

Virginia Senate



THE ISSUES

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REPUBLICAN



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DEMOCRAT • INCUMBENT



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ABORTION Legal or ban?	Ban. "I'm 100% pro-life. We need to protect children in the womb."	Legal. Co-sponsored act guaranteeing "equal access to abortion, everywhere."
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT Support Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare?	No. Would keep parts of ACA , but with "free-market reforms, choice and competition," no more government control.	Yes. Voted for the ACA. Voted against the American Health Care Act of 2017 , which would have ended ACA.
CAMPAIGN FINANCE Require political ads to disclose their largest funders?	No position found.	Yes. Supports constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United . Introduced bipartisan bill against foreign election interference and for ad transparency .
CLIMATE CHANGE Consider human-caused climate change a serious threat?	No. "The environment is warming," but it's not clear how much is due to human activity. It's part of "a long-term cycle."	Yes. "Facts behind climate change are undeniable." "One of the largest threats to our health, economy, and national security."
CLIMATE CHANGE Address as a top priority by taxing or limiting output of greenhouse gases? Support government subsidies for renewable energy?	No. "For the time being," wants "best energy production mix," with renewables, nuclear, and "natural gas, and oil, and coal." Concerned about "crippling our own current economic conditions."	Yes. For "investing in new technologies that reduce harmful emissions." Co-sponsored bill for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 . Wants carbon capture to use coal "more responsibly."
COURTS Support Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch nominations?	Yes. "We have TWO new conservative Supreme Court Justices." See CEEP Supreme Court guide .	No. Voted no on Gorsuch and on Kavanaugh because of "past rulings, writings, and evasive answers." See CEEP Supreme Court guide .
COVID-19 Support administration's response to coronavirus pandemic?	Yes. After slow start, president's response "has been really solid." Blames China, which "brought our country to its knees."	No. "The president has completely failed to contain the virus." Wants a more aggressive response .
COVID-19 ECONOMIC RESPONSE Support administration's economic response to coronavirus pandemic?	Yes. "President has been great" getting "economy back to work." Against normalizing overspending . Would have voted for CARES Act .	No. Asked Treasury Dept. to give states more flexibility in distributing relief funds . Asked Trump for more help for working families .
EDUCATION Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	Yes. "Full school choice proponent." Supreme Court allowing public funding for religious schools a "huge win for religious liberty."	No recent position found. Opposed publicly funded vouchers for private school tuition in 2001.
ENVIRONMENT Tighten or loosen environmental regulations?	Loosen. "A huge fan of deregulation as much as possible." "Deregulatory drive of the Trump administration has been great."	Tighten, mostly. Opposed repeal of Clean Power, emission guidelines . Policy changes must keep all sectors of economy viable .

ISSUES	GADE (R)	WARNER (D)
FINANCIAL REGULATION Tighten or loosen regulation of banks and credit card companies?	Loosen. “Markets that are free of government interference ... are engines of economic growth and prosperity for all.”	Mixed. Voted for Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform . Later introduced bill to loosen regulation on small banks and credit unions .
GAY RIGHTS Support Equality Act protecting LGBTQ persons from discrimination based on sexual preference?	No. “The Equality Act forces churches ... to accommodate people who are transgender. ... Our religious freedom is under attack.”	Yes. Co-sponsored Equality Act . “Always wrong to fire a person simply for being gay or transgender.”
GUN CONTROL Enact more restrictive legislation on guns?	No. It’s about individual liberty and “God-given rights to protect ourselves” — not guns. Concerned about “gun confiscation.” Red flag laws unconstitutional .	Yes. Co-sponsored assault weapons ban . Introduced bill to enact gun violence protection measures , including red flag laws and closing background-check loopholes.
IMMIGRATION Path to citizenship for “DACA” participants brought to the U.S. as children? Expand border walls?	No position found on DACA. Supports temporary guest worker program and “recruiting high-skilled workers from other countries.” Would limit humanitarian asylum.	Yes. Co-sponsored bipartisan amendment offering path to citizenship for “DREAMers.” along with \$25 billion for border wall funding. Opposed Trump diversion of funds for wall .
IRAN Oppose military attacks on Iran without congressional approval?	Yes. Views specific Iran War Powers Act as an “attempt to embarrass Trump,” but supports idea of requiring congressional approval.	Yes. Trump should have consulted Congress. Attack turned “anti-Iranian fervor into anti-American fervor.”
LABOR Support “right-to-work” laws, stopping unions from mandating dues for workers they represent?	Yes. “Virginia, after 75 years, is about to destroy the right-to-work legislation and make it a forced unionized state.”	Unclear. Has said wants to increase worker protections but no specific position found on Virginia attempt to repeal right-to-work.
MARIJUANA Decriminalize or legalize?	No position found	Legal for medical. Co-sponsored bill to allow banks to work with cannabis businesses . “Supports the use of medical marijuana when used appropriately.” Waiting to see experience of other states on recreational.
MINIMUM WAGE Raise hourly minimum wage in Virginia above current \$7.25?	Unclear. Raising federal minimum wage in Virginia to \$15 would “destroy small businesses.”	Yes. For raising minimum in Virginia. At \$7.25, “You can’t feed a family on that rate.” Raise can be done “responsibly.”
PLANNED PARENTHOOD Can Planned Parenthood get public funding for non-abortion-related care?	No. “Planned Parenthood should not be government funded.”	Yes. Co-sponsored Women’s Health Protection Act and voted against rescinding Planned Parenthood funding .
POLICE RESTRICTIONS Restrict police use of force and increase public oversight?	Yes on oversight. Says he cares about criminal justice reform “passionately,” with many “in jail who don’t need to be.” Says police unions may protect “bad apples.”	Yes. Co-sponsored Justice in Policing Act “to hold law enforcement accountable ..., improve transparency ..., and reform police training and policies.”
TRUMP IMPEACHMENT Supported or opposed Trump impeachment and Senate’s calling witnesses?	Opposed impeachment. “About personal vendettas.”	Supported. Voted to call witnesses and to convict Trump on both articles of impeachment .
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID Support payment subsidies or forgiveness on student loans?	No. Forgiveness is an “immoral transfer of risk from poor people to already privileged people.” No position found on payments.	Yes. Co-sponsored bill to limit payments based on income and forgive debts after 20 or 30 years of payments .

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