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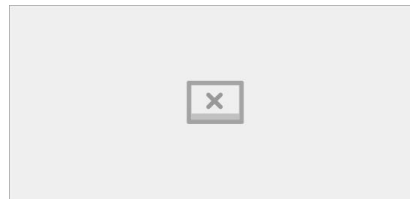
A P4D Special Event

## The 2023 Virginia Election

### It Could Have Profound Implications in 2024

Tuesday, June 27, 2023 – 7:00 PM (EDT)

[Click here to join](#)



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Virginia's statewide elections in November could play a critical role in the outcome of the 2024 elections when we elect a President, a third of the Senate and all 435 members of the House of Representatives.

We will be hosting a Special Event on **Tuesday, June 27 at 7:00 PM (EDT)** to explain what's at stake in Virginia come November and what you can do about it. And we provide some important background in our **Insights column below**.

Democrats now control the Virginia Senate by a two-vote margin while Republicans hold the edge in the House of Delegates, also by two votes. Either party could assume full control in November. If Democrats cannot continue to hold at least one House of the

legislature, it will unleash an array of voter suppression initiatives that will haunt Democrats next year.

**Politico** calls this election “a potential sea change with major implications for 2024” where Governor Glenn Youngkin, who may still run for President, “could use total control of the state legislature to pass a conservative agenda in a blue-leaning state”.

Two Democratic members of the Virginia legislature who are on the frontlines of this battle will explain how you can make a difference.

**Delegate Dan Helmer**, House of Delegates, District 10 (Fairfax County), is vice chair of the House Democratic Caucus for Outreach, which includes recruiting candidates and working with grassroots organizations to raise campaign funding. He is a graduate of West Point and earned an MA at Oxford while a Rhodes Scholar.

**Senator Jennifer Boysko**, is the Senator from District 38 (Fairfax County). A former Delegate and graduate of Hollins University in Roanoke, Senator Boysko is the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate Majority Caucus.

We also will be hearing from **CASA in Action** which works to close the voter registration gap in Virginia by focusing on new citizens and second-generation Latino people. CASA is also working to counter the efforts to pull Latino voters to the right by focusing on issues of importance to those voters.

**Please plan to join us**

[Click here to join](#)

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**P4D Insights**

The 2023 Virginia Election

I Don't Live In Virginia So Should I Care????

There are few elections in 2023, but none more critical than in Virginia where the vote in November will determine control of the state legislature. **But unlike in Las Vegas, what happens in Virginia won't stay in Virginia.** This election will have national

consequences for 2024.

Democratic victories in Virginia in 2017 and 2019 turned the state bright blue for the first time in a quarter century. But in 2021, Republicans clawed back power winning the Governor's Mansion and the House of Delegates. Democrats now control only the Senate by a 22-18 margin while Republicans hold the edge in the House of Delegates, 50-46. That means flipping two seats in either body in November will alter partisan control. Democrats are facing the dual challenges of holding onto the Senate while trying to take back the House.

Keep in mind that States – not the federal government – decide who gets to vote in federal elections. So, if there is a partisan effort to suppress the vote, that will have a big impact on the 2024 election for President, Senate (Tim Kaine is up for reelection) and the seven seats Democrats hold in the U.S. House.

### **Virginia's Direct Impact on National Elections**

Governor Youngkin already has shown his hand on the issue of **voting rights**. The Governor of Virginia has the authority to restore the voting rights of felons once they have served their terms. The state's prior three Governors restored the voting rights of 300,000 people. But that pace has dramatically slowed under Youngkin. The Governor announced that restoration would no longer be automatic, that he would evaluate each case one at a time. Youngkin knows Virginia's prison population is disproportionately Black and other minorities who tend to vote Democratic.

While a Democratic legislature cannot reverse Youngkin's decisions on the rights of felons, it does reflect the risks to same day voting registration, early voting and absentee voting we can expect if Republicans control both houses of the legislature.

### **Why else does the election matter outside Virginia?**

The issue of abortion, for one. Virginia is the only state in the South that does not prohibit early abortions. But that would change if Republicans achieve the political "trifecta" – control of the Governorship as well as both houses of the legislature. Republican Governor Youngkin would be free to push through not only an abortion ban, but also the right-wing's agenda on voting rights, gun control, human rights, the environment, education, and the separation of church and state.

## Virginia will be the national *Bellweather*

The November elections will establish the tone and rhetoric of the fast-approaching 2024 political campaigns, creating or inhibiting momentum for Democrats or Republicans, depending who wins in Virginia. Republican victories in November also would boost Youngkin's standing nationally, enhancing his prospects for a presidential run in 2024 or 2028.

## Virginia Looks More Like America

Virginia is the nation's 12<sup>th</sup> largest state and is in the heart of the South. But it has become increasingly diverse with expanding African-American, Hispanic and Asian populations. Virginians who shop at Indian grocery stores or attend Korean churches shouldn't be attracted to Republican policies. But getting them, and thousands of other apathetic voters, out to the polls to express their choices is the challenge.

The Virginia vote in November will echo around the country.

Does that matter to you?

**ASAP: Please pass this information on to your own network of friends, family, and potentially interested contacts.**



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