

Debra Rodman

Virginia Senate District 12

ABOUT THE CANDIDATE



LEARN MORE

DEBRA RODMAN

<https://www.debrarodman.com>



Elected to the House of Delegates in 2017, Debra Rodman was inspired to run by the simple idea that real people should have a voice in their government.

A Fulbright Scholar, she teaches Anthropology at Randolph-Macon College, and regularly uses her academic expertise to serve as an expert witness in US Federal Court where she advocates for families and LGBT refugees fleeing violence.

Debra is a proud mom to two beautiful boys and the wife to Darryl Lowery, a Richmond native and member of the Lumbee tribe of North Carolina. Debra brings her passion – and compassion – as an educator to the General Assembly, fighting fiercely for the improvements to Virginia public education and health care systems that our communities need.

As a Delegate, she has worked across the aisle to improve teacher evaluations and raise teacher pay. It is because of Debra and her colleagues' advocacy for Medicaid expansion on the campaign trail and in the General Assembly that 400,000 Virginians who previously slipped through the cracks now have access to affordable health care.

It is her mission to remain accessible and present in the community she loves to serve and is committed to continuing to serve with this approach in the Senate.

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 20: Deadline to register to vote (primary)
- June 4: Deadline to request absentee ballot (primary)
- June 11: Primary election
- October 15: Deadline to register to vote (general)
- October 29: Deadline to request absentee ballot
- November 5: General Election

YOU MUST HAVE A VALID PHOTO ID

SOCIAL MEDIA + LINKS

SDP ACTBLUE LINK

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-va-rodman>

WEBSITE

<https://www.debrarodman.com>

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/debrarodmanVA>

TWITTER

<https://twitter.com/DebraRodmanVA>

INSTAGRAM

<http://www.instagram.com/debrarodmanva/>

DATA ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Population	Households	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Median Income	Below Poverty Line	Unemployed	College Grads	HS Grads	No HS Grad
215666	82943	13.90%	67.20%	12.00%	6.40%	77285	7.90%	3.60%	57.50%	35.50%	7.00%

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PAST RACES

Congressional Districts

Nested Congressional Districts: CD7, 1 (Cook PVI: R+6, R+8)
Learn more about Cook Political Ratings (Partisan Voting Index): <https://cookpolitical.com/ratings>

2015 Senate Results

Deborah Repp	38%	16,797
Siobhan Dunnivant	57.7%	25,504

2015 Senate Fundraising

* Via Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP)

Democrat	\$65,329
Republican	\$583,318

2017 Gubernatorial Results

Ralph Northam	51.53%	39,327
Ed Gillespie	47.15%	35,986

2018 Senate Results

Tim Kaine	56.60%	51,668
Corey Stewart	41.14%	37,556
Matt Waters	2.26%	2,065

2016 President

Hillary Clinton	48.31%	53,028
Donald Trump	45.21%	49,627

2012 President

Barack Obama	43.51%	47,064
Mitt Romney	55.18%	59,682

THE DISTRICT

Virginia's twelfth state senate district is represented by Republican Senator Siobhan Dunnivant.

As of the 2011 redistricting, a total of 203,630 civilians reside within Virginia's twelfth state senate district. Virginia state senators represent an average of 200,026 residents. After the 2000 Census, each member represented 176,963 residents. (pictured right)

CANDIDATE IN THE NEWS

Del. Debra Rodman joins Democratic primary for Dunnivant's state Senate seat

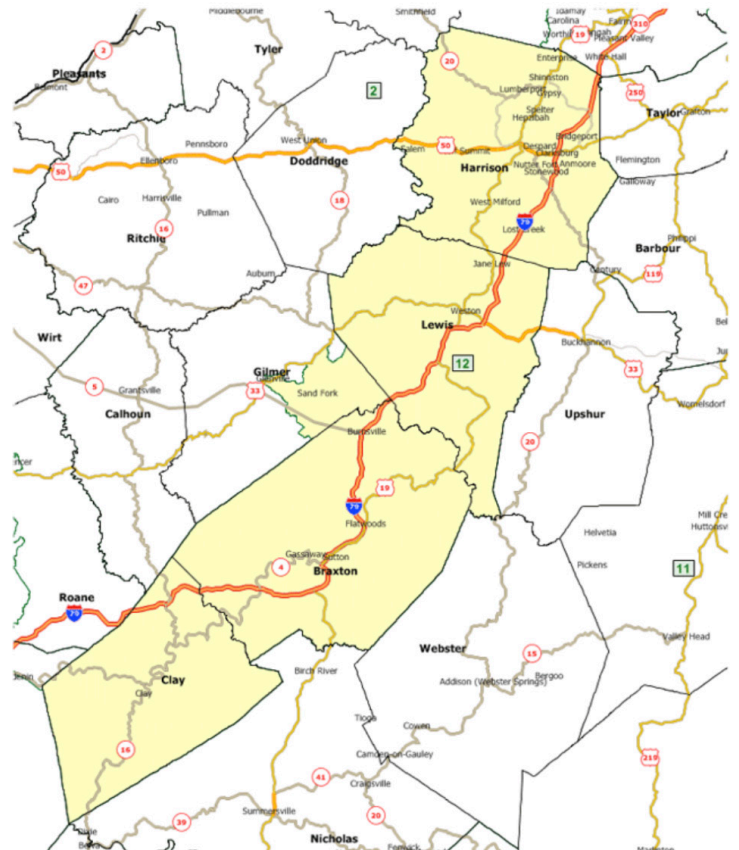
https://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/del-debra-rodman-joins-democratic-primary-for-dunnivant-s-state-article_3327527b-6945-58c5-804b-3e31f6100ae5.html

