

2024 VIRGINIA ELECTIONS

# Association for Public Justice

## 2024 VOTER GUIDE



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# **BE HEARD.** **BE COUNTED.**

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In today's fast-paced, click-bait culture, thoughtful consideration of complex issues through a biblical lens is increasingly rare. This voter guide elevates critical issues that impact our neighbors, friends, and family through real conversations with candidates and voters.

Along the way, we will model a Christian approach to politics that replaces fear-mongering with hope, division with collaboration, and hostility with compassion.

[LEARN MORE AT APJUSTICE.ORG](https://www.apjustice.org)

**Our Process:** APJ's Voter Guide teams created questionnaires, asking each candidate about their stances on our key issues. We also researched candidates in depth and have laid out each candidate's positions on APJ's key issues. If candidates did not respond to our questionnaire or we found little information on their stances on these issues, we included that candidate's other priorities as well.

## Family Supportive Policies

APJ supports policies that honor the institution of family and the dignity of work. We support reforms that strengthen state and federal paid family leave programs while protecting the role of small businesses and non-profit institutions, including faith-based organizations. We advocate for reforms that not only support parents of newborns or newly-adopted children but also families caring for vulnerable family members who are sick or elderly.

We see family supportive policies as an extension of a whole-life ethic that includes protections for the unborn. We have thus included candidates' stances on abortion under Family Supportive Policies.

Scan here for our Paid Family Leave Advocacy Toolkit.



## Institutional Religious Freedom

APJ advocates for policies that preserve and promote the freedom of faith-based organizations to serve and contribute to the common good:

- the freedom to hire staff on a religious basis
- the freedom to partner with the federal government to deliver vital social services consistent with religious convictions.

Scan here for APJ's Fairness for All Advocacy Toolkit.



## Ranked Choice Voting

APJ advocates for electoral reform that includes ranked choice voting, also called instant runoff voting. Ranked choice voting is a process that allows broad participation from a wide range of perspectives, enabling third-party and independent candidates to have a genuine voice in the political process.

Scan here to learn more about the need for ranked choice voting.



## Juvenile Justice

APJ advocates for justice reforms at the local, state, and federal levels that reduce inequities in the criminal justice system and encourage a more restorative approach to justice, particularly for young offenders.

Scan here for our Juvenile Justice Advocacy Toolkit.



## Predatory Payday Lending

When small, short-term loans are extended to vulnerable individuals at exorbitant interest rates, borrowers are often trapped in an endless cycle of debt. This practice violates fundamental biblical principles of human dignity and biblical prohibitions on usury. APJ advocates for laws such as the Veterans and Consumers Fair Credit Act ([S. 2833](#) and [H.R. 5050](#)) which cap the interest rate lenders are allowed to charge borrowers at 36% APR or lower.

Scan here to learn more about principles for just lending.



# US Senate Candidates

## Tim Kaine (D - Incumbent)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Committed to ensuring that all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care
- +Helped to pass the 2021 American Rescue Plan which expanded the Child Tax Credit and cut child poverty in Virginia to its lowest rate ever
- +Supports the Equality Act

### Electoral Reform

- +Fights to protect voting rights and expand access to the ballot box
- +Introduced the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act to improve access to the ballot for Americans, advance commonsense election reforms, and protect our democracy from attack

### Criminal Justice Reform

- +Supported the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act, a bipartisan compromise bill to revise mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug offenders
- + Voted for the bipartisan First Step Act to reduce recidivism and reform criminal sentencing
- +Emphasizes treatment over incarceration for non-violent offenders

### Other Key Issues

- +Preventing gun violence by banning assault weapons and requiring universal background checks

## Hung Cao (R)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Advocates for parents in schools and school choice in education
- +Promises a pro-family platform

### Electoral Reform

- +Stands for defending our democracy by protecting the legitimacy of our elections through the use of voter IDs

