



VIRGINIA LEAGUE OF  
CONSERVATION VOTERS

# 2022 | Conservation Scorecard

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2022 Scorecard acknowledgments

Content: Lee Francis, Christopher Leyen, Kelly Accardi, and Michael Town

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# Playing defense, but not for long

Welcome to our 2022 Scorecard! This is our signature annual publication and the only comprehensive resource in Virginia where voters can learn how their lawmakers voted on the environmental issues that matter.

While the past two years saw Virginia move from the back of the pack to a leader on climate action and environmental protection, 2022 has been a different story: instead of securing win after win for clean air, clean water and protected spaces, we now find ourselves working to defend the incredible progress we've been able to make at the General Assembly in just a few short years.

Simply put: elections matter!

With the loss of a statewide Conservation Majority and a pro-environment majority in the House of Delegates, the "Brick Wall" of the Senate of Virginia remained our best hope to defend the climate action and environmental progress we were able to make over the past two years. They largely delivered, helping protect our signature climate and clean energy policies from attacks; the Virginia Clean Economy Act, our membership in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and the Advanced Clean Cars standard all survived this session unscathed, keeping us on the path to a cleaner energy and transportation future.

We were also able to defeat a toxic nomination for Secretary of Natural

and Historic Resources in Andrew Wheeler, a former coal lobbyist and former President Trump's EPA chief with a long history of working to decimate environmental safeguards and benefiting polluters over people. Not since 2006 in the Kaine Administration has a cabinet pick been defeated at the legislature, and this blow to the Youngkin Administration loomed large throughout session, reverberating throughout a number of other policy and political fights.

New to this year's Scorecard is a dedicated gubernatorial accountability section – a long-term goal of ours here at Virginia LCV – where we outline the actions the Governor has taken on the environment. Our legislature is part-time, meeting only several weeks out of the year, leaving many important environmental decisions to the Executive Branch and agency level.

We hope our first publication of this accountability tool will help shed light on an unimpressive start to Governor Youngkin's term, while pushing the Administration in a more positive direction for the good of clean air and water, and a healthy environment.

We will continue to bring attention to Governor Youngkin's record - and that of future Governors, regardless of party - with the goal of highlighting when they are out of touch with Virginia voters on important issues such as environmental protection and

a just and fair democracy. And we promise to acknowledge and amplify environmental accomplishments when our Governor steps up to the challenge and puts our future and our people ahead of polluters and politics.

We were able to hold the line in 2022, and we're optimistic that, soon, we'll be back on the path to progress. Statehouse elections are right around the corner in 2023. More than ever before, voters want bold action on climate change, and are demanding action to ensure lawmakers working to protect clean water and air, and bring clean energy jobs - including manufacturing jobs - to the Commonwealth. By helping rebuild bipartisan Conservation Majorities in both the state House and Senate, we will be able to go back on the offensive and put pro-environment and pro-democracy laws on the Governor's desk for him to sign.

We have much work ahead of us, and remain committed to defending the incredible progress we've made, while ensuring more success to come at the ballot box and in the halls of our legislature.

Sincerely,



**Michael Town,**  
Executive Director



# Dems hold the line on climate action attacks

## Signature Climate Wins Under Attack in 2022

**Virginia Clean Economy Act:** Passed in 2020, the VCEA set ambitious targets for renewable energy deployment, with the goal of a decarbonized electricity sector by 2050 at the latest, coupled alongside gains in energy efficiency, and consumer-owned renewable energy. There are currently upwards of 82,000 clean energy jobs in Virginia, and economists estimate that because of the VCEA we'll see up to 13,000 more of these jobs per year along with \$69.7 billion in net benefits for Virginians.

**Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act:** Also passed in 2020, the Act finalized Virginia's membership in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a highly successful multi-state carbon cap-and-invest program that has helped drive down power plant emissions since 2009. This legislation directed proceeds from a carbon auction toward the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund, to help localities combat flooding and sea level rise, and to low-income energy efficiency programs. In its first full year, this program generated \$228 million of revenue for the state; in just the first quarter of 2022, it drew in \$74.2 million.

