



# Legislating in the Shadow of Washington's Chaos

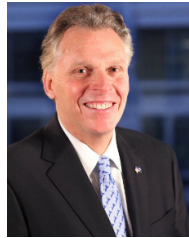
General Assembly  
2017 Report



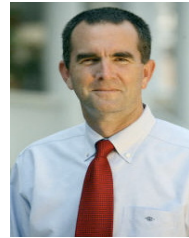
Delegate David Toscano  
Democratic Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Representing the 57<sup>th</sup> District • Charlottesville & Albemarle



# State of Play in Richmond: Divided Government



Governor  
Terry McAuliffe



Lt. Governor  
Ralph  
Northam



Attorney  
General  
Mark  
Herring



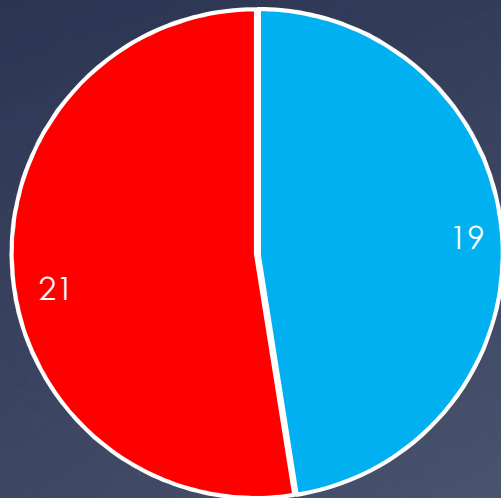
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# 2017: Virginia General Assembly

