



2026 House of Delegates: New Faces

House District 22: Northern Virginia, in Prince William County.

Elizabeth Guzmán (Democrat)



Elizabeth Guzmán is a Peruvian American politician and social worker. She previously represented Virginia's 31st House of Delegates district from 2018 to 2024. She holds degrees from Northern Virginia Community College, Capella University, American University, and the University of Southern California.

Guzmán made history as one of the first Hispanic women elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2017. As a delegate, she championed legislation to repeal Virginia's prohibition on public sector collective bargaining and provide paid sick leave to home healthcare workers. She was a Democratic candidate for Virginia Lieutenant Governor in 2021 and ran for the 29th Senate district in 2023, narrowly losing. She is known for her progressive stance. She works as a public administrator and social worker, currently serving as Division Chief for Administrative Services for the Center for Adult Services for the City of Alexandria. She is also a Court Appointed Service Advocate (CASA CIS).

Seat previously held by Delegate Ian Lovejoy (R).

House District 30: Northern Virginia, specifically encompassing portions of Loudoun County (approx. 87.5%) and Fauquier County (approx. 12.5%).

John Chilton McAuliff (Democrat)



John Chilton McAuliff ran for election to the Virginia House of Delegates to represent District 30. He has a background in public policy, having served as a senior policy adviser in the Office of Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation at the White House and as senior adviser on climate and rural development for Rural Business-Cooperative Services at the USDA. John got his B.A. in Leadership from the University of Richmond and a master's in biotechnology from Georgetown. He campaigned on protecting farmland (specifically from data centers), affordable housing, and improving the economy.

Seat previously held by Delegate Geary Higgins (R).

House District 33: Northern Virginia incorporates all of Shenandoah County and Page County, as well as portions of Rockingham County and Warren County.

Justin Pence (Republican)

Justin Pence was born and raised in Shenandoah County and graduated from Central High School in 1995. Growing up, he was active in 4-H and FFA, coming from a family of farmers. Justin earned his bachelor's degree in animal science and economics at Virginia Tech. He is currently the Chairman of the Shenandoah County Economic Development Council, a board member of the Shenandoah Valley Agriculture Foundation, and the State Director of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation – representing Page, Frederick, Warren, Rappahannock, Clarke, Loudoun, and Shenandoah Counties.



Seat previously held by former Delegate Todd Gilbert (R) who retired earlier this year.

House District 41: Southwest Virginia, made up of parts of Montgomery and Roanoke County.

Lily Franklin (Democrat)

Lily Franklin is a lifelong resident of Southwest Virginia, with five generations of her family living in the region. She graduated from Northside High School and holds a B.A. in Political Science from Longwood University. She previously worked as a high school math teacher and served as Chief of Staff for Delegate Sam Rasoul. She narrowly lost the 2023 election for Virginia's 41st House District. Her campaign focused on access to quality public education, fair wages, affordable housing, and accessible, affordable rural healthcare.



Seat previously held by Delegate Chris Obenshain (R).

House District 46: Southwest Virginia, encompassing Wythe, Smith, and Grayson County, and some of Pulaski County.

Mitchell D. Cornett (Republican)



Mitchell D. Cornett is a cattle farmer, volunteer firefighter, and EMS from Grayson County, identifying as a Christian conservative. He is the vice chair of the Grayson County Republican Party and serves on the Grayson County Board of Supervisors. His campaign emphasized continued funding of the Virginia Disaster Assistance Fund, fighting against high utility rates (specifically Appalachian Power), advocating for tax cuts, and improving broadband internet access. He also prioritizes rural healthcare, pro-life initiatives, and gun rights.

Seat previously held by Delegate Jed Arnold (R), who retired from the House of Delegates.

House District 49: Southside Virginia, centered around City of Danville, including Halifax and Pittsylvania County.

Madison John Redd Whittle (Republican)



Madison John Redd Whittle is a current member of the Danville City Council and founded MJRW, Inc. in 1988. His platform includes being pro-life, empowering law enforcement, slashing burdensome regulations for farmers, promoting economic development, cutting taxes, championing parental rights in education, and opposing anti-gun bills.

Seat previously held by Delegate Danny Marshall (R), who retired from the House of Delegates.

House District 57: Richmond metropolitan area, encompassing parts of Henrico and Goochland County.

May Nivar (Democrat)



May Nivar was born in Philadelphia to Chinese immigrant parents and grew up in low-income housing, working in her family's small takeout restaurant. She put herself through college at NYU and built a 30-year corporate career. She also attended the UVA Political Leaders Program and the APAICS National Leadership Academy. She leads initiatives at Altria focused on community giving and civic action. She has held leadership roles on various boards, including serving as Vice Chair and Chair of the Virginia Asian Advisory Board, and co-founded the Asian & Latino Solidarity Alliance. Her campaign focuses on addressing economic inequality, inadequate healthcare, underfunded schools, affordable housing, and protecting reproductive and civil rights.

Seat previously held by Delegate David Owen (R).

House District 62: Central Virginia, covering the counties of Greene and Madison, in addition to parts of Orange and Culpeper.

Karen Hamilton (Republican)



Karen is a Christian, military wife, homeschool mother of three, and small business owner in Orange, Virginia. Her parents were missionaries. She obtained her a B.S. in Civil Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and worked as a Structural Engineer. Her husband served as a Navy SEAL and Combat Medic. Her campaign stances include being pro-life, pro-gun, pro- school choice, law and order, agricultural freedom, economic freedom, preserving green and historic spaces, as well as protecting individual and property rights.

Seat previously held by Delegate Nick Freitas (R), who retired from the House of Delegates.

