

Washington County Virginia Democrats

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

October 23, 2025 Vol. 1, No. 8



WEEKLY NEWS ROUNDUP

(A collection of current news selected for impact on Washington County residents. Each article provides an overview and a hot link to the complete article online)

CHAIR'S MESSAGE:

12 Days to go before the Most Important Election of our Lives! There are many issues on the ballot in Virginia that highlight the huge differences between 2 campaigns – affordability of housing, healthcare, rising utility costs, tariff costs, food for our tables.

YET THERE IS ONLY ONE ISSUE I am going to ask every Democrat, Independent, and yes, every Republican who has moved away from Trump – please, no matter how badly you feel about Jay Jones comments from 2+ years ago, **“we cannot leave our AG candidate behind, we have to go rescue Jay”**.

How strongly do I believe we have to elect our Democratic Gov, LG, and AG candidates; I've included 3 articles about Jay in this Weekly Roundup, just to make sure I drive this point home to all of us who have been and continue to be horrified by his past comments.

THERE IS no place in politics where divisive comments like these should be allowed, but they were made, Jay has apologized, and now we need to move past how we feel, past the wrongs, and make sure we and every Democrat we know votes straight-line. WE MUST elect Democrats to all 3 positions or suffer the consequences of allowing Trump and MAGA to continue to impose their arcane beliefs on our state! **I say NO WAY!!!!**

Loudoun Attorney: “We Can’t Leave Our AG Candidate Behind...We Have to Go Rescue Jay”
(*Black Virginia News / Substack – Phillip Thompson*)

During a get-out-the-vote event in Fredericksburg last night, featuring Delegate Josh Cole and candidates for the House of Delegates, Stacey Carroll (HD64) and Nicole Cole (HD66), Loudoun attorney Phillip Thompson

told the majority Black audience seated in [Vision Community Church of Fredericksburg](#) that Jay Jones must be supported.

“We cannot leave our Attorney General candidate behind - Jay Jones. Whether it’s true or not, the perception is that certain elements of the Democratic Party have left Jay behind because of the comments he made in 2022,” Thompson told the audience.

“We have to go get Jay. We must go rescue Jay. We want to be sure that we not only get a Democratic Governor. We want a Democratic Attorney General and a Democrat Lieutenant Governor,” Thompson then added.

<https://blackvirgianews.substack.com/p/loudoun-attorney-we-have-to-rescue>

Democratic gubernatorial nominee Abigail Spanberger releases ‘Affordable Virginia Plan’ (September 26, 2025 - Josh Israel)

Democratic gubernatorial nominee [Abigail Spanberger](#) and her Republican opponent [Winsome Earle-Sears](#) are both promising to lower costs for Virginia families.

Spanberger, a former U.S. representative, has released an eight-page [“Affordable Virginia Plan”](#) to make health care, housing and energy more affordable. Earle-Sears, Virginia’s current lieutenant governor, has released no plan beyond a paragraph on her campaign website.

A July [YouGov poll](#) of Virginia voters found that consumer prices are their biggest concern: The three most commonly cited were the cost and availability of housing (37% of respondents), inflation (33%), and health care costs (27%).

Trump’s tariffs will cost the average family \$2300.00 as Virginia businesses are forced to increase prices.

An [analysis](#) by the Budget Lab at Yale University published on Sept. 4 estimated that the average American household will lose about \$2,300 in income in 2025 due to the effects of Trump’s tariffs. Small [businesses](#) across Virginia have had to raise prices they charge customers for [groceries](#), [meats](#), [school supplies](#), [coffee](#), [tea](#), and [toys](#).

<https://virginiaindependentnews.com/elections/earle-sears-spanberger-2025-governor-consumer-costs-plans-tariffs/>

Southwest Virginia was already a health care desert. Trump’s law may make it worse. (*The Virginia Independent* - September 30, 2025 - [Josh Israel](#))

Cuts to the Medicaid program made by President Donald Trump and the GOP-led Congress are expected to leave rural communities with even fewer health care providers and facilities.

In much of southwest Virginia, including areas in and around Montgomery County, families must travel long distances to access medical care. Now, with Virginia expected to lose about \$29 billion in federal funds over a decade due to President Donald Trump's budget law, Virginia's health care deserts are expected to get even worse.

Experts say Trump's budget law will [cause](#) rural hospitals to scale back services or even shut down entirely. Indeed, [three](#) rural health clinics in Weyers Cave, Buena Vista, and Churchville, Virginia have already shut down, citing the law as a factor.

<https://virginiaindependentnews.com/health-care/southwest-virginia-was-already-a-health-care-desert-trumps-law-may-make-it-worse/>

Soaring electricity bills could be the sleeper campaign issue of 2025 / Voters facing skyrocketing electric bills turn ire toward politicians (*Washington Post* – 10/15/25, Evan Halper)

Issues including the expansion of energy-hungry data centers, obscure surcharges on bills and clean-energy mandates are capturing the attention of frustrated consumers.