## \* State Senate

\* 19 Democrats, 21 Republicans

Senate

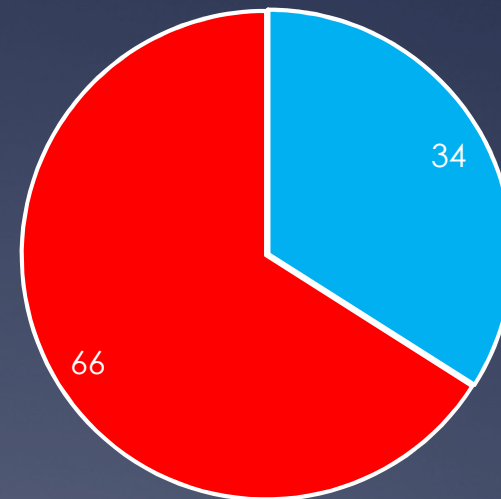


■ Democrats ■ Republicans

## \* House of Delegates

\* 34 Democrats, 66 Republicans

House



■ Democrats ■ Republicans

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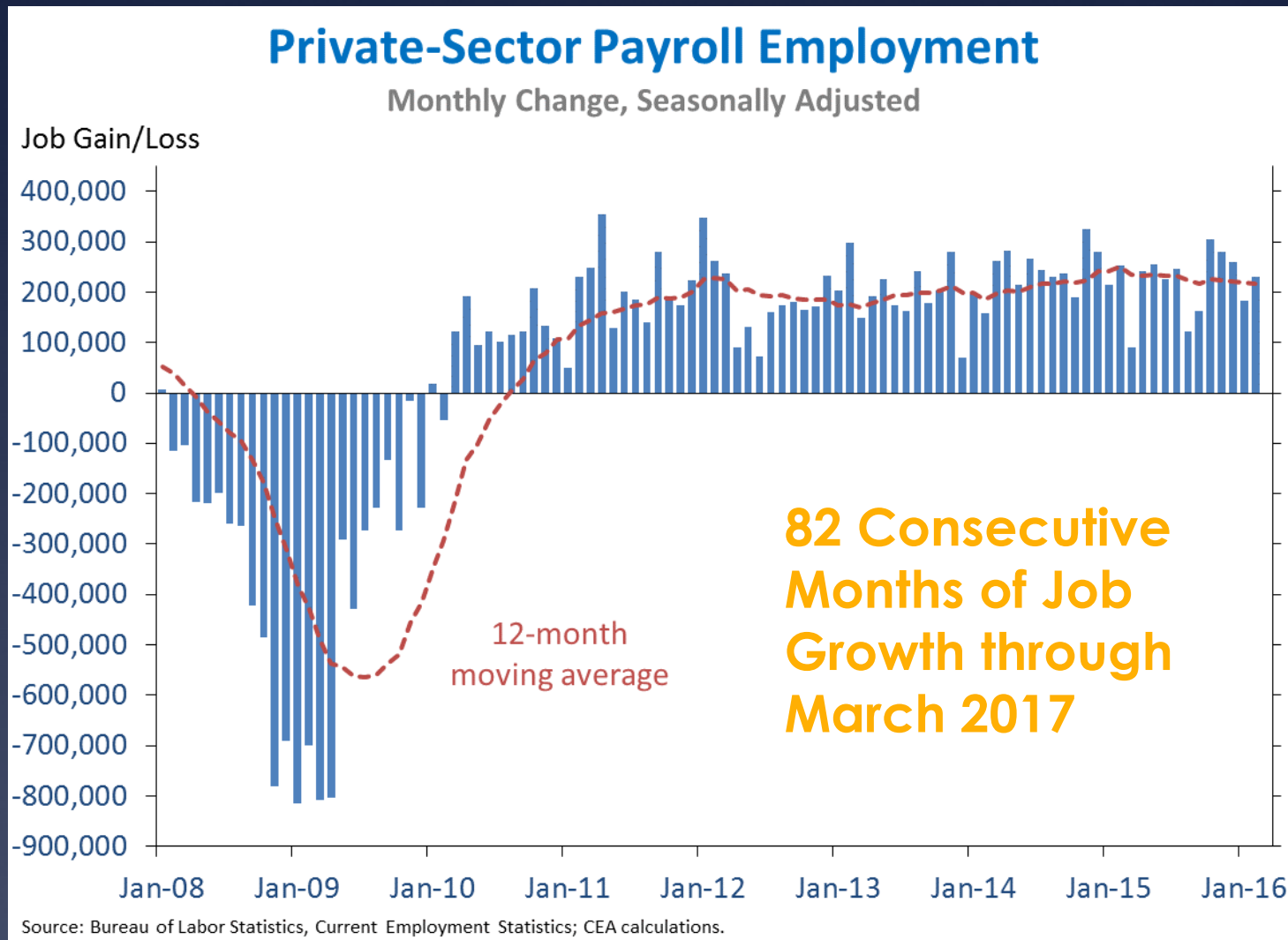


# Addressing Challenges in Building a New Virginia Economy



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# The Good: More Job Creation Nationally



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# Virginia by the numbers

899  
PROJECTS

185,000  
JOBS

\$15.6 billion  
Investment



The capital investment figure represents a total that will be realized upon completion of the announced projects.

