigating our sometimes unforgiving court system—because she has lived them. From Jennifer's first day as a Delegate in Virginia's General Assembly she was a progressive champion opposing MAGA Republicans' agenda and antisemitism, and now we need her to continue fighting for these values and priorities in the state senate. Jennifer is running for state senate to pass a pro-labor and pro-environment agenda that puts Virginia families first. That's why she is the only candidate in this race endorsed by labor unions and local school board members.

## Senate District 35

**Democratic Primary Candidates:**

### Heidi Drauschak

[heidiforvirginia.com](http://heidiforvirginia.com)



My name is Heidi Drauschak, and I am running to be the next State Senator in Virginia's 35th District. I previously served in federal politics in the Obama White House, where I witnessed the potential for government to make a positive impact on people's lives. After completing my law degree and MBA at the University of Richmond, I shifted my focus to state politics and worked with various non-profit organizations,

including one I founded to combat government corruption, reform campaign finance laws in Virginia, and increase citizen access to the legislative process.

As I spent the last five years advocating for campaign finance reforms, I kept hearing the phrases "too much," "too soon," and "too fast." I quickly realized that it's not just campaign finance reforms that were being watered down or blocked in our state legislature. It was also bills on workers' rights, gun safety, environmental issues, criminal justice reform and women's reproductive rights. I am committed to bringing bold and decisive leadership to the Virginia Senate to advance a progressive agenda for the next generation.

On a personal level, I reside in Springfield with my husband, Sam, and our two dogs and cat. Our first child, a son, is due in May, making issues such as paid family and medical leave and public school funding particularly important to me. I am thrilled about the opportunity to serve in the Virginia Senate and help create a community where my

son can grow up proud to be a part of. I would be honored to receive your vote in the Democratic Primary on June 20th.

## Dave Marsden (incumbent)

[marsdenforsenate.com](http://marsdenforsenate.com)



Thank you to the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington and the Washington Jewish Week for putting this voter guide together. I am proud to have been recently awarded the Legislative Climate Champion by the League of Conservation Voters, and I remain committed to protecting our environment. In the General Assembly, I have successfully passed more than 100 bills, and I will continue defending abortion rights

and voting rights, and curbing gun violence. I am thankful to 56th Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn for endorsing my re-election campaign, as well as our members of Congress; Gerry Connolly, Don Beyer, and Jennifer Wexton, and so many others for the continued support. You can learn more about my re-election campaign at [www.marsdenforsenate.com](http://www.marsdenforsenate.com)

## Senate District 36

**Democratic Primary Candidates:**

### George Barker (incumbent)

[senbarker.com](http://senbarker.com)



I am finishing my fourth term in the Senate and eager for a fifth. I have become a leader in the Senate and am knowledgeable about nearly every issue we deal with in the Senate. I often answer questions from other Democratic Senators on issues that we are facing. I plan to continue doing what has made me successful.

I am an effective Senator, getting a high percentage of my bills and budget proposals enacted into law, even when challenging.

Many advocates and lobbyists ask me to carry their bills or budget initiatives. I also work with other legislators to make my bills and budget objectives better.

As Co-Chair of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee, I have been able to take the lead in building budgets in recent years. I am fully involved in the budget again this year and look forward to continuing to be a fiscal leader in the General Assembly for years to come as Co-Chair or Chair of the Senate Committee on these issues.

As Co-Chair, I was instrumental of putting together the Senate budget this year. We had four priorities:

1. Substantially increasing funding for elementary and secondary public education by about \$650 million dollars for Fiscal Year 2024. This included providing the full State share of education support, with \$270 million to eliminate the education support cap that has taken money from local governments and school systems as well as meeting many specific needs.
2. Increasing support for higher education, with close to an additional \$300 million for public colleges and universities, with funds for reducing in-state tuition for families and increasing need based scholarships.
3. Adding about \$250 million to address the mental health needs of Virginians.
4. Continuing to increase salaries for public safety personnel.



## Stella Pekarsky

[stellapekarsky.com](http://stellapekarsky.com)



I'm a mother of six kids, a former teacher, a first-generation immigrant, and a small business owner, and I currently serve on the Fairfax County School Board. I'm running to protect our rights and fight for schools and working families in our community.

