

General Assembly 2019 Report



Delegate David Toscano
Virginia House of Delegates
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

State of Play in Richmond: Divided Government



Governor
Ralph Northam



Lt. Governor
Justin Fairfax



Attorney
General
Mark
Herring



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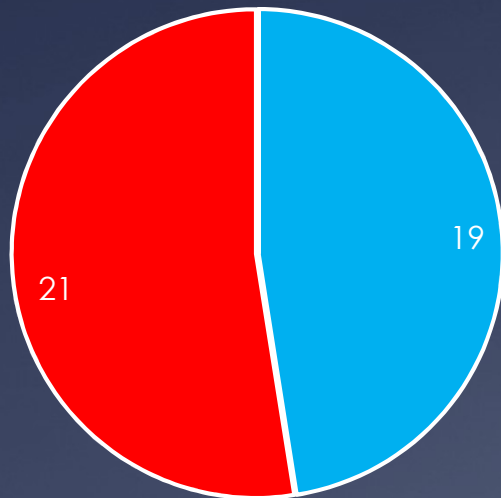
A Changed General Assembly

2018

* State Senate

* 19 Democrats, 21 Republicans

Senate

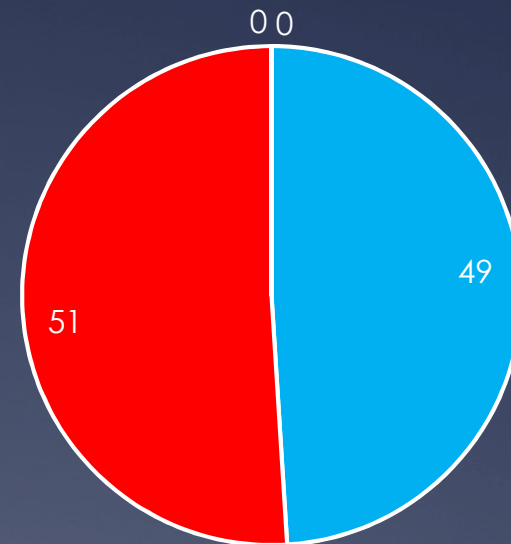


■ Democrats ■ Republicans

* House of Delegates

* 34 Democrats, 66 Republicans

House



■ Democrats ■ Republicans

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We had our moments



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Happy Hour Happiness



HB 2073/SB 1726 – ABC regulations shall permit businesses to advertise “happy hour” information, including featured products and prices. Licensees may use “creative marketing techniques” in advertising.

Barnacles on Cars

- * SB 1432 – Allows the immobilization of a trespassing vehicle by use of any device in a manner that prevents its removal or lawful operation, provided that the device used does not damage the vehicle.



Hunting from a Car

- * HB 1696 – Authorizes killing a nuisance species on private property by the owner of such property from a stationary vehicle.



Single License Plates

- * HB 2149 – to allow certain motor vehicles to display a single license plate
- * Sadly for Corvette owners across the state, the bill did not pass



Ads on School Buses

- * HB 2222 – to allow local school boards to display ads on the sides of school buses
- * The bill passed the House of Delegates 68-29, but the Senate Education & Health Committee passed it by indefinitely



2019: Budget Challenges



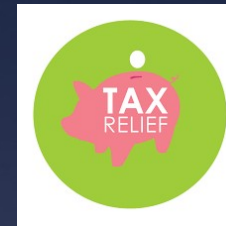
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Trump 2017 Tax Bill Effects

- * Changes to federal law in 2017 that reduced federal income tax liabilities for some (mainly higher-income) Virginians also increased the same taxpayers' state income liabilities, because of how the state tax code interacts with the federal tax code
- * Many Virginians would pay more in total income taxes, beginning with tax year 2018
- * Virginia state government would receive more tax revenues as a result

Virginia's Solution

- * Some changes to Virginia tax law to provide taxpayer relief
- * Some increased tax revenues put aside in state government “savings” funds
- * Some revenues invested in critical needs:
 - * \$7 million added to Virginia Housing Trust Fund
 - * Largest one-time pay increase for Virginia teachers in 15 years
 - * Funding for more school counselors



2019: What Passed

- * HB 2786/SB 1355: Coal Ash Remediation
- * HB 1979: gender-neutral terminology in Virginia's assisted conception/surrogacy statute
- * HB 1700: Budget Bill Funded Reform of Driver's License Suspension for Failure to Pay Court Costs and Fees
 - * 627,000 Virginians eligible to have their driver's licenses reinstated
- * HB 2718/SB 1716: I-81/I-64 Funding – \$2 Billion in improvements
- * HB 1987: Help Banks Prevent Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults
- * HB 2355 : Tax Conformity Bill
- * HB 1640: Nurse Practitioners Covered Equally by Health Plans

2019 What Failed

Resolutions to Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment

Repeal of Right-to-work – HB 1806

Confederate Statues – HB 2377

Moratorium on Fossil Fuel Projects/Green New Deal – HB 1635

All Gun Reform Legislation – SB 1473, SB 1482, HB 1644, HB 1654, HB 1763, HB 1856, HB 1956, HB 1992, HB 2492, and more...