Anger over soaring utility bills is shaking political fault lines, as electricity shortages and price spikes take center stage in nationally watched gubernatorial races in New Jersey and Virginia — and threaten to haunt candidates throughout the country in next year's midterm elections.

Cheap, reliable electricity is no longer a given, with an energy crunch taking hold far and wide, and forecasts showing no price relief in sight. Average bills have jumped over 10 percent since last year in more than a dozen states — with some seeing increases beyond 20 percent — and more rate hikes have already been announced. Voters are demanding solutions, bringing to the forefront issues that long simmered in the political background, including the massive expansion of energy-hungry data centers, obscure surcharges on electric bills and mandates for clean energy generation.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/10/15/energy-prices-politics-virginia-jersey/>

Ten simple ways to act on climate change (*BBC* – 11/4/2018, Diego Arguedas Ortiz)

We know that climate change is happening – but there are plenty of things individuals can do to help mitigate it. Here's your handy guide to the most effective strategies.

In a new report published in September 2018, [the world's leading climate scientists made their starkest warning so far](#): our current actions are not enough for us to meet [our target](#)

[of 1.5C of warming](#). We need to do more.

It's [settled science that climate change is real](#), and we're starting to see some of the ways that it affects us. It [increases the likelihood of flooding in Miami](#) and elsewhere, threatens the [millions of people living along the Brahmaputra River](#) in north-eastern India and [disrupts the sex life of plants and animals](#).

So we don't need to ask whether climate change is happening – or [whether humans](#) are [causing it](#). *Instead, we need to ask: "what can we do?"*

What can you do that will have the biggest impact? Here's our guide.

https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20181102-what-can-i-do-about-climate-change?fbclid=IwVERTSANcb0tleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHkRWHPMNepcGr5RUKGiSM2zsh_hSOe8XH-VoSmvBOK1DfUp24xa_PDSS8uEw_aem_GjEyTdvArSMRxW06MZ0Ulg&sfnsn=mo

Jay Jones's Virginia attorney general campaign says it raised \$500K following debate (*The Hill* - [Julia Manchester](#) - 10/17/25)

The campaign for Democratic Virginia attorney general nominee [Jay Jones](#) announced he raised \$500,000 in less than 24 hours after the attorney general debate Thursday, during which Jones's texting scandal took center stage.

"In last night's debate, [incumbent] [Jason Miyares](#) couldn't defend the 50 times he's failed to protect Virginians as [Donald Trump](#) has fired workers, raised costs, attacked abortion rights, and defunded our healthcare, schools, and law enforcement," Jones's campaign manager Rachel Rothman said in a press release.

"With just 18 days left, our campaign is energized and focused. The enthusiasm we're seeing across Virginia makes it clear: voters are ready to elect an Attorney General who will finally put them first," Rothman said.

"Let me be very clear: I am ashamed, I am embarrassed, and I am sorry. I am sorry to Speaker Gilbert, I am sorry to his family, and I am sorry to every single Virginian," Jones said.

"Jason is going to make this race about my mistakes, but this race has always been about more," he said.

<https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/5561254-virginia-ag-jay-jones-fundraising/>



Virginia Legislative Black Caucus



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Last night's AG debate made it clear — while [Jay Jones](#) stands with Virginians, Miyares stands with Trump.

VLBC Chair Torian's Statement on Attorney General Debate: Jay Jones Stands Up for Virginians, Miyares Stands with Trump

Last night during the Attorney General debate, Virginia voters heard two very different visions for our future and were reminded why Jay Jones is the only candidate in this race who will put Virginia first. Throughout the debate, Jay spoke directly to the challenges Virginians are facing, detailing how he will work to lower costs, safeguard our fundamental rights and freedoms, and protect our communities from Donald Trump's reckless agenda.

In sharp contrast, Jason Miyares demonstrated why he is the only statewide Republican candidate to have Donald Trump's "Complete and Total Endorsement." Jason Miyares once again refused to take accountability for his record of siding with Trump instead of stepping up to fight for Virginians' jobs, healthcare, and fundamental rights. Virginians deserve an Attorney General who will put Virginia first and the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus looks forward to working with Attorney General Jones, who we know will fight for our communities and our Commonwealth.



