




Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

The Session winds down! My bills are headed to the Governor's desk, the budget bills advance, conference committees meet next week, and the House and Senate face off on the court!

Legislative Updates



Legislation Heading to the Governor





Legislation going to Conference Committees

SB 225
Notifying parents about safe storage of guns


SB 391
Protects public employees using medicinal cannabis products

SB 392
Mandates at least one doctor on duty in ERs

SB 608
Creates the Office of Community Schools at the Department of Education

SB 610
Allows individuals with a Developmental Disability waiver request slot-retention requests for a period up to 365 calendar days

SB 393
Promotes Diversity on corporate boards seeking funding from the MEI Project Approval Commission



What is a Conference Committee?

If two identical bills pass both chambers, they go to the Governor to be signed into law. If the changes have been made to one or both bills and the House and Senate pass two different versions, they go to a **conference committee**.

In a conference committee, a small selection of members meet to work out the differences in the bills and come to an agreement on a single bill to send to the Governor.

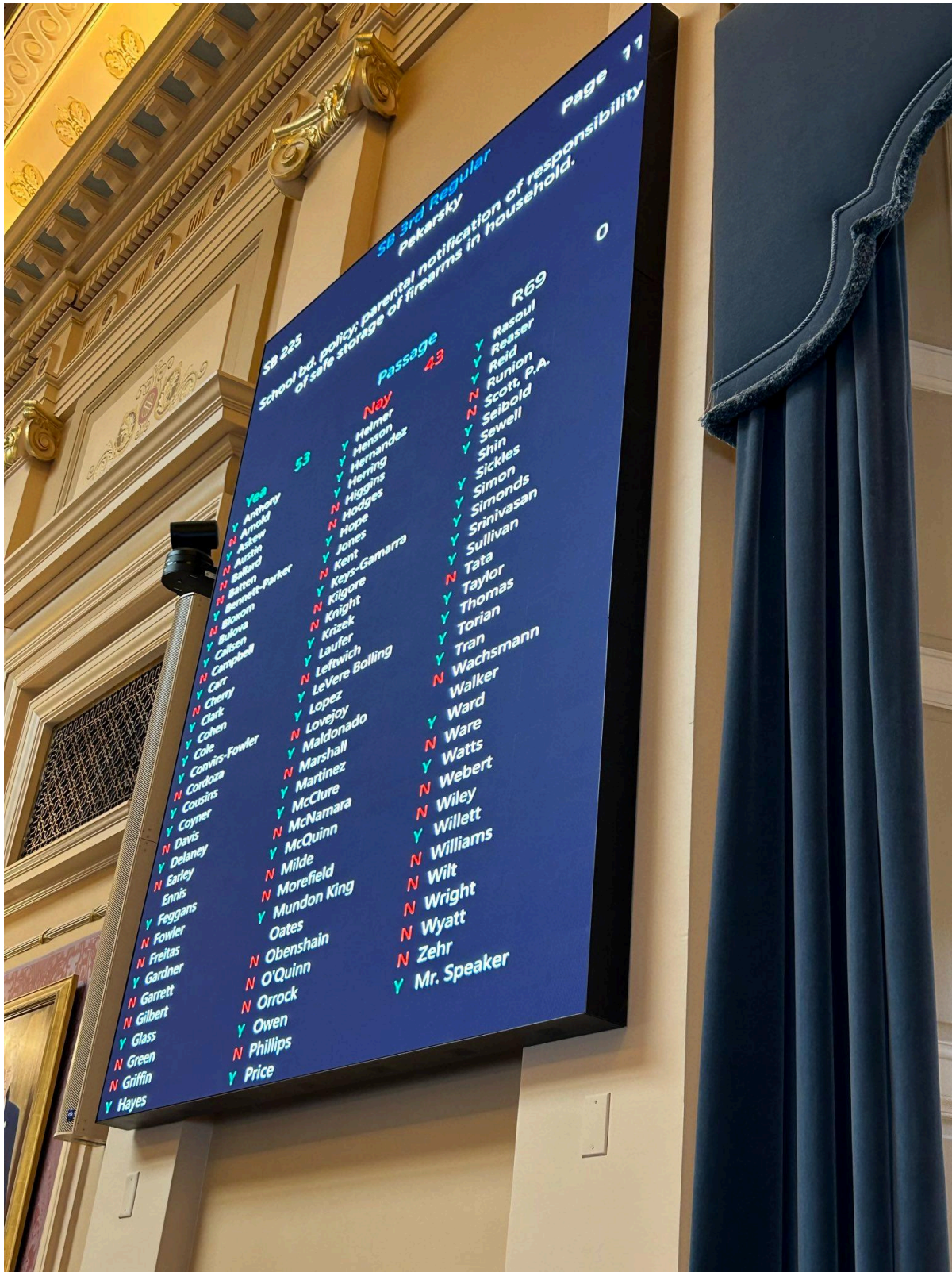
Conference committees will be meeting next week - the last week of session!

