



Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

This week, I joined my fellow Senate Democratic Caucus members and our Virginia Congressional delegation to call Governor Youngkin's administration to do everything they can to ensure Virginia joins the IRS Direct File program for the 2025 filing season. Not only will this make filing taxes easier and more straightforward, it will eliminate the middleman and fees of filing.

It's hard to believe, but school starts on Monday, August 19th! I have had a great time connecting with constituents at the pool, swim meets, neighborhood BBQs, and sports events. If you see me out and about, please introduce yourself! I enjoy meeting so many neighbors and hearing their thoughts.

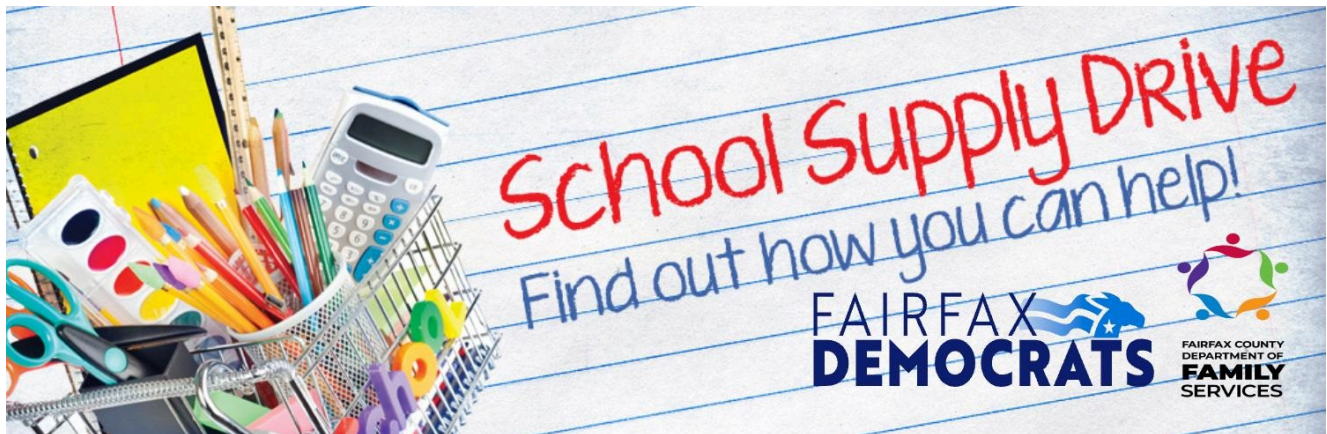
There is still time to support the Fairfax Dems 2024 Summer School Supply Drive. We live in an incredible generous community that always shows up to help our schools ensure every child starts prepared to learn on day 1 of the school year.

I hope you will read further for important community updates on the public hearing for the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment regarding Data Centers, Drought Watch declaration, and back-to-school immunization clinics.



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## School Supply Drive



I am proud to act as an honorary Co-Sponsor for the Fairfax Dems 2024 Summer School Supply Drive! Last year, the Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC) delivered 264 new backpacks filled with school supplies through the Fairfax County Department of Family Services.

**There is still time to support the Fairfax Dems 2024 Summer School Supply Drive.** We live in an incredible generous community that always shows up to help our schools ensure every child starts prepared to learn on day 1 of the school year.

**Donations are requested by July 31!** You can donate money to buy supplies, purchase items from our Amazon wish list, or drop off donations of supplies at multiple locations. All the information you need to participate is at the FDCD donation page ([click this link](#)) or in the attached handout. For any questions, comments, or suggestions, please email Program Coordinators at [gift@fairfaxdemocrats.org](mailto:gift@fairfaxdemocrats.org).

