

Cheryl Turpin for VA-85

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.

LINKS

Local Democratic Party

www.vbdemocrats.org

www.facebook.com/vbdemocrats

Local Newspapers

<http://pilotonline.com/news/cities/virginia-beach>

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

PAST RESULTS

2017 Special Election Results:

Rocky Holcomb (R) 3,301 52.80%

Cheryl Turpin (D) 2,939 47.10%

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2016 Election Results

Hillary Clinton (D) 14,860 46.02%

Donald Trump (R) 15,277 47.31%

ABOUT THE CANDIDATE



Candidate: Cheryl Turpin

SDP ActBlue link: https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/sd_va85

Her website: <https://cherylturpinforvb.com>

Her Facebook: www.facebook.com/CT4VAB

Her Twitter: https://twitter.com/ct_4_vab

Ballotpedia: https://ballotpedia.org/Cheryl_Turpin

BACKGROUND INFO

Cheryl grew up in an active military family. After serving in the Army for 23 years, Cheryl's father retired from service and her family resided in Fairfax County, Virginia. For the past 18 years, Cheryl's family has called the Kempsville area of Virginia Beach home. Her two adult daughters – Ellison and Patricia – attended Virginia Beach City Public Schools and are graduates of Kempsville High School.

Cheryl received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Virginia Commonwealth University and earned a Master of Education Degree from the University of Virginia. Cheryl has invested herself and her appreciation of education into the lives of local students for the past 24 years while serving as a High School Science teacher. For the past 8 years, she has taught Advanced Placement Environmental Science.

In 2016, Cheryl was nominated for the prestigious honor of Teacher of the Year by her fellow teachers at Frank W. Cox High School. Cheryl has served her community for many years offering her leadership in a diverse range of organizations. Cheryl has served as a Board Member for the Make a Difference Foundation, as Activities Coordinator for several school PTA's, a Girl Scouts Troop Leader, a coach for the Neighborhood Soccer League, and a member of the Sierra Club.

Cheryl has spent much of her career working with at-risk students. She is a partner in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) community. AVID is dedicated to closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college. Cheryl is a long-time member of both the Virginia Education Association and the National Education Association.

Prior Campaigns

A special election for the position of Virginia House of Delegates District 85 was called for January 10. The seat was vacant following Scott Taylor's (R) resignation in January 2017. He was elected to the 2nd Congressional District of Virginia in November 2016. Rocky Holcomb (R) defeated Cheryl Turpin (D) in the special election.

CHERYL ON THE ISSUES

Strengthen Education

- * Reduce the time dedicated to mandated testing and add it back into instructional time.
- * Provide full day public kindergarten for every child.
- * Give teachers the resources needed to increase the use of technology in the classroom.

Safe Environment

- * Guarantee that every child lives in a world with clean water and clean air.
- * Create a plan to protect property owners against rising sea levels due to global climate change.
- * Encourage the use of reusable and recyclable goods, which will reduce the

amount of land needed to create new landfills.

Human Rights

- * Protect and provide healthcare to all the citizens of the Commonwealth.
- * Demand a minimum wage that allows people to provide for their families.
- * Work in a bipartisan way to overhaul our criminal justice and mental health care systems to keep the Commonwealth safe and secure.

Transportation

Work alongside Lt. Governor Ralph Northam and Secretary of Transportation, Aubrey Layne, to reduce congestion.

Economic Opportunities

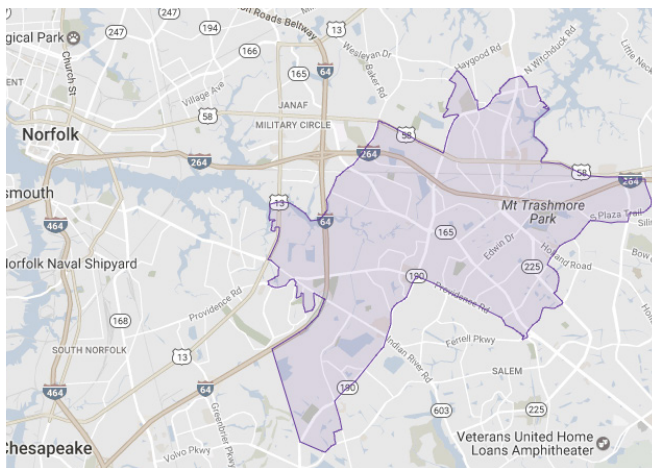
- * Increase infrastructure spending to improve our roads and traffic conditions to attract families and businesses to Virginia Beach.
- * Create small business loans to encourage young entrepreneurs to start new businesses.
- * Expand broadband access so that every student, business, and entrepreneur has the tools they need to stay competitive.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

City of Virginia Beach (part)

Although mostly suburban in character, Virginia Beach is the most populous city in Virginia and the 41st most populous city in the nation. Despite being larger, Virginia Beach is generally considered to be a suburb of Norfolk. Virginia Beach is a resort city with miles of beaches and hundreds of hotels, motels, and restaurants along its oceanfront.

Every year the city hosts the East Coast Surfing Championships as well as the North American Sand Soccer Championship, a beach soccer tournament. It is also home to several state parks, several long-protected beach areas, three military bases, a number of large corporations, two universities, International headquarters and site of the television broadcast studios for Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), Edgar Cayce's



Association for Research and Enlightenment, and numerous historic sites. Near the point where the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean meet, Cape Henry was the site of the first landing of the English colonists, who eventually settled in Jamestown, on April 26, 1607.

The city is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as having the longest pleasure beach in the world. It is located at the southern end of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, the longest bridge-tunnel complex in the world.

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>) 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.’”