CALL TO ACTION

Call Your Senators:

Senator Tim Kaine: Abingdon Office: **276-525-4790** , Washington, D.C. Office: **202-224-4024**

Senator Mark Warner: Abingdon Office: **276-628-8158** , Washington, D.C. Office: **202-224-2023**

Call Your House Representative:

Representative Morgan Griffith: Abingdon Office: **276-525-1405** , Washington, D.C. Office: 202- 225-3861

5 calls app: They have the issue and even a script to get you started

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Volunteers Needed: If you can help with POLL GREETING on November 4, 2025 Please contact Tommie Waters 252-717-7137 or Lynn Bennett: 615-210-6944 Training provided.

THE MORE YOU KNOW

Our Democratic Candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and House of Delegates are:

Governor: Abigail Spanberger - <https://abigailspanberger.com> and on Facebook & Instagram

Lieutenant Governor: Ghazala Hashmi - <https://ghazalaforvirginia.com>, and on Facebook & Instagram

Attorney General: Jay Jones - <https://www.jayjones.com/> and on Facebook & Instagram **VA**

House of Delegates, District 44: Cindy Green - www.cindygreen4va.com and on Facebook & Instagram

2025 Virginia Voter Guide (Cardinal News):

(Cardinal News prepared a voter guide that compares candidates with their opponents

at:) [https://cardinalnews.org/virginia-voter](https://cardinalnews.org/virginia-voter-guide/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Goodwill%20puts%20final%20touches%20on%20new%20high%20school%20for%20adults%20in%20Roanoke&utm_campaign=Monday%2C%20July%2028%2C%202025#/lieutenant-governor)

[guide/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Goodwill%](https://cardinalnews.org/virginia-voter-guide/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Goodwill%20puts%20final%20touches%20on%20new%20high%20school%20for%20adults%20in%20Roanoke&utm_campaign=Monday%2C%20July%2028%2C%202025#/lieutenant-governor)

[20puts%20final%20touches%20on%20new%20high%20school%20for%20adults%20in%20Roanoke&utm_campaign=Monday%2C%20July%2028%2C%202025#/lieutenant-governor](https://cardinalnews.org/virginia-voter-guide/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Goodwill%20puts%20final%20touches%20on%20new%20high%20school%20for%20adults%20in%20Roanoke&utm_campaign=Monday%2C%20July%2028%2C%202025#/lieutenant-governor)

Trump Litigation Tracker:

Just Security is an editorially independent, non-partisan, daily digital law and policy journal that elevates the discourse on national security, democracy and the rule of law, and rights. We publish rigorous, expert analysis and informational resources on the issues that matter most. Just Security is based at the Reiss Center on Law and Security at the New York University School of Law.

<https://www.justsecurity.org/107087/tracker-litigation-legal-challenges-trump-administration/>

UPCOMING & IMPORTANT EVENTS

OCTOBER

October 23, 2025 - 7:30pm Dr. Sean Wilentz will be speaking at Emory and Henry's McGlothlin Theatre. He is a professor of History at Princeton University and an expert on conspiracy theories in U.S. History. When you get off at Exit 26 (I 81), take the first right and the MCA will be on your left.

October 27 - 12:00 - 1:00



We are super excited to announce that Abigail Spanberger is making her 2nd stop on her statewide GOTV tour right here in Washington County / Bristol VA,

The Washington County Dems and City of Bristol Dems will be hosting Abigail on Monday October 27th. Location is listed on the Mobilize Link below.

Doors open for the event at 11:30 AM.

You know we will need a headcount as we do not want to run out of lunches, so please click the mobilize link and register today!

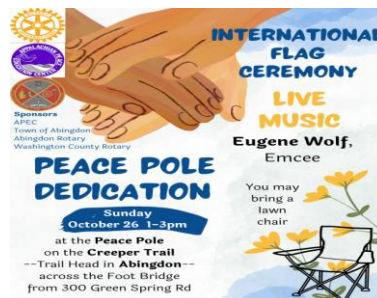
The mobilize link for the event is below.

<https://www.mobilize.us/spanbergerforgovernor/event/857950/>

October 25 - 10:00 Resistance Roundtable, Ideas Plus Discussion, UU Church of the Highlands, 28421 Lee Hwy, Meadowview Meadowview, VA. This meeting is being held by Take Action SWVA.



October 26 - 1:00 - 3:00 International Flag Ceremony - Peace Pole Dedication on the Creeper Trail at the Trail Head in Abingdon across the Foot Bridge from 300 Green Spring Rd.



NOVEMBER

November 1 - Early voting ends

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November 4 - Virginians VOTE for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, members of the House of Delegates and multiple local offices.

If you are interested in Poll Greeting, Please Call 252-717-7137

November 4 – Election Day Watch Party (Reserved Space Abingdon stay tuned)

November 6 - Executive Committee Meeting, St. Thomas Episcopal Church,

Abingdon **November 13 - 6:00 General Meeting**, Washington County Library, Abingdon

For more information, please go to our Website:

<https://www.washcovadems.org/>