Growing up in a working-class family, a strong public education was my gateway to opportunity. That's why I became an ESOL teacher and why I ran for school board, where I passed collective bargaining and led a successful lawsuit against Gov. Youngkin's attempt to strip local control from our schools while in office. I also passed a religiously inclusive school calendar to acknowledge the diverse religious observances of multiple faiths. In the State Senate, I'll keep defending public education, fight attempts to ban books, and work to increase teacher and staff pay.

At a time when the dangerous currents of racism, homophobia, and antisemitism are on the rise, we need to do more to support the working-class and most marginalized members of our society. In Richmond, I'll work to expand workers' rights, voting rights, and protections against discrimination and hate crimes. As a small business owner, I know we need an economy that works for everyone, not just the big corporations. I'm not accepting special interest contributions, so that I can fight for better pay and lower bills for working families.

My husband (a Jewish refugee from Russia) and I have six kids. That's why I'm 100% pro-choice, and why I support gun violence prevention measures like background checks and an assault weapons ban.

In the end, I'm running for State Senate to secure a better future for the next generation in our community. Check out my website ([StellaPekarsky.com](http://StellaPekarsky.com)) and social media (@Stella4Senate) to learn more, and I hope I can earn your vote in June.

## Senate District 37

**Democratic Primary Candidates:**

### Chap Petersen (incumbent)

[fairfaxsenator.com](http://fairfaxsenator.com)



For the past 16 years, I've been honored to represent Northern Virginia.

I grew up in Fairfax City and attended Fairfax High School. After graduating from UVA law school, I entered private practice and have represented thousands of local citizens and businesses. I live in Fairfax City, with my wife, Sharon Kim Petersen, and our four children. In 2017, Sharon and I established our own law firm, which we have grown to 14 employees, representing many languages and backgrounds. As a small-business owner, I am proud our focus is on small-business representation. I watched my parents serve the Fairfax community. In 1998, I followed that path when the voters elected me to the Fairfax City Council. In 2001, I won a seat in the House of Delegates, defeating a Republican incumbent. In 2007, I defeated another Republican incumbent and won a seat in the State Senate. In all those races, I went "door to door" to meet the voters – a tradition I continue to this day.

I've done a lot as a Senator:

Led the successful fight in 2021 to reopen K-12 public schools for in-person instruction, thereby ending a year of "learning loss" for kids and lifting an enormous burden on all parents.

Cast the deciding vote on key Democratic bills in 2020-2021, including historic advances in labor rights, voting rights, and criminal justice reform – then served as part of the "blue wall" that defeated Republican efforts to roll back those laws.

Protected small businesses during the pandemic by sponsoring bills on targeted tax relief while successfully fighting to reopen state agencies like DMV for in-person service.

I am proud of my record. I bring a perspective as a father, husband, and small-business owner to my service as a Senator. My only boss is you. I hope to earn your support.

## Saddam Salim

[salimforsenate.com](http://salimforsenate.com)



I am running for the new 37th District State Senate seat in Virginia. I came to this country from Bangladesh when I was a child after fleeing drought and floods. When we arrived, we became homeless and my mother nearly died when a serious reproductive issue threatened her life. The policies that Democrats support - affordable housing, reproductive rights, public education - were what saved us. Fairfax County invested in us and I stayed here in my community to pay that back through public service.

As a candidate, I'm running on passing gun violence prevention laws, protecting reproductive rights and our LGBTQIA+ community, fighting for the needs of working families, fully funding our public schools and working to create a clean energy plan for Virginia.

My opponent has been a conservative voice in the Senate, especially on gun violence prevention, reproductive rights, workers' rights and the needs of LGBTQIA+ Virginians. I think we can and must do better. The time is now to elect leaders who will vote for an assault weapons ban, secure storage laws, eliminating loopholes for domestic abusers, longer waiting periods and stricter gun registration.

I am a financial analyst in the Falls Church area who has also served as the Co-Chair of South Asians for America, Finance Chair for the Fairfax County Democratic Committee, and a co-founder of the API and Black Caucus on that committee. I also currently serve as Vice Chair of the 8th Congressional District Democratic Committee and Vice President of Fairfax Young Democrats.

I want to thank the Northern Virginia Jewish community for its consideration of my candidacy and I look forward to meeting many of you on the campaign trail and talking about the issues that matter to you. I hope I can count on your vote.

