

# Karen Mallard

## Virginia House of Delegates District 84

### ABOUT THE CANDIDATE



LEARN MORE

**KAREN MALLARD**  
www.karenmallard.com



Throughout her life, Karen Mallard has always fought for the underdog.

When she was only eleven years old, Karen and her father successfully advocated for the removal of a sewage treatment plant that dumped waste into the Guest River, where Karen and her neighbors were baptized. When the coal company in her parents' home in Wise County, Virginia cut their miners' health benefits, Karen passed out bologna sandwiches to strikers and joined them on the picket line.

For the past 30 years, Karen Mallard has used this compassion and fighting spirit to serve the Virginia Beach community as a public-school teacher, union representative, political organizer, PTA board member, and little league basketball coach.

Through her work as an elementary school reading specialist and Vice President of the Virginia Beach Education Association, Karen has helped thousands of Virginia Beach kids learn to read while advocating for their right to a first-class education. Her favorite pupil, however, is her father, whom she taught to read after she graduated from the University of Virginia.

Karen Mallard was a Democratic candidate for Virginia's 2nd Congressional District in 2018. Mallard eventually lost the primary to Elaine Luria. Karen ran a spirited campaign on a gun safety and school safety platform and sawed through an AR-15 on camera to make a point about gun safety. She said in an interview with News 3 WTKR about the incident, "I knew exactly what I was doing. The gun was inoperable before I cut it. And we took it completely apart. And we didn't put all that on video because I wanted to get the message to the students that I was standing with them," said Mallard. This led to Republican rabble rousers trying to bring an ATF complaint against her. Her recent Congressional run has given Karen the training and local campaign volunteer network she needs to successfully run for Delegate

### SOCIAL MEDIA + LINKS

[SDP ACTBLUE LINK](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-va-mallard) https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-va-mallard

[WEBSITE](http://www.karenmallard.com) www.karenmallard.com

[FACEBOOK](http://www.facebook.com/karenmallardfordelegate) www.facebook.com/karenmallardfordelegate

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### DATA ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Population	Households	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Median Income	Below Poverty Line	Unemployed	College Grads	HS Grads	No HS Grad
82218	27996	9.3%	60.6%	18.4%	7.5%	75590	7.2%	3.50%	42.9%	50.5%	6.60%

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### PAST RACES

#### Congressional Districts

Nested Congressional Districts: CD7 (Cook PVI: R+6), CD4 (Cook PVI: D+10)

Learn more about Cook Political Ratings (Partisan Voting Index): <https://cookpolitical.com/ratings>

#### 2017 House of Delegates Election Results

Veronica Coleman	48.23%	10,093
Glenn Davis (Incumbent)	51.77%	10,835

#### 2017 House of Delegates Fundraising

\* Via Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP)

Democrat	\$46,401
Republican	\$135,117

#### 2017 Gubernatorial Results

Ralph Northam	52.09%	10,444
Ed Gillespie	46.68%	9,360

#### 2018 Congressional

Democrat	50.49%	13,371
Republican	49.38%	13,075

#### 2016 President

Hillary Clinton	44.71%	15,843
Donald Trump	49.15%	17,420

#### 2012 President

Barack Obama	49.06%	16,859
Mitt Romney	49.69%	17,077

### ON THE ISSUES:

#### Health Care

Karen believes that health care is a right, not a privilege. Working hand-in-hand with the federal government, the VA, local hospitals and health care providers, she believes that we can carve out a fairer, more equitable system that better serves the needs of all Virginians.

In Virginia, Medicaid expansion, long overdue, passed by the slimmest of margins in the General Assembly and its future remains in peril. Karen has always stood unequivocally in favor of Medicaid expansion and can be trusted to protect it in the House of Delegates.

#### Education

Karen knows that a quality education can mean the difference between poverty and prosperity. As an elementary school teacher and former Vice President of the Virginia Beach Education Association, Karen has

taught generations of Virginia Beach students to read while advocating for their right to an excellent education.

