



# Elizabeth Guzman for VA-32

## WHY IS THIS RACE IMPORTANT?

Clinton won this district with 51% of the vote (Trump got 44%). State Democrats believe this is race could be one of the easier ones to win.

Several Democratic Candidates whose Districts include part of Prince William County are collaborating and helping one another in order to bring progressive changes to the county. Known as “The Progressive Coalition,” they believe that “diversity makes our communities and elected officials stronger, and that candidates with similar values and districts can work closely together to amplify their message and run successful campaigns.”

Voters who care about sensible gun law reform must pay attention to this race. Del. Scott Lingamfelter (R), the incumbent brags on his website that he has maintains “a consistent A+ rating from the NRA.” He also notes that he “successfully patroned the bill and fought for the repeal of the one-gun-a-month restriction that was targeted at lawful gun owners.” Gun law reform will not happen in Virginia if he continues to exert his influence.

Racial and religious minorities in VA-31 do not and will not have a voice on many issues that are important to them if Scott Lingamfelter is reelected.

## DISTRICT RESOURCES

### Websites

Register to Vote in Virginia:

[elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/index.html](http://elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/index.html)

Fauquier County: [www.fauquiercounty.gov](http://www.fauquiercounty.gov)

Prince William County: [www.pwcgov.org](http://www.pwcgov.org)



### Newspapers

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

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

[www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia/alexandria](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia/alexandria)

## PAST RESULTS

### 2015 Election Results

Scott Lingamfelter	9,506	53.40%
Sara Townsend (D)	8,287	46.60%

### 2016 Election Results

Hillary Clinton (D)	22,877	52.74%
Donald Trump (R)	18,408	42.44%

## ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

Candidate: Elizabeth Guzman

SDP ActBlue link: [https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sd\\_va31](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sd_va31)

Her website: [www.elizabethguzmanforvirginia.com](http://www.elizabethguzmanforvirginia.com)

Her Facebook: [facebook.com/elizabethguzmanva](https://facebook.com/elizabethguzmanva)

Her Twitter: <https://twitter.com/guzman4delegate>

## 2017 TIMELINE

October 16: Deadline to register to vote (general)

October 31: Deadline to request absentee ballot

November 7: General Election

## **BACKGROUND INFO**

Elizabeth Guzman is a public administrator and social worker who, with her husband Carlos, has four children. She also works as a Court Appointed Service Advocate to prevent child abuse, a PTO representative for her son's elementary school, and a "cookie mom" for her youngest daughter's Girl Scout troop.

Elizabeth came to the United States from Peru as a single mom, looking for a better future with her oldest daughter. She remembers working three jobs to afford a one-bedroom apartment for her and her daughter. Despite the fact that she graduated with honors from high school in Peru, Elizabeth's parents could not afford to send her to college. Elizabeth enrolled at Northern Virginia Community College and obtained her degree in Office Administration and Management. She also holds a Bachelor's in Public Safety, a Master's in Public Administration, and a Master's in Social Work.

Elizabeth has lived in Prince William County for more than 15 years. She fell in love with the area because of all the opportunity it offered to her as a community leader and homeowner, as well as her desire to raise her children in a diverse, engaging environment.

## **ELIZABETH ON THE ISSUES**

### **Schools**

As a mother of four, two of whom face mental health challenges, Elizabeth understands the struggle parents face to ensure their children receive a quality education. She will work to expand funding and opportunities for early childhood education, restore funds to public schools, and work on innovative solutions for challenges such as growing class sizes, teacher turnover rates, and teacher pay. She also wants to increase the number of counselors and licensed social workers in schools.

### **Healthcare**

Elizabeth strongly supports healthcare for all and will push the General Assembly to accept funding for the Medicaid expansion initiative to offer critical services to Virginians who are uninsured or underinsured.

### **Higher Wages**

Elizabeth believes that no hard-working Virginian should struggle with putting food on the table for their family due to low wages or lack of economic opportunity. She will fight to raise the minimum wage and promote economic development opportunities, which includes bringing quality jobs to the district and advocating for better transportation options for commuters.

### **Protecting the Environment And Preserving Farmland**

One of Elizabeth's top priorities will be to protect Virginia's landmarks, natural spaces, and farmland areas. Her grandparents were farmers and she has strong insight on the importance of protecting area farmland and supporting small family farms.

### **Driver's Licenses For Immigrants**

Elizabeth supports legislation that will issue driver's licenses for all Virginia residents, regardless of immigration status. This will not only raise revenue, it will make roads safer and make all Virginians feel welcome in their communities.

