

## Mike Mullin for VA-93

### WHY IS THIS RACE IMPORTANT?

It's important to not only break down the Republican stronghold in the Virginia House of Delegates, but also to support delegates who, like Mullin, are proven and effective leaders. This past, session Mullin passed four bills—more than any other freshman legislator.

Mike beat his Republican opponent by 7% in the 2016 special election, but Virginia has a historically low voter turnout for non-presidential elections. And, Mike's opponent works with seniors professionally, a group that statistically shows up to vote in higher numbers. We need to rally Mike's supporters to get to the polls as well.

Both candidates said education, transportation and improving the job market are priorities. Voters will be deciding who they believe will be most effective in these areas.

### DISTRICT RESOURCES

#### Websites

Register to Vote in Virginia:

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

James City County: [www.jamescitycountyva.gov](http://www.jamescitycountyva.gov)

York County: [www.yorkcountygov.com](http://www.yorkcountygov.com)

City of Williamsburg: [www.williamsburgva.gov](http://www.williamsburgva.gov)

City of Newport News: [www.nngov.com](http://www.nngov.com)

#### Newspapers

The Virginia Gazette: [www.vagazette.com](http://www.vagazette.com)

Richmond Times Dispatch: [www.Richmond.com](http://www.Richmond.com)

The Daily Press: [www.dailypress.com](http://www.dailypress.com)

### PAST RESULTS

#### 2015 Election Results

Michael P. Mullin (D)	20,417	53.50%
Heather Cordasco (R)	17,634	46.20%



#### 2016 Election Results

Hillary Clinton (D)	19,147	56.65%
Donald Trump (R)	12,743	37.70%

### CANDIDATE RESOURCES

Candidate: Mike Mullin

SDP ActBlue link: [https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sd\\_va93](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sd_va93)

His website: [www.mullinforvirginia.com](http://www.mullinforvirginia.com)

His Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mikemullin4VA](http://www.facebook.com/mikemullin4VA)

### 2017 TIMELINE

October 16: Deadline to register to vote (general)

October 31: Deadline to request absentee ballot

November 7: General Election

### ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

Mike came to the Peninsula as a 17-year-old college freshman at Christopher Newport University and loved the area so much that he decided to raise his family here. After completing law school elsewhere, he returned and now lives with his wife and three young boys in Kiln Creek. The Mullin family are active long-time members of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church in Newport News. He is also a criminal prosecutor.

## **MIKE ON THE ISSUES**

### **Criminal Justice**

Mike Mullin is a career prosecutor. He is focused on making criminal justice changes, including “ending the school-to-prison pipeline” that he says exists in Virginia, noting that “Virginia has the highest percentage of students who are arrested and face criminal charges.” Mike is also a strong advocate for Virginia women and families affected by domestic or sexual abuse. This spring, the Governor signed Mike’s legislation which denies first offender status ensure to violent felons under the state’s domestic violence laws.

### **Environment**

Protecting the Chesapeake Bay: Jobs in Hampton Roads rely on a clean and protected Chesapeake Bay. Mullin will continue to be a strong voice for providing full funding for the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay.

Promoting Renewable Energy: Mullin will continue to advocate for legislation that will create an electric and clean vehicle infrastructure for the future. HE will also support clean energy with investments in wind, solar, and other renewable resources.

Addressing the Problem of Climate Change: The Virginia Peninsula is created by the York and James Rivers, so the impacts of climate change, particularly flooding, are of great concern to residents and businesses. Mike is committed to expanding our efforts to curb climate change, including renewable energy, efficient modes of transportation, and recycling.

Mike is proud to be endorsed by the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters.

### **Education**

As the father of three young boys, Mike is committed to working for a world class education for every Virginia child. He supports quality pre-K education and fully funding Virginia public schools (which means not diverting funds to private institutions). Increasing teachers pay is also one of his priorities: He supported a 2% salary increase for teachers last session. Mike has also worked to

end the culture of high-stakes testing by eliminating some of the Standards of Learning requirements.

Mike's commitment to education has earned him the endorsement of the Virginia Education Association.

### **Healthcare**

Mullin strongly supports expanding Medicaid in the State of Virginia. Medicaid expansion would extend coverage to over 400,000 Virginians, and put back \$2.5 billion dollars into the state budget. He is also a strong advocate and supporter of women making their own health choices. That is why Mike has stood in support of Planned Parenthood and advocated for affordable birth control.

## **ABOUT THE OPPONENT**

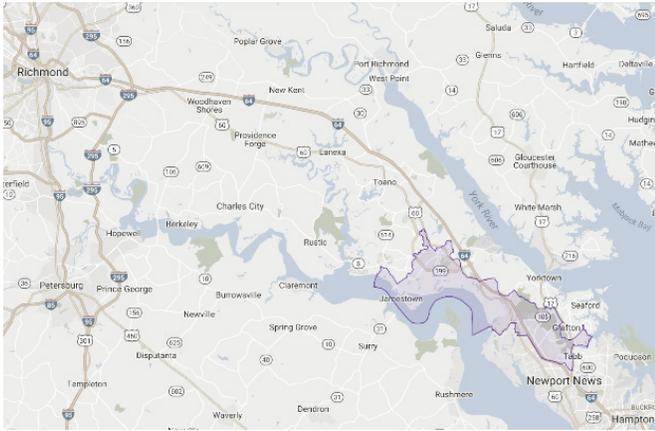
Mike currently represents the district. But, according to Vpap.org, the district became 2.1 percentage points more Republican as a result of 2011 redistricting. Mike won his seat in 2016 after T. Monty Mason's (D) resigned to join the Virginia State Senate. Mullin beat Heather Cordasco (R) in the 2016 special election. Cordasco is running against Mullin again in this election.

Cordasco is a fitness instructor for senior citizens with significant volunteer experience her community. Most notably, she previously served on a community school board. She is prioritizing education and traffic control in her campaign. According to The Daily Press, the two candidates differed on pre-school education, with Mullin urging state funding for a universal access, while Cordasco saying she did not believe a mandate for all children, to be paid for out of a tight state budget, was the way to go.

## **ABOUT THE DISTRICT**

Virginia's ninety-third state house district comprises portions of James City and York counties, the City of Williamsburg, and a part of Newport News City, where 41% of the district voters reside. It is geographically Southeast of Richmond, VA. It is nestled between The York and James rivers and is known by residents as “The Peninsula.” While it is 65% caucasian, it also has a large African American community which makes up 37% of the population.

Some of the notable places and institutions in the 93rd are Colonial Williamsburg, Historic Jamestown, The College of William and Mary, and Fort Eustis.



## 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.’”