



## **Governor Elect**

Abigail Spanberger



Her father served in the U.S. Army, went to school on the G.I. Bill, and became a career law enforcement officer. Her mother spent her early years in foster care and put herself through nursing school.

Abigail attended Virginia public schools, graduating from J.R. Tucker High School in Henrico County and receiving her bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia. She earned her MBA from a dual-degree program between Purdue University and the GISMA business school in Germany.

Abigail followed in her father's footsteps as a federal law enforcement officer. At the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Abigail worked federal narcotics and money laundering cases – regularly working with local policy departments across Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. – investigated child predators, and arrested narcotics traffickers. She continued her service as a Case Officer with the CIA. She then worked in the private sector for a time before becoming the first Democrat elected to serve Virginia's Seventh District in the U.S. House in more than 50 years and the first woman to ever represent the district.

In Congress, Abigail was ranked as the most bipartisan Member of Congress from Virginia. She led bipartisan efforts that were signed into law to prevent fentanyl overdoses, protect Virginia's natural resources, and support Virginia's Veterans. In 2022, the Washington Post editorial board said that Abigail “sponsored no-nonsense bipartisan legislation” and called her “ever independent-minded” — working to “increase federal funding for local police agencies to hire and train more officers and to empower Medicare to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs.” The Center for Effective Lawmaking ranked her as the most effective Member of Congress — in either chamber — on agriculture issues.

Abigail and her husband Adam are the proud parents of three school-aged daughters in Virginia public schools. Her family enjoys spending time with nearby relatives, exploring Virginia's outdoors, staying active, and playing board games together as a family.

As Governor, her priorities include making healthcare accessible and affordable, supporting veterans and retirees, strengthening Virginia's schools, defending reproductive freedom, working with law enforcement to keep communities safe, investing in agricultural and rural communities, as well as making state government more transparent.

## Lieutenant Governor Elect

Ghazala Hashmi



Senator Ghazala Hashmi is the first Muslim and the first South Asian American to serve in the Virginia Senate. As an experienced educator and advocate of inclusive values and social justice, her legislative priorities include public education, voting rights and the preservation of democracy, reproductive freedom, gun violence prevention, the environment, housing, and affordable healthcare access.

Ghazala emigrated with her mother and older brother from India to the United States at 4 years old. Ghazala grew up in a small college town, at a time when public schools were being desegregated in Georgia, and so she saw firsthand how communities can be built and dialogue promoted through intentional efforts to bridge cultural, racial, and socioeconomic divides. After graduating as valedictorian of her high school class and receiving multiple full scholarships and fellowships, Ghazala earned a BA with honors from Georgia Southern University and her PhD in American literature from Emory University in Atlanta.

Ghazala and her husband, Azhar, moved to the Richmond area in 1991, and she spent nearly 30 years as a professor, first teaching at the University of Richmond and then at Reynolds Community College. While at Reynolds, she also served as the Founding Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). She and Azhar have two adult daughters who both graduated from Chesterfield County Public Schools and the University of Virginia.

First elected to office in November 2019, Ghazala won an upset victory over a Republican incumbent, delivering the majority to Democrats for the first time in years. In 2024, she was named Chair of the Senate Education and Health Committee, a crucial leadership post for two critical Democratic priorities, reproductive freedom and public education.

As a state Senator, Ghazala has dedicated her efforts to improving the lives of others, focusing on issues of inequity in housing, education, health care, environmental justice, and much more.

## Attorney General Elect

### Jay Jones



Jay Jones is a former Assistant Attorney General and lawmaker, husband, and a dad to two boys. As a member of the House of Delegates, Jay protected abortion rights, expanded Medicaid, and gave teachers annual pay raises. In Richmond, he championed energy and environmental policies that lowered Virginians' energy bills and protected our air, water, and land. Jay also wrote legislation known as the "Ashanti Alert," establishing a missing persons alert for adults in the Commonwealth. The "Ashanti Alert" is now used nationwide.

Jay previously served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, where he was a member of the Office of Consumer Protection. In this role he took on the gun lobby to keep families safe from violent crime, sued corporate special interests to prevent higher grocery prices, and went after big banks and slumlords preying on consumers.

As a litigator, Jay led the fight on behalf of the Virginia NAACP against the Youngkin Administration to protect voting rights. Jay has also advocated for reproductive healthcare access and abortion rights as a member of the Virginia Planned Parenthood board.

Jay's family has been in Norfolk since the early 20th century. His grandfather, Hilary H. Jones, Sr., was a pioneering Civil Rights attorney in Norfolk and became the first Black member of the Norfolk School Board, as well as the first Black person to be named to the State Board of Education in the history of Virginia.

Jay's father, Jerrauld C. Jones, was one of the few Virginians to serve in all three branches of state government. He was a member of the General Assembly from 1988 – 2002, served as Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice under Governor Mark Warner and was a Circuit Court judge. His mother, Lyn Simmons, is currently a judge on the Norfolk Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court after a long career as a prosecutor and attorney in private practice.

Jay completed his undergraduate studies at the College of William and Mary, and earned his law degree from the University of Virginia. Jay, his wife Mavis, and two sons live in Norfolk, where they are members of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception.