



Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

Happy Halloween! This month, my staff and I are preparing for the 2025 General Assembly Session by fine tuning proposed legislation and soliciting feedback from constituents. I also had the opportunity to recognize 20 years of dedicated community work by Sarah Mayhew the president of the Fairfax Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists.

Congratulations to Sweetwater Tavern (Centreville, VA) who earned a Gold Medal in the category of Rye Beers, contributing to Virginia's breweries earning 4 gold, 3 silver, and 6 bronze medals overall at the Great American Beer Festival (GABF).

Early voting is still in full swing, with the opportunity to vote for the next two Saturdays. I hope you join me in voting on or before November 5th! Please read further for important community updates.



2025 Legislation Ideas



Legislation Ideas?

Do you have an issue you are passionate about or a concern that you think the GA can address?

Submit your ideas for future bills!

SenatorPekarsky@Senate.Virginia.Gov

Our office is currently accepting ideas for future bills from constituents ahead of the upcoming 2025 legislative session. Do you have an issue you are passionate about of a concern that you think the General Assembly could address?

If so, please let us know at SenatorPekarsky@Senate.Virginia.Gov.

General Assembly News



THE HUNT INSTITUTE'S VIRGINIA EDUCATION SUMMIT

This week Sen. Pekarsky attended the Virginia Education Summit hosted by Senator Ghazala Hashmi, Delegate Sam Rasoul, and The Hunt Institute in Richmond. The summit provided Senate and House Education Committee members the opportunity to engage with experts on key education issues.

The two day summit was an opportunity to bring people from all sides of the political spectrum together to discuss key issues in education and learn together. Legislators had the opportunity to become thought partners with superintendents and principals and work together to address and hear their challenges.

Federal Court Decision Restoring Voting Rights to Over 1,600 Wrongfully Purged Voters Due to Governor Youngkin

Virginia Senate Democrats Applaud Federal Court Decision Restoring Voting Rights to Over 1,600 Wrongfully Purged Voters

RICHMOND, VA – Today, a Federal judge ordered the immediate restoration of voter registrations for more than 1,600 qualified Virginia voters whose registrations were wrongfully canceled by the Youngkin administration under false claims of non-citizenship. The Virginia Senate Democratic Caucus released the following statement:

"We strongly applaud today's Federal court decision protecting Virginians' fundamental right to vote. This ruling corrects a deeply troubling attempt to disenfranchise legitimate voters through unsubstantiated claims and inflammatory rhetoric about citizenship status.

On Friday morning, a federal judge ruled in favor of [plaintiffs](#) challenging a [Virginia program](#) that has removed

over 1,600 people from voter rolls since August, following an executive order by Gov. Glenn Youngkin. This means that people can be reinstated on voter rolls for the time being.

Protecting Virginians' fundamental voting rights is paramount. Today's ruling affirms these rights despite the Youngkin's attempt to say otherwise.

[Read more from the Virginia Mercury Here](#)

Early Voting Expanded Locations



Stella
PEKARSKY
Senator

FAIRFAX VOTES!

**Election
Calendar**

- Sep 20 - First Day of Early Voting
- Sep 21 - First Saturday of Early Voting
(Sep 21, Oct 19, Oct 26, Nov 2)
- Oct 25 - Deadline to request an Absentee Ballot
- Nov 2 - Last Day of Early Voting
- Nov 5 - Election Day

**Voting
Info**

General Information: iwillvote.com
Fairfax County: FairfaxVotes.org

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Early voting for this year's election is in full swing! Additional early voting locations are now open:

Monday – Friday: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturdays: (Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2): 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday: (Oct. 27): 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Voting locations in the 36th District include:

Fairfax County Government Center

12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax

Centreville Regional Library

14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville 20121

Sully Governmental Center

4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly 20151

View a full list of early voting locations with available hours [on the County's website](#).


Curbside voting is available at early voting and election day polling locations for people 65 or older or with a disability. When you arrive, look for the "Curbside Voting" sign near the accessible parking area. Call the phone number on the sign to contact an election officer. [Learn more about curbside voting and accessible voting.](#)

You can also [view sample ballots](#).

If you haven't registered to vote yet, there's still time. You can register or update your existing registration [on Virginia's Voter Portal](#). The deadline to register to vote is October 15. If you register between October 16 through Election Day, you can vote using a provisional ballot which will be counted upon confirming voter eligibility.

If you plan on voting by mail, you must [request a mail-in ballot](#) by October 25. The ballots will be mailed out beginning

September 20. After receiving your ballot, it must be postmarked and sent by Election Day, Tuesday, November 5.



WHAT'S ON YOUR BALLOT

Offices

- President & Vice President
- U.S. Senate
- U.S. Congress

Initiatives

- Virginia Constitutional Amendment
 - Changes the Virginia property tax exemption for veterans and surviving spouses to say killed in the line of duty rather than killed in action
- Transportation Bonds
- Public Safety Bonds

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2025 Resolution Nominations



Resolution Nominations

Do you know a business, organization who has served our community well? Do you want to honor a community member or loved one who has passed?

Submit their information to be considered for a commending or memorial resolution

SenatorPekarsky@Senate.Virginia.Gov

Our office is currently accepting commending and memorial resolution nominations ahead of the upcoming 2025 legislative session. The Virginia Senate and House have the opportunity to acknowledge and commend individuals and organizations that serve our community, in the official record. We also do memorial resolutions for people who have a lasting impact, who have passed.

Resolution proposals are voted on by the entire body to acknowledge significant community members' achievements. **Do you or someone you know have a proposal for a resolution?**

Please let us know at SenatorPekarsky@Senate.Virginia.Gov.

