



State: Virginia

Core Constituency/Target Audience:

Working class communities of color



ABOUT

The New Virginia Majority Education Fund (NVMEF), Virginia's leading civic engagement organization, builds power in working-class communities of color across the Commonwealth. NVMEF organizes in communities year-round for racial, economic, and environmental justice through political education, mass-scale voter outreach, mobilization, and intensive leadership development around dozens of issues.

Founded in 2010 in response to the failure of federal comprehensive immigration reform, the New Virginia Majority Education Fund sought to engage "new Americans" in a more deliberate and strategic way by combining targeted voter organizing with the ideological approach to community organizing that has developed over the last thirty years. NVMEF strives to create a powerful movement to transform Virginia through voter engagement and issue campaigns that develop civic leadership and build public support.

NVMEF organizers have knocked on over 1 million doors, engaging not only immigrant voters, but voters of color, women, low-income working people, and youth, and has grown to be a statewide organization with particular capacity along Virginia's urban crescent, from Northern Virginia to Hampton Roads, as well as on college campuses. The New Virginia Majority Education Fund is a multi-racial, multi-issue organization that uses large scale civic engagement, leadership development, advocacy, and strategic communications to advance their goal of creating a democratic, just, and sustainable Virginia.

WEBSITE: nvm-educationfund.org/

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/newvirginiamajority

TWITTER: [@NewVAMajority](https://twitter.com/NewVAMajority)

INSTAGRAM: [@newvamajority](https://instagram.com/newvamajority)

DONATE: secure.actblue.com/donate/sd003-va-nvmef



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. Their outreach plan has a goal of increased turnout among the 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, The New Virginia Majority Education Fund is committed to centering and uplifting racial equity. Insufficient revenue structures and underinvestment in community services in Virginia have historically harmed low-wealth communities of color. NVMEF centers these communities in all of their electoral and legislative advocacy work to ensure that they are building toward a more fair Virginia.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New Virginia Majority has had historic successes in the state over the 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. The New Virginia Majority Education Fund 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, NVMEF 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

Criminal Justice

NVMEF believes that a fair and just criminal justice system ensures that law enforcement officers are accountable to their communities, there are more community-based alternatives to incarceration, poverty is decriminalized, and returning citizens have a fair shot to succeed.

Economic Justice

NVMEF wants an economy that works for all of us, not just the wealthy few. Virginians deserve a fair and equitable tax system that advances racial justice, stronger worker protections, and a living wage so families can thrive and invest in the future.



Education

NVMEF believes that all Virginia students should have access to a high-quality education, regardless of their zip code, race, immigration status, or country of origin. This includes having fully funded schools, affordable higher education and workforce training, and safe and supportive learning environments.

Environmental Justice

NVMEF 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, and have access to workforce training and education for the green jobs of tomorrow.

Expanding Democracy

Our democracy is strongest when we all have the ability to participate. The right to vote, to choose our leaders, and to weigh in on issues affecting our lives is at the heart of what it means to be in a democracy. NVMEF wants our elections to be fair, our votes to count, and our voices to be heard.

Freedom From Hate and Fear

NVMEF believes in a Virginia that is welcoming and provides an opportunity for all of its residents to succeed and live happy and healthy lives. This means that we must include and protect all that call Virginia home regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, immigration status, and more.

Health

Access to affordable and quality health care is the foundation of building strong and thriving communities. This means that everyone deserves access to health care no matter where they live, work, or play.

Housing

All Virginians deserve access to clean, safe, and affordable housing regardless of their income, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, or returning-citizen status.

STATE BRIDGES SPEAKER



Tram Nguyen

Tram Nguyen joined New Virginia Majority in 2008 and currently serves as Co-Executive Director. 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.



VIRGINIA FAST FACTS

- **Current Control:** Divided Government
- **Gubernatorial Election:** 2025
- **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

