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Home Builders Association of Virginia

2019 General Assembly Elections

Overview of 2019 Election Results:

Heading into the 2019 Election, Republicans held narrow majorities in both the House of Delegates and State Senate. In the House, there were 51 Republicans and 48 Democrats and one vacancy. In the Senate, there were 20 Republicans and 19 Democrats and one vacancy.

Pending any legal challenges or recounts, the Democrats have successfully taken the majority in both the House of Delegates and the State Senate. At this time, Democrats will now have 55 members in the House of Delegates - Republicans will have 45 members. In the Senate, Democrats will now have 21 members – Republicans will have 19 members. Although there are several extremely close races which may result in a recount, it is likely that Democrats will head into the 2020 Session with a majority in both the House and the Senate.

What does this mean for the housing industry?

Housing is not a partisan issue – the growing demand for new single-family and multi-family housing stock at all price points has a significant impact on economic development, community redevelopment, health outcomes, education outcomes, workforce development, transportation, and various other policy priorities in the Commonwealth.

As HBAV published in the Washington Post this summer, we need to re-think our approach to local zoning and land-use, incentivize the production of new and affordable single-family and multi-family housing stock, and work in partnership with local government, state government, and other stakeholders to identify and eliminate impediments to housing production and affordable housing.

Legislators on both sides of aisle have been strong supporters of our industry - we look forward to working with our new Delegates and Senators, as well as the legislators that will be returning to the General Assembly, on the dire housing issues that our Commonwealth is facing.

Local Government Elections:

There were numerous local elections in localities around the Commonwealth – City Councils, Boards of Supervisors, Sheriffs, Commonwealth's Attorneys, Commissioners of Revenue, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. If you are interested in checking the results of your local government races, please visit the Virginia Public Access Project's *Local Election Results* page by clicking here.

Key Senate Races:

7th Senate District *(Virginia Beach, Norfolk):*

Republican Jennifer Kiggans narrowly defeated Democrat Cheryl Turpin by a vote of 50.3%-49.4%. This seat was formerly held by Senator Frank Wagner (R). This contest was one of the most expensive races during the cycle, and as of October 24th, the total amount raised by both candidates was $3.3 million. This district has been held by a Republican since 1996

when Republican Ed Schrock defeated Democrat Clarence Holland. A candidate paid recount is possible in this district, if requested.

8th Senate District (Virginia Beach):

Senator Bill DeSteph (R) defeated Missy Cotter Smasal (D) by 52%-47.5% in this Virginia Beach based district. Senator DeSteph has been a vocal supporter of the housing industry during his tenure in the General Assembly.

10th Senate District (Chesterfield, Richmond, Powhatan):

Ghazali Hashmi (D) defeated Senator Glen Sturtevant (R) by 55%-45%. Senator Sturtevant was first elected to this seat in 2015 after the retirement of longtime Senator John Watkins. As a result of the changing demographics of this district, the 2015 election for the 10th Senate District was extremely competitive and received national attention. Senator Sturtevant won that three-way election with just 49.8% of the vote. Over the last four years, the district has continued to evolve politically - Governor Northam carried the 10th District by fifteen points in 2017 making this a very difficult re-election contest for Sturtevant. Hashmi raised a significant amount of money and ran a competitive contest against Sturtevant.

11th Senate District (Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Amelia):

Senator Amanda Chase (R) defeated Amanda Pohl (D) by 55%-44% in this suburban Richmond district.

12th Senate District (Henrico, Hanover):

At this time, it appears that Senator Siobhan Dunnavant (R) has defeated Democrat Debra Rodman by a vote of 50.88%-48.95% in this suburban Henrico County-based district. Like the other suburban Richmond Region districts, this race was highly competitive with both candidates spending unprecedented resources. Senator Dunnavant lost the precincts on the eastern end of her district but had a strong showing in the suburban western part of the district. This seat was heavily targeted by the Democrats and there was much speculation that they would be able to flip the seat. Senator Dunnavant was first elected in 2015 and barring any recounts or legal challenges, will continue to serve in the Senate of Virginia.

13th Senate District (Loudoun, Prince William):

Former Democrat Delegate John Bell defeated Loudoun County Board of Supervisor member Geary Higgans (R) by 54%-45%. This seat was formerly held by Senator Dick Black, who announced his retirement earlier this year. Governor Northam carried this district by eleven points in 2017 and was viewed throughout the campaign as the Democrats top pick-up opportunity. John Bell has served in the House of Delegates since 2015 following the retirement of Delegate David Ramadan. During his time in the House, Bell has been a strong supporter of the housing industry and was instrumental in helping HBAV find consensus between all the stakeholders during the 2019 Proffer Legislation discussions. Although Supervisor Higgins has been an advocate for housing during his time on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, HBAV endorsed and supported John Bell's 2019 Senate campaign given his proven General Assembly track-record of supporting legislation that promotes economic development, housing, and affordable housing.

