



Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

Happy Pride Month! I hope you and your family are enjoying the beginning of summer. June is full of celebrations. I have had the pleasure of attending several graduations across the district. This month, we also celebrate Juneteenth, marking the date on June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers told the African American community in Galveston, Texas, that the Civil War was over and they were free. While we have much to celebrate, I hope you will remember to vote in the 10th Congressional District Primary by June 18th.



Session Recognition



This week, I was named Freedom Virginia's 2024 Legislator of the Year and an Affordability Champion. I share this honor with my friend in the House, Del. Karrie Delaney. Earlier in the

year, I was designated as one of [Virginia Education Association \(VEA\)'s Legislative Rookies of the Year.](#)

During my campaign last year, I promised to always fight for working families and to be an advocate for our children's education. I know this is just the beginning and I will work tirelessly to champion our community in Richmond.

Special Session

Members of the General Assembly met on May 13th, 2024, for a special session to finalize the state budget and its language. The 2024-2025 budget made changes to the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP). All students admitted into the VMSDEP program by May 15th were grandfathered into the program. Below are the major changes made to the program:

- Virginia domicile requirement for students limits award to first undergraduate degree
- Requires completion of FAFSA
- Restores satisfactory academic progress requirement
- Establishes proportional application of any gift aid (Pell)
- If a student chooses to use other benefits dedicated to the payment of tuition and fees, they would be applied against the waiver

I know that many families have planned around this program and have expressed grave concerns over the changes. I am committed to ensuring access to these benefits and working with stakeholders on the many concerns that have been raised. I feel very strongly that those who have sacrificed the most for our freedom have support and benefits needed so that we continue to honor those sacrifices.

As your Senator, you have my commitment that I will attend the special session on June 18th to address this important issue.

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

District Highlights



It was a pleasure to attend several graduations this past week including the James W Robinson, Jr. Secondary School (pictured above) and Westfield High School (pictured below).



Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors from Centreville High School, Chantilly High School, the Robinson Secondary School, Thomas Jefferson High School, and Westfield High School!



Seema Dixit, FCPS School Board Sully District Member, and I attending a graduation ceremony.



This week I visited Soo Kyung Jung's studio to thank the students for their community service. Soo Kyung Jung is the Director of DI DIM SAE Korean Traditional Art Institute and she teaches Korean dance and drums in Centreville and Chantilly High Schools Schools.



Transportation Updates

Upcoming Road Closures

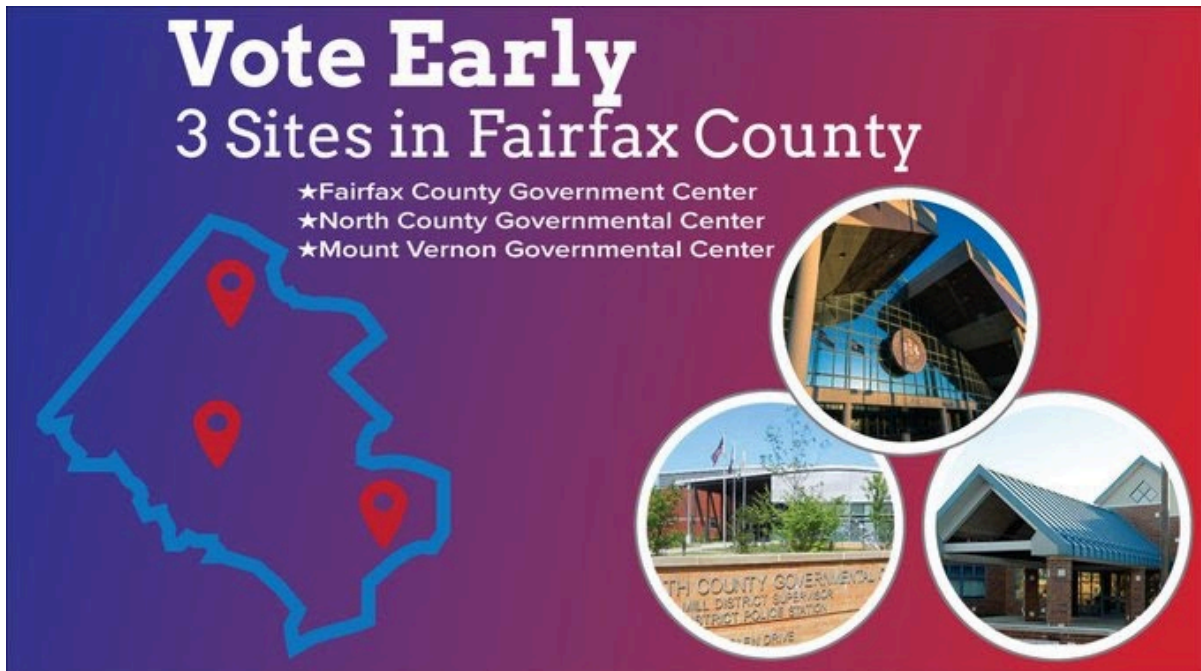
[Overnight Ramp Closures Planned at Multiple I-66 Interchanges June 10 – 14](#)

Participate in the Route 29 Study Survey

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation's (FCDOT) ongoing [Route 29 Corridor Study](#) is evaluating the long-term needs of the Route 29 corridor between Buckleys Gate Drive/Summit Drive and Jermantown Road. The Study will help inform future solutions to enhance the corridor's safety, mobility, and accessibility for both non-motorized and motorized travelers.

An online survey will gather public comments about the Study through Friday, June 21. Community members are encouraged to review the latest information on the Route 29 Study webpage and provide their feedback through the survey.

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.

Beginning Saturday, June 8, voters can cast ballots at 13 additional early voting sites, including at Burke Centre Library (5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke), Centreville Regional Library (14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville), Sully Governmental Center (4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly 20151), 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.



With NOVA Parks & Fairfax County NAACP

Celebrate Juneteenth with NOVA Parks & Fairfax County NAACP to recognize the largest private emancipation of the enslaved, commemorate the cemetery where many of the freed are interred, and visit the site where Blacks and whites worshipped as early as 1775.

The Juneteenth celebration, held June 17 at Bull Run Regional Park, included remarks from NOVA Parks Board Chair Cate Magennis-Wyatt, Fairfax County NAACP President Michelle Leete, and Reverend Linda Alicudo, who will tell the story of the Harris Family Cemetery and Bull Run Baptist Church. A poetry reading by Anita Gill-Anderson, musical performances by Heritage Baptist Church singers, and a presentation by guest speaker Bishop Brett Fuller, Washington Commanders Chaplain and founder of Grace Covenant Church, will take place at the site of the cemetery.

The event will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 17 at Bull Run Regional Park, located at 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville, Virginia 20121. Ceremony remarks will begin at shelter 10 next to Atlantis Waterpark. Parking is available in the Atlantis Waterpark parking lot near the road.

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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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