

Kathy Tran for VA-42

WHY IS THIS RACE IMPORTANT?

Obama won the 42nd House of Delegates by six points, and Hillary Clinton won it by 20 points. But, there is a large decrease in Democratic turnout in non-presidential years. If Democratic voters show up, this district is winnable.

The district's current representative, Del. Dave Albo (R), is not seeking reelection. So there will not be an incumbent advantage on the Republican side.

The opposing candidate is far right and extremely conservative in ideology. This district has shown itself to be more in the center, which makes it prime for a swing.

Tran represents the many individuals who were spurred in action after unhappiness with President Trump and local GOP candidates, like those in Virginia who gerrymander and fail to represent the voices and values of their constituents.

She will be an outspoken voice against gerrymandering, which is important given that the state has been required by the Supreme Court to revisit its districting.

DISTRICT RESOURCES

Websites

Register to Vote in Virginia:
elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/index.html
 Fairfax County: www.fairfaxcounty.gov

Newspapers

www.alextimes.com
www.alexandriagazette.com
www.alexandrianews.org
www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia/alexandria
www.springfieldconnection.com



PAST RESULTS

2015 Election Results

David Albo (R)	10,837	63.40%
Joana Garcia (D)	6,245	36.60%

2016 Election Results

Hillary Clinton (D)	18,951	57.00%
Donald Trump (R)	12,344	37.19%

CANDIDATE RESOURCES

Candidate: Kathy Tran
 SDP ActBlue link: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sd_va42
 Her website: www.kathyfordelegate.com
 Her Facebook: facebook.com/KathyForDelegate
 Her Twitter: <https://twitter.com/KathyKLTran>

2017 TIMELINE

October 16: Deadline to register to vote (general)
 October 31: Deadline to request absentee ballot
 November 7: General Election

ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

Kathy Tran and her parents fled Vietnam by boat as refugees when she was just seven months old. Although many other countries offered them asylum, they waited 13 months for the United States to accept their application. For Tran's family, this

country has always represented hope, opportunity and freedom. Now, she's running for the House of Delegates because she couldn't just stand by while Donald Trump and Virginia Republicans dismantle the ideals that brought her family here.

Tran began her civil service career at the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration as a Presidential Management Fellow in 2003. During her 12 years of service, she served in numerous leadership positions, including as the Acting Administrator for the Office of Workforce Investment and the Director of the Division of Policy, Legislation, and Regulation. In these roles, she provided strategic national leadership and technical assistance to the public workforce system, implemented the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and coordinated other high-priority policy initiatives.

Tran went on to work at the National Immigration Forum, one of the nation's leading immigration advocacy organizations. There, she advocated for policies that prepare immigrants in the workforce to reach their full career potential.

Kathy graduated from Duke University and earned her Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan. The president of her local PTA, she and her husband Matt live in West Springfield with their four kids. They are avid Washington Nationals fans.

BlueAmerica.com did an extensive Q&A with Tran during the primary. To read it, visit: <http://bluevirginia.us/2017/06/blue-virginia-q-lorton-west-springfield-2>

KATHY ON THE ISSUES

Education

Kathy is a mother of four and an officer in her local PTA. As delegate, she will fight to invest in our public school system so that we are able to attract and retain the best teachers and offer robust STEAM academic and extracurricular programs.

She will fight for affordable higher education, invest in our community colleges, and work to build strong career pathways from schools to the workforce. A former board member of the Esther Peterson Child

Development Center at the U.S. Department of Labor, Kathy understands the critical importance of early childhood education in determining future academic success and will be a strong advocate in the General Assembly for universal pre-K.

Civil Rights and Democracy

Hate is a problem, not a policy, and Kathy will use her voice to stand against those who seek to undermine a welcoming and inclusive Virginia. At a time when the most fundamental elements of a well-functioning democracy are being challenged across the country, Kathy will fight against laws and practices that keep Virginians from exercising their right to vote or seek to weaken our vote through gerrymandering or the influence of big money in politics.

Healthcare

Tran will always work to protect and expand Virginians' access to quality, affordable health care. Expanding Medicaid in the commonwealth would ensure that 400,000 vulnerable Virginians will no longer have to decide between paying for health care over other essentials, or waiting for a chronic condition to reach an emergency situation before seeking treatment. Further, every year billions of dollars in our federal taxes leave Virginia to support expanded Medicaid programs in other states; it is time for Virginians to also benefit.

Tran will oppose any attempt by politicians to interfere in a woman's right to make decisions about her own body, and will fight against any proposed legislation that would impose medically unnecessary restrictions on reproductive health care providers or limit the ability of a woman to make health decisions with her doctor.