### Other Key Issues

- +Investing in production of American-made energy
- +Stopping the "immigrant invasion" by securing the border and building the wall
- +Preventing gun control legislation and protecting the right to self-defense
- +Supporting veterans and servicemen and women
- +Reducing DEI requirements and doing away with teaching on Critical Race Theory in education

# US House of Representatives Candidates

## District 1

Leslie Mehta (D)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Supports accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare for everyone, including mental healthcare
- +Seeks to expand quality maternal healthcare
- +Seeks to better fund public schools
- +Supports abortion access

### Electoral Reform

- +Desires to protect democracy by “defending the strength of our democracy, safeguarding voting rights, and ensuring each vote counts”

### Other Key Issues

- +Enacting “common-sense gun safety laws”
- +Addressing climate change

Robert Wittman (R - Incumbent)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Believes that parents should have a say in their children’s education
- +Seeks to provide quality, affordable health care to every American

### Other Key Issues

- +Combatting illegal immigration and enhancing border security
- +Strengthening the economy and reducing wasteful government spending
- +Protecting the environment
- +Introduced the 21st Century American Atomic Energy Age Act, which “paves the way for a prosperous, secure, and energy-independent future”

## District 2

Missy Cotter Smasal (D)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Desires to restore Roe v. Wade
- +Seeks to “protect the Affordable Health Care Act and create a public option that can lower insurance costs for all Virginians...while preserving private insurance for those that want it”

### Other Key Issues

- +Defending democracy
- +Supporting veterans
- +Pursuing bipartisan cooperation
- +Lowering prices and reducing inflation
- +Combatting climate change
- +Preventing gun violence
- +Securing the border and creating a fair and humane immigration system

Jennifer Kiggans (R - Incumbent)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Believes that abortion laws should be determined by states, but is opposed to policies which would allow abortions up to the moment of birth
- +Seeks to ensure that mothers have access to the highest quality of care
- +Advocates for school choice
- +Fought to expand the Child Tax Credit

### Electoral Reform

- +Seeks to ensure that the election process is secure and transparent

### Other Key Issues

- +Strictly enforcing immigration laws and securing the border
- +Defending the Second Amendment

# US House of Representatives Candidates

## District 3

Robert C. Scott (D - Incumbent)

### Family Supportive Policies

+Supported the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act to increase workplace protections for expectant mothers

### Criminal Justice Reform

+Authored the Fair Sentencing Act, Death in Custody Act, & Juvenile Justice Reform Act  
+Supports comprehensive sentencing reform, elimination of mandatory minimums, and evidence-based prevention and intervention programs

### Electoral Reform

+Co-chair of the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus which seeks to restore access to the ballot box, modernize voting procedures, and protect the voting rights of all Americans

John Sitka III (R)

### Key Issues

+Reducing inflation, excessive federal spending, and federal debt

+Securing the border and reinstating the 2019 "Remain in Mexico" program

+Defending the Constitution and the right to self defense, and opposing "a radical gun control agenda"

+Supporting federal education reforms that emphasize essential skills in reading, writing, and math

+Expanding the Broad Blue Line at the federal level to provide additional funding for law enforcement across the nation

## District 4

Jennifer McClellan (D - Incumbent)

### Family Supportive Policies

+Championed the passage of the Child Care Stabilization and Quality Care Act  
+Cosponsored bills to provide paid sick leave, and paid family and medical leave to Virginia workers  
+Supported Medicaid access for new mothers for the first full year after birth

### Criminal Justice Reform

+Co-sponsored bills abolishing the death penalty, reducing criminalization of low-level offenses and providing prevention services for at-risk youth

### Electoral Reform

+Authored bills expanding absentee voting  
+Helped pass the Voting Rights Act of Virginia

Bill Moher (R)

### Family Supportive Policies

+Seeks to invest in schools and teachers  
+Seeks to lower healthcare costs, increase choice and competition in healthcare, and protect individuals with pre-existing conditions

