

Washington County Virginia Democrats

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

September 18, 2025 Vol. 1, No. 3



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)

Protecting the Right to Vote *(Substack.com, Joyce Vance from Civil Discourse)*

On August 18, I wrote to you about [Trump's "Truth"](#)—his social media post—about voting. It was a screed that pulled in all of the debunked threads he's used over time to support his completely unsubstantiated claim about massive fraud in American elections. In his post, he complained about mail-in ballots, voting machines, and cheating Democrats. He moved on to open borders and men playing women's sports, neither of which has anything to do with elections, but he was on a roll at that point.

Midway through, he came out with something new and truly alarming. He wrote that "the States are merely an 'agent' for the Federal Government in counting and tabulating the votes. They must do what the Federal Government, as represented by the President of the United States, tells them, FOR THE GOOD OF OUR COUNTRY."

The states are not agents of the federal government when it comes to holding elections. The Elections Clause of the Constitution, Article I, Section 4, Clause 1, gives them control over the times, places, and manner of holding elections, subject only to *congressional*, not presidential, action. But Trump, who has been on a power grab ever since he took the oath of office, wants to claim this real estate for himself, too. And there is news today confirming that he is firmly on that path.

https://joycevance.substack.com/p/protecting-the-right-to-vote?utm_source=publication-search

New state guidance aims to clarify COVID-19 vaccine access after weeks of confusion *(Cardinal News)*

A COVID-19 outbreak hit Jan Keister's workplace at a law office. Three days ago, she tried to get vaccinated to protect herself and her immunocompromised partner but wasn't able to get the shot at a pharmacy or from her doctor's office.

Her regular pharmacy in Roanoke said she needed a prescription, even though she's over 65 and qualified under new federal COVID-19 regulations. Staff at her doctor's office said they didn't yet have doses for the 2025-26 season. She stopped at an urgent care clinic, where they told her she could get one, but the visit would cost her \$80 and she would have to wait at least an hour to see a doctor.

Over the last few days, the requirements for accessing the vaccine have shifted rapidly. On Wednesday, the [Virginia Department of Health issued new guidance](#) aimed at resolving the confusion — at least for a while.

https://cardinalnews.org/2025/09/12/new-state-guidance-aims-to-clarify-covid-19-vaccine-access-after-weeks-of-confusion/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=New%20state%20guidance%20aims%20to%20clarify%20COVID-19%20vaccine%20access%20after%20weeks%20of%20confusion&utm_campaign=Friday%2C%20Sept%20%2012%2C%202025

SNAP cuts loom, and Nonprofits fear They can't fill the Gap Left Behind (*Cardinal News*)

More than two months after Congress passed the One Big Beautiful Bill, state and local leaders still have more questions than answers regarding how federal cuts will affect the Virginians who rely on SNAP to get food on the table.

One thing those leaders know for sure is that food is expensive, and the federal government is splitting the check with states for the first time in SNAP's history. The legislation is expected to shift up to \$352 million of costs from the federal government onto the state of Virginia by October 2027, according to an [analysis conducted by Voices for Virginia's Children](#).

The One Big Beautiful Bill, signed into law on July 4, will reduce federal spending for SNAP by \$186 billion over the next 10 years, according to [estimates from the Congressional Budget Office](#). The cuts will affect the more than 40 million Americans who receive SNAP benefits in different ways, ***as they arise from eight different sections of the megabill***.

In Virginia, about \$1.76 billion in federal SNAP benefits were distributed to 874,000 people — that's about 10% of the state's population — in fiscal year 2024, according to the [Office of the Governor](#). More than half of those Virginians are expected to lose all or some of their benefits under new federal rules.

https://cardinalnews.org/2025/09/11/snap-cuts-loom-and-nonprofits-fear-they-cant-fill-the-gap-left-behind/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=New%20state%20guidance%20aims%20to%20clarify%20COVID-19%20vaccine%20access%20after%20weeks%20of%20confusion&utm_campaign=Friday%2C%20Sept%20%2012%2C%202025

When Authoritarianism Looms, Old Friends Reunite (*New York Times*)

David Brooks, E.J. Dionne Jr. and Robert Siegel take a temperature check on Trump's 2nd term.
(*Author's Footnote: These are the notes from a original NYT podcast. The NY Times offers most readers access to up to 10 downloaded articles per month*)

Robert Siegel: I'm Robert Siegel. I used to host "All Things Considered" on NPR, which included one of my favorite weekly features, a Friday talk about politics with two sharp columnists — David Brooks of The New York Times and E.J. Dionne, then of The Washington Post now an Opinion writer at The New York Times.