## Senate District 40

**Democratic Primary Candidates:**

### James A DeVita

[devitaforstatesenate.com](http://devitaforstatesenate.com)



The events which occurred on January 6, 2021, and the threat to our democracy posed by Donald Trump and other extremists have spurred me to take action and to try to make a difference by running for the Virginia State Senate in Arlington, Virginia. I have been a trial lawyer for 40 years and I currently represent 7 Black Lives Matter protesters who were protesting in front of the White House shortly after George Floyd was killed. I want to

see if we can pass legislation to get: 1) free daycare for low income families, 2) tax credits for the purchase of electric vehicles and installation of solar power; and 3) expanded benefits for people who are hungry and/or homeless. I am a strong supporter of Israel. I have also been greatly upset by anti-Semitism in the United States and attacks on Jewish people in the United States and I want to do whatever I can to stop this behavior. Please take a look at my website [www.devitaforstatesenate.com](http://www.devitaforstatesenate.com) to see my views on the issues in greater detail.

### Barbara Favola (incumbent)

[barbarafavola.org](http://barbarafavola.org)



I am running for re-election to create a Virginia where everyone is welcome, treated with respect and given the opportunity to thrive. This means that our LGBTQ+ Virginians and Virginians of color receive the privileges and protections accorded to us all. I will always fight to protect the right to religious practice in a safe environment and to speak out. The most impactful way of influencing the system is by voting and I am a

strong advocate for improving access to voting. As chair of the Senate Women's Healthcare Caucus, I am an unwavering supporter of personal privacy in health care decisions. I believe the decision to have an abortion should be made between a woman and her doctor, without government interference. Access to abortion care as defined

by Roe should be in Virginia's constitution. As Chair of the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and a member of many key committees, I will continue the progress I have made to support children and families, especially families struggling with high childcare costs, challenges associated with re-entering society after jail time and dealing with excessive debt. I passed legislation to contain medical debt payments and "No Surprise Billing", which protects patients who get out-of-network health care services. Other priorities include increasing teacher pay, supporting teachers teaching our complete history and creating a safe environment for all students, including transgender students. Additionally, I worked to fund community-based mental health services, pass gun safety measures and reverse the impacts of climate change. In 2021, I passed legislation to create the Clean Energy Plan for net zero carbon emissions by 2045 with reasonable rates and reliability. I passed legislation to remove firearms from those convicted of domestic assault. Given new district lines and the many retirements, my experience is needed more than ever. I am a pragmatic progressive who works across the aisle for legislation that makes a positive difference in the lives of Virginians. I am endorsed by Emily's List, the Virginia Education Association, the Virginia Sierra Club, groups supporting organized LABOR, and more. I ask for your vote.

## House of Delegates District 2

**Democratic Primary Candidates:**

### Adele McClure

[adeleforva.com](http://adeleforva.com)



Adele McClure is the daughter of a resilient early childhood educator and a Filipino immigrant who served in the U.S. Army. Adele was raised on Richmond Highway in Northern Virginia where she experienced poverty and periodic homelessness not far from where she currently lives in Arlington, an experience that has made her a fierce advocate for vulnerable populations. Through the lens of her community activism and her

many lived experiences, Adele has worked with advocates, stakeholders, and members of the Virginia General Assembly to draft, pass, and implement legislation that breaks down systemic barriers, expands human rights, and improves access to services for people in Arlington and across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Adele's lived experiences combined with her policy expertise and experience in the state legislative and executive branches make Adele ready to hit the ground running on the first day. She would serve as both the first Black person and the first Asian person to represent Arlington County in the Virginia General Assembly.

For the past several years, Adele has served as the Executive Director of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus (VLBC) leading the development of the VLBC's annual legislative agenda in the Virginia State Legislature in both the House and the Senate, managing the operations, communications, structure, and strategic vision of a 22-member caucus. Adele's leadership and work was nationally recognized when she was named to the 2019 Forbes 30 Under 30 List for Law & Policy and received the National Black Legislative Staff Leadership Council Top 22 of 2022 award.

Adele McClure is running to represent the needs of the people in Arlington and build upon the progress that we've made together.