**Advanced Clean Cars Standards:** Passed in 2021, this program established a zero-emission and low-emission vehicle program in Virginia, requiring that these vehicles make up 8 percent of vehicle sales in model year 2025, and increasing from there. Transportation emissions comprise nearly half of the Commonwealth's carbon pollution; this program ensures that manufacturers are meeting increasing consumer demand for more fuel-efficient or electric vehicles in the state, and was the end-result of a strong partnership between environmental groups and the automobile dealers.

## Defeat extreme nominee to lead Natural Resources

In the past two years, Virginia has taken giant steps forward in cutting carbon pollution and securing a transition to a cleaner energy and transportation future.

In 2021, we became one of only a handful of states with policies in place to get to 100 percent clean electricity while also advancing zero-emission electric vehicles. Together, the power and transportation sectors make up nearly 78 percent of our overall carbon footprint. Addressing these major sources of pollution is imperative if we want to do our part here in the Commonwealth to tackle the climate crisis, while protecting public health, and growing a clean energy economy.

With us losing the Conservation Majority in the House and across statewide office holders, all the progress we had made on climate action and clean energy was in the crosshairs heading into the legislative session, with Governor Youngkin and hostile House members leading the charge to roll back policies that advance a clean energy future, despite voters' strong support of these measures by two-thirds margins.

Our only hope to defend climate progress was the Senate of Virginia, where the Conservation Majority still holds power. And, fortunately, none of the attacks on our signature climate policies were able to advance out of committee on the Senate side.

The Senate Committees on Commerce and Labor, Agriculture, Conservation and Natural

Resources, and Finance were key to defeating these short-sighted attacks and we are grateful to committee leadership for doing the right thing for climate action.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has made one thing abundantly clear: we need to be cutting emissions now and drastically to prevent the worst-case scenario of climate change from becoming our future. The leadership that Virginia has shown on climate is taking us in the right direction, and we simply can't afford to go backwards.

With this sense of urgency in mind, legislation that attacks our signature climate policies comprises a large chunk of our scored votes this year, and we will continue to hold accountable lawmakers who are on the wrong side of climate action.

## Controversial cabinet pick defeated

For years, precedent in Richmond has been such that General Assembly approval of gubernatorial appointments was a mere formality at the legislature, with most of these picks flying under the radar with little fanfare or controversy.

This year was a different story entirely.

For the first time since the Kaine Administration, the legislature rejected a cabinet-level appointment, denying Andrew Wheeler the post of Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources due to his record working to undermine environmental laws as former President Trump's administrator at the Environmental Protection Agency and, before that, as a lobbyist for the coal industry where he made millions working to put profits over people.



Virginia LCV was at the helm of efforts to oppose this nomination, knowing it wouldn't be an easy legislative fight, and it wasn't.

Wheeler was persuasive in his statements before lawmakers, utilizing a number of "alternative facts" in his testimony, and at times it looked like he had a chance of moving forward.

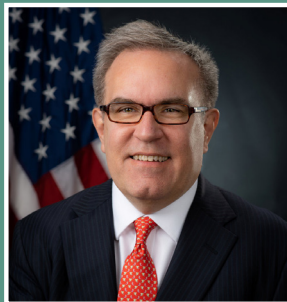
But the word of more than 150 former EPA employees who opposed his nomination, along with an aggressive media and communications strategy coupled with an equally aggressive inside-the-building lobbying push, helped turn the tide.

When the Senate voted to confirm Glenn Youngkin's cabinet, Wheeler's name was not on the list for consideration.

The Senate of Virginia successfully defeated this nomination, but not without a cost. The rejection of Wheeler tipped off a larger fight between the House and the Senate, with the lower body rejecting a number of former Governor Ralph Northam's appointments as retribution.

Gov. Youngkin also vetoed all but one piece of legislation from Sen. Adam Ebbin, who led this fight in the Senate.

While Wheeler is not in Gov. Youngkin's cabinet, he is still in his administration. Youngkin first kept him on as a "Senior Advisor" paying Wheeler the same \$185,000 salary he would have made as Secretary, and on June 30, Youngkin tapped Wheeler to lead



### Andrew Wheeler, at a glance

At EPA, Wheeler:

- Gutted efforts to address climate change and clean up coal ash
- Replaced EPA scientists with industry cronies
- Worked to limit the use of scientific data in EPA rulemaking
- Advocated for a 90% reduction in Bay cleanup funding
- Supported weakening Clean Water Act protections
- Kept on as a "Senior Advisor" to Gov. Youngkin with a \$185K salary
- Was tapped to lead Youngkin's Office of Regulatory Management

a new Office of Regulatory Management, where he will be in charge of cutting state regulations by 25 percent.

