

# Alex Askew

## Virginia House of Delegates District 85

### ABOUT THE CANDIDATE



LEARN MORE

ALEX ASKEW

[www.alexaskew.com](http://www.alexaskew.com)



Alex was born and raised in Virginia Beach by his mother, a public school teacher. She taught him that a quality education has the power to change anyone's life. Alex came up through the Virginia Beach public education system graduating from Tallwood High School and earning his undergraduate degree from Hampton University.

After graduation, Alex worked on various local, state-wide, and national campaigns and projects and managed diverse teams that empowered voters to use their voice to make positive changes.

Following nearly seven election cycles he decided to create tangible solutions for those looking to their elected officials for leadership. As a legislative aide for the Virginia House of Delegates, he helped craft groundbreaking legislation including the nation-wide Ashanti Alert, which notifies the public of critically missing adults; Medicaid expansion; affordable housing expansion; and safe learning environment legislation to improve schools.

When Alex isn't working, he remains engaged in the community. He's a founding and current board member of the New Leaders Council Virginia - a nonprofit that mentors and trains future leaders. He is also a board member on the Democratic Business Alliance of South Hampton Roads, as well as a 2018 graduate of the University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership's Political Leaders Program. Alex is an active member of New Jerusalem Ministries where he mentors and tutors local youth.

The residents of Virginia Beach have remained Alex's motivation in every stage of his life, and serving in the House of Delegates would be an extension of this motivation.

### SOCIAL MEDIA & LINKS

**SDP ACTBLUE LINK**

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-va-askew>

**WEBSITE**

[www.alexaskew.com](http://www.alexaskew.com)

**FACEBOOK**

[www.facebook.com/askewfordelegate](http://www.facebook.com/askewfordelegate)

**TWITTER**

[www.twitter.com/AlexAskew757](http://www.twitter.com/AlexAskew757)

### IMPORTANT DATES

- May 20: Deadline to register to vote (primary)
- June 4: Deadline to request absentee ballot (primary)
- June 11: Primary election
- October 15: Deadline to register to vote (general)
- October 29: Deadline to request absentee ballot
- November 5: General Election

YOU MUST HAVE A VALID PHOTO ID

### DATA ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Population	Households	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Median Income	Below Poverty Line	Unemployed	College Grads	HS Grads	No HS Grad
82976	31621	13.70%	60.60%	19.70%	7.00%	67073	8.00%	3.40%	40.70%	51.50%	7.80%

\*NOTE: THIS DISTRICT IS SUBJECT TO ONGOING SUPREME COURT LITIGATION. IT HAS BEEN REDRAWN AND UNDER THE NEW LINES, IT HAS BECOME MORE DEMOCRATIC-LEANING THAN THESE DATA SUGGEST. UNDER THE NEW MAPS, THE DISTRICT GOES FROM 50.1% DPI (DEMOCRATIC PERFORMANCE INDEX) TO 51.5% DPI. We will update this dossier with new data when available

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### PAST RACES

#### Congressional Districts

Nested Congressional Districts: CD2 (Cook PVI: R+3)  
Learn more about Cook Political Ratings (Partisan Voting Index): <https://cookpolitical.com/ratings>

#### 2017 House of Delegates General Election Results

Cheryl Turpin	50.8%	11,843
Rocky Holcomb (Incumbent)	49.2%	11,454

#### 2017 House of Delegates Special Election Results

Cheryl Turpin	47.0%	2,939
Rocky Holcomb (Incumbent)	52.8%	3,301

#### 2017 House of Delegates Fundraising (General Election)

\* Via Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP)

Democrat	\$605,594
Republican	\$450,225

#### 2016 President

Hillary Clinton	46.51%	17,629
Donald Trump	47.06%	17,835

#### 2012 President

Barack Obama	49.11%	18,077
Mitt Romney	49.37%	18,170

### ON THE ISSUES:

#### Education

Our young people are the key to a successful future and each and every student in our district deserves the best public education we can provide them. We must strengthen our public education system by providing teachers and parents with adequate resources to help our children succeed.

One step we can take to improve public education is to expand early childhood education programs across the district. By providing more children with the opportunity to enter into the classroom early and jump start their educational development, we will better prepare them to meet their curriculum standards and perform well on standardized tests.

For students pursuing higher education, we must make tuition at our colleges and universities affordable. In our ever-expanding global economy, higher education is more essential than ever. Students should not be burdened with mounting student loan debt because they choose to continue their education and improve their lives for themselves and

their families. We must ensure that the coming generations have the resources to save, acquire wealth, and invest in their communities.

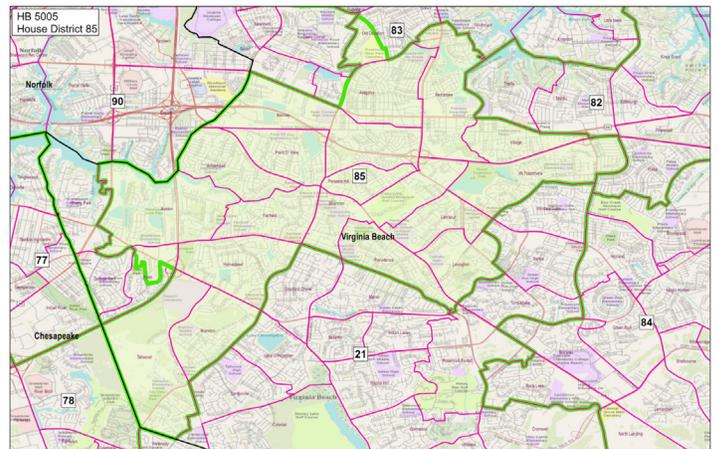
#### Transportation

A sure way to create jobs and invest in our cities' future is to improve our infrastructure. We need a comprehensive plan to rebuild and maintain our roads and bridges. The quality of our infrastructure and roads directly affect our ability to recruit and sustain successful businesses. New infrastructure projects will not only provide jobs now for the unemployed, but increase long term safety and economic growth in our community.