Virginia Democrats Search for 'Electability' this Primary Season

<https://www.wvtf.org/post/virginia-democrats-search-electability-primary-season#stream/0>

Debra Rodman wins Democratic primary in State Senate District 12

<https://wtvr.com/2019/06/11/democratic-primary-in-state-senate-district-12/>



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ON THE ISSUE

A Fighter for Education

As a mom of two children – one with learning disabilities and one considered accelerated – Debra has pushed to invest in our public schools and even delivered a historic 5% pay raise for Virginia public school teachers this year. But she also knows we can do better when Democrats take the majority – our Virginia teachers are still paid almost \$10,000 behind the national average and many pay for school supplies out of their own pockets.

As a professor at Randolph Macon college, Debra saw first-hand the effects of a teacher evaluation system that over-incentivized “teaching the test”. This year, she successfully lead the fight and worked across the aisle to update how our teachers are evaluated so our teachers are free to teach and our children can have a world-class education. She was recognized by the non-partisan Virginia Education Association as a Legislative Champion for her excellent work delivering this historic improvement.

A Fighter for Quality, Affordable Health Care

Debra will always work to protect and expand Virginians’ access to quality, affordable health care. Debra fought tirelessly on the campaign trail and in the General Assembly to expand access to Medicaid for 400,000 Virginians. But prices, coverage, access, everything to do with the health insurance system are still a serious source of stress.

Women and people across Virginia see Donald Trump’s Supreme Court poised to gut Roe v. Wade. Politicians have no place in the decisions someone makes with their doctor. Debra will fight for state-level protections from the White House’s attacks on health and reproductive care. In the General Assembly, Debra’s legislation and work with key stakeholders to stop insurance companies from discriminating based on gender identification is a landmark accomplishment for making Virginia a more inclusive, welcoming Commonwealth.

A Fighter to Prevent Gun Violence

Henrico recently saw multiple instances of racist vandalism and vandalism threatening gun violence. Virginia was just devastated from a mass shooting in Virginia Beach. 12 years ago our Commonwealth mourned the loss of 33 lives at Virginia Tech. The time for action to prevent gun violence was long ago.

The reality is in 2019, every parent lives with fear when our kids get on the bus to school or go out to play. When children live with anxiety for their own safety, there are lifelong psychological and physical consequences while their young brains develop. Our country does not live up to its promise of equality of opportunity when children grow up afraid to go to school or traumatized by active shooter drills.

Debra has remained strong in the fight to prevent gun violence – fighting for universal background checks, red flag laws, stricter reporting rules when a firearm is lost or stolen, among others.

A Fighter for our Environment

Debra has a masters in Marine Affairs and Policy from the University of Miami’s Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. She serves on the Agriculture Committee in the House of Delegates where she advocates for a responsible shift to cleaner energy sources and fights for clean air and water.

In 2017, Debra was one of the first candidate’s to sign Activate Virginia’s pledge to refuse money from Dominion and public service corporations. As a Delegate she voted and whipped votes against legislation which weakened the oversight powers of the State Corporation Commission over Dominion Energy. She has also carried legislation to test for increased lead levels in drinking water, and legislation that would strengthen the SCC’s ability to curtail overcharges and protect consumers.

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ABOUT THE STATE

General Demographics

- Virginia is the 12th-most populous state, with over 8 million residents.
- Virginia's non-white citizens represented 38% of the population in 2017, up from 22% in 1990.
- As of 2015, the non-white voter population was 28%, suggesting that people of color are a growing segment of the general population but not growing as fast in the voting population.
- In the last four presidential elections, voter turnout has been greater than 70%. But in the last 4 elections held in the year just prior to the presidential election (which would be a predictor for 2019), turnout has hovered around 30%.
- Turnout among younger voters (18-29 years old) has steadily increased from 17% in 2009 to 26% in 2013 to 34% in 2017. This segment of the population voted heavily Democratic in 2017 --almost 70/30.
- The Commonwealth has elected Democratic governors in four out of the last five gubernatorial elections, and has not voted for a Republican President since 2004.