### **Veterans**

There are more than 1 million veterans currently facing homelessness. Elizabeth will push to create programs to fund existing efforts to help these veterans who performed a great service to our country.

### **Women's Rights**

Elizabeth believes that women should be presented with choices, and she will fight for reproductive freedom.

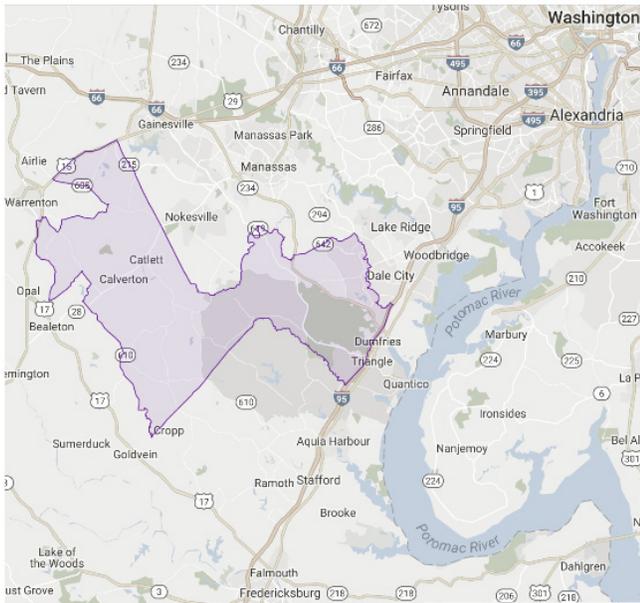
## **ABOUT THE OPPONENT**

Delegate Scott Lingamfelter (R) has been elected to VA-31 eight times. In 2013 he also ran an unsuccessful primary election for Lieutenant Governor. Lingamfelter is a decorated U.S. Army Veteran. Since retiring from the military, he has worked in private sector businesses that support government military operations in Washington, D.C. He and his family are conservative Christians. His opponents have long criticized him for using his seat to push his own ideological agenda. In a 2003 Washington Post article, Lingamfelter said, "People

of this district elected me knowing full well I would advance faith, family and freedom.”

He is a staunch pro-life and pro-gun cliché. He has authored and/or voted for eleven pro-life bills during his tenure, including one that sought to define the beginning of life as the point of conception. He also voted against another bill that would allow women the option of purchasing “Trust Women/Respect Choice” state license plates.

## ABOUT THE DISTRICT



VA-31, which covers parts of Prince William and Fauquier counties, has currently held by Del. Scott Lingamfelter since 2001.

Fauquier County is known for its horse farms and beautiful landscape. It lies in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is Southwest of the D.C. Metropolitan Area. Prince William County, with over 450,000 residents is the second most populous in Virginia. According to Vpap.org, it is 64% white, 21% African American, 14% Hispanic, and 7% Asian. It was not significantly affected by the redistricting that took place in 2011.

## HISTORY OF THE SEAT

Del. Scott Lingamfelter (R) has held this seat since he was first elected in 2001. In 2003, He defeated Democrat David Brickley 55% to 45%. He ran unopposed in 2005. In 2007 he defeated

Democrat Bill Day with 55% to 44% of the vote. He was unopposed again in 2009. In 2011, he was re-elected with 59% of the vote over Democrat Roy Coffey. In 2013, he won a tight race edging out Democrat Jeremy McPike by just one percent of the vote (50% to 49%). In 2015, he defeated Sara Townsend, who is running again in the 2017 Democratic primary.

## LEGISLATURE

The Virginia General Assembly is the state legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Virginia General Assembly is the oldest legislative body in the Western Hemisphere. Its existence dates from the establishment of the House of Burgesses at Jamestown in 1619. The General Assembly is a bicameral body consisting of a lower house, the Virginia House of Delegates, with 100 members, and an upper house, the Virginia State Senate, with 40 members.

The House is presided over by the Speaker of the House, who is elected from among the House membership by the delegates. The members are elected for terms of two years; and these elections take place during odd-numbered years. Each member represents about 90,000 residents. District lines are drawn after the Census every 10 years so that each Delegate represents the same number of Virginians. The Speaker is almost always a member of the majority party and, as Speaker, becomes the most powerful member of the House. The House is divided into Democratic and Republican caucuses. In addition to the Speaker, there is a majority leader, majority caucus chair, minority leader, minority caucus chair, and the chairs of the several committees of the House.