This makes it painfully clear that Youngkin's intent on keeping in his close circle one of the most infamous, anti-environmental zealots this Commonwealth – and this country – has ever seen. We will need to remain extremely vigilant through the rest of this term, and shine a light on this Administration every time they walk out of step on the environment.





# Three lawmakers receive special awards

## Marsden, Ebbin, McQuinn recognized for legislative leadership in 2022 session

In addition to honoring lawmakers who score high in our annual Scorecard, Virginia LCV also recognizes legislators who demonstrate exceptional leadership expanding conservation efforts, confronting the climate crisis, and advancing environmental justice at the General Assembly.

This year we highlight the work of three such recipients – lawmakers who demonstrated political courage and dedication to doing the right thing for our environment.

### Delegate Delores McQuinn

Del. McQuinn's successful efforts this legislative session to advance equity in both climate justice and conservation deserve special recognition. She shepherded legislation to preserve the history and historic places of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (House Bill 141). Included in outgoing Governor Northam's budget proposal, the BIPOC Preservation Fund cleared both the Republican-controlled House, and Democratically-controlled Senate unanimously, while retaining \$5 million of the original \$10 million proposed. Establishing the fund, and securing funding will help ensure that the land we conserve through perpetual easements values the history of all Virginians.

Del. McQuinn also succeeded in expanding transit agencies' ability to offer low-income and zero-fare programs – powerful tools to expand ridership and access to service. Prior to



Virginia LCV has presented (from left to right) Del. Delores McQuinn, Sen. Adam Ebbin, and Sen. David Marsden with special awards for their leadership on conservation at this year's General Assembly.

passage of her legislation (House Bill 142), funding for these programs, provided through the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP), was capped at 25 percent. Her bill turned this ceiling into a floor, requiring a minimum of one-quarter of TRIP funds to be allocated to these programs.

This legislation passed the General Assembly by wide bipartisan margins in both chambers, and withstood an amendment from Governor Youngkin. Clean transportation will be more inclusive and effective as a result of Del. McQuinn's legislative leadership.

### Senator Adam Ebbin

As chair of the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee, Sen. Ebbin oversaw the defeat of several attacks on voting rights,

from attempts to shorten the absentee voting window, reduce voter registration opportunities, or limit which mail-in absentee ballots were allowed to be counted. Had these laws passed, they would have made it more difficult for voters to hold polluters and their allies to account.

Another key responsibility of the P&E committee, as it's referred to in legislative parlance, is to approve cabinet nominees from the Governor – a limited check on executive power. The P&E committee rejected the nomination of Andrew Wheeler, former coal industry lobbyist and EPA Administrator, from consideration for Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, paving the way for Wheeler's eventual removal from the interim appointment. Governor Youngkin, in retaliation, vetoed nine of Sen. Ebbin's



10 bills that passed the General Assembly, including those that passed by wide bipartisan margins.

Sen. Ebbin's choice to stand strong to protect the integrity of the Secretary's role as chief conservation officer was one cornerstone of the Senate Democrat's "Brick Wall" defense of landmark climate action.

### Senator David Marsden

Sen. Marsden deserves special recognition for his commitment to conservation of land, water and wildlife. Twenty percent of his legislative agenda was dedicated to conservation priorities, much of which is acknowledged in the Virginia League of Conservation Voters' 2022 Scorecard.

His land conservation efforts included bills to establish dedicated funding for state parks (Senate Bill 545), and expand the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and Fund to include access for Virginia Indian Tribes to conservation funds (SB 31).

Legislation to expand tree canopy replacement during development (Senate Bill 537) and to improve flood resiliency (Senate Bill 551) were among his water conservation and climate resiliency work.

Two of his bills passed the Senate but stalled in House Appropriations. These include his continued work to improve habitat connectivity by creating wildlife corridors (Senate Bill 707) and a bill to establish grants to incentivize electric vehicle charging station installation. We look forward to continuing to work with Sen. Marsden to advance his portfolio of conservation legislation.