17th Senate District (Spotsylvania, Orange, Albemarle, Louisa, Fredericksburg, Culpeper, Goochland):

Senator Bryce Reeves (R) defeated Amy Laufer (D) by 51%-48% in this largely rural district. While Laufer raised about $1M, Senator Reeves also commanded a sizeable war chest and ran a strong campaign.

Key House of Delegates Races:

10th House District (Loudoun, Frederick, Clarke):

Incumbent Delegate Wendy Gooditis defeated Republican Randy Minchew by a vote of 52%-47%. Del. Gooditis first won in 2017 when she defeated then-Delegate Minchew. Minchew has been an avid supporter of the housing industry during his tenure in the House of Delegates and professionally. Gooditis has worked as a teacher in Clarke County Public Schools and currently works as a Realtor at RE/MAX.

27th House of Delegates District (Chesterfield):

Incumbent Republican Delegate Roxann Robinson appears to have defeated Democrat Larry Barnett in a rematch between the two candidates. Due to Robinson's close election in 2017, there was some thought that she might be vulnerable in 2019, however, Delegate Robinson ran a strong and disciplined campaign and was generally viewed as ahead for most of the cycle.

28th House of Delegates District (Stafford, Fredericksburg):

Democrat Josh Cole defeated Republican Paul Milde by a vote of 51.8%-47.8%. Milde, a former member of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors, became the Republican nominee after defeating former Delegate Bob Thomas in the Republican Primary in June, 2019. Cole ran for the seat in 2017, losing by approximately 100 votes. Cole has worked for members of the General Assembly and currently serves on Stafford County Public Schools Superintendent's Equity, Diversity and Opportunity Committee, the Greater Fredericksburg Area Interfaith Council, as the President of the Stafford County NAACP and participates with numerous other local and community initiatives. During the campaign, Cole demonstrated a strong understanding about the importance of affordable housing and the gap between housing supply and demand.

40th House of Delegates District (Fairfax, Prince William):

Democrat Dan Helmer has defeated incumbent Republican Tim Hugo by a vote of 53.5%-46.4%. Delegate Hugo also has served as the House Republican Caucus Chairman for several years. The contest in the 40th was one of the most expensive House of Delegates races in history, with over $3 million spent as of October 15th. Hugo was the sole Republican member of the General Assembly in Northern Virginia, having narrowly won re-election in 2017 when he defeated his opponent by 99 votes. Helmer is a West Point graduate, Rhodes Scholar, a veteran, and a Lt. Colonel is the US Army Reserves. Helmer is a small business owner in the veterans' healthcare field. His campaign focused on access to affordable healthcare, common-sense gun laws, and stopping predatory lending.

50th House of Delegates District (Prince William, Manassas City):

Incumbent Democrat Lee Carter defeated Republican Ian Lovejoy in this City of Manassas-based district by a vote 53.3%-46.5%. Republicans hoped to re-take this district by contrasting Carter's self-proclaimed affiliation with the Democratic Socialists of America with Lovejoy's more moderate positions.

51st House of Delegates District (Prince William):

Incumbent Democrat Hala Ayala defeated Republican Rich Anderson by a vote of 54% to 45%. Ayala was first elected in 2017 when she defeated then-Delegate Rich Anderson. Similar to other Prince William County-based House districts, Republicans had hope to unseat the first-term Delegate and flip the seat back to Republicans.

62nd House of Delegates District (Chesterfield, Hopewell, Prince George):

Republican Carrie Coyner has defeated Democrat Lindsey Dougherty by a vote of 55% to 44%. The 62nd District became an open seat after the retirement of longtime Republican Delegate Riley Ingram. Delegate Ingram was Chairman of the House Counties, Cities, and Towns Committee which heard many of the bills that impact the residential land development and construction industry. Coyner, a small business owner, manages a law firm in Chesterfield County whose practice focuses on land-use, zoning and permitting, family law, and economic development.

66th House of Delegates District (Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Richmond):

This was a highly competitive contest between Speaker of the House, Kirk Cox (R-Colonial Heights), and Sheila Bynum-Coleman (D-Chesterfield). The 66th District was one of the House districts that was re-drawn as part of the court-ordered redistricting. This district shifted nearly thirty-two points from a 60% GOP district to a 46% Democratic district. Nevertheless, the Speaker's high name identification, long-time involvement in the community, and background as a public educator help him withstand a challenge even in this new district. Ultimately, Speaker Cox defeated Bynum-Coleman by 51.5%-47.2%.