### Kevin Saucedo-Broach

[kevinsaucedo.com](http://kevinsaucedo.com)



Kevin Saucedo-Broach is a fourth-generation Arlingtonian and community organizer running to represent Arlington's new 2nd District in the Virginia House of Delegates. An advocate for low-income, immigrant families like his own, he's running for a progressive vision of government centered on expanding access to mental healthcare, affordable housing, and economic opportunities to all Virginians.

A former Congressional aide and field organizer for the 2017 Northam campaign, Kevin served as Chief of Staff to Delegate Alfonso Lopez in the Virginia General Assembly until 2022. There, he was involved in the creation of the Virginia legislative Latino Caucus and played an instrumental role in the passage of landmark progressive legislation—including laws expanding access to in-state

college tuition and financial aid to undocumented students and establishing the first statewide LGBTQ+ governmental advisory body in the South.

In 2021, Kevin was appointed by Governor Northam to the Virginia Board for Contractors—the first Latino to serve in its near century-long history. He is a former Chair of the Arlington Democrats Latino Caucus and volunteer docent with the Arlington Historical Museum. A renter in Arlington Ridge, if elected, Kevin would be the first openly LGBTQ+ Virginian of color to win a seat in the General Assembly.

## House of Delegates District 7

### Democratic Primary Candidates:

#### Mary Barthelson

[marybarthelson.com](http://marybarthelson.com)



Mary Barthelson is an accomplished systems engineer with a strong commitment to community service and human rights. She holds a bachelors and masters degree in systems engineering from George Mason University. With nearly a decade of experience working with cutting-edge technology in the space industry, coupled with several years of experience in security technology, such as biometrics and body cameras, she has established herself as a skilled and versatile engineer. She presently serves as a Principal Systems Engineer at SAIC, where she designs the architecture of space systems.

Apart from her work, Mary is known for her advocacy for the unhoused and low-income families in Fairfax County, promoting STEM education, and supporting the resettlement of refugees. Her efforts include starting a STEM club at Forest Edge elementary school to teach children about robotics.

In the past, Mary has advised a non-profit on educational initiatives in the Arab World aimed at promoting freedom of thought and pluralism. Part of that effort included making accurate information available on current events in Arabic, which challenged antisemitic conspiracies. In 2022, she completed the ADL's GLI program to learn more about combatting antisemitism within the US, which she considers a strong bipartisan issue.

Mary has entered the 2023 Virginia House of Delegates race to represent district 7 on a platform to reduce housing insecurity, ensure access to mental health services, and address the challenges and opportunities presented by technology.

#### Paul Berry

[electberry.com](http://electberry.com)



Paul is an educator and data scientist living in Reston with his wife Carly and their 1-year-old, Callan. He grew up on his father's farm working with the crews, and went on to graduate with a degree in Pure Mathematics from Brown University. He holds a MA in Political Economy from the University of Geneva and an MA in Public Policy from the University of Chicago. When not chasing Callan, Paul teaches in Fairfax County Public Schools, works for a small data science company, and is involved in multiple public service roles.

Governor Northam made Paul a policy and budget advisor in the

Office of the Governor in 2018, assigning him to the Virginia Latino Advisory Board. Paul crafted policy ideas, worked with the Governor's cabinet, and was involved in the legislative process impacting the roughly 850,000 Virginian Latinos living in the Commonwealth. As the son of a first-generation Mexican-American, the outcomes were not just a policy issue, they were personal.

Paul was elevated to a leadership position in the Governor's office in 2020, just a few weeks before the pandemic hit. It was his responsibility to advise Governor Northam on the response. Latinos are a fraction of the population - only 12% - but they represented 50% of all deaths at the peak of COVID. For his leadership during this period Senator Kaine gave Paul a special award in recognition of his pandemic work in underserved communities.

Paul has visited Israel multiple times, as recently as September of 2022, and has enjoyed each visit more than the last. This most recent trip took him to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and the Lebanese and Syrian borders as part of a trip centered around learning about contemporary culture, politics, and social priorities in Israel. He looks forward to his next visit and will be taking Carly and Callan for the first time.

#### Shymali Hauth

[hauthforva.com](http://hauthforva.com)



As an Air Force Veteran, I am running because of my life-long commitment to service. We need more leaders who believe as I do: Always do the right thing for the people you serve. I have been a public servant from my time in the Air Force to my service with the elected Hunter Mill District Supervisor's office. I understand the need to work collaboratively at the state and local levels.