## 2022 Bill Patrons: Where Legislative Victories Begin

Virginia LCV recognizes the efforts of legislators that promote and lead on conservation issues each session. These patrons, who carried legislation supported by Virginia LCV and the larger conservation community, are acknowledged for the value of their commitment in each of their final scores. Note that though some members introduce multiple bills that receive Virginia LCV support, each member receives acknowledgment for only one patron credit in their final legislator score.

### Energy and Climate

**Del. Suhas Subramanyam (D-Loudoun)** – House Bill 471 State agencies and localities; solar-ready roof requirements, energy-positive building design, etc.

**Del. Michael J. Webert (R-Fauquier)** – House Bill 206 Small renewable energy projects; impact on natural resources, report. **Sen. Barbara Favola (D-Arlington)** – Senate Bill 290 State agencies and localities; solar-ready roof requirements, energy-positive building design, etc.

### Good Government

**Del. Mike Cherry (R-Colonial Heights)** – House Joint Resolution 9 Constitutional amendment; qualifications of voters and the right to vote (second reference). **Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-Alexandria)** – Senate Joint Resolution 84 Governor; confirming appointments. **Sen. Mamie Locke (D-Hampton)** – Senate Joint Resolution 1 Constitutional amendment; qualifications of voters and the right to vote (second reference).

### Land Conservation

**Del. Delores McQuinn (D-Richmond City)** – House Bill 141 Virginia Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Historic Preservation Fund; created. **Sen. Ghazala Hashmi (D-Chesterfield)** – Senate Bill 158 Virginia Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Historic Preservation Fund; created. **Sen. Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax County)** – Senate Bill 31 Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and Fund; membership, use of funds. Senate Bill 545 Motor vehicles; registration fees, state park access fee. Senate Bill 707 Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund; established.

### Land Use and Transportation

**Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (D-Alexandria)**

– House Bill 450 Parking of vehicles; electric vehicle charging spaces, signage for penalty, civil penalties.

**Del. Terry Kilgore (R-Scott)** – House Bill 920 Careless driving; vulnerable road users. **Del. Delores McQuinn (D-Richmond City)** – House Bill 142 Transit Ridership Incentive Program; amount of funds to be used to establish programs. **Sen. George Barker (D-Fairfax County)** – Senate Bill 342 Transit Ridership Incentive Program; use of funds for reduced-fare or zero-fare transit projects. **Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-Alexandria)** – Senate Bill 278 Parking of vehicles; electric vehicle charging spaces, signage for penalty, civil penalties. **Sen. Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax County)** – Senate Bill 708 Driving Decarbonization Program and Fund; created. **Sen. Monty Mason (D-Williamsburg)** – Senate Bill 575 DGS; state fleet managers to use total cost of ownership calculations, report. **Sen. Scott Surovell (D-Fairfax)** – Senate Bill 247 Careless driving; vulnerable road users.

### Water Quality

**Del. David Bulova (D-Fairfax County)** House Bill 516 Flood resiliency & protection; implements recom. from first Va. Coastal Resilience Master Plan. House Bill 1309 Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund; created. **Sen. Lynwood Lewis (D-Accomack)** – Senate Bill 756 Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund; created. **Sen. Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax County)** – Senate Bill 537 Trees; replacement and conservation during development process, powers of local government. Senate Bill 551 Flood resiliency & protection; implements recom. from first Va. Coastal Resilience Master Plan.



# 100 % 2022 Legislative Heroes

Virginia LCV Legislative Heroes demonstrate a strong dedication and prioritization of our conservation values. This year we recognize 12 Senators and 46 Delegates for voting with Virginia LCV 100 percent of the time.

Of the hundreds of bills these legislators vote on every session, they deserve special acknowledgment for getting the conservation vote right every time.

On behalf of Conservation Voters in Virginia, we thank the Legislative Heroes pictured here and look forward to their continued commitment to protecting the Commonwealth's precious natural resources.