SB 388 Mandatory Disclosure of Junk Fees Bill Passes on the House Floor!



On Friday, my bill SB 388 which has been called the "most broad sweeping consumer protection bill of the 2024 legislative session" passed the House of Delegates with bipartisan support. The bill will now return to the Senate and the head to a conference committee next week. After that it will go to the Governor's desk to be signed into law!

SB 225 - Safe Gun Storage Bill Passes the House!



This Week, my bill to require school boards to notify parents how to safely store firearms in the home passed the House with bipartisan support! This bill will also be heading to the Governor's desk!

In the News

I am working to make sure that restorative practices are part of the disciplinary process in our schools. Exclusionary practices such as suspension and expulsion keep students out of school and lead to worse outcomes. Read about how my bill helps both address student misbehavior and keep them in school in this Virginia Mercury article!



[Read More Here](#)

REVIVE! Training



This week, the Virginia Department of Health hosted training sessions to teach legislators and their staff on the use of Narcan nasal spray to reverse overdoses.

The Pekarsky Family Visits the General Assembly

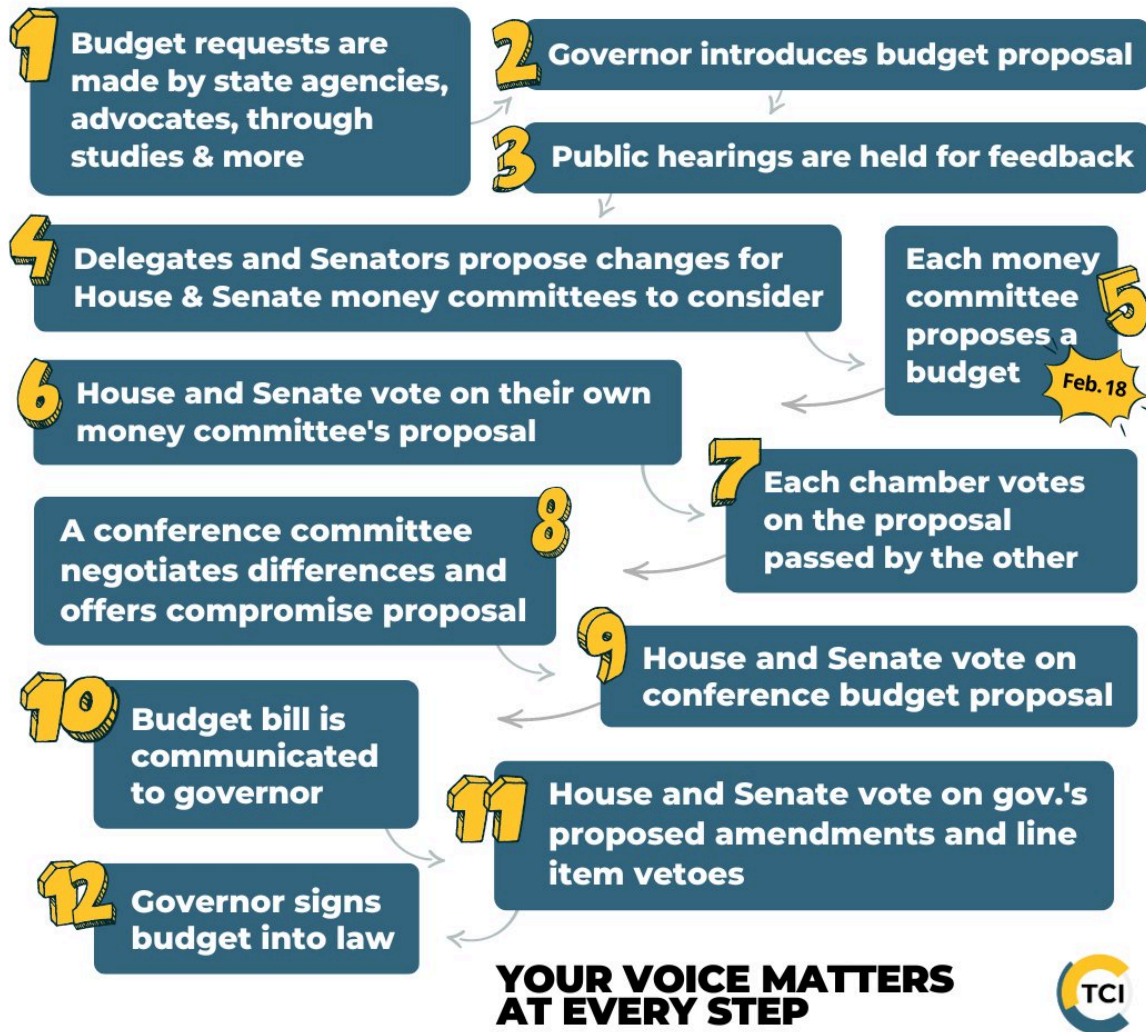


This week the Senate welcomed my family to the Senate Floor!

Virginia General Assembly Budget

The Senate and the House have passed their respective budget bills which will be worked out next week in conference committee!

VIRGINIA'S BUDGET PROCESS



Senate Budget Highlights:

Increase Teacher Pay – \$525.2 million for the state portion of a 3% pay increase per year for teachers (localities asked provide at least 1.5% of pay increase). This will put Virginia as close as it has been in a long time to being at the national average for teacher pay.

Remove Support Staff Cap – The Senate budget adds \$400 million to remove the support position cap. This cap was added in 2010 as a budget measure. It placed a cap on the number of support staff positions that the state would support through its Standards of Quality funding. This recommendation is a key part of the recent JLARC recommendations on Virginia's education funding formula.

Support In-Need Schools – Increases the At-Risk Add On funding by \$200.6 million. This money is distributed to school districts with high concentrations of students on free and reduced lunch. It can be used for anything a school deems necessary. This funding is particularly important for Fairfax County Public Schools.