With the shift in the balance of power in the House of Delegates, Cox will no longer serve as Speaker of the House and has also announced that he will not seek the position of Minority Leader for the House Republicans during the 2020 Session.

72nd House of Delegates District (Henrico):

Incumbent Democrat Delegate Schuyler VanValkenburg defeated Republican GayDonna Vandergriff by a vote of 53.2%-46.7%. In an election which saw some significant, last minute funds from both sides, VanValkenburg was able to leverage his strong campaign organization and some of the up-ballot races such as the contest between Rodman and Dunnavant for the 12th District. Since 1990, the 72nd District has been held by Republicans – John Reed from 1990 to 2008 and Jimmie Massie from 2008- 2017. This was a very closely watched race in Central Virginia.

73rd House of Delegates District (Henrico, Richmond):

Democrat Rodney Willett has defeated Republican Mary Margaret Kastelberg by a vote of 52% to 47%. This became an open seat when first-term Democrat Delegate Debra Rodman announced her campaign to run for the 12th Senate District against Republican Senator Siobhan Dunnavant. The 73rd District was flipped from red to blue in 2017 when Rodman defeated longtime Republican Delegate John O'Bannon. Willett is a twenty-year resident of Henrico County and is as an attorney. Like the 72nd District, this House District was represented by Republicans for many year (1983-2017): Walter Stosch (1983-1992), Eric Cantor (1992-2001), and John O'Bannon (2001-2017).

76th House of Delegates District (Suffolk, Chesapeake):

Democrat Clint Jenkins has defeated long-time incumbent Republican Chris Jones by a vote of 56.3% to 43.5%. Jones has served in the House of Delegates since 1997 and has served as Chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee since 2014. Despite concerns over the summer that he would not qualify for the ballot due to an error in his paperwork submission, Jenkins was able to get on the ballot and ran a well-funded campaign against Delegate Jones. In addition, Jenkins benefitted from the court-ordered redistricting which shifted the 76th District nearly twenty-seven points to make it a Democratic district.

Jenkins was raised in the district, served in the US Army, worked at BAE Systems Shipyard and currently manages a local real estate company with his daughter. Jenkins also currently serves as the Chair of the 3rd Congressional District Committee of the Democratic Party of Virginia.

80th House of Delegates District (Portsmouth):

Democrat Don Scott has defeated Republican Jim Evans by a vote of 66% to 23%. This seat was previously represented by Delegate Matthew James who announced his retirement from the General Assembly earlier this year.

Scott is a former US Naval Officer and is the owner of the Law Office of Don Scott. Scott also serves on several boards and commissions, including Future of Hampton Roads, the 1st Vice President of the Southeastern Employment and Training Association, and as a Chair of the Portsmouth Economic Development Authority. In the past, he served as the chair of the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals, on the board for the California Workforce Association, and as a member and board member of 200+ Men Hampton Roads. He's also a member of the Eureka Club, is a lifetime VFW member, Post #993 Craddock, and a lifetime member of the NAACP.

83rd House of Delegates District (Virginia Beach, Norfolk):

At this time, it appears that Democrat Nancy Guy has defeated incumbent Republican Delegate Chris Stolle by a vote of 49.9% to 49.87%. Because only 18 votes separate the two candidates, it is likely this race will head to a recount. The 83rd District was one of the districts impacted by the court-ordered redistricting earlier this year – it shifted nearly twelve points to become a lean Democratic district.

85th House of Delegates District (Virginia Beach):

Democrat Alex Askew has defeated Republican Rocky Holcomb by a vote of 51.8%-48%. Askew is a first-time candidate having previously served as a legislative aide to Del. Jay Jones (D-Norfolk). Askew is a Virginia Beach native and announced his candidacy for the 85th District following the decision by Del. Cheryl Turpin (D-Virginia Beach) to run for the Senate of Virginia.

Askew was born in Virginia Beach and has helped craft legislation related to missing and endangered adults, healthcare, affordable housing incentives, and school safety initiatives.

94th House of Delegates District (Newport News):

Democrat Shelley Simonds has defeated Del. David Yancey by a vote of 57.7% to 40.3%. Simonds has previously challenged Yancey two times (2015, 2017) and benefitted from the court-ordered redistricting which shifted the district nearly fourteen points to become a sixty percent Democratic district. Simonds nearly won in 2017 but ended up tying with Del. Yancey during a recount. The result was that the State Board of Elections drew a name from a bowl to determine who would represent the 94th District. Del. Yancey's name was drawn, and he secured a fourth term.

Simonds has lived in Newport News since 2000 and was elected to the School Board in 2012 on a platform of providing additional resources to teachers and workforce development. Simonds has also been a longtime environmental activist, getting her start in Virginia politics as a member of the legislative advocacy team with the League of Conservation Voters.