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NEWVIRGINIAMAJORITY.ORG



State: Virginia

Core Constituency/Target Audience: Working class communities of color

Website: newvirginiamajority.org

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New Virginia Majority was founded in 2007 in response to the failure to pass federal comprehensive immigration reform. Today the organization works to create a powerful multi-issue, multi-racial movement to transform Virginia through large-scale civic engagement, issue advocacy, and strategic communications and community organizing.

New Virginia Majority organizers have knocked on over 1 million doors, engaging not only immigrant voters, but people of color, women, working class people, and youth. They have grown into a statewide organization with particular focus along Virginia's urban crescent.

STATE LEGISLATIVE WORK

New Virginia Majority Education Fund's multi-year voter engagement program has a goal of expanding the electorate to better reflect Virginia's rich diversity. New Virginia Majority endorses and provides grassroots support to progressive state legislative candidates each year.

Their outreach plan has a goal of increased turnout among New American Majority through robust direct voter contact, including canvassing, phonebanking, mail and social media strategies. All of these outreach methods include strategies and tactics to turn voters into volunteers, members, activists and leaders.

In all of their work, New Virginia Majority is committed to centering and uplifting racial equity. Insufficient revenue structures and under-investment in community services in Virginia have historically harmed low-wealth communities of color. NVM centers these communities in all of their electoral and legislative advocacy work to ensure that they are building towards a more fair Virginia.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New Virginia Majority has had historic successes in the state over the years. In 2019, they helped flip both chambers of the legislature to Democratic control for the first time in nearly 25 years. As of the end of the 2021 legislative session, over 60 bills on New Virginia Majority's legislative agenda will be heading to the Governor's desk. Virginia became the first state in the South to pass state level voting rights legislation, enact comprehensive protections for members of the LGBTQ community, and commit to a transition to clean energy by 2050.

Between 2018 and 2020, Virginia went from [49th in the nation](#) for voting access to [12th in the nation](#). New Virginia Majority is proud to have played a role in passing the bills that led to this change, including making Election Day a state holiday, establishing no excuse absentee voting, and implementing automatic voter registration and same-day voter registration.

After nearly a decade of organizing, NVM succeeded in helping restore the voting rights to thousands of formerly incarcerated Virginians in 2016. They also played a role in passing Medicaid expansion in 2018, which restored affordable healthcare to nearly 400,000 Virginians.

ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO NVM

Economic Justice

New Virginia Majority wants an economy that works for everyone, not just the wealthy few. They support legislation that will:

- Increase Virginia's minimum wage to at least \$15.00 per hour
- Expand access to comprehensive paid family and medical leave
- Ensure that all workers receive equal pay for equal work regardless of sex, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Criminal Justice

New Virginia Majority believes that a fair criminal justice system ensures that law enforcement officers are accountable to their communities, poverty is decriminalized, and returning citizens have a fair shot to succeed. They support legislation that will:

- End cash bail, fees and fines for pretrial services, and reduce pretrial detention
- Repeal mandatory minimum sentencing and reinstate discretionary parole
- Decriminalize marijuana and expunge charges from individual records

Environmental Justice

New Virginia Majority believes that communities should be informed of and have the power to make decisions about environmental policies, projects, and practices that impact their health and daily lives. They support legislation that will:

- Move Virginia towards an equitable 100% clean and renewable energy plan
- Provide targeted support for low-income individuals and people of color to obtain credentials, post-secondary education, or workforce training in environmental, renewable energy, or related fields
- Ensure a just transition and utilize the Environmental Protection Agency's definition of environmental justice

Housing

All Virginians deserve access to clean, safe, and affordable housing. New Virginia Majority supports legislation that will:

- Invest in more affordable housing, implement eviction prevention programs, and increase tenant protections, including rent control
- Establish source of income, gender identity, and sexual orientation as protected classes in Virginia's Fair Housing Act
- Allow tenants more time to pay past due rent before landlords file for an eviction case

Education

New Virginia Majority believes that all Virginia students should have access to a high-quality education. They support legislation that will:

- Strengthen programs that provide additional funding to support low-income students
- Guarantee that all children have access to high-quality early childhood education
- Cover the full cost of higher education for low-income students and families, including tuition, required fees, course materials, and cost of living

Health

Everyone deserves access to health care no matter where they live, work, or play. New Virginia Majority supports legislation that will:

- Increase access to health coverage and services for undocumented immigrants
- Codify in state law the reproductive health rights guaranteed through *Roe v. Wade*
- Establish a single-payer health insurance program that provides access to health coverage for all Virginians, regardless of immigration status

Expanding Democracy

New Virginia Majority wants elections to be fair, votes to count, and voices to be heard. They support legislation that will:

- Establish redistricting criteria that includes careful protections for communities of interest and partisan neutrality
- Establish a constitutional right to vote that cannot be abridged or taken away
- Establish automatic voter registration and provide access to early voting and same-day voter registration



ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP



Tram Nguyen, Co-Executive Director

Tram Nguyen joined New Virginia Majority in 2008. Following the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center, she helped fight for federal funding for a health treatment program to address the unmet physical and mental needs of rescue and recovery workers at Ground Zero. In 2005, Tram traveled to the Gulf Coast to organize the 30,000+ Vietnamese immigrants whose lives were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. For over 2 years, she directed a recovery program that assisted over 3,000 families by providing cultural and language-appropriate services, and she advocated for the sustainable redevelopment of immigrant communities and businesses in New Orleans, LA; Biloxi, MS; and Bayou La Batre, AL. Tram is an alumna of Barnard College, Columbia University and was a 2010 Lead the Way Fellow at the NYU Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

IN THE NEWS

- [Virginia Democrats usher in election law changes, including earlier ballot counting](#)
- [Virginia to abolish death penalty in a show of political evolution](#)
- [New Virginia Majority marches against evictions](#)
- [Housing advocates urge Gov. Northam to ban evictions during pandemic](#)
- [Democrats could learn a lot from what happened in Virginia](#)

VIRGINIA FAST FACTS

- **Current Control:** Democratic Trifecta (since 2020)
- **Gubernatorial Election:** 2021
- **Length of House of Delegates term:** 2 years
- **Redistricting:** Congressional and State Legislative districts are drawn by a 16-member commission comprising state legislators and citizens
- **Sister District Target:** Blue Hold