### Other Key Issues

+Growing the economy and supporting small business

+Securing the border and reducing illegal immigration

+Improving healthcare and expanding job opportunities for veterans



# US House of Representatives Candidates

## District 5

Gloria Tinsley Witt (D)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Seeks to expand access to basic quality healthcare and advance affordable childcare
- +Seeks to re-invent k-12 public school education and replace “No Child Left Behind” policies

### Electoral Reform

- +Seeks to expand access to voting and advance the John Lewis Voting Act

### Other Key Issues

- +Addressing gun violence and banning assault weapons
- +Support climate friendly economic growth
- +Restoring Roe v. Wade

John McGuire (R - Incumbent)

### Electoral Reform

- +Claims that the 2020 presidential election was rigged and stolen from Donald Trump
- +Attended President Donald Trump's January 6, 2021 rally in Washington, D.C.

### Other

- +Describes himself primarily as “Pro-Life. Pro-Gun. Pro-Trump.”
- +Desires to “build a true partnership between our families, our communities, and our government”

## District 6

Ken Mitchell (D)

### Key Issues

- +Advocates for policies promoting job growth, fair wages, and worker protections
- +Advocates for increased funding for public schools
- +Opposes the reversal of Roe v. Wade and efforts in many states to outlaw abortion and limit access to reproductive healthcare services, including birth control and IVF
- +Supports “common-sense gun control legislation”, a total federal ban on assault weapons, requiring background checks for the purchase of all firearms, and continuing the work of the bi-partisan Safer Communities Act

Benjamin Lee Cline (R - Incumbent)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Promises to “never stop fighting for the unborn”

### Electoral Reform

- +Supports voter ID requirements

### Criminal Justice Reform

- +Opposes “foolish and reckless proposals to defund the police”

### Other Key Issues

- +Ending wasteful government spending
- +Opposes gun control and “will never allow the Left...to disarm American citizens”

# US House of Representatives Candidates

## District 7

Eugene Vindman (D)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Seeks to restore Roe v. Wade and pass the Women's Health Protection Act
- +Prioritizes investing in public education and combating book bans

### Electoral Reform

- +Promises to work to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and strengthen protections for election workers
- +Desires to defend democracy and protect voting rights

### Other Key Issues

- +Fighting to improve the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure every Veteran is able to access healthcare
- +Improving access to rural healthcare and expanding rural broadband

Derrick Anderson (R)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Seeks to ban abortion

### Other Key Issues

- +Improving the economy and reducing prices
- +Securing the border
- +Supporting veterans
- +Protecting the Second Amendment, is endorsed by the NRA

## District 8

Donald Sternoff Beyer Jr (D - Incumbent)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Advocates for affordable child care and paid family and medical leave
- +Championed the Federal Employee Paid Leave Act
- +Advocates for abortion access
- +Advocates for universal preschool

### Electoral Reform

- +Advocates for Ranked Choice Voting to "ensure that winners are elected with majority popular support"
- +Co-sponsored the Ranked Choice Voting Act (H.R.9578)

### Other Key Issues

- +Combatting climate change
- +Preventing gun violence

Jerry Torres (R)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Improving education and eliminating "bullying, CRT, and gender indoctrination" in schools

### Criminal Justice Reform

- +Promises to reduce violent crime through policing and community outreach

### Other Key Issues

- +Securing the border
- +Reducing inflation and decreasing prices
- +Increasing pay for federal government employees
- +Protecting the environment

# US House of Representatives Candidates

## District 9

Karen Baker (D)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Supports universal access to preschool and parental involvement in education
- +Dedicated to expanding healthcare access
- +Advocates for the development of All-inclusive Family Care Centers, which would provide comprehensive healthcare services in rural communities
- +Seeks to expand access to home-based and community services for seniors
- +Promotes policies that provide support and resources to caregivers
- +Advocates for improved maternal care and “at least three or four months” of paid maternity leave

H. Morgan Griffith (R - Incumbent)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Desires to “fight for conservative family values”

### Electoral Reform

- +Promotes securing elections to reduce voter fraud

### Other Key Issues

- +Defending gun rights
- +Opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's “job-killing regulations”
- +Reducing illegal immigration

