



Lee Carter for VA-50

WHY IS THIS RACE IMPORTANT?

- * All 100 seats in the Virginia House of Delegates are up for election in 2017.
- * Republicans hold 66 of the 100 seats.
- * Every seat counts towards flipping the Virginia legislature blue.
- * GOP leaders say many districts—including those won by Clinton—remain Republican strongholds for state elections.
- * In 2015, only 21 Democrats ran against GOP lawmakers. This year, Democrats plan to challenge 45 GOP incumbents—including 17 lawmakers whose districts voted for Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Websites

- www.pwcdems.com
- www.facebook.com/Prince-William-County-Democratic-Committee-221672771197188/
- www.manassascitydemocrats.com
- www.facebook.com/MMPCDC

Newspapers

- <http://potomaclocal.com>
- <http://www.insidenova.com>

PAST RESULTS

2015 Election Results:

Jackson Miller (R)	7,820	58.78%
Kyle McCullough (D)	5,484	41.22%

2016 Election Results:

Hillary Clinton (D)	14,602	53.30%
Donald Trump (R)	11,187	40.84%

ABOUT THE CANDIDATE



Candidate: Lee Carter
 SDP ActBlue link: https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/sd_va50
 His website: www.carterforvirginia.com
 His Facebook: www.facebook.com/leecarterva
 Candidate Twitter: www.twitter.com/carterforva

2017 TIMELINE

- May 22: Deadline to register to vote (primary)
- June 6: Deadline to request absentee ballot (primary)
- June 13: Primary election
- October 16: Deadline to register to vote (general)
- October 31: Deadline to request absentee ballot
- November 7: General Election

BACKGROUND INFO

Lee Carter is an IT specialist who lives in the City of Manassas. Lee, his wife, and daughter moved to the area more than a year ago after falling in love with the community. Lee originally moved to Virginia in 2011, after completing five years of service in the United States Marine Corps.

He is an active member of the Manassas City Democratic Committee, and spends much of his time working as a community organizer and activist – particularly in the areas of affordable housing and worker protections. He is also a graduate of

the Sorensen Institute of Political Leadership. The Carter family are involved members of the Bull Run Unitarian Universalists congregation in Manassas. Born in North Carolina, Lee was raised in a military family, and traveled across the country during his father's service in the United States Navy and the United States Coast Guard. Lee is proud of his family's service to our country, and his family has served in all five branches of the United States military. For Lee, spending a life in service to others began in his childhood as a "military brat" and continued through his own service in the military and beyond.

Lee joined the Marine Corps during the beginning of the 'Global War on Terror', and worked in technological repair in a Special Operations-capable support unit, completing tours in the Middle East and the Mediterranean. His unit was also one of the first to respond to Haiti, following the devastating earthquake in 2010 (<http://time.com/3662225/haiti-earthquake-five-year-after/>).

Throughout Lee's career and civic engagement his focus has been on helping others – whether that was in his service in the Marine Corps, helping provide cancer patients with consistent care by maintaining biomedical radiation therapy equipment, or assisting small local businesses with IT support.

Lee is committed to the 50th district, and will fight hard to address the challenges that residents in the community – and across the Commonwealth – face. He knows that a large part of public service is being active in the community and listening to constituents, and is committed to doing that for all residents in the 50th.

"More than most, I understand the lives of working families in the 50th district. Like many of the folks here, I've spent the majority of my career in positions where I had to turn wrenches and get dirty to get the job done, and I currently work in cyber security – an area where my professional expertise can help me shape a growing area of Virginia's economy that will likely continue to rise in importance over the next several decades. More than that, I've shared in the struggles that people

face. I've been hit by both layoffs and workplace injuries that made it impossible to make ends meet, so I know precisely how stressful it can be and what Virginia needs to do better to protect working families when they're most vulnerable."

LEE ON THE ISSUES

Economic Insecurity

Too many of the 50th district's residents are living paycheck to paycheck, and would be unable to get by if they were impacted by a layoff, injury, or sickness that prevented them from working temporarily. To combat this, we have to fight to increase wages, and reform our worker's compensation and unemployment insurance systems so that working families can focus on getting back into their careers after disaster strikes, rather than scrabbling to keep their heads above water.

Proposing Real Transportation Solutions

Residents of the 50th district spend entirely too much time sitting in traffic, which takes away from time they could spend with their families. To address this, we've got to find ways to get as many cars as possible off of the commuter routes. Increasing frequency of VRE and bus service, and reducing cost to the riders, is key to this effort, as is creating opportunity for people to work closer to home.