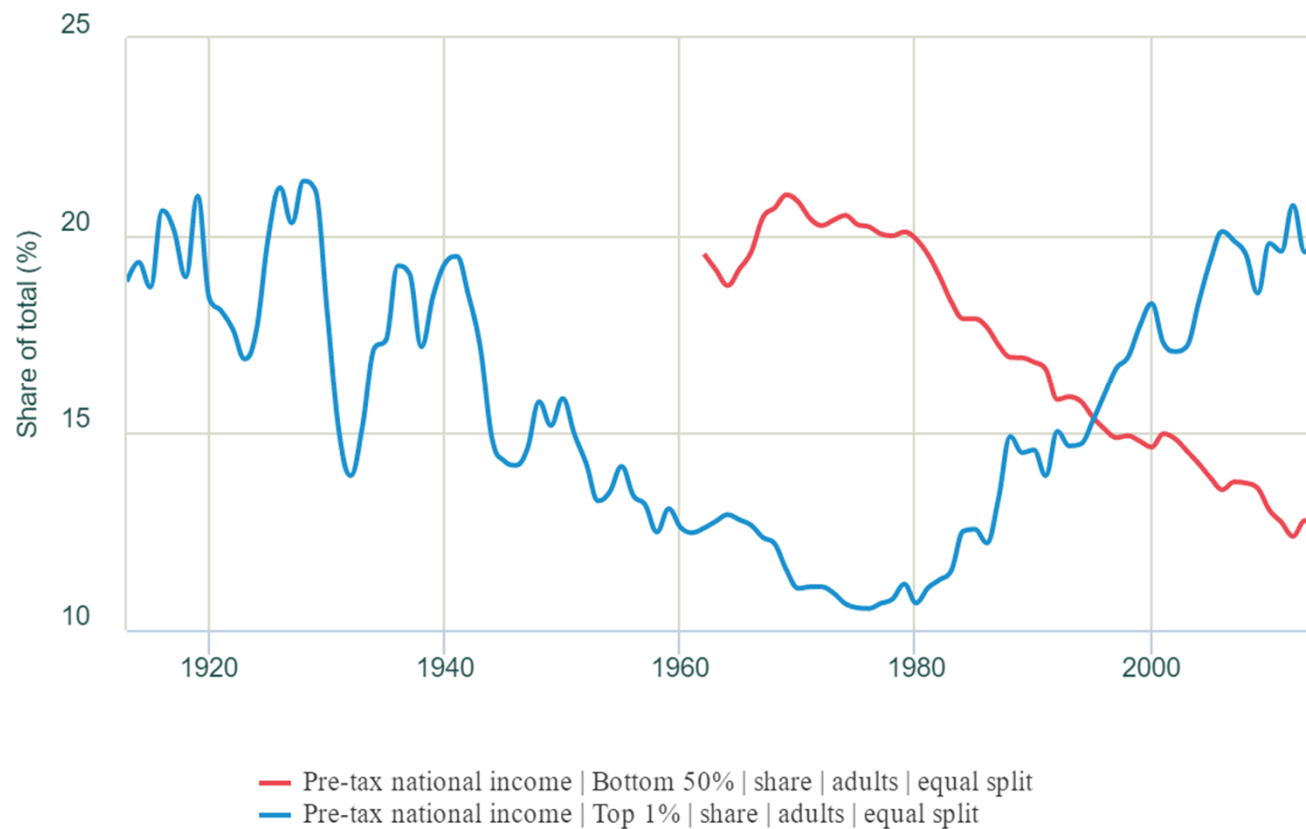
- Unemployment down to 3.9% from 5.4%
- Second-lowest unemployment rate among major U.S. states
- Investment in ports & Dulles

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# Inequality Rapidly Expands

**Income inequality - the USA, 1913-2014**



Graph provided by [www.wid.world](http://www.wid.world)

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# Still 2017 – “It’s The Economy...”

Virginia Politics

## McAuliffe says Virginia economy getting stronger, budget shortfall shrinking

**Gov. McAuliffe: Commonwealth's Unemployment Rate Drops to 4%**

Posted: Mar 14, 2017 8:59 AM EDT

Updated: Mar 14, 2017 9:03 AM EDT

## Virginia waits to see how Trump's plans will affect state economy

THE BIG BOOK: The charts



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# January 2017

## Dealing with a \$1.5 Billion Budget Shortfall



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# Budget Highlights 2017

- \* 3% Raises to law enforcement and state employees
- \* \$32 million for mental health
- \* Addressed shortfall with tax amnesty, \$567 million rainy day fund, and cuts



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# Budget 2017: Accomplishments

## Higher Education

- \* Reduced some cuts to Universities
- \* Funding still languishes as tuition rises



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# Budget 2017: Accomplishments

## K-12 education

- 2% Raise for teachers (still lags behind national average)
- Increased spending to \$5448 per pupil, still down 11% from 2009





# We had our moments



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# Latest Hunting Fashion

HB 1939- Allows hunters to wear blaze pink instead of blaze orange



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# Official State Spirit

SB 1261- Designates  
George Washington's  
Rye Whiskey as the  
official state spirit



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# Official State Television series

HB1927- Designates  
“Song of the  
Mountains” as the  
official state television  
series