We need leaders at the state level with a lived experience that reflects the community in order to craft legislation which benefits all in the community. As an Indian immigrant, a veteran, a breast cancer survivor and a mother to a trans nonbinary person, I bring a unique perspective to policymaking that reflects our diverse community.

I have a proven track record of working with stakeholders, at the local level in the office of Supervisor Walter Alcorn, to resolve problems and creatively address solutions. I will work with other legislators on both sides, so we can fix roads, add affordable and attainable housing, prepare for the effects of climate change, ensure the best public education system, and assist people with their mental health needs. My goal is to build community and collaborate to bring solutions that help all Virginians.

#### Karen Keys-Gamarra

[karenkeysgamarra.com](http://karenkeysgamarra.com)



I am honored to be included in the JCRC/WJW Voter Guide. As a twice-elected school board member, practicing attorney, certified planning commissioner, and long-time community leader, I request your vote to represent HD-7 in the House of Delegates.

As the child of a veteran and social worker, I pursued my education to use my skills to serve others. I have lived in this community for 21 years, where my husband and I raised our three sons who attended FCPS. As a lawyer, I have counseled those needing criminal defense and bankruptcy assistance. After I moved to Virginia, I represented union members who experienced wrongful terminations or other forms of retaliation for their union

activity.

I now practice family law handling adoption, custody, visitation, abuse, or neglect matters as a parent's counsel or guardian ad litem for the children.

As the only attorney in this race, I hope to join the Courts of Justice Committee to provide a practitioner's focus on issues critical to our district, including the codification of Roe v. Wade (while avoiding any language that limits the right to reproductive health care), an assault weapons ban, and public infrastructure and safety issues, including the provision of affordable housing. I have unique skills to address criminal justice reform, as our system too often penalizes people of color, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized communities.

I have served the residents of HD-7 as an at-large school board member for six years. I served during COVID and provided leadership as FCPS planned learning loss programs, addressed food insecurity, provided vaccine clinics in schools, provided outreach programs for those experiencing high COVID numbers, and laptops to students to minimize learning loss. I have also advanced policies to expand protections for gender identity, advocated for greater access to Advanced Academics, moved to study our special education services, and spearheaded the plan to create a new academy that focuses on leadership development. I have been tried and tested in challenging times.

## House of Delegates District 15

### Democratic Primary Candidates:

#### Laura Jane Cohen

[laurajaneconen.com](http://laurajaneconen.com)

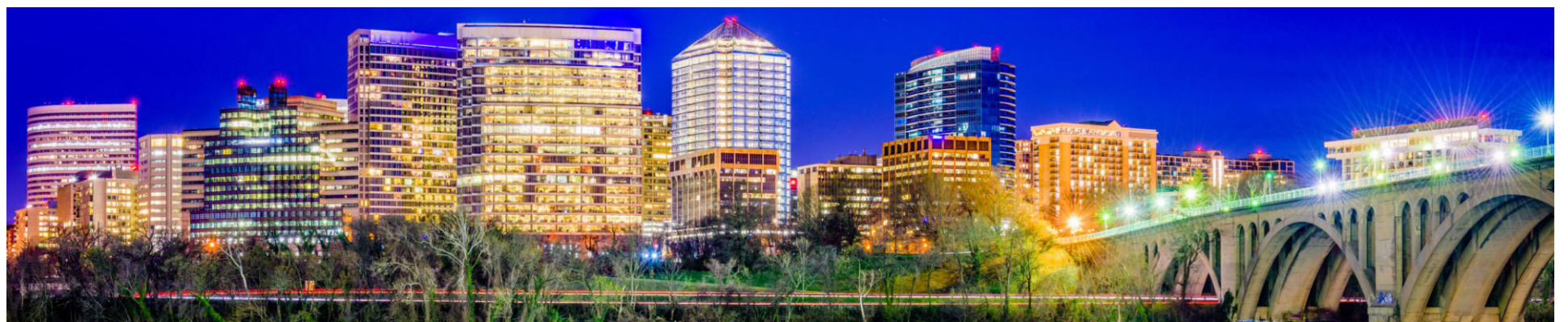


I'm the granddaughter of a teacher and a school bus driver and the daughter of two teachers, so I certainly grew up understanding schools' vital role in the success of our community. When we had children, I left my job as the Director of Outreach for a Parkinson's Nonprofit in Washington, DC and began teaching preschool at our synagogue and long-term subbing in elementary school.