The annual salary for delegates is \$17,640 per year. Candidates for office must be at least 21 years of age at the time of the election, residents of the districts they seek to represent, and qualified to vote for General Assembly legislators. The regular session of the General Assembly is 60 days long during even numbered years and 30 days long during odd numbered years, unless extended by a two-thirds vote of both houses.

From 1992-2013, the Democratic Party was the majority in the Virginia State House of

Representatives for the first four years while the Republicans were the majority for the last 14 years.

Major issues facing the Virginia General Assembly in 2015 were job creation and education, the latter being especially important to Republicans; Democrats were especially focused on gun control issues. But, both parties expressed their desire to work towards improving Virginia's economy.

## REDISTRICTING IN VIRGINIA

The governor signed into law a state legislative redistricting plan ([www.washingtonpost.com/local/politics/virginia-assembly-approves-new-legislative-maps/2011/04/07/AFRjhrxC\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.a4ba10f9b849](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/politics/virginia-assembly-approves-new-legislative-maps/2011/04/07/AFRjhrxC_story.html?utm_term=.a4ba10f9b849)) on August 29, 2011. In 2014 and 2015, the legislature made attempts to modify the districts that were approved in 2011. The governor vetoed each of these bills.

On December 22, 2014, opponents of the newly drawn map filed suit in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, alleging that 12 state legislative districts constituted an illegal racial gerrymander. According to the Oyez Project at the ITT Chicago-Kent College of Law, the district court rejected this argument:

"The district court held that the plaintiffs did not establish that race was the predominant factor in the creation of 11 of the 12 challenged district. The district court also held that, although race was the predominant factor in the creation of one district, in doing so the General Assembly was pursuing a compelling state interest and its use of race was narrowly tailored to serve that interest."

—Oyez ([www.oyez.org/cases/2016/15-680](http://www.oyez.org/cases/2016/15-680)), ITT Chicago-Kent College of Law

The plaintiffs appealed this decision to the Supreme Court of the United States, which agreed to hear the case (*Bethune-Hill v. Virginia Board of Elections* [www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/bethune-hill-v-virginia-state-board-of-elections](http://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/bethune-hill-v-virginia-state-board-of-elections)) on June 6, 2016.

In the 2015, session of the Virginia General Assembly, the state Senate passed three nonpartisan redistricting bills, all of which died in the House.

On March 1, 2017, the Supreme Court of the United States issued its ruling ([www.nytimes.com/2017/03/01/us/politics/supreme-court-virginia-house-delegates-gerrymandering.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/01/us/politics/supreme-court-virginia-house-delegates-gerrymandering.html)) in *Bethune-Hill v. Virginia Board of Elections*, finding that the district court "employed an incorrect legal standard in determining that race did not predominate in 11 of the 12 districts." For these 11 districts, the high court remanded the case to the district court for reconsideration. The court ruled 7-1 on the case. Justice Anthony Kennedy penned the court's majority opinion, which was joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan. Associate Justice Samuel Alito concurred in the judgment, filing a separate opinion. Associate Justice Clarence Thomas filed an opinion that concurred in part with the majority opinion and dissented in part. Kennedy wrote the following in the court's majority opinion:

"The challengers first argue that the District Court misunderstood the relevant precedents when it required the challengers to establish, as a prerequisite to showing racial predominance, an actual conflict between the enacted plan and traditional redistricting principles. The Court agrees with the challengers on this point. ... The challengers submit that the District Court erred further when it considered the legislature's racial motive only to the extent that the challengers identified deviations from traditional redistricting criteria that were attributable to race and not to some other factor. In the challengers' view, this approach foreclosed a holistic analysis of each district and led the District Court to give insufficient weight to the 55 percent [black voting age population] target and other relevant evidence that race predominated. Again, this Court agrees."

—Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court affirmed the district court's ruling in the case of the remaining challenged district (District 75), arguing that the lower court's ruling was consistent with *Alabama Legislative Black Caucus v. Alabama* ([www.nytimes.com/2015/03/26/us/justices-side-with-black-lawmakers-in-alabama.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/26/us/justices-side-with-black-lawmakers-in-alabama.html)), a case decided by the high court in 2015. Alabama Legislative

Black Caucus v. Alabama established that “where a challenger succeeds in establishing racial predominance, the burden shifts to the State to ‘demonstrate that its districting legislation is narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling interest.’”