## District 10

Suhas Subramanyam (D)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Supports boosting healthcare and affordability so that middle-class families can afford to provide care for elderly, sick, or disabled loved ones.
- +Supports protecting women’s healthcare

### Criminal Justice Reform

- +Helped pass the bipartisan First Step Act

### Other Key Issues

- +Advocates for common sense gun safety laws
- +Promotes environmental conservation
- +Prioritizes safeguarding democracy

Mike Clancy (R)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Advocates for school choice and parents’ rights in education
- +Supports crisis pregnancy centers and programs providing maternity care and other resources for families
- +Believes that abortion legislation should be determined by states

### Institutional Religious Freedom

- +Seeks to defend “our Constitutional rights without exception, including the fundamental First Amendment rights to free speech and freedom of religion”

### Other Key Issues

- +Fully funding law enforcement and the military
- +Securing the border
- +Ensuring the right to bear arms

# US House of Representatives Candidates

## District 11

Gerald Connolly (D - Incumbent)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Supports Medicare, Social Security, and Federal Worker Leave Fairness legislation
- +Prioritizes codifying Roe v. Wade into federal law

### Electoral Reform

- +Co-sponsored For The People Act to help secure elections and broaden access to voting

### Criminal Justice Reform

- +Supports The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act

### Other Key Issues

- +Pursuing environmental justice
- +Banning assault weapons and requiring universal background checks

Michael Van Meter (R)

### Family Supportive Policies

- +Supports pregnancy resource centers that provide health services, counseling, and support for both the mother and the child
- +Pledges to protect every unborn child's inherent right to life

### Other Key Issues

- +Securing the border
- +Reducing taxes and promoting economic growth

## Voting Information

Wondering which congressional district you live in? **Scan here** for an interactive map of voting districts in Virginia! You'll also find information on when and where to vote, as well as information on early voting and absentee voting on this page.



# WHAT'S YOUR VOTE WORTH?

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Madeline Pannell is the Shared Justice Fellow at the Center for Public Justice. She is part of the Capital Fellows Program in McLean, VA, and recently graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.A. in East Asian Studies. In April, Madeline wrote an article for the Center for Public Justice addressing the disillusionment that young people are experiencing when deciding whether or not to vote. She writes to Gen Z, but her words apply to Americans of all ages. How many of us, in the midst of so much political tension and division, wonder, “Does my vote even make a difference?” In response, here is an excerpt from Madeline’s article.

If we see voting primarily as a right to be exercised, then we can opt in or out of the process as our feelings about the political system ebb and flow...Voting, however, does not just impact my identity and my life. When we vote, it shapes the lives of our families, our neighbors and our communities. Voting has consequences for those in our cities who are hungry, unhoused, unable to pay medical bills, or unemployed. It impacts the education children get. It affects the cost of living in your city. It influences interest rates on home, auto and student loans, too.

Jesus instructed his disciples: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31). We, as disciples of Jesus, care about voting because we care about how voting impacts our neighbors... Caring for and serving others is a core tenet of the Christian life. When we view voting as an act of responsibility in caring for our neighbors and community, we bring the beauty and justice our faith offers as a hopeful light to our political square.

Christian faith sees political action (in this case, voting) as service for our neighbors’ good, as opposed to seeking personal fulfillment and validation through the vote. As Christians, we are free to serve our neighbors with our vote precisely because our need for identity and security is met in Christ alone. Furthermore, the more we view voting through the lens of humble Christian service, the more we might see that voting is just the beginning of our civic engagement.

Scan here for the full article.



## ABOUT APJ

APJ provides meaningful pathways for cross-partisan political engagement to enable Christian citizens to pursue the flourishing of their communities at the local, state, and federal level.

**Want to get involved?**

Email [contact@apjustice.org](mailto:contact@apjustice.org) or visit [apjustice.org](http://apjustice.org) to learn how you can support our cause.