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# The Speaker's Bill



HB 1900: Penalty for dogs running at large on another land owner's property



# 2017 Session Successes

Heavy lifting: 1,847 bills and resolutions introduced, 1243 passed

- \* Combating Opioids – more Virginians die now from overdose than from car accidents
  - \* HB 2165: Mandates that opioid prescriptions be electronically transmitted to pharmacies
  - \* SB848: Allows community organizations to possess and dispense naloxone.
  - \* HB 2317: Legalizes clean syringe programs, to combat HIV and Hepatitis C
  - \* HB 1786: Assists children exposed to opioids in Utero



# 2017 Successes

- \* Expansion of the Address Confidentiality program to protect victims of crime
- \* Airbnb Registration
- \* New bills to encourage solar power
- \* Judicial Discretion when suspending driver's licenses
- \* HB 2267: Can buy 12 month supply of hormonal contraceptives
- \* HB 2289: Permits life insurance be ordered in divorce
- \* HB 1456 : Redefines visitation as “parenting time”

# 2017 Successes

## Mental Health Legislation

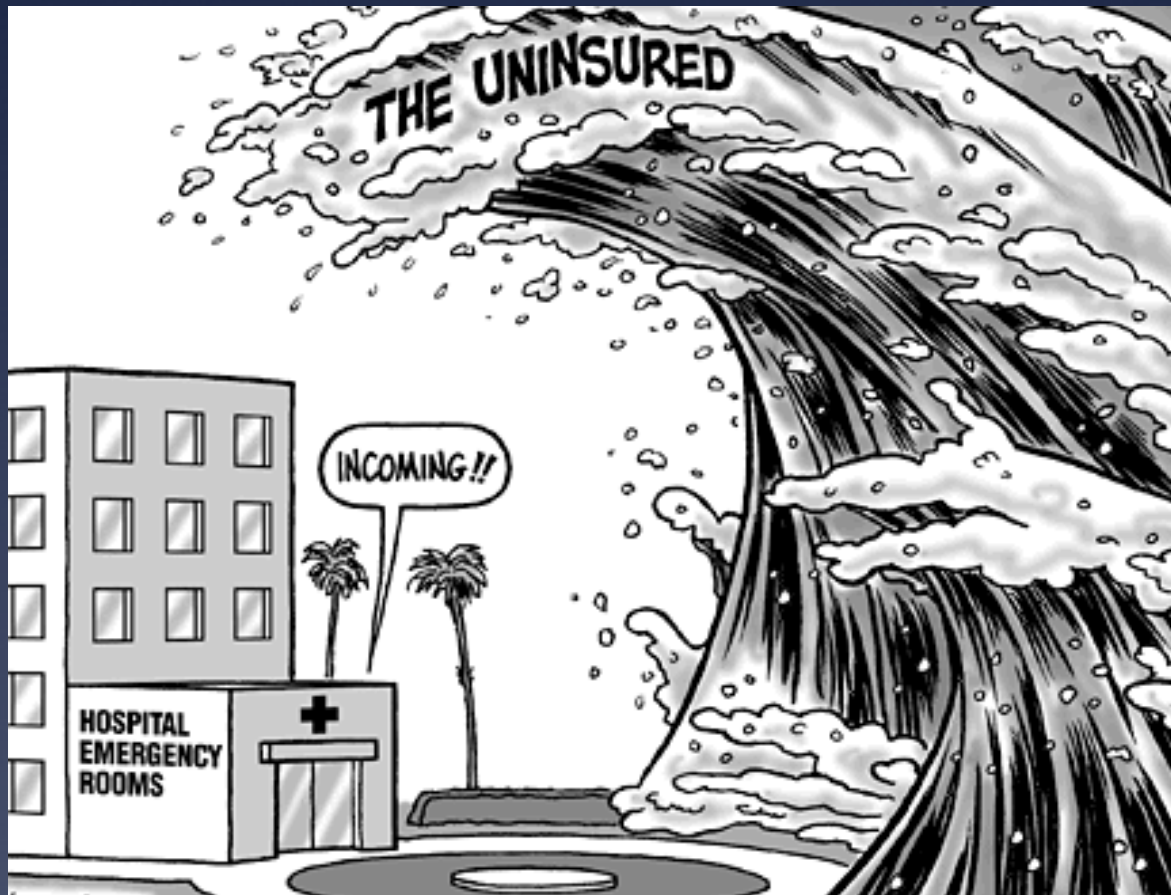
- \* \$23.9 million to help people with mental illness
- \* HB 2258: Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services to report on its activities related to suicide prevention

