

# Phil Hernandez

## Virginia House of Delegates District 100

### ABOUT THE CANDIDATE



LEARN MORE

**PHIL HERNANDEZ**

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



Phil was born and raised in Hampton Roads, attended public schools, and received a Gates Millennium Scholarship, which made it possible for him to attend William & Mary, study abroad at Oxford University, and become the first in his family to graduate from college.

He was determined to put that education to good use, to solve problems and serve others. Phil signed up to serve as a Senior Policy Analyst in President Obama's White House Domestic Policy Council, where—for nearly four years—he partnered with leaders across the country to promote clean energy, fight for clean air and water, and help coordinate the response to the BP Oil Spill, the worst spill in American history.

Phil then decided to attend law school. While in law school at UC Berkeley, he spent his time representing low-income families facing eviction. During this time, he developed legislation aimed at preventing homelessness and then pushed that bill—AB 2819—through the California legislature. After more than a year of advocacy, it was signed into law in 2016 and is now protecting tens of thousands of families each year.

More recently, Phil worked as an attorney with a nonprofit organization and advocated for civil rights and the rights of working people. In this role, he interacted with people from all walks of life—from grassroots organizers, to union leaders, to people who have been through the criminal justice system—all in the name of creating more and better economic opportunity for all people.

Now, Phil is proudly stepping up to serve the Eastern Shore and Norfolk in Virginia's 100th District.

Phil met his wife, Sara, at William & Mary and they were married in 2015. Sara works to increase access to quality, affordable health care, with a special focus on preventive care.

### SOCIAL MEDIA + LINKS

**SDP ACTBLUE LINK** <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-va-hernandez>

**WEBSITE** [www.philforvirginia.com](http://www.philforvirginia.com)

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

**TWITTER** [www.twitter.com/PhilforVirginia](http://www.twitter.com/PhilforVirginia)

**INSTAGRAM** [www.instagram.com/philforvirginia](http://www.instagram.com/philforvirginia)

### DATA ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Population	Households	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Median Income	Below Poverty Line	Unemployed	College Grads	HS Grads	No HS Grad
80952	34038	17.40%	57.30%	29.50%	8.50%	45192	19.20%	3.40%	29.40%	55.90%	14.70%

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### PAST RACES

#### Congressional Districts

Nested Congressional Districts: CD2 (Cook PVI: R+3); CD3 (Cook PVI: D+16)

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

#### 2017 House of Delegates Election Results

Willie Randall	47.77%	10,720
Robert Bloxom Jr. (Incumbent)	52.23%	11,720

#### 2017 House of Delegates Fundraising

\* Via Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP)

Democrat	\$243,224
Republican	\$77,963

#### 2017 Gubernatorial Results

Ralph Northam	53.56%	12,037
Ed Gillespie	45.34%	10,189

#### 2018 Congressional

Democrat	54.40%	14,716
Republican	44.91%	12,149

#### 2016 President

Hillary Clinton	49.16%	16,763
Donald Trump	46.56%	15,874

#### 2012 President

Barack Obama	54.50%	19,235
Mitt Romney	44.33%	15,644

### ON THE ISSUES:

#### Education

Education, including problems with teacher retention and pay in Accomack County, is one of the top issues Phil aims to address. "We have teachers who live here in the county, who send their children to schools here in Accomack County, and then drive across the border to Maryland [to work], where teacher pay is about 20 percent higher, on average. We've got to do more to attract and retain that teacher talent here in this community," he has said.

#### Climate and Energy Change

Hernandez is a fierce advocate for clean energy and fighting climate change. In his words: "Coastal Virginia, if you look at all the places in the country, is one of the most vulnerable areas to climate change, to rising sea level, to stronger storms — and we absolutely have to do

something about that." He will fight to establish energy sources that come from renewable sources, to combat climate change.

#### The Equal Rights Amendment

Virginia could be the 38th, and final state needed, to ratify the amendment. Hernandez supports ratification of the ERA. In his words: "Some issues are hard. That does not strike me as one that should be difficult to get done. It is 2019; 100 years ago we passed another Constitutional amendment in 1919, the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote. We should absolutely be able to vote on equal rights for all genders in the year 2019 — that shouldn't be controversial."

### 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.

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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.

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.

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### CANDIDATE IN THE NEWS

**Phil Hernandez kicks off campaign:**

<https://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/2019/02/20/phil-hernandez-kicks-off-campaign-accomack/2882097002/>

**Phil Hernandez Kicks Off Campaign for 100th District Delegate Seat:**

<https://easternshoredemocrats.com/newsletter/newsletter.html>

**2018 Legislator Scorecards**

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. Bloxom received an F grade for the 2018 session.

**Virginia Education Association**

Legislators are scored on their votes on bills related to education. Bloxom received a score of 67% for the 2018 session.

**Virginia League of Conservation Voters**

Legislators are scored on their votes on environmental and conservation issues. Bloxom has a career score of 50%.

### ABOUT THE OPPONENT

Robert S. Bloxom Jr. is a Republican member of the Virginia House of Delegates, representing District 100. He was first elected to the chamber in a special election on February 25, 2014. He was re-elected to a new term in 2017. Bloxom is from an influential Republican family in the area. He benefits from significant name recognition (and fundraising networks) due to his family's local prominence.

### THE DISTRICT