Increase in Minimum Wage – SB 1017, SB 1200, HB 1850, HB2157, HB 2195, and more...

2019 Vetoes

Sanctuary Cities – HB 2270

Prohibition on Participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) – HB 2269

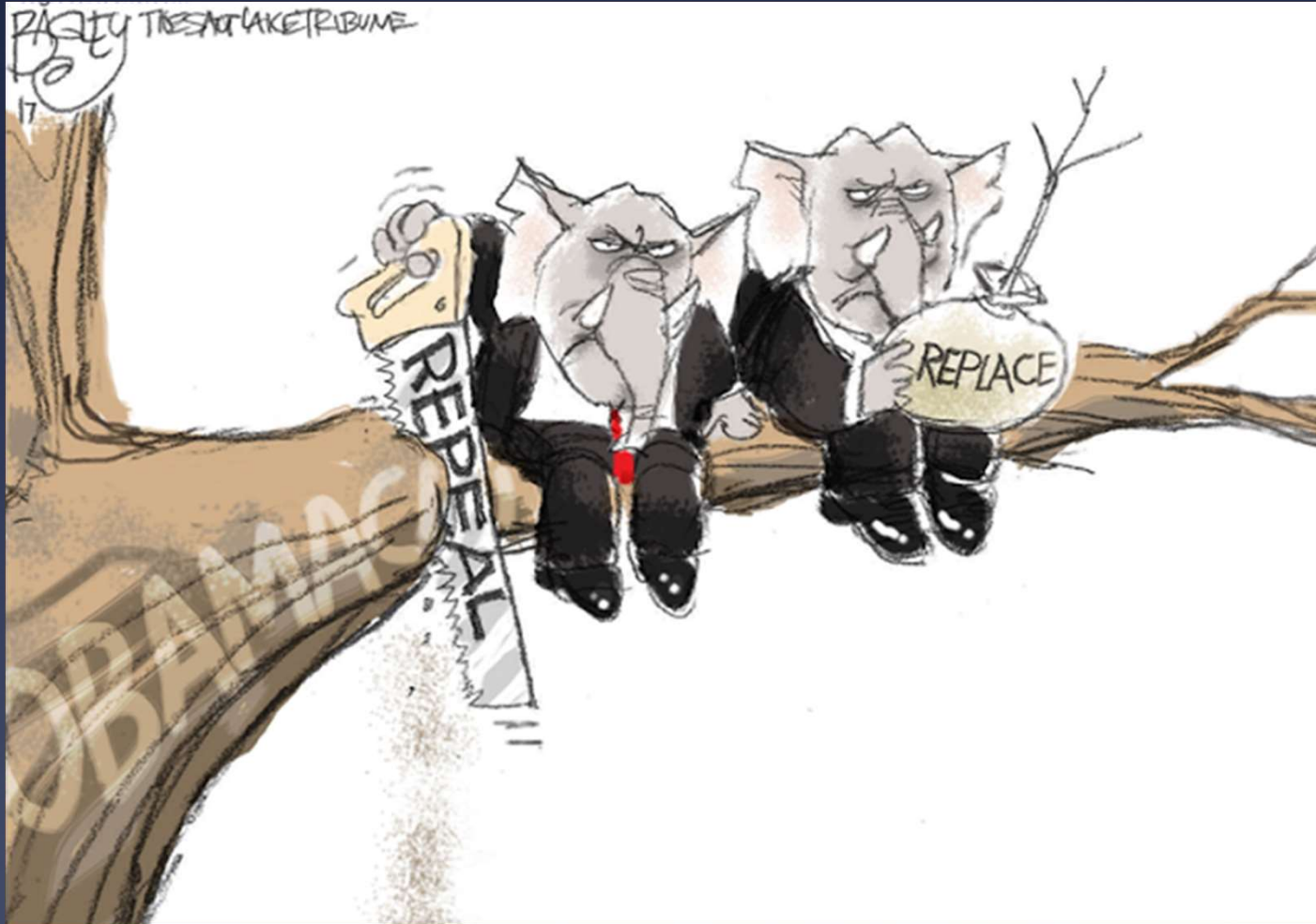
Various forms of “skinny” health insurance plans – HB 1661, HB 2443, HB 2260, SB1027, SB1240, SB1674 and SB 1689