Sen. Jennifer Boysko



Sen. Adam Ebbin



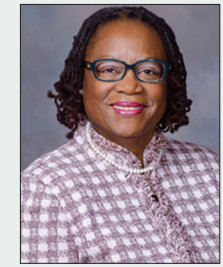
Sen. Barbara Favola



Sen. Ghazala Hashmi



Sen. Janet Howell



Sen. Mamie Locke



Sen. Louise Lucas



Sen. Dave Marsden



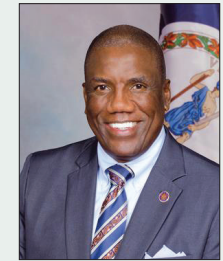
Sen. Jennifer McClellan



Sen. Jeremy McPike



Sen. Dick Saslaw



Sen. Lionell Spruill



Del. Dawn Adams



Del. Lamont Bagby



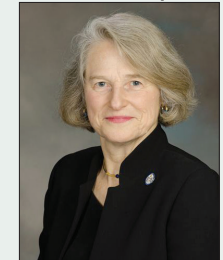
Del. E. Bennett-Parker



Del. Jeffrey Bourne



Del. David Bulova



Del. Betsy Carr



Del. Nadarius Clark



Del. K. Convors-Fowler



Del. Karrie Delaney



Del. Eileen Filler-Corn



Del. Jackie Glass



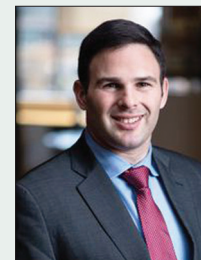
Del. Wendy Gooditis



Del. Elizabeth Guzman



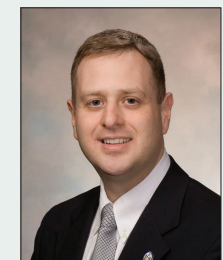
Del. Cliff Hayes



Del. Dan Helmer



Del. Charniele Herring



Del. Patrick Hope



# 2022 Legislative Leaders

Virginia LCV Legislative Leaders scored between 75 and 99 percent in this year's Scorecard. Two Delegates and 10 Senators earned this recognition for making conservation a priority in 2022.

## Senate of Virginia

Sen. George Barker	95%
Sen. John Bell	95%
Sen. Creigh Deeds	95%
Sen. John Edwards	95%
Sen. Lynwood Lewis	96%
Sen. Monty Mason	96%
Sen. Joe Morrissey	95%
Sen. Chap Petersen	95%
Sen. Scott Surovell	95%
Sen. Jill Vogel	76%

## House of Delegates

Del. Kaye Kory	94%
Del. Luke Torian	95%



Del. Sally Hudson



Del. Clint Jenkins



Del. Mark Kearn



Del. Paul Krizek



Del. Alfonso Lopez



Del. Michelle Maldonado



Del. Delores McQuinn



Del. Michael Mullin



Del. C. Mondon King



Del. Kathleen Murphy



Del. Ken Plum



Del. Cia Price



Del. Sam Rasoul



Del. David Reid



Del. Danica Roem



Del. Don Scott



Del. Briana Sewell



Del. Irene Shin



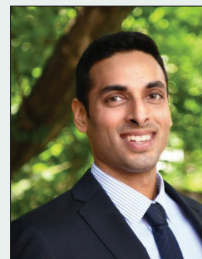
Del. Mark Sickles



Del. Mark Simon



Del. Shelly Simonds



Del. S. Subramanyam



Del. Rip Sullivan



Del. Kathy Tran



Del. S. VanValkenburg



Del. Jeion Ward



Del. Vivian Watts



Del. Rodney Willett



Del. A. Williams Graves



# Scored Legislation:

## Energy & Climate

### Eliminating the Path to Clean Energy

*House Bill 73 – Del. Lee Ware  
(R-Powhatan)*

*Virginia LCV Position: Oppose*

This legislation is one of several bills introduced this General Assembly session that would have undermined Virginia's path to 100 percent clean energy established in the 2020 Virginia Clean Econo-

my Act (VCEA).

A central component of the VCEA declares a certain amount of solar, wind and energy storage to be “in the public interest,” giving a green light to clean energy projects at the regulatory level. This bill would have removed this designation for offshore wind generation, energy storage projects, and low-income energy efficiency programs, making it much more difficult to build clean energy, or lower electricity bills through energy efficiency. It also would have

weakened requirements for power plant pollution emissions.

HB 73 passed the House of Delegates on a 52-48 party-line vote, but was defeated in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee, 9-5.

### Exempting Large Industries from Pollution Costs

*House Bill 74 – Del. Lee Ware  
(R-Powhatan)*

*Virginia LCV Position: Oppose*

This legislation also would have undermined Virginia's path to clean energy established in the Virginia Clean Economy Act

(VCEA).