Lee believes we need to be expanding services and access to the Virginia Railway Express, and planning for rail expansion for the future of Northern Virginia. Lee also believes more needs to be done to ease congestion for drivers on Route 28 and Interstate 66.

Education

Virginia must stop using funding as a weapon to punish schools that are already struggling. Removing funds from struggling schools only reduces their ability to solve the problems that they face, and leaves thousands of kids behind in the process. We must fundamentally rethink school accountability so that struggling schools are provided with the resources that they need to succeed, and have access to experts that know

how to turn things around.

Expanding Medicaid Access for the Uninsured

As delegate in the 50th district, Lee will fight to expand Medicaid access for Virginians, and push to end the ideology based decision making that is hurting so many. As someone that has worked in the biomedical field, Lee understands the crucial need for medical care, and how it can save someone's life when facing serious health conditions.

Keeping our Workers Safe

Lee has dealt with the Virginia's Workers Compensation Commission and the Commonwealth's worker compensation regulations firsthand, and believes that the Virginia General Assembly must do more to protect its workers. I have vowed to run this campaign without taking money from for-profit interests. When it comes down to making hard decisions, this lets people feel confident that I am making those decisions with the best interests of the residents – and ONLY the best interests of the residents – in mind. I have also been heavily involved in issues of economic justice in Northern Virginia, including the fight to help the residents of East End Mobile Home Park (http://www.insidenova.com/headlines/manassas-mobile-home-park-residents-push-back-against-eviction-land/article_0dd50584-97af-11e6-8db8-9342c4e43531.html) stay in their homes.

Lee participated in a Reddit AMA (https://www.reddit.com/r/Political_Revolution/comments/5p07kq/iama_2017_candidate_for_the_virginia_house_of/?st=izfnjun5&sh=945c3efd#bottom-comments) to give his constituents a chance to speak with him.

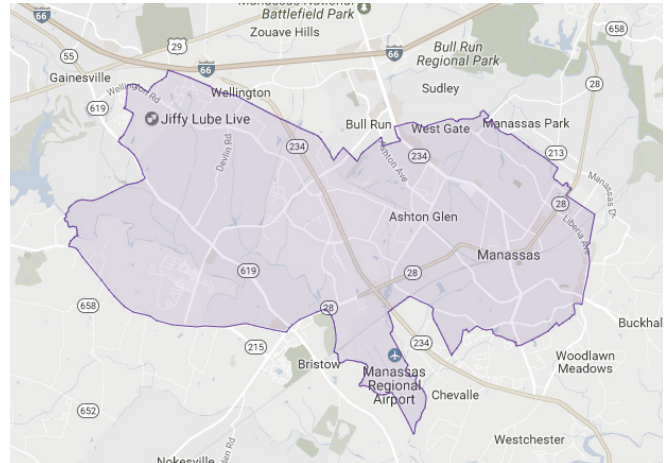
ENDORSEMENTS

Progressive House VA progressivehouseva.com

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Made up Prince William County and the City of Manassas, Captain John Smith discovered Prince William County during an expedition up the Potomac River in 1608. Smith found the region inhabited by Anacostan, Doeg, Iroquois, and Piscataway Indians. The first known colonial

settlement was founded in 1722. In 1730, the Virginia General Assembly carved out an area approximately 2,000 square miles in size and named it Prince William County, after the second son of England's King George II.



Present day Prince William County is a thriving and diverse community. The County has a population of 364,734 people and boasts a median household income of \$88,724 as indicated by the Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey. It is also a "young" County with 29.3% of its population below eighteen years of age. Prince William County is Virginia's second most populous county. And has the seventh highest income of any county in the United States. It was Virginia's first majority-minority county.

The City of Manassas has several important historic sites from the period 1850–1870. In July 1861, the First Battle of Manassas – also known as the First Battle of Bull Run – the first major land battle of the American Civil War, was fought nearby. The Second Battle of Manassas (or the Second Battle of Bull Run) was fought near Manassas during August 28–30, 1862.

The House of Delegates 50th District is currently represented by Jackson Miller (www.jacksonmillerva.com), a member of the GOP Leadership in Virginia. As the House Majority Whip, he is a rigid conservative who is a well-financed incumbent and cozy with many corporate interests. Miller has a primary challenger from his right, the current Mayor of Manassas, Hal Parrish (<http://halparrish.com>). Since 2012, the 50th has helped

elect Barack Obama to the White House, Tim Kaine to the Senate, Ralph Northam to Lieutenant Governor, and voted for Hillary Clinton by a 12-point margin!

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 (https://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 (<https://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* <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 (<https://www.nytimes>.

[com/2017/03/01/us/politics/supreme-court-virginia-house-delegates-gerrymandering.html](https://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* (<https://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.’”