



ALEX ASKEW

VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES | DISTRICT 85
2021: [RUNNING](#)

Alex Askew was born and raised in Virginia Beach by his mother, a public school teacher. He 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, statewide, 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. 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.

Since being elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2019, Alex has sponsored 14 bills into law, including expanding workers' compensation coverage for firefighters, implementing a lead-water testing process in all public schools and daycares across the Commonwealth, requiring all state agencies to implement and maintain a diversity, equity, and inclusion strategic plan, and creating the very dedicated source of funding for Hampton Roads Transit.

Outside of work, Alex remains engaged in his community. He is an active member of New Jerusalem Ministries, where he mentors and tutors local youth. He is a founding board member of the New Leaders Council Virginia, as well as a board member for the Democratic Business Alliance of South Hampton Roads and a 2018 graduate of UVA's Political Leaders Program.

Read more on [Alex's website](#).

On The Issues

Education

Alex believes young people are the key to a successful future and that each and every student in his district deserves the best public education possible. He believes Virginia must strengthen their public education system by providing teachers and parents with adequate resources to help students succeed.

One step that Virginia can take to improve public education is to expand early childhood education programs across the district. Children who are provided the opportunity to enter into the classroom early and jump start their educational development will be better prepared to meet their curriculum standards and perform well on standardized tests.

For students pursuing higher education, Alex has worked to 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.

Transportation

Alex believes a sure way to create jobs and invest in cities' futures is to improve state infrastructure. Virginia needs a comprehensive plan to rebuild and maintain its roads and bridges. New infrastructure projects will not only provide jobs now for the unemployed, but increase long term safety and economic growth in the community.

Community Safety

Alex believes that Virginia's leaders must continue to collaborate with local law enforcement, school administrators, and residents to improve community and school safety.

Legislative Accomplishments

In his first term as the Delegate for the 85th District, Alex's office had 14 bills signed into law, 11 of which received overwhelming bipartisan support. Some of these bills include expanding workers' compensation coverage for firefighters, implementing a lead-water testing process in all public schools and daycares across the Commonwealth, and creating the very first dedicated source of funding for Hampton Roads Transit.

Alex also worked with the Democratic majority in the House to pass HB1638, which removed a lot of racial codes that have been on the books for generations. They also passed HB1822 to put a \$50 price cap on most prescription asthma inhalers because nobody should have to choose between putting food on the table or buying a potentially life-saving prescription.

Why This Race Is Important

In just four years, Democrats have seen an impressive and almost unprecedented swing to majority, with more than 20 seats gained over two election cycles. With gains recently, Republicans are eager to take advantage of this dynamic, where characteristically moderate "bellwether" districts ebb and flow to give way to national political trends, waiting for the pendulum to swing back in their favor. The 2021 House of Delegates elections are sure to be a test of Democrats' ability to hold Trump Era gains in a post-Trump climate.

Election Timeline

May 17

Deadline to register to vote
(primary)

May 28

Deadline to request
absentee ballot (primary)

June 8

Election (primary)

October 11

Deadline to register to vote
(general)

October 22

Deadline to request
absentee ballot (general)

November 2

Election (general)

About The District

HD85: R+0.6 Virginia's House of Delegates District 85 includes part of Virginia Beach, including the Aragona, Arrowhead, Fairfield, Larkspur and Mt. Trashmore neighborhoods.

Nested Congressional Districts: CD2: R+3

Past Results in the the District

2019 HOD

Democrat: 12,079, 51.64%
Republican: 11,277, 48.21%

2016 Presidential

Democrat: 18,380, 48.14%
Republican: 17,420, 45.62%

2017 Gubernatorial

Democrat: 13,310, 54.88%
Republican: 10,629, 43.83%

About the Opponent

Karen Greenhalgh is currently the only filed Republican candidate running against incumbent Delegate Alex Askew. Greenhalgh previously worked as a staff manager for a local "crisis pregnancy center from 2012-2017. Crisis Pregnancy Centers are non-profits that have **often been found** to disseminate false medical information about abortion in an effort to manipulate women into keeping unwanted pregnancies. Greenhalgh **has stated** that if elected, she would work to roll back many of the pro-choice laws passed by the Democratic legislative majority.

Greenhalgh has also stated that she will work to defend Virginia's Right to Work status. Right to Work laws **weaken labor unions** and depress workers' ability to bargain collectively for higher wages and better working conditions.

Why Virginia Is Important

Current Control: Democratic Trifecta (since 2020)

Gubernatorial Election: 2021

Length of House of Delegates term: 2 years

Redistricting: Congressional and State Legislative districts are drawn by a 16-member commission comprising state legislators and citizens

Sister District Target: Blue Hold

Redistricting & Gerrymandering

The Commonwealth has long faced the consequences of political gerrymandering. District boundaries have been a hot topic of conversation in past years. In 2020, the Virginia legislature voted to create a bipartisan committee to handle the creation of new electoral maps; Bipartisan redistricting is now in the hands of a 16 member committee which was on a tight timeline to use 2020 census data to announce adjusted districts for the upcoming House of Delegates elections in November 2021. The original plan had the committee producing new maps by April 2020, but delayed census data from the federal government has made new maps in time to give the state board of elections, localities, and partisans time to effectively prepare for and hold elections unlikely. As of now, the most likely scenario remains that 2021 will see no new maps, instead districts will remain the same this year with new districts only taking effect in 2023.

Resources

Website: <https://alexaskew.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/askewfordelegate>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AlexAskew757>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/delegatealexaskew/>

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