

# (Still) Legislating in the Shadow of Washington's Chaos

General Assembly  
2018 Report



Delegate David Toscano  
Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57<sup>th</sup> District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

# State of Play in Richmond: Divided Government



Governor  
Ralph Northam



Lt. Governor  
Justin Fairfax



Attorney  
General  
Mark  
Herring



Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

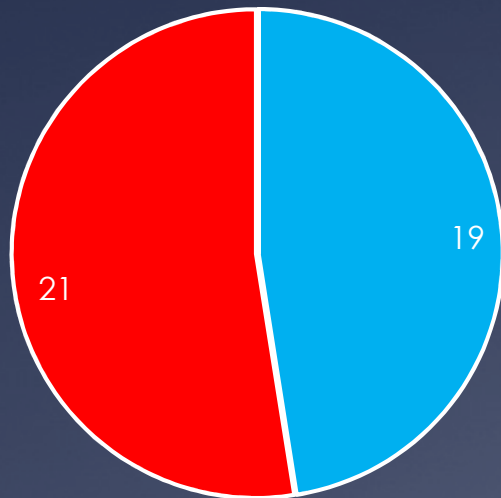
# A Changed General Assembly

2018

## \* State Senate

\* 19 Democrats, 21 Republicans

Senate

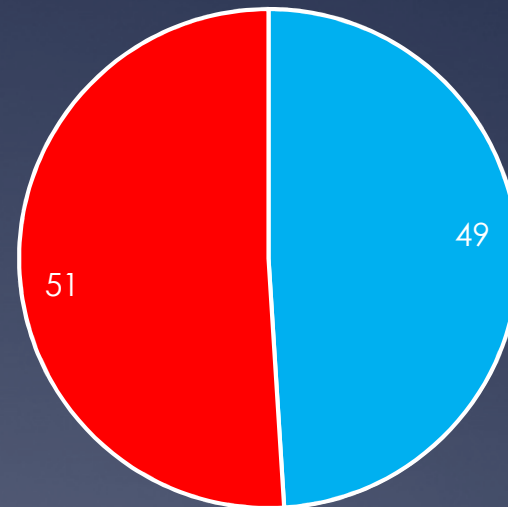


■ Democrats ■ Republicans

## \* House of Delegates

\* 34 Democrats, 66 Republicans

House



■ Democrats ■ Republicans

Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

If things had gone just a little  
bit differently ...



... but after the tie-breaking drawing by the State Board of  
Elections, both houses of the General Assembly remain  
under Republican control by very slim margins.

Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

# We had our moments



Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

# Official State Salamander

HB 459 – Designated  
*Pseudotriton ruber* as  
the official state  
salamander

joining the following  
state animals:  
bat  
bird  
dog  
fish (fresh water) and  
fish (salt water)  
insect and  
snake



Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

# But Raccoons Were Not So Lucky

HB 239/SB 375 –  
Removed the  
prohibition on hunting  
raccoons on Sundays  
after 2:00 am.



Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

# Wineries (And More) Going To The Dogs

HB 286 – Allows dogs  
“inside or on the premises  
of” a winery, brewery or  
distillery

Other companion animals  
must still drink at home



Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

# A New Kind of ABC License

HB 1602/SB 61 – Creates a confectionery license, to make & sell sweet treats with alcohol in them for consumption off-premises...

... as long as the alcohol is not in liquid form at the time of sale.



Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

# No More Dry Beer Museum



SB 769 added a special “museum license” to current law so that the Virginia Beer Museum can sell beer to patrons

Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

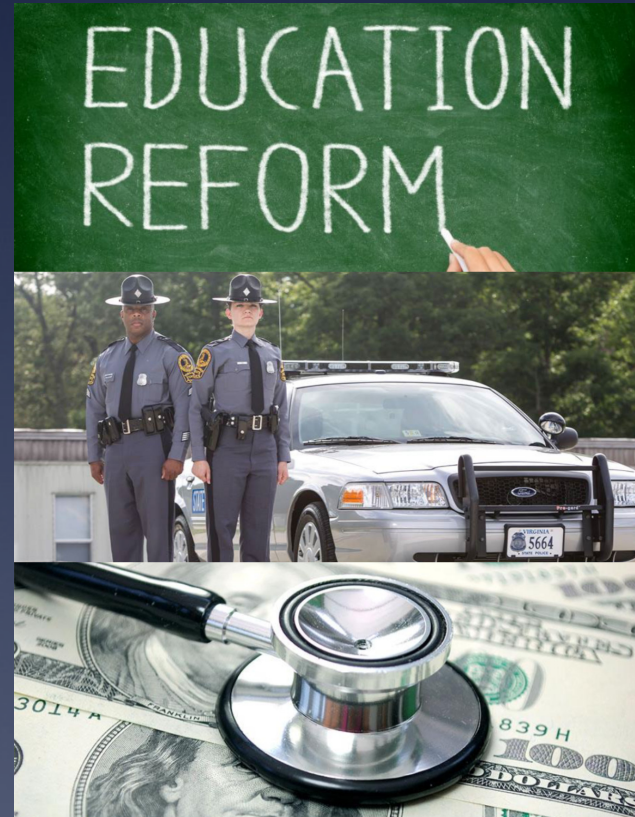
# 2018: A New Budget



Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

# House Budget Highlights 2018

- \* Medicaid expansion: added health care access for 400,000 Virginians AND freed up state monies for:
- \* Education funding increases
- \* Education and economic opportunities in high-demand fields (such as cybersecurity)
- \* Raises for teachers/school personnel, law enforcement, state mental health hospital nurses and staff



# Senate Budget 2018

- \* No Medicaid expansion
- \* Funding cuts to education, public safety, and more
- \* Funded some high-priority mental health initiatives, but others were cut
- \* Studies to evaluate safety of biosolid use funded
- \* Rainy Day Fund allocation was 2x larger than the House budget



# Budget Conference Committee

## The difference is Medicaid

- House committee members (both Rs and Ds) insisted on expansion
- But the Senate conferees were divided; Republican members would not agree to expand Medicaid



Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

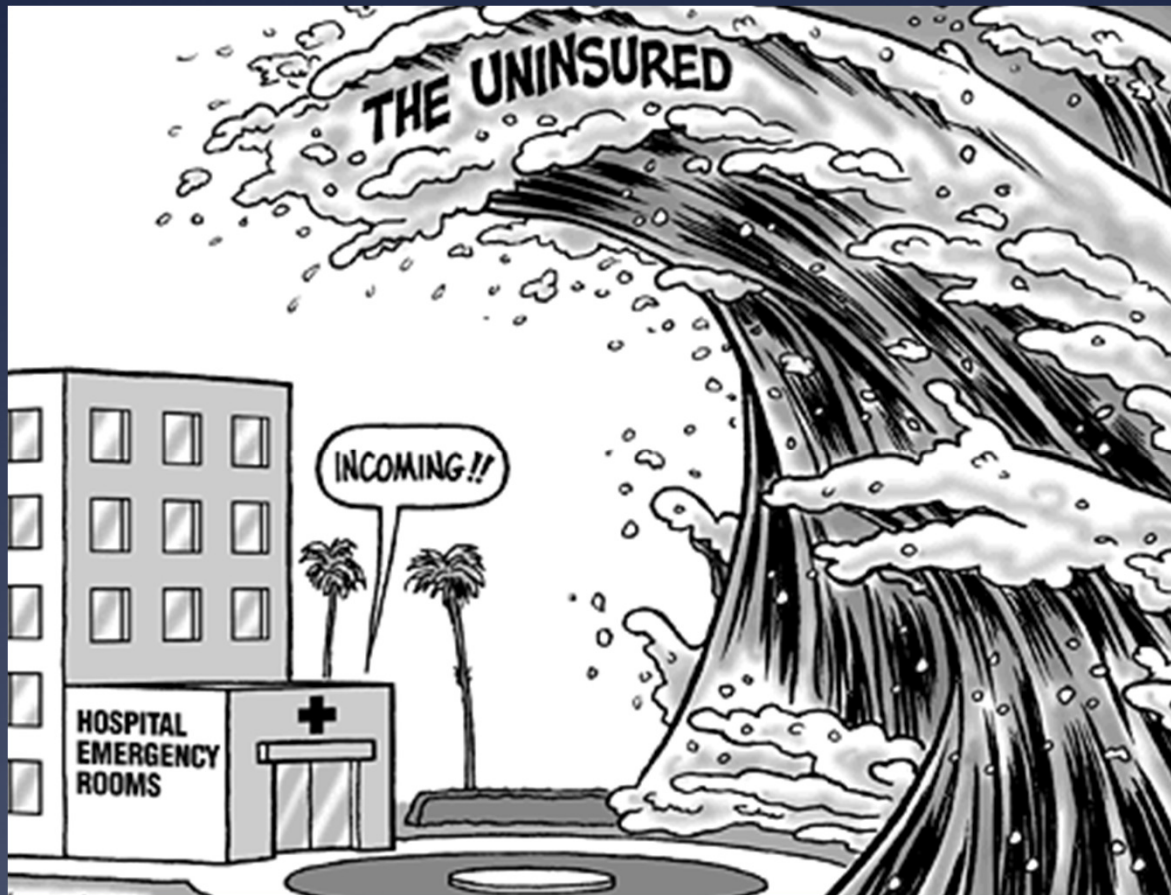
# 2018 Significant Legislation

- \* HB 1558/SB 966: Utility Rate Reviews (The Dominion Bill)
- \* HB 1600: Limiting length of school suspensions, to help address the school-to-prison “pipeline”
- \* HB 1249/SB 565: Additions to DNA database sample collections: specific misdemeanors linked to later violent crimes