Presenting Resolutions



Commending Sarah Mayhew

Sarah Mayhew the president of the Fairfax Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists, has served the Fairfax County community for 20 years in various volunteering capacities related to protecting Fairfax County's natural habitat and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Sarah has been an ambassador in the Audubon at Home program with the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance, the program works with property owners and managers to design outdoor landscapes with native plants to conserve and restore Fairfax County's natural habitat to support bird and wildlife populations and enhance biodiversity.

Senator Pekarsky presented the resolution to Sarah with her fellow members of the Virginia Master Naturalists at Mason Neck State Park.

[Read the full resolution text.](#)



Local News

Congratulations Sweetwater Tavern



Earlier this month the Great American Beer Festival (GABF) was held in Denver, CO. GABF is put on by the The Brewers Association (BA) and the American Cider Association. The Great American Beer Festival judge panel evaluated noteworthy brews and ciders across 102 beer categories (including 170 subcategories), five new cider categories, and the Pro-Am and Collaboration competitions. This year, 273 breweries and cideries earned 326 medals after evaluating 8,836 commercial beer entries, 233 commercial cider entries, 95 Collaboration entries, and 52 Pro-Am entries.

Sweetwater Tavern (Centreville, VA) earned a Gold Medal for “Crazy Jackass” in the category of Rye Beers. Congratulations to Sweetwater Tavern for earning this high honor. This year, Virginia’s breweries earned 4 gold, 3 silver, and 6 bronze medals overall.

Fairfax County residents will now get a 48-hour grace period before towing

Those parking in certain residential lots across Fairfax County with expired registration decals or inspection stickers now have a grace period before facing the possibility of a tow.

Fairfax County supervisors moved on Tuesday (Oct. 22) to bring the county code into compliance with a new state law that requires towing operators to give vehicle owners written notice before any towing action. The vote by

supervisors was unanimous and came after a public hearing that didn't draw any community or board comment.

[Read More Here](#)

Community Resources

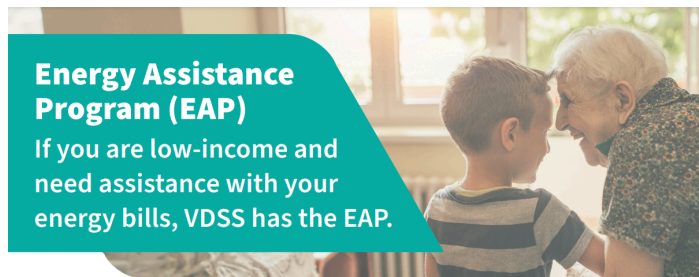


Your Guide to Halloween 2024 in Fairfax County

It's time for scary, silly and all kinds of costumes in all corners of our community. [Here are a few things to know about Halloween in Fairfax County.](#)

[Click here to find and explore some of the best-decorated houses in the county and get the full list of trick-or-treating, costume, driving/walking and pet tips.](#)

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/guide-to-halloween>



Energy Assistance Program (EAP)

If you are low-income and need assistance with your energy bills, VDSS has the EAP.

Energy Assistance Program Applications Open

The Virginia Energy Assistance Program (EAP) assists low-income households in meeting their immediate home energy needs. The EAP consists of four components: Fuel Assistance, Crisis Assistance, Cooling Assistance and Weatherization Assistance.

Fuel Assistance can help supplement your home energy costs and **accepts applications from the second Tuesday in October to the second Friday in November.**

Crisis Assistance can help with energy-related emergencies and accepts applications from **November 1 to March 15.**

For more information, [please visit the Virginia Department of Social Services site.](#)



Chesapeake Bay Foundation Student Field Program

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is now accepting applications for spring 2025 one-day Student Field Programs. The **priority deadline to apply is Friday, November 22, 2024.** CBF's one-

day and multi-day student field programs offer the opportunity for students and teachers to get outside and learn about the wonders of our Bay region through field investigations.

[For more information about the program and how to apply, please visit the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's site.](#)



Introducing RetirePath Virginia

RetirePath Virginia is revolutionizing retirement savings for thousands of Virginians, offering a brighter and more secure future. Established by state legislation, Virginia's automatic-enrollment, state-facilitated retirement savings program opened in 2023. It's a game-changer for private-sector workers in every corner of the Commonwealth.

RetirePath participation is mandatory for certain Virginia employers. Fortunately, the program is designed with simplicity in mind. There are no employer fees, fiduciary responsibilities, or complex administrative burdens. It's an easy way for eligible businesses to help their employees save for the future. Employers can learn about eligibility and registration deadlines at RetirePathVA.com/employers.

Employee participation is voluntary and flexible. RetirePath is available to Virginians whose employers don't offer a retirement plan, self-employed individuals, and others who want to save extra. Set up your account at RetirePathVA.com/savers.

Virginians now have a powerful tool to help them invest in their future. With RetirePath, a brighter, more secure retirement is within reach for all. Learn more at RetirePathVA.com.

RetirePath VA is mandatory for certain Virginia employers. Newly Eligible Businesses: RetirePath sends a series of notifications to eligible employers when it's time to register. **For businesses eligible in 2024, the registration deadline is October 30, 2024.** Previously Notified Businesses: For businesses eligible in 2023, the registration deadline has passed. Non-compliant employers are subject to enforcement action, which may include financial penalties. Check eligibility at RetirePathVA.com.

Contact My Office



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It is a pleasure to serve you in the 36th District

Email: senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov

Phone: (804) 698-7536

Richmond Office
201 North 9th Street Room, 621
Richmond, VA 23219

Richmond Direct Mail
P.O. Box 396
Richmond, VA 23218

**Cheers,
Stella Pekarsky
Senator, District 36**

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*Friends of Stella G Pekarsky
PO BOX 231191 CENTREVILLE, VA 20120*

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