# 2017 Failures

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# No Medicaid Expansion



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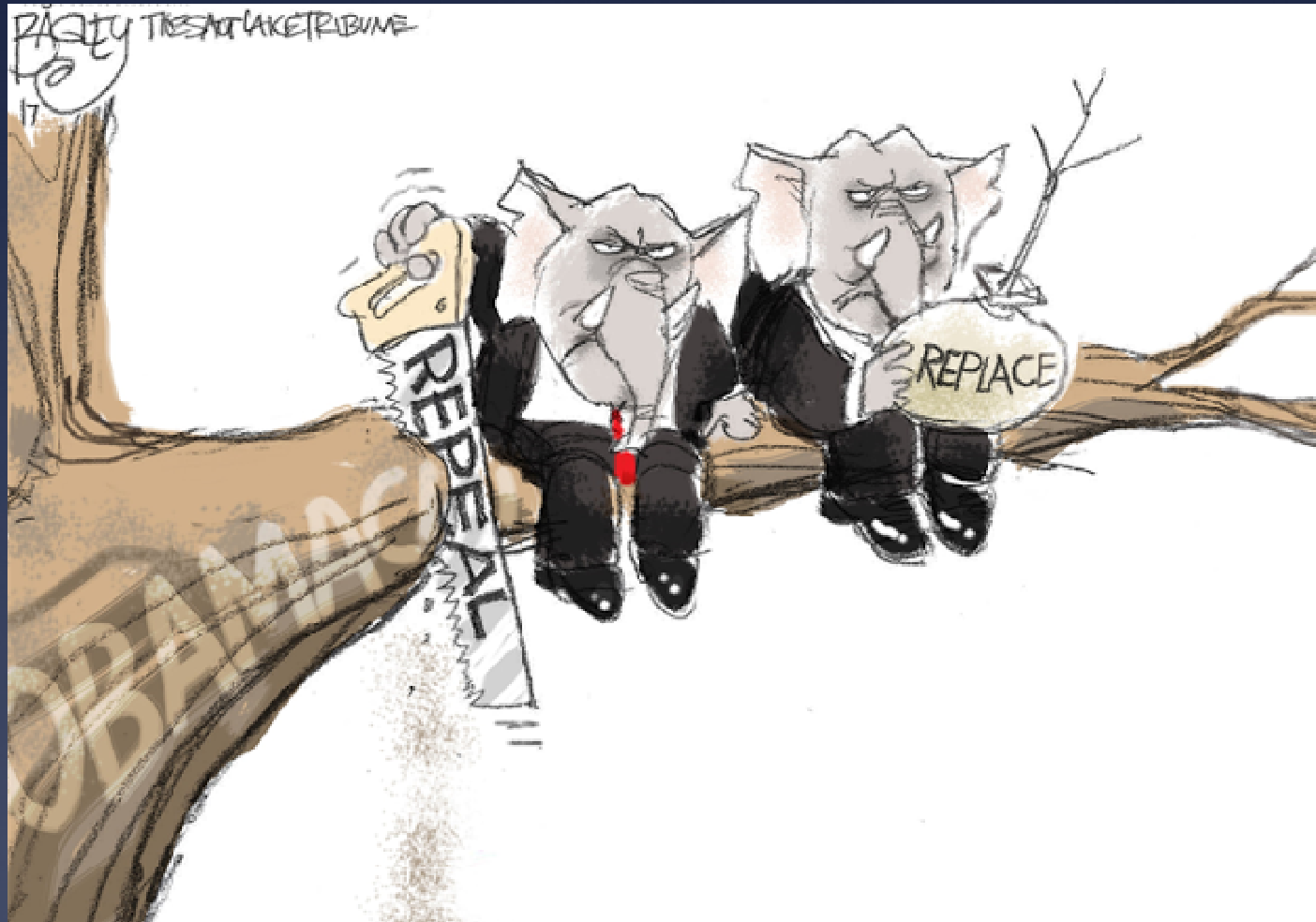
# Impact of ACA Repeal on VA