90-day “trigger” on approval of concealed weapons permit applications for out-of-state applicants – HB 2253

2019: Continuing Challenges

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Impact of Undermining the ACA



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Distracted Driving Laws Still Need Updates

- * Current law only bans reading email/text messages, and manually typing responses to such messages, on a handheld personal communication device (PCD) while driving a motor vehicle
- * In the 2019 session, HB 1811/SB 1341 both tried to ban holding a PCD while driving a motor vehicle
 - * These bills required annual reports on citations issued, and the demographics of the persons receiving citations, to prevent abuse of the law to stop/cite African American drivers (“driving while black”)
- * Bills died in conference committee over the words “in his hand” ...
- * Gov. Northam tried to amend a successful bill (SB 1768) that prohibits holding a handheld PCD while driving in a work zone. The Senate agreed, but Speaker Cox overruled the amendment as not germane

Some Movement on Reforming Redistricting in Virginia

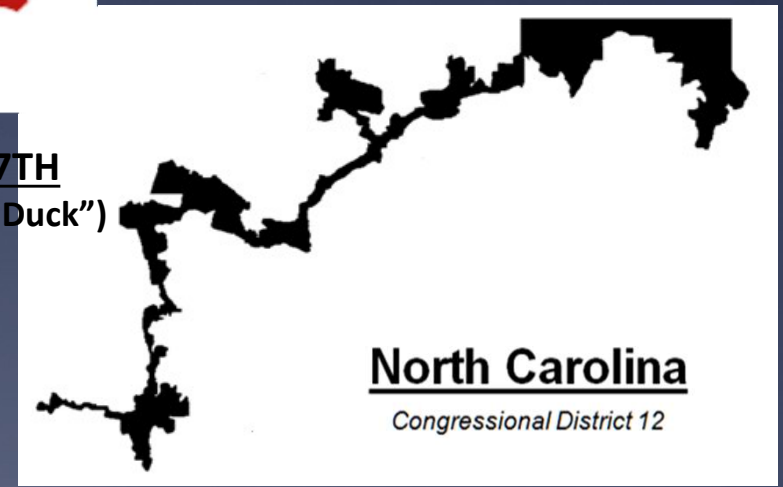
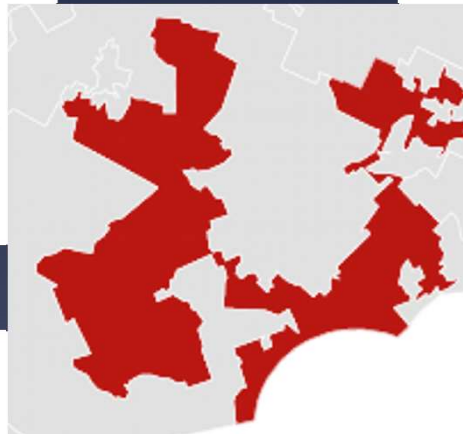
SJ 306/HJ 615: first passage of resolutions to amend the Virginia Constitution to create a Virginia Redistricting Commission

The commission would have legislative members and citizen members, and the chair must be one of the citizen members

These resolutions did not contain some of the redistricting criteria that others (such as Senator Deeds' SJ 300 and Senator Hanger's SJ 274) included, but criteria can still be established by statute, such as:

- Keeping communities together
- No advantage/disadvantage to political parties or incumbent officeholders

What do you see?



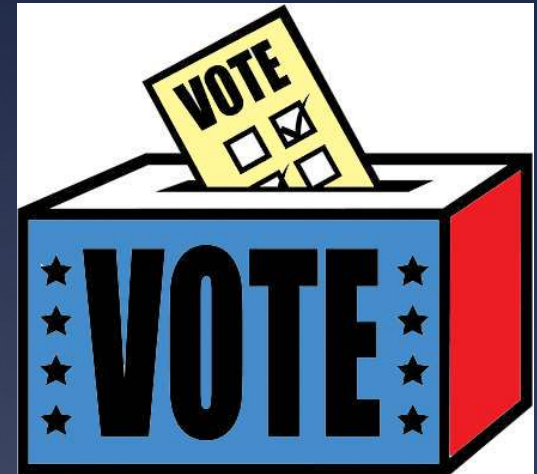
What's Next?

2019 Primary

- June 11
- Open to all voters

2019 General Election

- November 6
- Entire General Assembly (140 seats)
- Last legislative election before decennial redistricting



How To Contact Me

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