

NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE GUIDE: 2018 VIRGINIA SENATE RACE

	Tim Kaine (D – Incumbent)	Corey Stewart (R)
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Abortion: Mostly ban or mostly legal?	Legal. Supports women’s right “to make their own reproductive choices.” Opposes efforts to weaken <i>Roe v. Wade</i> & defund Planned Parenthood.	Ban. No exceptions for rape, incest, or life of the mother. “It is the duty of legislators to protect those who cannot protect themselves.”
Campaign Finance: Require political ads to disclose their largest funders? Stand on <i>Citizens United</i> decision, allowing unlimited corporate political donations?	Yes. Introduced 2017 Disclose Act to disclose major campaign funders. Reverse <i>Citizens United</i> , saying erodes democracy & undermines elections.	No public statement found on Disclose Act. Opposes regulation of campaign donations.
Climate Change: Consider climate change a critical issue? Limit or tax production of greenhouse gases?	Yes. Climate change imperils our planet’s future & threatens our economy. Need to regulate greenhouse gases. Paris Climate Accord withdrawal will make it harder to deal with climate change at home.	No. “Theory of man-made Climate change is a hoax.” Climate is changing, but “I don’t believe that man is the primary cause & I don’t believe that man can change that.” Believes climate accord regulations are “nonsensical.”
Contraception: Allow employers to withhold contraceptive coverage if disagree?	No. Co-sponsor of bill to restore ACA contraceptive coverage requirement.	No statement found.
Economy: Support federal spending as a means of promoting economic growth?	Yes. Particularly transportation infrastructure.	No. Generally opposes.
Economy: Support President Trump’s imposition of tariffs on Chinese steel & other products?	No. “They are killing jobs“ & could “significantly put our infrastructure advancements at risk.”	Yes. “What President Trump is doing [with the Chinese tariffs] is right on.”
Education: Provide vouchers to parents to send their children to private schools with public money?	No. Will fight efforts to divert public school funding to private schools.	Yes. Parents need to be in charge & should have as many choices as possible including vouchers.
Elections: Support nonpartisan redistricting vs potential partisan gerrymandering ?	Yes.	Unclear, but supported contentious redistricting proposal.
Environment: Support cutbacks in Environmental Protection Administration?	No. Signed letter voicing “extreme concern” over the cuts.	Likely yes. Excess environmental regulation “costs jobs, increases energy costs...has little or no positive impact.”
Gay Marriage: Support gay marriage?	Yes. In 2006 opposed VA amendment banning same sex marriage. “We’re still fighting for full LGBT equality.”	No. Strongly opposes; seeks to overturn Supreme Court legalization. Signed survey to oppose “brainwashing elementary school children with the Homosexual Agenda.”
Gun Control: Support more restrictive gun control legislation? Restrict semi-automatic weapons?	Yes. Co-sponsored bill to ban military-style assault weapons, high-capacity ammunition magazines, & bump stocks. Supports improved background checks.	No. Supports absolute right to gun ownership. Gave away a semi-automatic rifle in raffle to highlight his position.

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Healthcare: Support or Repeal Affordable Care Act (ACA), known as Obamacare? Support Medicaid expansion to subsidize low-income participants?	Supports ACA; has voted against all efforts for full or partial repeal . Praised Virginia’s Medicaid expansion .	Full repeal. “Obamacare has failed.” Called Virginia Medicaid expansion “a major disaster for our party.” Replace Medicaid with state block grants.
Healthcare: Let Planned Parenthood receive public funds for non-abortion healthcare?	Yes. A critical part of healthcare safety net . “We can’t let anybody undercut Planned Parenthood or the healthcare safety net.”	No. Will work to defund . “I will NEVER apologize for being pro-life & I will ALWAYS stand up to Planned Parenthood.”
Immigration: Support path to citizenship for America’s 11 million illegal immigrants, including “DACA” recipients or “Dreamers,” who grew up in the US after being brought here illegally as children?	Yes. Supported comprehensive immigration reform to protect Dreamers, enhance border security & create earned path to citizenship for “those living in the shadows.”	No. “Illegal immigration threatens America’s security, jobs, & tax dollars.” No amnesty. Build the wall. Instructed his county police to check immigration status of anyone they believed were in the country illegally.
Iran: Support Trump withdrawal from treaty limiting Iran’s nuclear capability in return for lifting economic sanctions?	Opposes withdrawal. Damages diplomatic credibility, weakens alliances. Reopens the door for Iran to start enriching uranium.	Supports withdrawal. “Iran continues to be a state-sponsor of terrorism across the planet.”
Marijuana: Legalize or decriminalize marijuana?	Introduced bill to decriminalize at federal level & respect states’ rights.	Decriminalize but don’t legalize.
Minimum Wage: Raise the federal minimum wage from current \$7.25/hr?	Yes. Co-sponsored \$15/hour proposal.	No public statements found.
Net Neutrality: Require internet providers to provide equal access to all users?	Yes. Voted to protect.	No public statements found.
President Trump: Response to President Trump’s actions & policies?	Strong critic of policies. Has voted with Trump 34% of time (as of Oct. 12, 2018).	Strong supporter: “I was Trump before Trump was Trump.”
Social Security: Address Social Security solvency?	Opposes any privatization . Make more solvent by lifting cap that only taxes incomes up to \$128,000.	Congress should stop “dipping into the Social Security trust fund” for “things like settling sexual harassment claims.” Lifting cap would “increase taxes on the little guy.”
Renewable Energy: Should government support renewable energy?	Yes. Has supported renewable energy subsidies. Also supported a VA coal plant as governor. In 2013 supported off-shore drilling, which now opposes.	Opposed Governor McAuliffe’s renewable energy initiatives. Says backs all US energy development “including nuclear, solar, wind & fossil fuels.”
Student Debt: Refinance student loans at lower rates, paid for by increasing taxes on high earners (Elizabeth Warren proposal)? Increase student financial aid?	Voted for 2014 Warren proposal. Also fixed glitch in public service loan forgiveness program. Allow Pell Grants to cover short-term training.	No public statement found.
Taxes: Support President Trump’s tax cuts ?	No. They explode the deficit, only benefit big corporations & the very wealthy & raise healthcare premiums.	Yes. “Lowering taxes is the key to prosperity.” Trump cuts have yielded low unemployment & soaring corporate profits. Suggests making permanent.
Voting Rights: Support Governor McAuliffe’s restoring felon voting rights?	Yes. Supported. Also expand early voting & general ballot access.	No public statement found.

Other candidates include [Matt Waters \(L\)](#). We can’t include candidates polling under 15%, but check out his website.

Created by the [Campus Election Engagement Project](#), a nonpartisan effort to help college & university administrators, faculty, & student leaders engage their schools in the election. Key sites consulted included [Votesmart.org](#), [Ontheissues.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#), & public candidate statements. For guides to local races, see [Vote411.org](#) from the League of Women Voters & [Ballotready.org](#).