

Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

This weekend welcomes the unofficial start to summer. In my house, that means the excitement of the end to another school year, beginning of swim team and pool fun, unstructured time to just explore and enjoy being a kid. My family will also be attending the annual Memorial Day Capitol concert in DC to honor the sacrifices of so many that have made it possible for us to all enjoy the freedoms that we hold dear. These days, with so many threats to our democracy, it feels especially important to ensure that our children understand how important it is to honor and remember the heroic service of the men and women who put country before self. As you enjoy the BBQs and pool this weekend, please remember that our freedoms have never come without the sacrifices of others. May their courage inspire us to live with purpose and gratitude.



Budget Updates

Last week, I joined my colleagues in Richmond for a Special Session to pass a budget that includes record investments in education and teacher salaries, one of my #1 priorities and promises to my constituents. I have been proud to work with my

colleagues across chambers and across the aisle, but there is still work to do!

Here are some of the highlights:

Public Education

Overall, provides a total of \$2.1 billion GF above the FY 2024 base budget

Medicaid

Fully funds \$745.2 million GF over the biennium for the Medicaid and children's health insurance forecasts

Transportation

Includes \$65.0 million GF in the first year and \$84.5 million GF the second year for additional operating assistance for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

Commerce and Labor

- Contains \$175.0 million GF for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund to support the creation or preservation of affordable housing
- Adds \$30.0 million in FY 2025 to help with costs related to "make ready" work on American Rescue Plan Act-funded broadband infrastructure projects

Legislative Updates

I am grateful to be able to serve our Commonwealth by being appointed to the following commissions.

Commission Appointments

- **Geographic Information Network Advisory Board**
- **Joint Commission on Health Care School Health Services Committee**
- **Online Virginia Network Authority**
- **Department of Education Advisory Committee on Special Education**
- **Autism Advisory Council**
- **Commission to End Hunger**
- **School Health Services Committee**

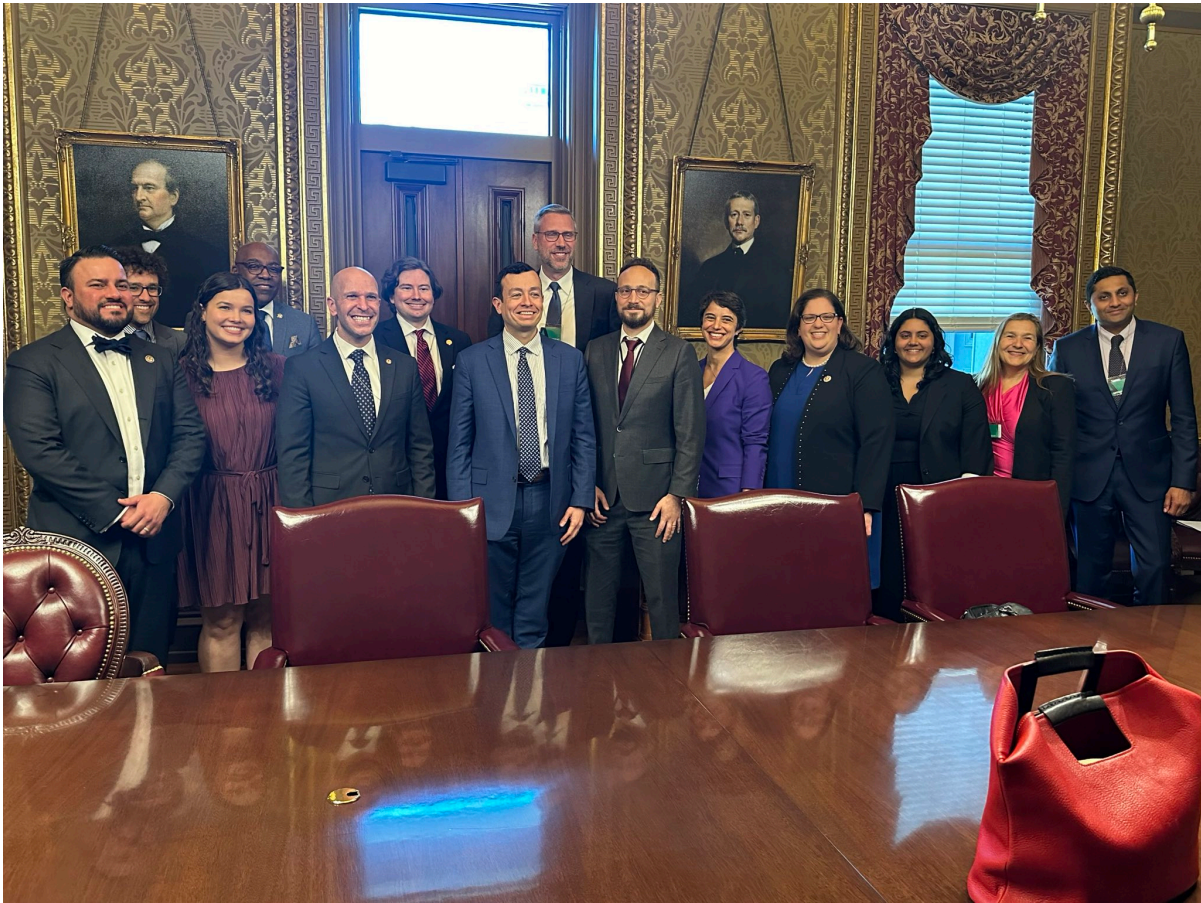


Hiring

Highlights

Thank you to members of the Northern Virginia Partnership for inviting me to join one of your meetings to hear about the legislative session and share your concerns with me

I was invited to attend a briefing at the White House with other policy makers at the local, state, and federal level to discuss consumer protection policies that will help protect hardworking Virginians



Thank you to NOVA Labor and all of our local unions and their members for your hard work throughout the year and allowing me to join you in celebrating all of the successes from the last year. I was grateful to join Delegate Krizek, Senator Salim, and our friends from the Fairfax County Professional Firefighters & Paramedics - IAFF Local 2068

I was proud to be invited by the American Economic Liberties Project to be part of a panel with Arizona Representative Annalise Ortiz to discuss the national movement to protect families from hidden junk fees. We know that these policies will not only save families an average of more than \$2,500 annually, but will empower small businesses by leveling the playing field.