Increased Money For Fairfax Public Schools – The Senate budget provides the most money for Fairfax Public Schools out of all proposed budget, increasing the base budget by over \$226 million over two years. The Senate budget also includes over \$185 million more over two years than what the Governor proposed in his budget.

The House and Senate Face off on the Court!



On Thursday, the House and Senate teams participated in the 2024 Capitol Square Classic which raised over \$100,000 to benefit the Massey Cancer Center. Though the game was close, the House came out on top Thursday night with a 14-12 victory. However, a rule violation during the game resulted in the Senate passing a resolution declaring the game a tie!

Community Updates

GMU Stadium



I know that many in our community have shared concerns regarding a project at GMU that involves plans to build a temporary shared use stadium for their baseball team and a

professional cricket team that will hold up to 10,000 people.

GMU is an important part of our NOVA community and I generally support their efforts to promote growth and innovation in our area. I am also 100% committed to ensuring that everyone who is a part of the community is prioritized, included, and has their concerns heard and addressed as that growth continues.

Since starting my term in January, I have been working to ensure that I am fully up to date with these plans that started last fall and winter.

I have been in close contact with GMU representatives, state agencies, county elected officials, and other members of the Richmond delegation in our area.

We are planning a townhall and listening session that will include both GMU and the connected sports teams. I plan on hosting this and have invited other local representatives. I will be sure to share more information as our planning process continues so that you are able to join.

GMU has created a website so that you can [track updates that they are sharing here](#)

After speaking directly with GMU it is our understanding that there have been no formal agreements signed.



Schedule a meeting with me in Richmond and reach out to our office about legislation that is important to you!

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

*Paid and Authorized by Friends of Stella G Pekarsky
Copyright © 2023, Stella Pekarsky, All rights reserved.*

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

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please
(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).