#### Community Safety

We must continue to collaborate with local law enforcement, our schools, and with residents to improve community and school safety.

### THE DISTRICT



### ABOUT THE OPPONENT

N.D. "Rocky" Holcomb III is a former Republican member of the Virginia House of Delegates, representing District 85 briefly in 2017. He won a special election in early 2017, but lost the general election in 2017 to Democrat Cheryl Turpin (who is currently running for VA State Senate). He's running again in 2019.

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### ABOUT THE STATE

#### General Demographics

- Virginia is the 12th-most populous state, with over 8 million residents.
- Virginia's non-white citizens represented 38% of the population in 2017, up from 22% in 1990.
- As of 2015, the non-white voter population was 28%, suggesting that people of color are a growing segment of the general population but not growing as fast in the voting population.
- In the last four presidential elections, voter turnout has been greater than 70%. But in the last 4 elections held in the year just prior to the presidential election (which would be a predictor for 2019), turnout has hovered around 30%.
- Turnout among younger voters (18-29 years old) has steadily increased from 17% in 2009 to 26% in 2013 to 34% in 2017. This segment of the population voted heavily Democratic in 2017 --almost 70/30.
- The Commonwealth has elected Democratic governors in four out of the last five gubernatorial elections, and has not voted for a Republican President since 2004.

#### District Lines

District lines for Congress and state legislature are drawn by the General Assembly (state legislature). There is a bipartisan advisory commission, but the General Assembly is not required to take their recommendations. The governor has veto power over district lines.

The Commonwealth's district boundaries have been a hot topic of conversation in past years. Both Congressional and state legislative district lines in Virginia have been held unconstitutional by federal courts due to racial gerrymandering. Congressional districts were redrawn by court order in 2016, which increased Democratic representation. Currently, a number of districts in the lower chamber are the subject of ongoing litigation, which is currently being heard by the Supreme Court. The new maps for these lower chamber districts will be used in the 2019 general election unless the Supreme Court overturns the new maps. That decision is due over the summer. The redrawn districts (which more accurately reflect the population) lean more Democratic.

Citizens' groups in Virginia have been working to establish fairer districting processes, including pushing for a nonpartisan redistricting commission. In 2019, the General Assembly approved the "first read" of a constitutional amendment to create an advisory commission for Congressional and state legislative lines. The next step would be for the General Assembly to pass an identical resolution during the next legislative session – after the 2019 election. Then the measure would go onto the ballot in November 2020, at which point Virginians could vote to approve the independent commission.

#### Voter Suppression

Virginia currently has a voter ID law, passed by its Republican state legislature and governor in 2013. In 2016, the Fourth Circuit of Appeals upheld the Virginia Voter ID law, after a suit alleging it violated the 1965 Voting Rights Act. In addition, Virginia's GOP has made it more difficult to register people to vote. In particular, third-party voter registration requires groups receiving 25 or more registration forms to register with the state. Further, Virginia uses both the controversial Crosscheck and ERIC programs to determine if there are duplicate voter registrations.

#### Voter Registration and Day of Voting

You must provide a photo ID to register to vote and to vote physically at the polls. Acceptable IDs include:

- Driver's license
- US passport
- Tribal ID issued by one of the 11 tribes recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Student or employee ID from a public or private school in Virginia
- Virginia Voter Photo ID

If you do not have an ID, you may apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office.

#### Last Day:

For the June Primary, you must register by Monday, May 20th, 2019.  
For the November Election you must register by Tuesday, October 15th, 2019.

#### Absentee Ballots:

For the June Primary, absentee ballots must be requested by Tuesday, June 4th, 2019.

For the November Election absentee ballots must be requested by Tuesday, October 29th, 2019.

You can also request a ballot by appearing in person - Request Absentee Ballot by appearing in person by: 5:00 p.m. Saturday, November 2, 2019.

June 11: Primary election

November 5: General Election

#### Current State Legislature

Virginia is currently under a divided government: the governor is a Democrat, while Republicans control both chambers of the legislature by an extremely narrow margin—just two seats each. The entire Virginia General Assembly is up for election in 2019, and these are all "Last Chance" races; the legislators elected in 2019 will be serving during the 2021 redistricting process. The state legislature draws district lines, and the governor has the power to veto district maps.

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### ABOUT THE STATE

The state Senate is currently comprised of 19 Democrats and 21 Republicans, while the House of Delegates has 48 Democrats and 51 Republicans. Democrats have an incredible opportunity to flip both Virginia state legislature chambers in 2019.

Demographic shifts in Virginia favor Democrats. And a number of badly gerrymandered House districts have recently been fairly redrawn upon federal court order (subject to Supreme Court review). This should give Democrats an opportunity to compete fairly in a broader set of House districts this year.

#### 2019 Executive Controversies

The current Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General are all Democrats, and none are up for election in 2019. However, each has been the subject of controversy in 2019. Governor Ralph Northam shocked the Commonwealth when photos surfaced of him in blackface during his years as a medical student. Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax seemed poised to transition into the Governor's seat—until allegations of sexual assault in his past came to light. The third in line for the Governor's seat, Attorney General Mark Herring, proactively admitted to dressing in blackface as a teenager himself. Ultimately, none of the men have resigned, despite calls to do so from numerous elected officials, organizations, and citizens groups.

At Sister District, these events have underscored the need to build a deep bench of diverse leaders and a strong Democratic majority in the state legislature. Without positive reinforcement from the Governor's office this year, General Assembly candidates will certainly need our help.