As Delegate, Karen will work to expand full-day public kindergarten, giving every child in Virginia Beach the head start they both need and deserve. She is also dedicated to expanding vocational programs so that our students are qualified and well-equipped for lucrative jobs in the trades right out of high school. Karen believes in more funding for schools, with a special emphasis on at-risk students and special education.

#### Environmental Preservation

Growing up in Coal Country in Wise County, Virginia, Karen saw the impact of environmental devastation on the health and income of her family and neighbors.

In the House of Delegates, Karen will fight to protect Virginia Beach residents whose homes are threatened by flooding, which is the inevitable result of climate change and rising sea levels. She will stand against any and all offshore drilling on the coastline and will work tirelessly to attract high-paying green jobs to the Virginia Beach community.

### 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.

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### 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.

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 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.

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### ABOUT THE STATE

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.

#### Virginia Education Association

Legislators are scored on their votes on bills related to education. Davis received a score of 60% for the 2018 session.

#### Virginia League of Conservation Voters

Legislators are scored on their votes on environmental and conservation issues. Davis has a career score of 42%.

### CANDIDATE IN THE NEWS

#### ATF Investigating after congressional candidate cut apart AR-15

<https://www.13newsnow.com/article/news/local/mycity/virginia-beach/atf-investigating-after-congressional-candidate-cut-apart-ar-15/291-526898428>

#### Gun Advocates are angry after video Virginia candidate sawing an AR-15 goes viral

[https://pilotonline.com/news/government/politics/local/article\\_3f9ca756-26de-11e8-85cd-8bf636d46afc.html](https://pilotonline.com/news/government/politics/local/article_3f9ca756-26de-11e8-85cd-8bf636d46afc.html)

#### "I knew exactly what I was doing" Congressional Candidate saws AR-15 apart

<https://wtkr.com/2018/03/08/i-knew-exactly-what-i-was-doing-congressional-candidate-saws-ar-15-apart/>

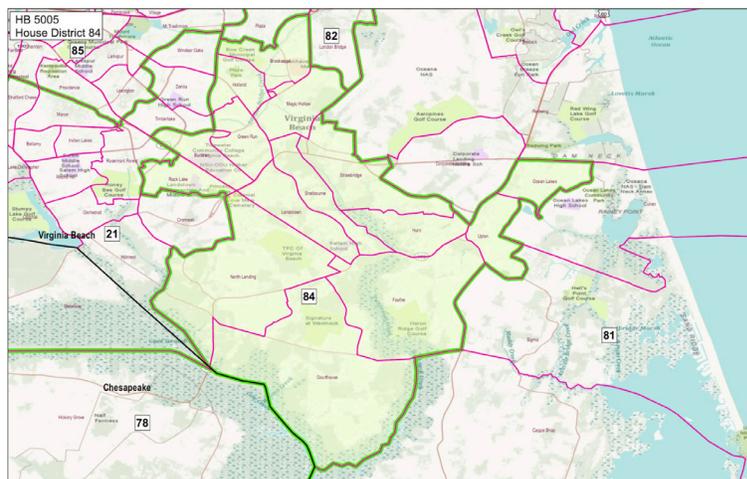
#### Virginia Primary Election Results: 2nd House District

<https://www.nytimes.com/elections/results/virginia-house-district-2-primary-election>

#### Democratic Candidate Tout ability to unseat GOP Congressman Taylor

<https://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/2018/05/08/democratic-candidates-tout-ability-unseat-gop-congressman-taylor/580770002/>

### THE DISTRICT



### ABOUT THE OPPONENT

Glenn R. Davis Jr. is a Republican member of the Virginia House of Delegates, representing District 84. Davis was first elected to the chamber in 2013. He was a 2017 Republican candidate for lieutenant governor of Virginia, but lost in the primary election on June 13, 2017.

#### 2018 Legislator Scorecard

In 2018, the Virginia General Assembly was in session from January 10 through March 10. Special sessions were held from April 11 to May 30 and from August 30 to October 30.

#### Virginia Chapter Sierra Club

Legislators are scored on their votes on bills related to the climate and energy. Davis received an F grade for the 2018 session.