

# SENATE OF VIRGINIA

**RYAN T. McDOUGLE**  
26TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
ALL OF GLOUCESTER, MATHEWS, AND  
NEW KENT COUNTIES; AND PART OF HANOVER,  
JAMES CITY, AND KING AND QUEEN COUNTIES

POST OFFICE BOX 187  
MECHANICSVILLE, VIRGINIA 23111



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
COMMERCE AND LABOR  
COURTS OF JUSTICE  
FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS  
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
RULES

Senator Scott A. Surovell  
Senate Majority Leader  
P. O. Box 396  
Richmond, VA 23218

August 28, 2025

Dear Senator Surovell,

We are in receipt of your letter of August 28, 2025, to the Governor, sent without even the basic courtesy of copying us, just as you denied the Governor's nominees the courtesy of speaking before the Privileges and Elections Committee.

Once again, you appear to conflate the actions of the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee with the authority of the full General Assembly. You claim the Senate has "rejected twenty-two nominees," yet you are well aware that no such rejection has occurred on the floor of the Senate, much less by the bicameral action required under Article V, Section 11 of the Virginia Constitution.

Your demands are unprecedented and deeply hypocritical. For years, Democratic Governors and Democratic controlled legislatures have exercised their authority to appoint and confirm nominees without objection from Republican majorities to this degree. Never has one chamber attempted to invalidate gubernatorial appointments in this fashion, and never before has such raw partisanship been used to destabilize our institutions of higher learning.

It is abundantly clear to the people of Virginia what is happening. Senate Democrats are abusing their majority to interfere with the Governor's constitutional authority because they are desperate to help their failing candidate for Governor, Abigail Spanberger. By creating chaos in higher education and attempting to undermine Governor Youngkin, Democrats are putting politics above students, families, and the future of Virginia's universities.

These actions are not only reckless but unconstitutional. As you are aware, litigation is currently pending before the Supreme Court of Virginia, and we are awaiting the Court's decision on the validity of the Senate's actions.

The individuals appointed by the Governor are more than qualified to serve and are committed to strengthening Virginia's colleges and universities. They bring experience, leadership, and a dedication to advancing excellence in higher education. To block them on purely partisan grounds is a disservice to students, parents, and our Commonwealth as a whole.

At a time when Virginia should be focused on stability, affordability, and preparing the next generation for success, the Senate majority has chosen to play political games. We urge you to end this reckless course and allow the Governor's appointees to serve, just as past nominees have under both Democratic and Republican administrations.

Virginians deserve better than partisan sabotage of our universities.



**Ryan T. McDougale**  
Senate Minority Leader



**Mark D. Obenshain**  
Senate Republican Caucus Chairman

cc: The Honorable Glenn Youngkin, Governor of Virginia  
Senator Ghazala Hashmi, Chairman, Senate Education and Health Committee  
Senator Aaron R. Rouse, Chairman, Senate Privileges & Elections Committee  
Speaker Don L. Scott  
Majority Leader Charniele D. Herring  
Delegate Sam Rasoul, Chairman, House Education Committee  
President Paul F. Mahoney, University of Virginia  
President Gregory Washington, George Mason University  
Superintendent David Furness, Virginia Military Institute