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## VA Should Join IRS Direct File



Earlier this year, the IRS unveiled the continuation of the Direct File program, a complimentary tax filing tool managed by the Treasury and the IRS after a successful pilot program in 12 states during the 2024 filing season. **The pilot program received overwhelming positive feedback, with 140,803 taxpayers utilizing the tool to secure over \$90 million in refunds and save an estimated \$5.6 million in tax preparation fees.**

The pilot program has been expanded and all states have been invited to enroll in the Direct File program, including states that require state returns to be filed. **It costs Americans an average of \$150 and 9 hours to file taxes each year.** When Direct File is at scale in a few years, it will be able to deliver \$500 million in total value to Virginia taxpayers, between filing fees (\$208M), time cost of filing (\$78M), and additional federal EITC and Child Tax Credits claimed (\$214M).

[This is why I've helped lead with the Virginia Senate Democratic Caucus to call on Gov. Glenn Youngkin to urge his administration to collaborate with the IRS, the Treasury Department, and the General Assembly to ensure Virginia joins the program promptly.](#) I know for many, tax filing season is often burdensome, expensive, and confusing, even for those with simple returns. Virginia taxpayers deserve access to this convenient and cost-free tax filing option.

## Transportation Updates



### Loudoun Junction – Dulles Reconductor Project

There will be temporary traffic disruptions along Route 28 starting this month through September due to Dominion Energy's Loudoun Junction-Dulles Reconductor Project. From July through September, Dominion will reconductor a portion of this line close to Route 28 (Sully Road). To

ensure everyone's safety while they work on the line over the roadways, traffic will be paused or rerouted to an approved detour. Temporary traffic disruptions will only occur on Saturday and Sunday mornings from sunrise to 9:00 a.m.

### **August 3 - August 25, 2024**

- Detours of Route 28 / Air and Space Museum Parkway on and off ramps ([see map](#))

### **September 7 - September 22, 2024**

- Detours of Route 28 / McLearen Road on and off ramps ([see map](#))

Signs and flaggers will be in place to direct travelers during these times. Please call 888-291-0190, email [powerline@dominionenergy.com](mailto:powerline@dominionenergy.com), or visit the [project webpage](#) for more information.

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## **Community Resources**

### **Save the Date, Rescheduled Public Hearing on Data Centers**

There will be a new Fairfax County Board of Supervisors public hearing on **September 10th** on the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment regarding Data Centers.

For more information on the proposed amendment and for the latest information regarding public hearings, please visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/data-centers>.



### **Back-to-School Immunization Clinics**

Get your child ready for the 2024-25 school year. Open by appointment to all Fairfax County students who need immunizations, regardless of if they have had vaccines in the past, are new to the country, or need a follow-up to be up to date.

Call today! Appointments are limited. Schedule your appointment by calling 703-246-7100.

For more information, including dates and locations for the Back-to-School Clinics, please visit

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/immunization/locations>.



### **Cooling Assistance Program**

Cooling Assistance is a program designed to help keep vulnerable Fairfax County residents cool during the summer months. To be eligible, at least one household member must be: 60 or older, 5 or younger, or disabled according to Social Security, Medicaid or 100% Veteran's Administration.

**Applications for Cooling Assistance will be accepted from June 17–August 1**

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### **Drought Watch Declared for Potomac River Basin**

Due to unusually dry conditions within the Potomac River Basin, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's (COG) Drought Coordination Committee (DCC) approved the Drought Coordination Technical Committee's (DCTC) recommendation to declare a drought "Watch" per the COG Water Supply and Drought Awareness Response Plan on Friday, July 26, 2024. A drought "Watch" is the second stage in the COG Plan and is triggered when moderate drought is widespread throughout the Potomac River Basin.

Learn more at [mwcog.org/wisewater](https://www.mwcog.org/wisewater)

# WATER CONSERVATION TIPS



## for your... Home

- Wash full loads of dishes (and clothes)
- Clean & prep vegetables with a bowl of water, rather than letting the faucet run
- Use your garbage disposal less often

## for your... Lawn

- Water lawns, plants and shrubs only as necessary
- Use mulch to help soil retain moisture
- Water plants in the morning to limit evaporation
- Sweep clean sidewalks instead of using a hose

## for your... Bath

- Fix leaking toilets and faucets
- Reduce shower length to under 5 minutes
- Turn off water while brushing your teeth
- When replacing fixtures, install water saving models

## Contact My Office

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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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