- Lose 100,000 jobs
- Tax breaks to richest 1%
- Medicaid cuts
- 339,000 Virginians lose coverage, including 22,000 children

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# Impact of ACA Repeal



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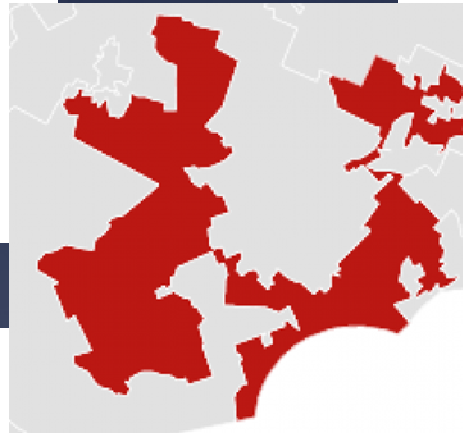


- No student debt relief
- No attention to distracted driving
- No increase in minimum wage
- No gun safety bills passed



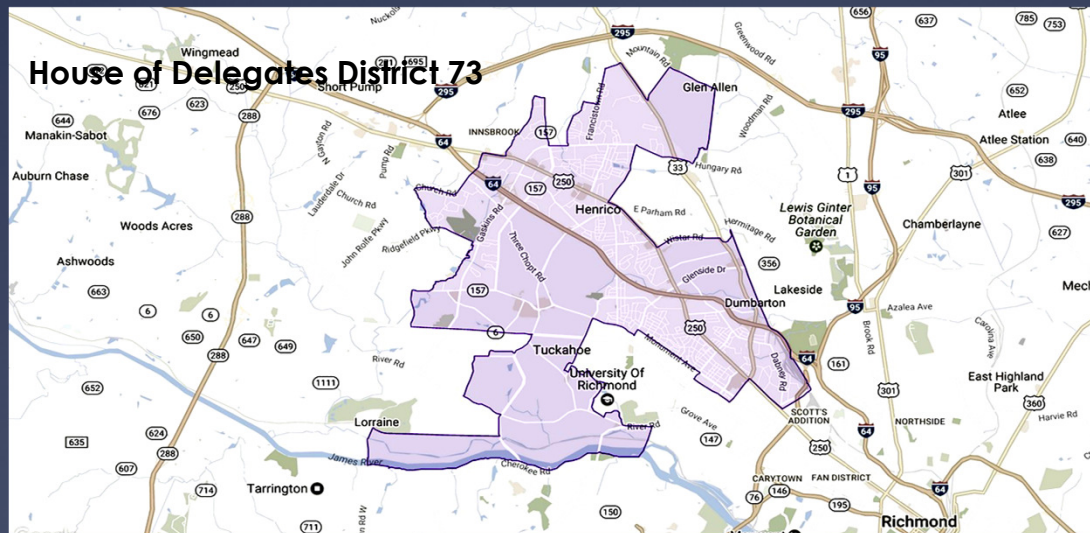
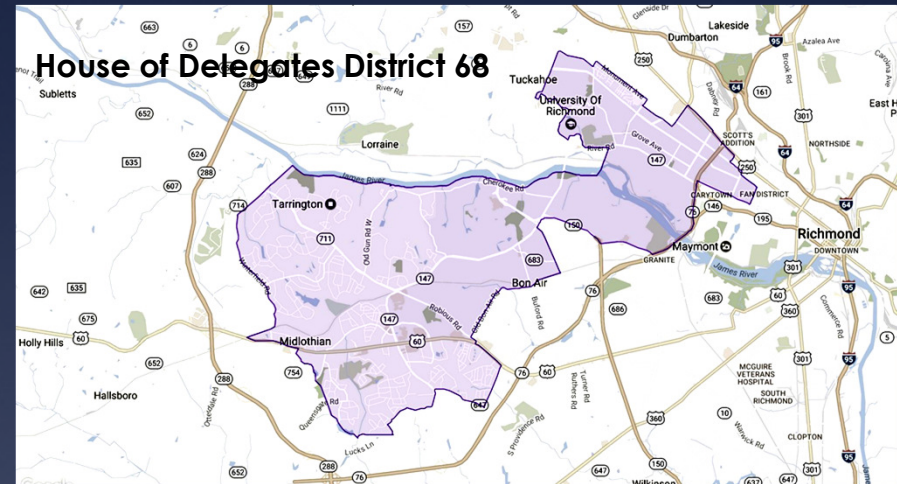
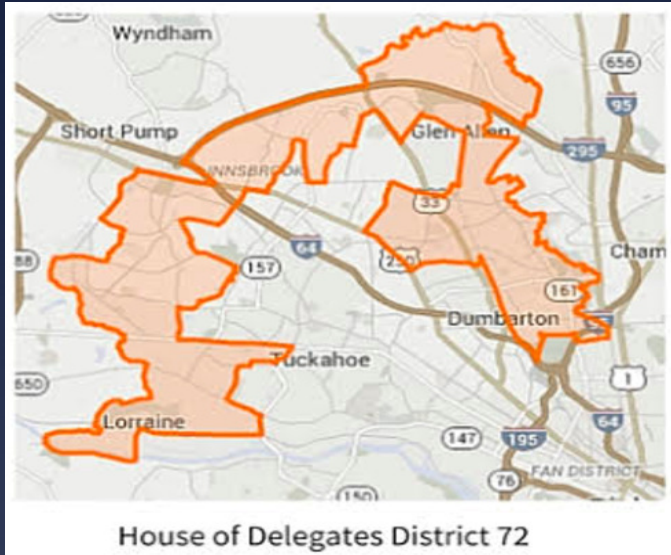
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# What do you see?