Jobs And Economic Development

Kathy has spent her entire career working for all Americans to have the skills, training, and credentials to reach their full career potential. During her 12 years of service at the U.S. Department of Labor, she helped shape national workforce development policy and programs. Now, Tran wants to bring that expertise to the House of Delegates to ensure that Virginia is globally

competitive and that our region attracts good jobs. She will always fight for workforce and education programs that build strong talent pipelines, and for worker's rights as critical to economic growth and social mobility.

One of Tran's proudest accomplishments during her time at the U.S. Department of Labor was her work on the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) Act, bipartisan legislation that helped expand employment services for transitioning service members and veterans. As Delegate, Tran will take leadership in building partnerships with professional licensing boards, employers, industry associations, community colleges and others to make sure veterans are able to translate their intensive, world-class training and work experience to the civilian workforce. She will work to ensure that Virginia fulfills its obligation to our servicemembers and their families, and that our veterans have the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.

Gun Violence Prevention

For Tran, enacting common-sense gun violence prevention measures means protecting our children and our communities. As delegate, Kathy will fight to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, domestic abusers, and those with severe mental illness. She will push for universal background checks to close the loopholes for sales of firearms at gun shows and over the Internet, and will fight to restore Virginia's "One-Handgun-a-Month" rule to combat gun-running. Kathy will also fight for an assault weapons ban and limits on high-capacity magazines.

Veterans

Kathy's brother David is a Combat Engineer Officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, and completed two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. Kathy and her family are tremendously proud of his service to our country, and it makes supporting veterans and military spouses a personal issue for her.

Tran says, "Virginia is among the most veteran-friendly states in the nation. As our veteran population continues to grow, we must reaffirm our commitment to our veterans and military spouses

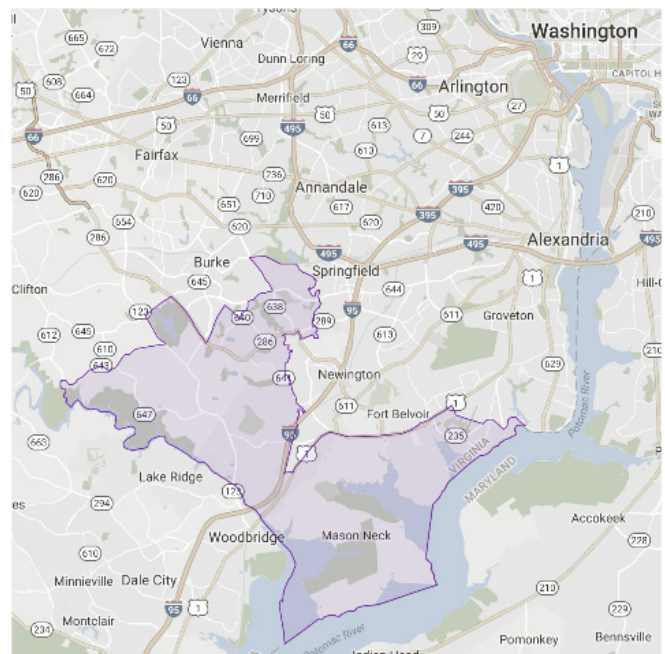
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ABOUT THE OPPONENT

Dr. Lolita Mancheno-Smoak is a University of Phoenix faculty member. She has been active in Republican politics for some time. She served on Carly Fiorina's VA leadership team, according to Fox News, and before that was a member of the tea party.

Mancheno-Smoak does not have policy platforms listed on her site, but she has an active Twitter account where she shows support for sometimes extreme conservative groups, like the Heritage Foundation, and for Trump and his administration. One such tweet opposes Title IX, which offers opportunities and protections to female college athletes, and another by Kelley-Anne Conway that indicates the candidate is pro-life.



ABOUT THE DISTRICT

District 42 covers much of Fairfax County. This district, which has 80,000 residents, became more Republican as a result of 2011 redistricting. Demographically, it is 69% caucasian, 11% African American, 16% Asian, and 9% Hispanic. It is on the Potomac River and Southwest of Alexandria, Virginia. The 42nd House District is home to Mason Neck State Park, which is important and much loved by Virginians.

HISTORY OF THE SEAT

Republican Del. Dave Albo has held the VA-42 seat since 1994. According to Vpap.org, it became 4.4 percentage points more Republican in the 2011 redistricting, but there is reason to discount this figure, as the district elected two democratic congressmen in 2016 and also went for Hillary Clinton in the Presidential race.

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) 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), 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) 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) 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), 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.’”