Ways Our Office Can Support You

Our office is here to help support you and your families in the ways that we're able. We can work with and liaise between state government agencies. This includes the DMV, the Employment Commission, VDOT, and many others.

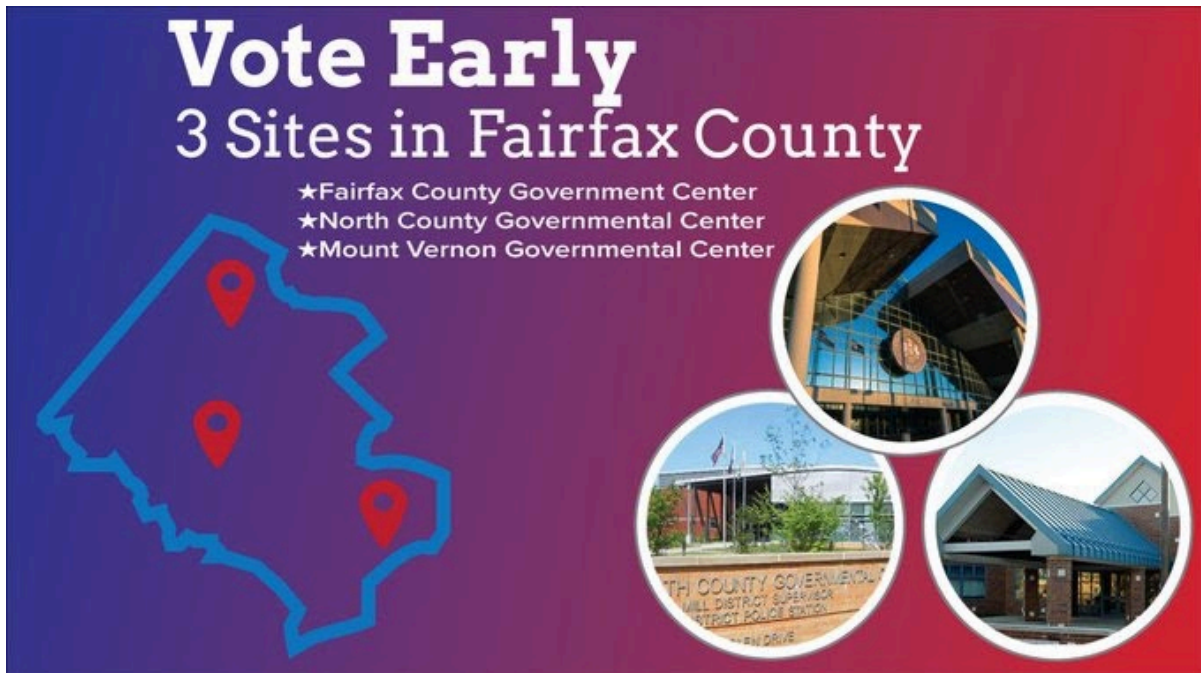
I know as road repaving begins many of you have reached out to our office to understand the paving schedule and let us know that your roads are in need of paving / unsafe. Please continue to do that.

[You can join a local Fairfax VDOT Road Paving meeting for you district here. They are looking for input as they begin to finalize the 2025 road paving schedule.](#)

[You can check out the current road repaving schedule for 2024 here.](#)



Community Updates, Information, & Opportunities



Early, in-person voting for the June 18 Dual Primary Election is underway and continues until Saturday, June 15. There are two separate ballots for Democratic and Republican candidates, you can [view sample ballots by precinct](#).

Voting is available at three locations until June 15:

Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax - Conference Rooms 2/3)

- Weekday hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Saturdays (June 8 and June 15): 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Mt. Vernon Governmental Center (2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria)

- Weekday hours: 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Saturdays (June 8 and June 15): 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

North County Governmental Center (1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston)

- Weekday hours: 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Saturdays (June 8 and June 15): 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

All three of these locations will be closed on Memorial Day

Beginning Saturday, June 8, voters can cast ballots at 13 additional early voting sites, including at Burke Centre Library (5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke) and West Springfield Governmental Center (6140 Rolling Road, Springfield). These locations will be open on weekdays from 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and on Saturdays (June 8 and June 15) from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

You can find all the locations, operating hours, and detailed information on Saturday voting on the Office of Elections' website.

Fairfax Fire and Rescue announces the return of the Girls Fire and Rescue Academy summer camp. The free academy is taking place June 25 - 28, and is open to female students who will be in grades 7–12 in the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. [Click here for more information.](#)

As the end of the school year approaches, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) invites you to participate in the Summer Extravaganza!

Join FCPS at Woodson High School on Saturday, June 1, 2024, for a fun-filled day with engaging, educational, and enriching activities. From 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., all FCPS families are invited to enjoy face painting, music, learning activities, student performances, food, and

much more! Families will also have the opportunity to connect with local businesses, the Fairfax County Public Library, the Fairfax County Park Authority, and other community organizations.

[While it is not required, families are encouraged to register for the event. For more information and to register, please visit Summer Extravaganza](#)

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[Stay informed about what is happening in Richmond and around the 36th District.](#)

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

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

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