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# Failure of Redistricting Reform



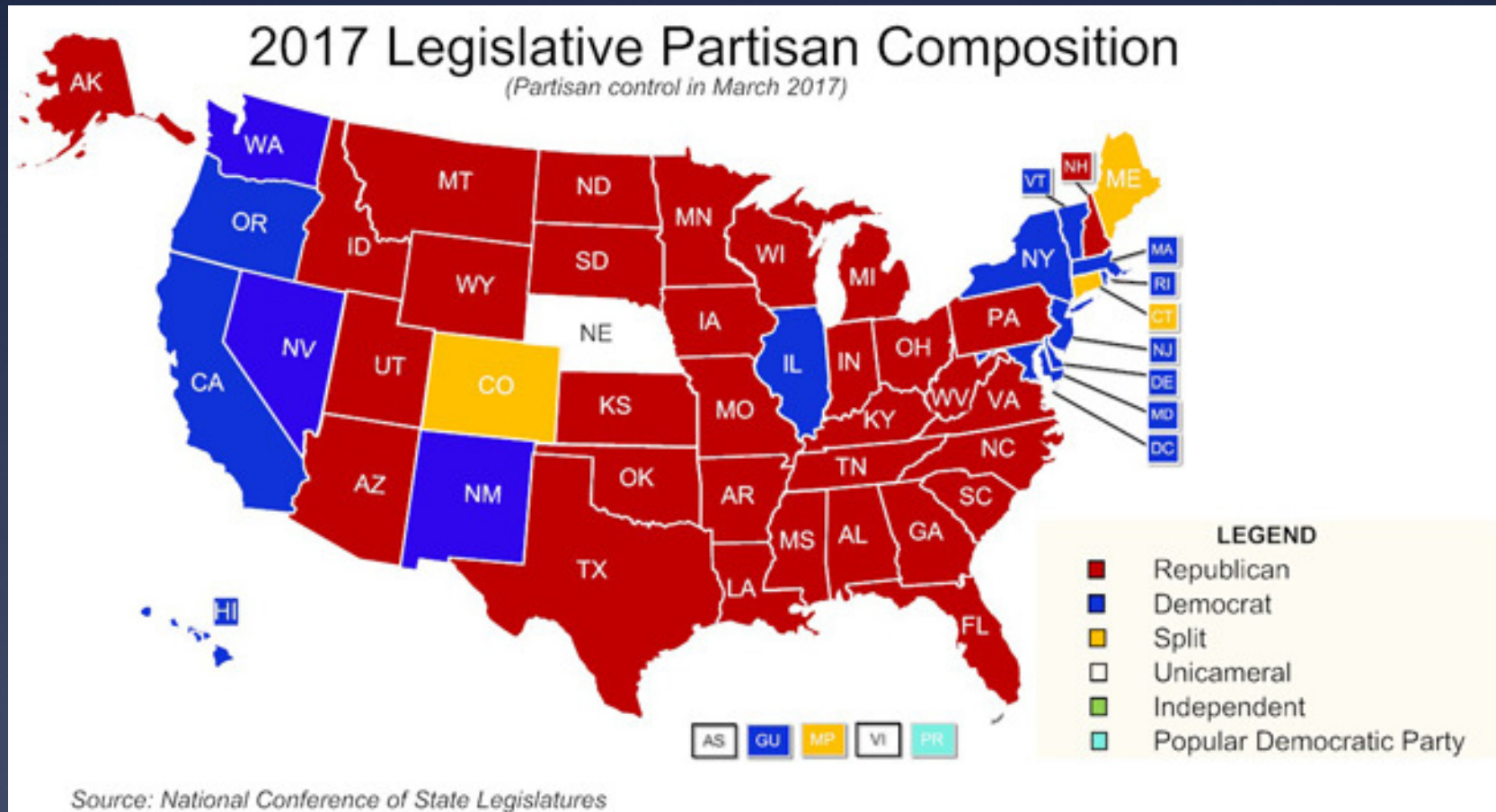
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# Why States Matter - Chambers held by Party

Democrat: 30

Republican: 38



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# Why Governors Matter:

**VETO**

- HB 1428: Absentee Ballot Photo ID
- HB 1468: Local police must enforce ICE Detainers
- HB 2264: Defunding Planned Parenthood
- HB 2198: Coal Tax Credit
- HB 2342: Charter schools