- \* Felony larceny threshold increased to \$500
- \* SB 698 & SB 699: DEQ stop-work orders authorized to protect against adverse impacts on water quality due to land-disturbing pipeline construction activities

# 2018: Still Left To Do

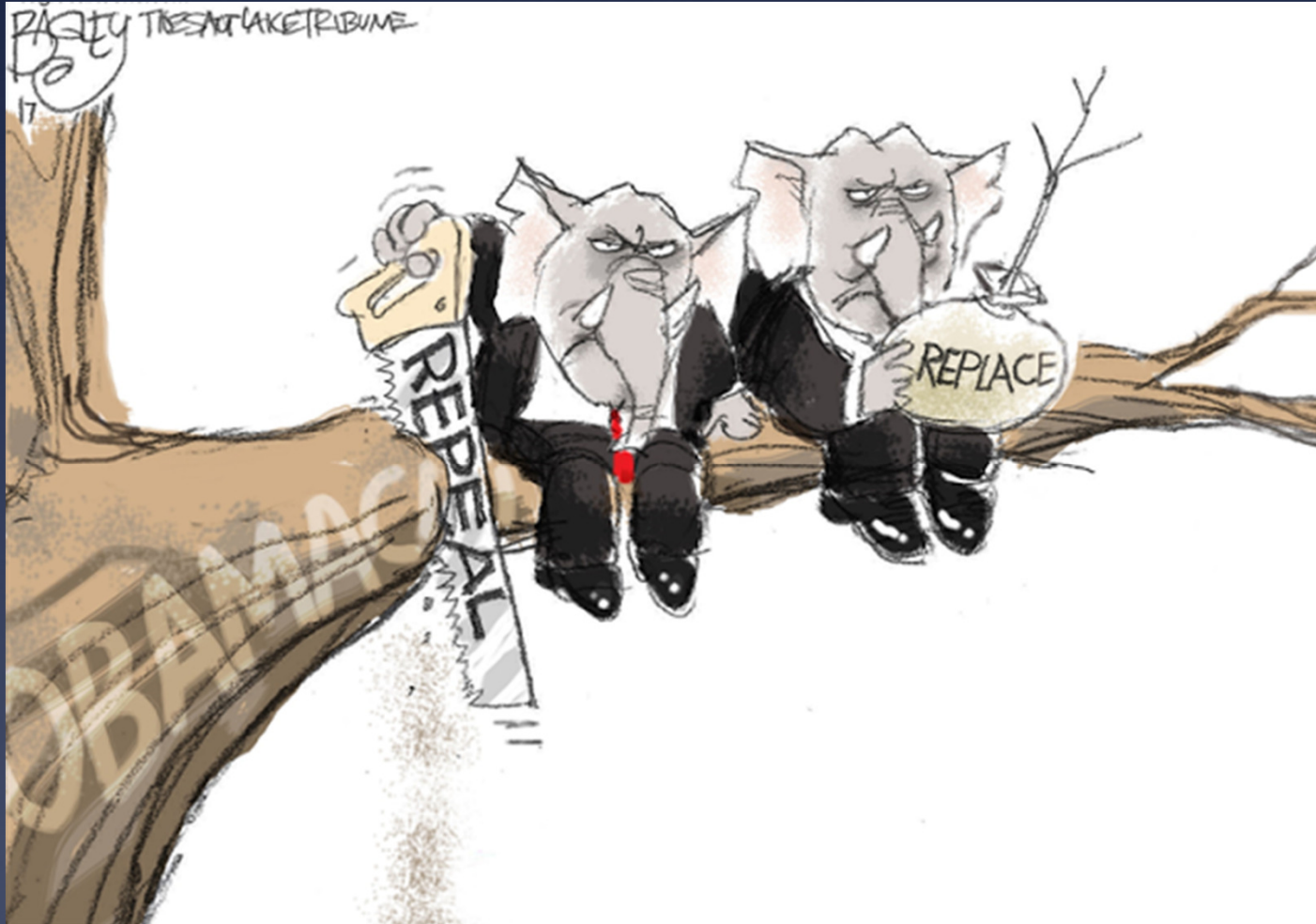
Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

