

GOVERNOR CANDIDATE

Abigail Spanberger

A former CIA officer and U.S. Postal Inspector, Spanberger represented the 7th Congressional District for three terms. She defeated former Republican Rep. Dave Brat, a key Tea Party figure, in 2018 by running as a moderate. Back then, most of the district was in Central Virginia, but after redistricting in 2021, it shifted more toward Northern Virginia. The Lugar Center, a nonprofit that works with Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy, frequently ranked Spanberger near the top of its list of the most bipartisan members of Congress.



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CANDIDATES

Alex Bastani

Alex Bastani earned a high school diploma from T.C. Williams High School, a bachelor's degree from Boston University, a graduate degree from George Washington University in 2022, and a law degree from George Mason University in 1994. He is an attorney and economist and the former President of federal union local. As an Attorney, his duties included arbitration representation, negotiations, training of legal interns, federal lobbying, press relations, recruitment, and managing a non-profit with an annual budget of half a million dollars a year.



State Sen. Ghazala Hashmi

Hashmi has represented Chesterfield County since 2020, when she flipped a Republican district that helped Democrats gain control of the Senate. Hashmi, an immigrant and Virginia's first Muslim state senator, was previously an English literature professor. She's currently the head of the Senate Education and Health committee and previously sponsored legislation to create a right to contraception in Virginia, which Gov. Glenn Youngkin later vetoed.



Babur Lateef

Lateef was the first candidate from either party to enter the race, announcing his run in December 2023. Lateef, the chair of the Prince William County School Board, lives in Manassas and has an ophthalmology practice in Woodbridge. He has also served as chairman of the University of Virginia Health System Board.



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CANDIDATES

State Sen. Aaron Rouse

Rouse represents Virginia Beach, where he runs a nonprofit for children in underserved communities. A former Virginia Beach city councilor and NFL player, he announced his candidacy in April 2024 — the same day as then-Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney. Rouse is the chair of the Privileges and Elections committee, despite being elected in 2023 in a special election. That election solidified Democrats' control of the Senate and their ability to block legislation restricting abortion. He sponsored a proposal to set up a marijuana retail market in the commonwealth, which Youngkin later vetoed.



Victor Salgado

Salgado, an Arlington County resident, entered the race in December after leaving the federal justice department, where he most recently served as an attorney in the Office of Public Integrity. On his campaign website, he touts a track record of "prosecuting public corruption and related misconduct at all levels," including his role in prosecuting Joe Arpaio, the former sheriff of Maricopa County, Arizona, and former U.S. Rep. George Santos. The New Jersey-born son of Peruvian immigrants, Salgado is making his first run for elected office.



Levar Stoney

Richmond's former two-term mayor, initially declared he would seek the Democratic nomination for governor, but announced in April 2024, that he was withdrawing from that race to run for lieutenant governor instead. Richmond has changed significantly since Stoney took office in 2017: Poverty has been reduced, migration to the city has raised incomes and housing prices, and Confederate monuments have been removed. Stoney was the first Black secretary of the commonwealth under McAuliffe.



ATTORNEY GENERAL CANDIDATES

Jay Jones

Jones announced his candidacy Nov. 12 at events in Norfolk and Richmond. In his Richmond announcement, he accused current Atty. General Miyares of using his office to "advance his own radical, personal, partisan-political agenda" and "attack Virginians' freedoms, pander to the fringes of his own party and side with corporate price gougers and polluters." A Norfolk native, Jones represented the 89th District in the Virginia House of Delegates from 2018 until he resigned at the end of 2021 to focus on the birth of his first child. On his website, he also cites his time as an assistant attorney general in Washington, D.C., where he "took on gun manufacturers, financial institutions, and housing conglomerates to vindicate the rights of everyday citizens."



Shannon Taylor

Taylor is in her fourth term as the commonwealth's attorney for Henrico County. She became the first woman to hold the position when she was elected in 2011 and won re-election in 2015, 2019 and 2023. A Charlottesville native, Taylor is a graduate of the University of Virginia and the University of Richmond Law School. On her campaign website, Taylor cites her efforts to diversify the Henrico Commonwealth's Attorney Office with more female and minority prosecutors. She also touts a commitment to updating and strengthening laws on hate crimes and stalking.