Well, seven and a half years after our last political chat, we are reunited again for a New York Times conversation about what's happening in America today and what's changed since we last spoke back in 2018. E.J., David, it's great to see you both together.

David Brooks: Great to see you.

E.J. Dionne Jr.: It's a joy to be with you.

Siegel: *Let's start with the big question about Donald Trump's second administration, which is, are we or have we slipped into a state of authoritarianism in America?* David, what's your answer?

https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/11/opinion/the-conversation-trump-strength-brooks-dionne-siegel.html?campaign_id=39&emc=edit_ty_20250912&instance_id=162415&nl=opinion-today®i_id=123792319&segment_id=205789&user_id=bc8675a5e6967fe759433155f92bb475

VA Senate Privileges & Elections Chair Aaron Rouse Is Right: Youngkin's New Executive Order Is "voter suppression and intimidation disguised as election integrity" (Blue Virginia)

Senator Aaron Rouse Condemns Youngkin's New Election Order as "Voter Suppression Disguised as Integrity"

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA — Senator Aaron Rouse, Chair of the Senate Privileges and Elections committee, today issued the following statement in response to Governor Glenn Youngkin's new executive order on election security, issued just one week before early voting begins in Virginia:

"This is voter suppression and intimidation disguised as election integrity, just a week before early voting begins in Virginia. Voter fraud is virtually nonexistent, and our elections have been among the most secure in history. This is Youngkin's same repeated playbook. He pulled this exact move last year, took it all the way to the Supreme Court, and was allowed to reinstate his voter purge program. With President Trump now back in office, there is nothing stopping him from going even further. This is about undermining confidence in our elections and ultimately, our democracy."

Today, Governor Youngkin signed Executive Order 53, directing the Virginia Department of Elections to coordinate with federal agencies to "ensure that data is securely shared" and requiring the removal of allegedly ineligible voters from the rolls in accordance with state and federal law. The order also expands the use of the Department of Homeland Security's SAVE database, which is designed to identify non-citizens, and mandates election preparedness exercises before early voting begins.

https://bluevirginia.us/2025/09/va-senate-privileges-elections-chair-aaron-rouse-is-right-youngkins-new-executive-order-is-voter-suppression-and-intimidation-disguised-as-election-integrity/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

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

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-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

SEPTEMBER

September 18 - 11:30 - 1:00 **No Thrones, No Crowns, No Kings for our Towns**

Corner of Cummings and Main St., The Federal Building, Abingdon

September 19 - Early Voting Begins

September 19 and every Friday at 4:30 pm Morgan Griffith's Abingdon Office, 323 West Main Street Abingdon, VA 24210 Carry a sign in front of his office for 1-2 hours. Just show up and bring a sign or signs available. Sponsored by Take Action and Wash Co. Dems.

Saturday, September 27- 5:00 - 8:00 **Washington Co. VA Democrats Annual**

Donkey Day at the 4H Center, 252436 Hillman Highway. **There will be free food and drinks, music, fun for the whole family and our Dems community.** Please join us and RSVP@www.washcovadems.org or text or voicemail to 276-274-2470 by 9/19. Include your name and # in your party.

Keynote Speakers will be: Tim Kaine, our Senator

Cindy Green, Candidate for House of Delegates

Dani Cook, Motivational Speaker

OCTOBER

October 2 - 6:00 **Executive Committee Meeting**, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Abingdon

October 4 and every Friday meet at Morgan Griffith's office, 4:30 PM, 323 W. Main St. Abingdon. Carry a sign in front of his office. Just show up with your own sign or signs available

October 9 - 6:00 **General Meeting**, Washington County Library, Abingdon

October 14 - Deadline to Register to Vote

October 18-Protest at the corner of Cummings and Main St. The Federal Building Abingdon
No Thrones, No Crowns, No Kings for our Towns. Join Take Action and WashCo Dems. Bring a sign.

October 23, 2025 Dr. Sean Wilentz will be speaking at Emory and Henry's McGlothlin Theatre At 7:30 PM. 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.

NOVEMBER

November 1 - Early voting ends

November 4 - Virginians VOTE for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, members of the House of Delegates and multiple local offices. (Poll Greeters needed! Call 252-717-7137)

For more information, please go to our Website:

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