# Medicaid Expansion



Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

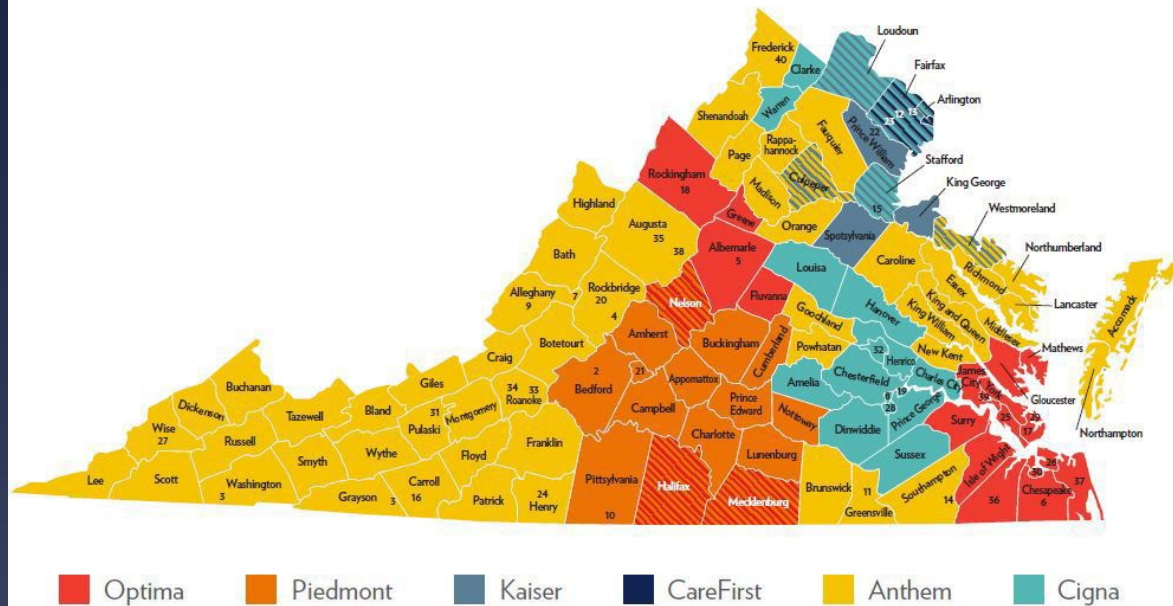
# Impact of Undermining the ACA



Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

## Virginia Counties by Insurance Provider(s)

as of September 20, 2017



Obamacare marketplace survives but Virginia premium rates are increasing by double digits

Where are the most expensive  
ACA plans in America?  
Charlottesville.

Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

# Supporting Our Teachers?

Virginia's average pay for teachers is \$9,218 below the national average (34<sup>th</sup> out of the 50 states)

In 1989, Virginia was 18<sup>th</sup> out of 50

Virginia ranks in the 10 wealthiest states in the nation, yet between 2009 and 2018, teacher pay (in constant dollars) FELL by 8.5 percent

Since 2008, the state has removed approximately 5,000 support positions from our public schools via “adjustments” to the Standards of Quality, leaving teachers to do more with less

## Our teachers deserve better

# Even with changes in the House, some things stayed the same...

- No gun safety (except SB 669)
- No minimum wage increase
- No improvement of voter rights
- Couldn't even get agreement on a distracted driving bill ...