House District 64: Northeastern Virginia comprised of parts of Stafford County.

Stacey Annie Carroll (Democrat)



Stacey Carroll is a mother of three, military veteran, CPA, and dedicated foster parent (having fostered 22 teens). In 2024, she was honored as the Spotlight Resource Foster Parent of the Year. She has extensive experience in leadership roles in a variety of community-centered organizations including Economic Development Committee for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Her campaign emphasizes common-sense leadership, with priorities including Education (more school resources, teacher/staff wages, vocational training), Economy (lowering costs, economic development, infrastructure, diversifying economy), and Healthcare (access to Medicaid, reproductive care, lower prescription drug costs).

Seat previously held by Delegate Paul Milde (R).

House District 66: Central Virginia, made up of parts of Spotsylvania and Caroline County.

Nicole Cole (Democrat)



Nicole Cole is a small business owner, nonprofit leader, and mother of three. She has her B.S. in Management from University of Maryland and her M.B.A. in Finance and Health Services Management from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. She has been a member of the Spotsylvania County School board since 2022 and founded her nonprofit focused on education and education advocacy that same year. She holds multiple FINRA registrations and licenses. Her policy priorities are education, environment, and economic prosperity.

Seat previously held by Delegate Bobby Orrock (R).

House District 69: Parts of York County, James City County, Gloucester County and the City of Newport News.

Dr. Mark Downey (Democrat)

Dr. Mark Downey is a pediatrician based in the Hampton Roads region. Downey's campaign emphasizes child- and family-centered policies, including affordable childcare, healthcare access, and cost-of-living relief. The seat is currently held by Republican Chad Green, who began serving in 2024.

Seat previously held by Delegate Chad Green (R).



House District 71: Coastal Plain region, covering the City of Williamsburg and parts of New Kent and James City Counties.

Jessica Anderson (Democrat)



Jessica "Jess" Anderson is a lifelong Virginian, born and raised in Newport News. Her personal experience navigating social safety net programs during a challenging period inspired her to run for office. She worked in insurance and later as a part-time front office receptionist at a public elementary school. Two of her five children are working as nurses in Virginia. Her campaign focused on creating an economy that works for all Virginians (high-paying jobs, small business support, living wages, affordable housing), fully funded public education (smaller class sizes, pre-K, teacher pay), and high-quality, affordable healthcare (prescription drug affordability, paid leave, reproductive freedoms). She is also pro-choice, pro-LGBTQ+ rights, pro-gun safety, and pro-renewable energy.

Seat previously held by Minority Caucus Chair Delegate Amanda Batten (R).

House District 73: Richmond metropolitan area, contains some of Chesterfield County

Leslie Mehta (Democrat)



Leslie Mehta has a 20-year career as a lawyer and is the former Legal Director of the ACLU of Virginia. Her oldest daughter passed away from Rett Syndrome at age five, which deeply impacted her advocacy for healthcare. She has received appointments from both Democratic and Republican governors and serves as interim CEO of the International Rett Syndrome Foundation. Her mom was a social worker and her dad was a corrections officer. Her campaign emphasized fighting for fairness, justice, and the rights of everyday people, with a particular focus on healthcare policies and support for families navigating complex medical conditions.

Seat previously held by Delegate Mark Earley (R).

House District 75: Richmond metropolitan area, specifically encompassing Hopewell City, as well as parts of Chesterfield and Prince George Counties.

Lindsey Dougherty (Democrat)



Lindsey Dougherty is a Democrat running for Virginia House of Delegates. She previously ran in the 62nd House District in 2019. She has an MPA from North Carolina State. Her renewed commitment is to fight for Virginia's working families. Her platform is informed by her own experiences with the healthcare system, advocating for her children's education, and working to uplift underserved communities. She aims to ensure every resident of the 75th District has a voice in Richmond.

Seat previously held by Delegate Carrie Coyner (R).

House District 82: Central Virginia / Tri-Cities area including Petersburg City, Surry County, and parts of Dinwiddie and Prince George Counties.

Kimberly Pope Adams



Kimberly Pope Adams is a lifelong Virginian, born and raised in Hopewell. She has a career as an accountant and auditor, focused on ensuring transparency in state government. She is mounting a comeback campaign after narrowly losing in 2023. Her platform includes Safe Communities (addressing crime, community-engaged law enforcement), Education (increased funding, teacher pay, modernizing facilities), Reproductive Rights (protecting rights and access), Economic Development (job training, local hiring, workforce development), and Food Insecurity (solutions to food deserts, supporting local farmers).

Seat previously held by Delegate Kimberly Taylor (R).

House District 86: Central Virginia, specifically around the City of Petersburg and surrounding counties.

Virgil Gene Thornton, Sr. (Democrat)



Virgil Gene Thornton Sr. ran for election to the Virginia House of Delegates to represent District 86. As the Democratic candidate. He worked for the Navy as a civilian, spending years as an electrical nuclear test technician on submarines. His priorities are public education, access to quality healthcare, and economic development.

Seat previously held by Delegate AC Cordoza (R).

House District 89: Southeastern Virginia, encompassing parts of Chesapeake City and parts of Suffolk City.

Karen "Kacey" Robins Carnegie (Democrat)



Karen Carnegie is an attorney. She got her B.A. from Longwood. Her platform includes Criminal Justice / Public Safety (supporting officers and first responders), Economy (investing in infrastructure, small businesses, workforce development, childcare, affordable housing), Education (fully funding education, supporting teachers), Guns (common-sense gun safety laws), and Wages/Job Benefits (raising minimum wage, tax credits, healthcare access).

Seat previously held by Delegate Baxter Ennis (R), who retired from the House of Delegates.