District Lines

District lines for Congress and state legislature are drawn by the General Assembly (state legislature). There is a bipartisan advisory commission, but the General Assembly is not required to take their recommendations. The governor has veto power over district lines.

The Commonwealth's district boundaries have been a hot topic of conversation in past years. Both Congressional and state legislative district lines in Virginia have been held unconstitutional by federal courts due to racial gerrymandering. Congressional districts were redrawn by court order in 2016, which increased Democratic representation. Currently, a number of districts in the lower chamber are the subject of ongoing litigation, which is currently being heard by the Supreme Court. The new maps for these lower chamber districts will be used in the 2019 general election unless the Supreme Court overturns the new maps. That decision is due over the summer. The redrawn districts (which more accurately reflect the population) lean more Democratic.

Citizens' groups in Virginia have been working to establish fairer districting processes, including pushing for a nonpartisan redistricting commission. In 2019, the General Assembly approved the "first read" of a constitutional amendment to create an advisory commission for Congressional and state legislative lines. The next step would be for the General Assembly to pass an identical resolution during the next legislative session – after the 2019 election. Then the measure would go onto the ballot in November 2020, at which point Virginians could vote to approve the independent commission.

Voter Suppression

Virginia currently has a voter ID law, passed by its Republican state legislature and governor in 2013. In 2016, the Fourth Circuit of Appeals upheld the Virginia Voter ID law, after a suit alleging it violated the 1965 Voting Rights Act. In addition, Virginia's GOP has made it more difficult to register people to vote. In particular, third-party voter registration requires groups receiving 25 or more registration forms to register with the state. Further, Virginia uses both the controversial Crosscheck and ERIC programs to determine if there are duplicate voter registrations.

Voter Registration and Day of Voting

You must provide a photo ID to register to vote and to vote physically at the polls. Acceptable IDs include:

- Driver's license
- US passport
- Tribal ID issued by one of the 11 tribes recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Student or employee ID from a public or private school in Virginia
- Virginia Voter Photo ID

If you do not have an ID, you may apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office.

Last Day:

For the June Primary, you must register by Monday, May 20th, 2019.
For the November Election you must register by Tuesday, October 15th, 2019.

Absentee Ballots:

For the June Primary, absentee ballots must be requested by Tuesday, June 4th, 2019.

For the November Election absentee ballots must be requested by Tuesday, October 29th, 2019.

You can also request a ballot by appearing in person - Request Absentee Ballot by appearing in person by: 5:00 p.m. Saturday, November 2, 2019.

June 11: Primary election
November 5: General Election

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ABOUT THE STATE

Current State Legislature

Virginia is currently under a divided government: the governor is a Democrat, while Republicans control both chambers of the legislature by an extremely narrow margin—just two seats each. The entire Virginia General Assembly is up for election in 2019, and these are all “Last Chance” races; the legislators elected in 2019 will be serving during the 2021 redistricting process. The state legislature draws district lines, and the governor has the power to veto district maps.

The state Senate is currently comprised of 19 Democrats and 21 Republicans, while the House of Delegates has 49 Democrats and 51 Republicans. Democrats have an incredible opportunity to flip both Virginia state legislature chambers in 2019.

Demographic shifts in Virginia favor Democrats. And a number of badly gerrymandered House districts have recently been fairly redrawn upon federal court order (subject to Supreme Court review). This should give Democrats an opportunity to compete fairly in a broader set of House districts this year.

2019 Executive Controversies

The current Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General are all Democrats, and none are up for election in 2019. However, each has been the subject of controversy in 2019. Governor Ralph Northam shocked the Commonwealth when photos surfaced of him in blackface during his years as a medical student. Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax seemed poised to transition into the Governor’s seat—until allegations of sexual assault in his past came to light. The third in line for the Governor’s seat, Attorney General Mark Herring, proactively admitted to dressing in blackface as a teenager himself. Ultimately, none of the men have resigned, despite calls to do so from numerous elected officials, organizations, and citizens groups.

At Sister District, these events have underscored the need to build a deep bench of diverse leaders and a strong Democratic majority in the state legislature. Without positive reinforcement from the Governor’s office this year, General Assembly candidates will certainly need our help.

ABOUT THE INCUMBENT

Siobhan Dunnivant (Republican) is a member of the Virginia State Senate, representing District 12. Dunnivant is running in the general election on November 5, 2019. She was first elected to the chamber in 2015.

2018 Scorecard

NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia

Legislators are scored based on their voting record on reproductive issues. Dunnivant scored 0% for the 2018 session.

Virginia Citizens Defense League

Legislators are scored on their votes on bills related to support for the Second Amendment. Dunnivant scored 100% for the 2018 session.

Virginia Education Association

Legislators are scored on their votes on bills related to education. Dunnivant scored 50% for the 2018 session.

Virginia League of Conservation Voters

Legislators are scored on their votes on environmental and conservation issues. Dunnivant scored 50% for the 2018 session.