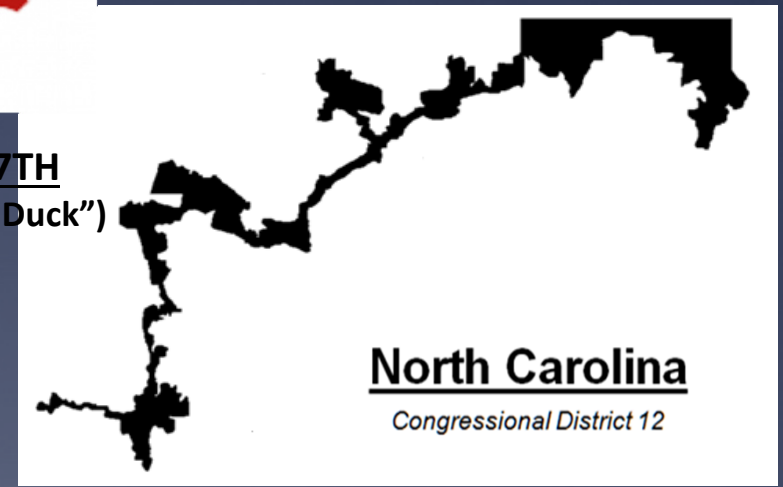
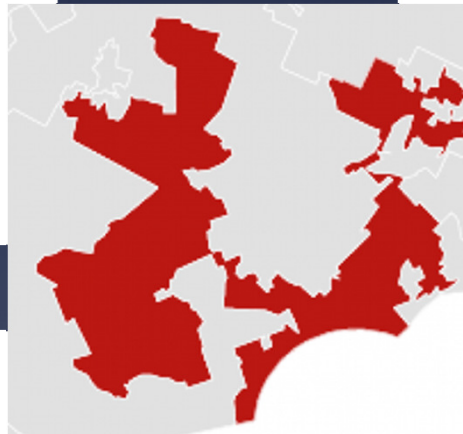


Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

# Safety Efforts Continue

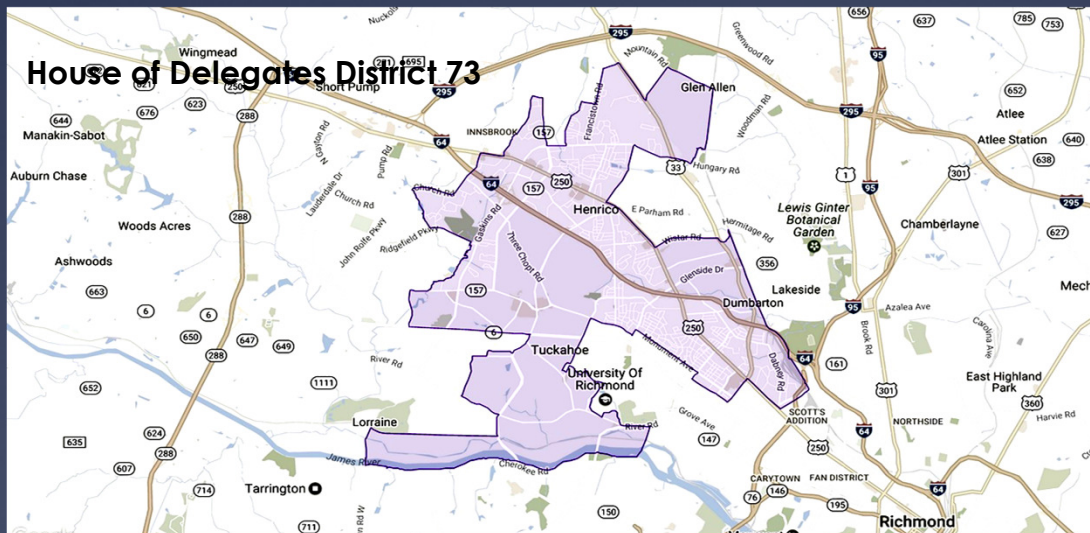
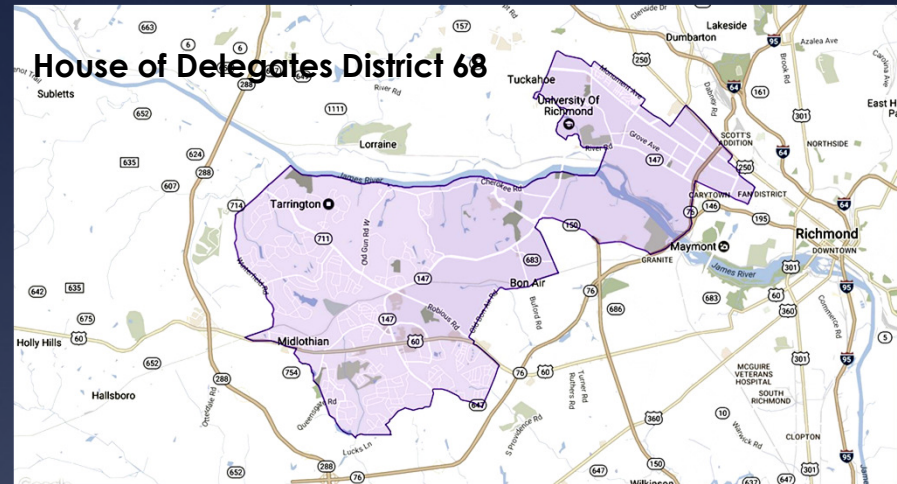
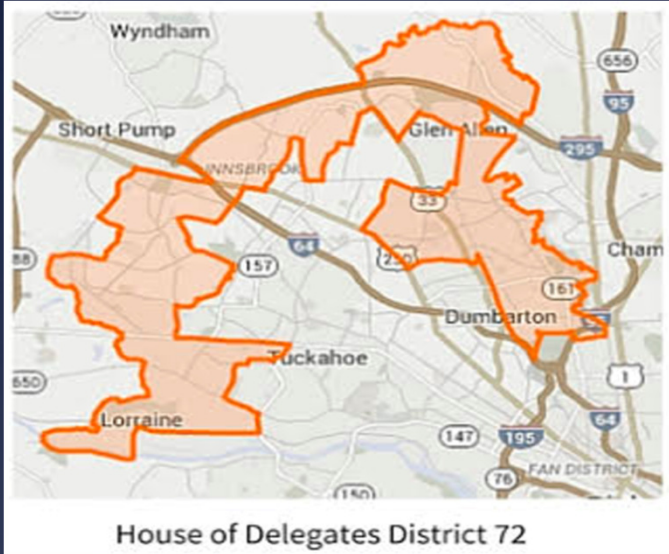
- Select Committee on School Safety
  - Will not discuss gun violence in schools
  - Data shows that schools are safer than their surrounding communities – violence in schools is only a small part of the gun violence crisis in our country
- House Democratic Caucus: Safe Virginia Initiative
  - All delegates have been invited to participate, from both parties
  - Four regional public meetings will be held around Virginia