I spent 9 years on our PTA board, including 2 years as President. I was enjoying my time as a mom and teacher, when 26 students and educators were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary.

Our school didn't have classroom doors and what started as a campaign to make their school safer, turned into a campaign to challenge our incumbent School Board member who was advocating to arm our teachers. I took office in 2020 and have been honored to serve our community these past three years. In my time on the Board, we faced the COVID19 pandemic with little support or guidance from Richmond and in the years that have followed, I've had a front row seat to the damage that having a Governor and House of Delegates who are intent on destroying public education has done to our schools and communities. The talk of banning books and erasing history, their attacks on trans children, healthcare, the environment, and gun violence prevention are far from pro-family and run directly counter to my Jewish values.

So, I'm stepping up again. We need real answers and strong ideas about how we reinvigorate our schools, protect families and the environment, strengthen our communities, and pursue justice. I've worked my entire life to protect our kids and I'm excited to bring my wealth of experience to Richmond to continue doing so for the 15th District and the Commonwealth.



## Henri Thompson

[henrithompson.com](http://henrithompson.com)



Dr. Henri' Thompson is a teacher, small business owner, non-profit executive, and new kind of leader for Virginia that is committed to a basic principle of hope, opportunity, and resilience for all: keep going no matter what – compassionate words from Virginia State alum Reginald F. Lewis.

An advocate for progressive values that create pathways for everyone to succeed, Dr. Thompson is fighting politics that seek to undermine Virginians' rights including reproductive rights, access to abortion, and affordable birth control. His work is expanding and protecting the progress made on climate change, civil rights, gun safety, health care, LGBTQ+ equality, public education, and other issues.

In 2021 and 2022, Dr. Thompson organized and led the campaign that secured more than \$9 million in bonuses for public school teachers and staff in Richmond.

Inspired by opportunities to serve others, Dr. Thompson previously worked in leadership positions at Johns Hopkins University & Medicine, Maryland State Retirement and Pension System, the U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Majority Whip, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in New York.

On Wall Street, he helped maintain the stability of the nation's banking system. On Main Street, he advocated for values that increased wages and provided economic opportunities for all. On Capitol Hill, he worked closely with local and state officials. In the classroom, student's test scores increased, academic achievement gaps narrowed, and more students are pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Dr. Thompson earned a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University and a doctorate from Virginia State University. He is a member of several civic, professional, and non-profit organizations, and is the recipient of numerous awards and honors.

## House of Delegates District 19

### Democratic Primary Candidates:

## Rozia Henson

[henson4va.com](http://henson4va.com)



I am a young Democrat running for office in House District 19. I am running to give back to a community that has given me and my family so much. I was born to a young mother who served her country and a father who struggled with drug addiction. As a family, we were surrounded by a community that was also struggling to live and work in the county. As a family, we sometimes felt the burden of a missed paycheck and being

behind on bills. I know far too many constituents of House District 19 are still faced with this very issue. That is why I fought to get my name on the ballot. As a grassroots organizer and advocate, I want to be the voice that helps address issues of marginalized communities, fighting for gun safety in our community and schools, access to healthcare that includes and emphasizes reproductive choice, expanding public transit options, addressing the climate crisis, properly funding mental healthcare, and helping small businesses in the community. This is my home community, and I am the only candidate born and raised in this district. I know what we can be if we come together as a community to address our issues head-on and

support working families. I am running for House District 19 to help move our community and the Commonwealth of Virginia FORWARD!

I am excited to be endorsed by organizations and community leaders that share a similar vision and common values like Victory Fund, Clean Virginia, Lead Locally, and CASA In Action.

