

John Bell

Virginia Senate District 13

ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

Delegate John Bell served almost 26 years in the United States Air Force before retiring as a Major in 2007.

Following his career in the United State Air Force, John continued his work in the private sector, where he led teams of financial professionals and assisted government clients to identify inefficiencies and implement cost-saving solutions.

John was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2015. Since assuming office in 2016, John has worked across party lines to pass Medicaid expansion, increase school funding and teacher pay, fight for common-sense gun safety reforms and champion policies to address the opioid addiction crisis.

John lives with his wife Margaret in South Riding Virginia. They have five children and three grandchildren.

CANDIDATE IN THE NEWS

Del. John Bell joins crowded Democratic contest to unseat state Sen. Dick Black

https://www.princewilliamtimes.com/news/del-john-bell-joins-crowded-democratic-contest-to-unseat-state/article_9ab1ef5e-aab7-11e8-92fd-6be9e0c4f821.html

Del. John Bell Announces Candidacy to Take On Extremely Anti-LGBT, Anti-Choice, Pro-Assad State Sen. Dick Black (R-SD13)

<https://bluevirginia.us/2018/08/del-john-bell-announces-candidacy-to-take-on-extremely-anti-lgbt-anti-choice-pro-assad-state-sen-dick-black-r-sd13>

In First Endorsement of 2019, Giffords Backs Dan Helmer and John Bell for the Virginia Legislature

<https://giffords.org/2019/03/helmer-bell-endorsement/>



LEARN MORE

JOHN BELL

<https://voteforjohnbell.com/>



SOCIAL MEDIA + LINKS

SDP ACTBLUE LINK

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

WEBSITE

<https://voteforjohnbell.com/>

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/johnbellforvirginia>

TWITTER

<https://twitter.com/delegatejbell>

DATA ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Population	Households	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Median Income	Below Poverty Line	Unemployed	College Grads	HS Grads	No HS Grad
247086	76774	7.80%	61.60%	7.70%	9.90%	139552	3.20%	2.70%	67.70%	27.90%	4.40%

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PAST RACES

Congressional Districts

Nested Congressional Districts: CD1, 10 (Cook PVI: R+8, D+1)
Learn more about Cook Political Ratings (Partisan Voting Index): <https://cookpolitical.com/ratings>

2015 Senate Results

Jill McCabe	47.6%	23,544
Richard Black	52.4%	25,899

2015 Senate Fundraising

* Via Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP)

Democrat	\$1,668,014
Republican	\$848,985

2017 Gubernatorial Results

Ralph Northam	55.39%	44,117
Ed Gillespie	43.50%	34,648

2018 Senate Results

Tim Kaine	58.41%	58,385
Corey Stewart	39.57%	39,555
Matt Waters	2.02%	2,023

2016 President

Hillary Clinton	51.28%	64,604
Donald Trump	43.09%	54,280

2012 President

Barack Obama	47.56%	51,711
Mitt Romney	51.27%	55,737

ON THE ISSUES

As a Delegate, John built a record of fighting for our shared values. In the Senate, John will fight to eliminate and lower toll costs in Northern Virginia, keep children safe in schools and prevent gun violence, support public education and increase teacher pay and stand up to President Trump while bringing integrity back to public service.

THE DISTRICT

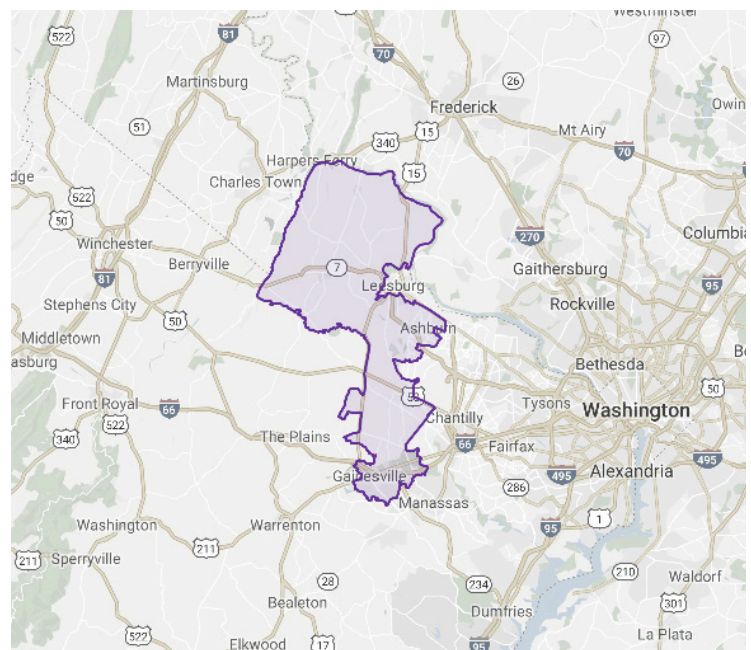
Virginia's thirteenth state senate district is represented by Republican Senator Richard Black, who is not seeking reelection in 2019.

As of the 2011 redistricting, a total of 202,920 civilians reside within Virginia's thirteenth state senate district. Virginia state senators represent an average of 200,026 residents. After the 2000 Census, each member represented 176,963 residents.

ABOUT THE OPPONENTS

Geary Higgins (Republican) is a candidate seeking election to the Virginia State Senate to represent District 13. Higgins is running in the general election on November 5, 2019, after advancing from the primary on June 11, 2019.

Jasmine Moawad-Barrientos (Independent) is a candidate seeking election to the Virginia State Senate to represent District 13. Moawad-Barrientos is running in the general election on November 5, 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.

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

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ABOUT THE STATE

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.

The state Senate is currently comprised of 19 Democrats and 21 Republicans, while the House of Delegates has 49 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.