- HB 1432: Guns in Emergency Shelters
- HB 1596: Prohibitions against prevailing wage

*And nearly 100 more...*

# What's New: Crime Commission

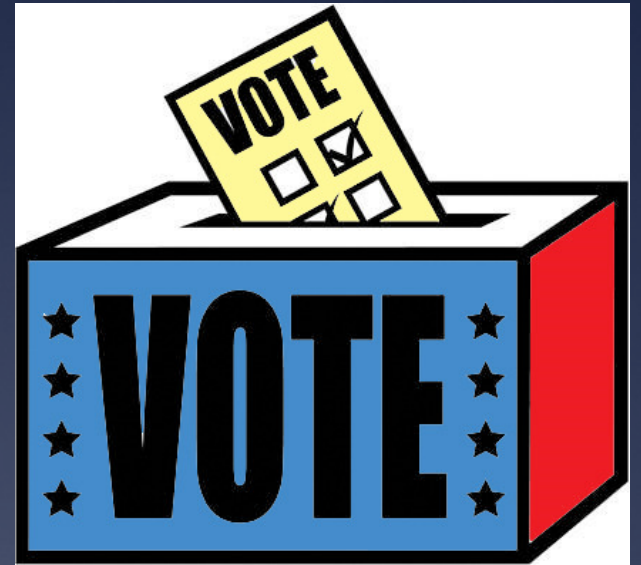
- Study of DNA expansion
- Study of medical marijuana





# What's Next?

- June 13<sup>th</sup> Primary
- November 7<sup>th</sup> Election



# Contact Delegate Toscano

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[www.facebook.com/DToscanoVA](http://www.facebook.com/DToscanoVA)

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