# What do you see?



Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

# Failure of Redistricting Reform

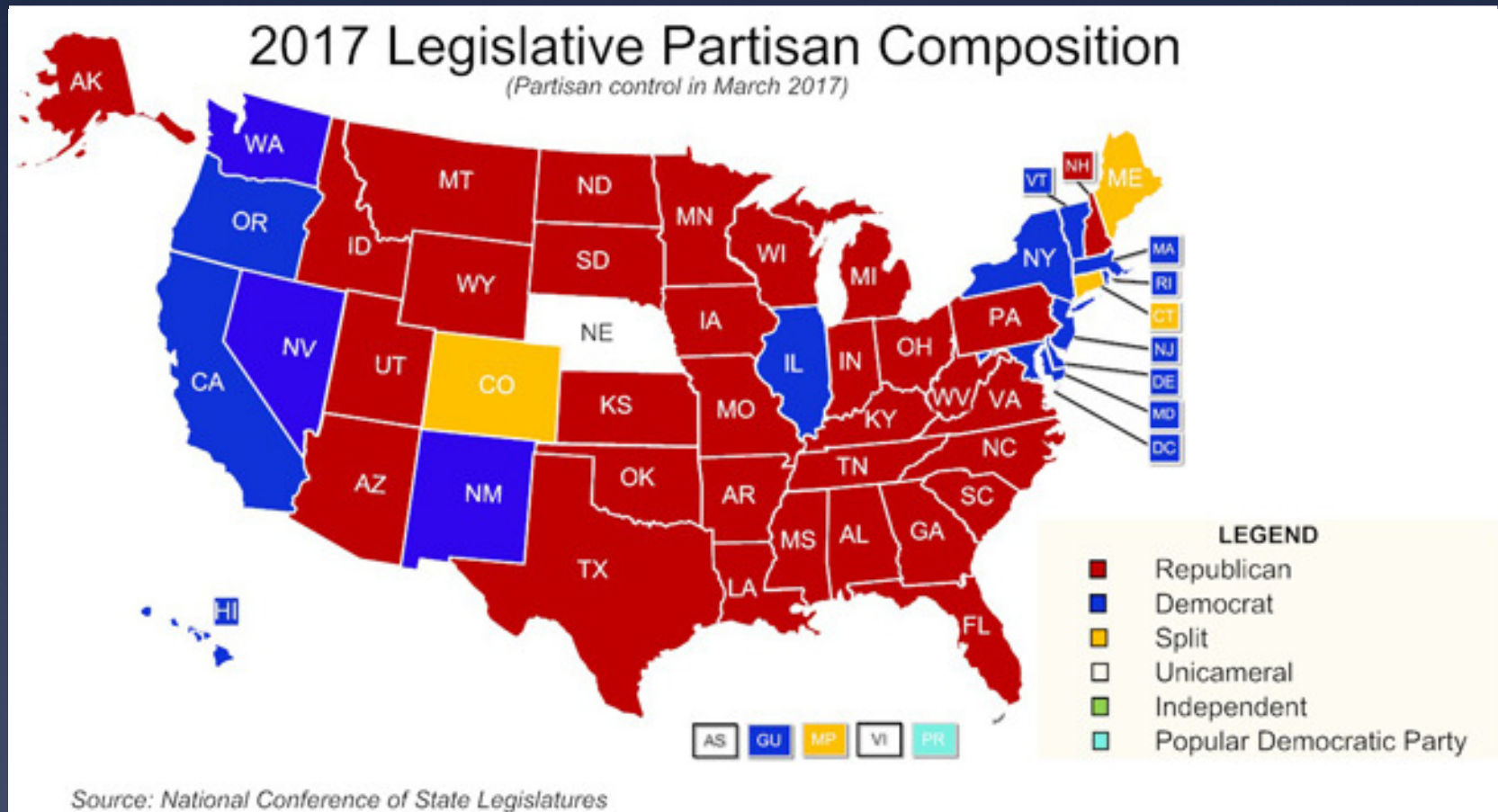


Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

# Why States Matter - Chambers held by Party

Democrat: 30

Republican: 38



Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle

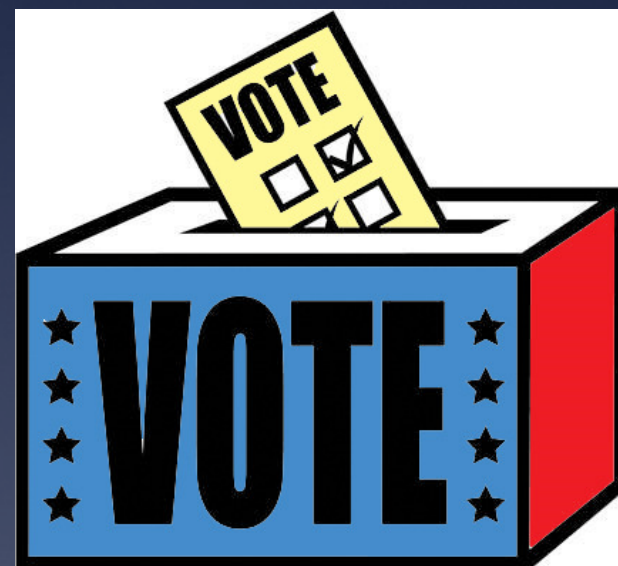
# What's Next?

## 2018 Federal Elections

- June 12<sup>th</sup> Republican Primary for U.S. Senate nomination
- November 6<sup>th</sup> Election for U.S. Senate and U.S. House members

## 2019 Virginia Elections

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



# How To Contact Us

Delegate David Toscano

211 East High Street

Charlottesville, VA 22902

434-220-1660

[DelDToscano@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelDToscano@house.virginia.gov)

Senator Creigh Deeds

P.O. Box 5462

Charlottesville, VA 22905

434-296-5491

[district25@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district25@senate.virginia.gov)



[www.davidtoscano.com](http://www.davidtoscano.com)

[www.senatordeeds.com](http://www.senatordeeds.com)



[facebook.com/DToscanoVA](https://facebook.com/DToscanoVA)

[facebook.com/creigh](https://facebook.com/creigh)



[@deltoscano](https://twitter.com/deltoscano)

[@creighdeeds](https://twitter.com/creighdeeds)

Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57th District • Charlottesville & Albemarle