## Makya Little

[makyalittle.com](http://makyalittle.com)



I'm running for Virginia House of Delegates to help unify our community so that we can solve problems that impact our shared prosperity together. As a mother, agent-of-change, and a visionary Survivor, I have the requisite lived and professional experiences to serve as an impactful voice to fight for and defend civil rights. As a certified Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion practitioner, I aim to bring the lens of equity to create legislative

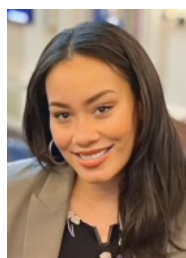
solutions that increase access and opportunity for all citizens of Virginia's new 19th House District and the Commonwealth. I envision our community working together, hearing and learning from one another, and combining those experiences to solve problems and remove barriers.

Guided by my values and integrity as a second-generation law enforcement and intelligence community professional, I plan to seek legislation that ensures accountability at every level of government and law enforcement. In 2020, I began partnering with members of Congress to draft legislation that holds federal law enforcement more accountable to Congress and the public.

My goal is to continue making a positive impact within our community, and I've done that work outside of my campaign as well. In my personal capacity, I established The Phoenix Phoundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) aimed at eliminating generational cycles of domestic violence. I have served as President/CEO of TJ Alumni Action Group, Inc., a 501(c)(4) focused on enhancing accessibility, inclusion, and innovation within STEM education, and as the Parent & HBCU Advocate of Virginia's African American History Education Commission. I have also served on the Board of Directors of the Northern Virginia Delta Education and Community Service Foundation and as a Director of the TJ Partnership Fund. These are the experiences I hope to bring to Virginia's House of Delegates in service to our community.

## Natalie Shorter

[natalieforvirginia.com](http://natalieforvirginia.com)



Natalie for Virginia is a people centered, people powered campaign dedicated to pragmatic and equitable solutions that move Virginia and its people forward.

I am running to represent the 19th House District (which encompasses both Prince William and Fairfax Counties) to stand up to the far right extremism that has reared its ugly head these past years, to no longer accept the things I cannot change and change the things I can no longer accept. My district is one of the most diverse districts in the state and my lived experience, as well as being multi-racial, embodying diversity myself, gives me a unique perspective and the ability to represent such a diverse people. These are unprecedented times that require an experienced leader with a steady hand and the tools, resources and network in place, from day one, for the heavy lift that is winning back the Virginia House of Delegates.

I grew up in a political family, it is quite literally "in my veins" to serve and do what's right- as my grandmother, Senator Louise Lucas, has demonstrated over the span of 38 years as an elected official and

public servant. We come from a family of service. My father and brother both served in the US Army and as Sheriff's Deputies here in the Commonwealth. Although my background is in Sales and Finance Management, there was no shortage of involvement, advocacy work and volunteerism, state-wide on my part. I have been knocking doors and advocating for legislation since I was a child. This would set me apart from other candidates as the most experienced and battle tested to get the job done. I also have two teenage girls that attend Prince William County Public Schools who often expressed their views and concerns surrounding hate and divisiveness, of all kinds and there is no room for that in the state that I love. As a lifelong Virginian I promise to be the change I wish to see and to be a representative we can all be proud to have.

Thank you!

## House of Delegates District 21

### Republican Primary Candidates:

## Joshua Joseph Quill

[quillforvirginia.com](http://quillforvirginia.com)

## John Stirrup

[stirrupfordelegate.com](http://stirrupfordelegate.com)

## House of Delegates District 26

### Democratic Primary Candidates:

## Sreedhar Nagireddi

[sreefordelegate.com](http://sreefordelegate.com)

## Kannan Srinivasan

[kannanfordelegate.com](http://kannanfordelegate.com)



I immigrated from India in 1992, moved to Loudoun in 1999 and have lived here for over 20 years. As a finance and business leader, I helped grow a small technology insurance business in Sterling into an industry pioneer that created thousands of jobs, and helped navigate José Andrés' restaurant group through the depths of the pandemic.

My parents were proud school teachers who instilled the value of public service and a strong belief in education as an investment in our community's future.

My values come from experience. As a young student, I was hit by a truck and racked up thousands of dollars in medical bills. Now, I am humbled and honored to serve as Chair of the Virginia Medicaid Board, where I helped to expand Medicaid to more than 2 million Virginians.

I am committed to protecting and improving healthcare access and affordability, including abortion access, across the commonwealth, reducing gun violence - including but not limited to an assault weapons ban - diversifying and growing Loudoun County's economy, and improving infrastructure and transit access for working families.