This bill would have allowed a subset of large industrial users to avoid paying for the costs of their carbon emissions without changing any of the obligations the utilities or other customers must follow. This class of large industrial manufacturers in particular, releases large amounts of greenhouse gas emissions and are extremely energy intensive. Exempting these companies from renewable energy development charges would have led to small businesses and residential customers unfairly bearing the cost of carbon pollution and energy needs of large industries.

## Know the Score:

As an exclusive accountability tool for Conservation Voters, it is important to know how we arrive at the final scores for each General Assembly session. The Conservation Scorecard gives you a comprehensive understanding of how your elected leaders represented your conservation values in Richmond.

While some sessions carry more contentious, high-stakes debates than others, our Scorecard allows you to distinguish between the rhetoric and the reality of a legislator's record by providing you detailed summaries of what happened inside the State Capitol each session.

### How the Votes Were Chosen

With hundreds of bills introduced every

session, Virginia LCV carefully tracks and takes positions on all priority legislation that impacts conservation. As legislation evolves throughout the lawmaking process, we communicate our position at every step along the way – from subcommittee, to full committee, to the floor of each chamber.

After session's end, we closely examine the votes and determine a selection of votes which best illustrates how legislators prioritized conservation issues. While some votes are easier than others, our look into what happened on the record and behind the scenes gives an encompassing representation of conservation performance.

### How the Scores Were Calculated

For every vote recorded on the chosen

legislation, legislators receive one “correct vote” for voting the way of our communicated position. The number of “correct” votes is divided by the total number of possible votes for each legislator, which generates a lawmaker's percentage score for the session. Legislators that sponsored bills supported by Virginia LCV receive a patron credit, which counts as one additional “possible vote” averaged into their final percentage.

Although some legislators perform more poorly than others from year to year, it is important that they hear from you your encouragement to do better. Conversely, we must not take our Legislative Heroes and Leaders for granted – let them know you appreciate their commitment to conservation and look forward to their continued support.



HB 74 passed the House of Delegates on a near-party line vote of 53-47, with Del. Kaye Kory (D-Fairfax) joining Republicans in favor. This bill went on to be defeated in the Senate Commerce and Labor committee, 12-2.

### **Repealing VCEA and RGGI**

*House Bill 118 – Del. Nick Freitas (R-Culpeper)*  
*Virginia LCV Position: Oppose*

This legislation would have completely repealed Virginia's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative ("RGGI"), and eliminated Virginia's path to clean energy established in the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA).

The VCEA transitions our Commonwealth to a clean electricity grid over the next 25 years. To do that, the VCEA requires our utilities to steadily use more clean energy while reducing emissions and retiring polluting power plants. The VCEA also requires electric utilities to run energy efficiency programs, help reduce bills, and cut regulations on rooftop solar.

RGGI is a multi-state market-based initiative to limit carbon dioxide from the power sector. In Virginia, proceeds generated from the market go to support community flood prevention and low-income energy efficiency programs. Since the program's inception in Virginia in 2021, it's generated

more than \$300 million in revenue.

HB 118 passed the House of Delegates on a 52-48 party line vote, but was defeated in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee, 12-3.

### **Preserving Forests and Farmlands During Clean Energy Development**

*House Bill 206 – Del. Michael J. Webert (R-Fauquier)*  
*Virginia LCV Position: Support*

Solar development is a critical component of achieving Virginia's long-term clean energy goals. Preserving natural resources and having robust buy-in and engagement at the local level is crucial for solar's continued support, particularly when it comes to utility scale development in rural areas.

This legislation provides that when this development occurs, solar developers implement mitigation measures to ensure forest and farmland preservation. The bill also establishes a workgroup to conduct an analysis of both beneficial and adverse impacts of proposed solar projects on natural resources, including wildlife, historical resources, prime agricultural soils or forest lands.

Throughout the legislative session, negotiations played out in House of Delegates committees, resulting in no less than four substitute amendments

influenced from both sides that eventually resulted in compromise legislation that broadened the stakeholder workgroup considering solar siting impacts and how to encourage siting on alternate sites to farmland and forests such as brownfields. The final bill also guaranteed that active solar projects currently in progress would not be affected. HB 206 passed the House of Delegates 91-7 and received unanimous approval in the Senate.

### **Making Public Buildings Solar-Ready**

*House Bill 471 – Del. Suhas Subramanyam (D-Loudoun)*  
*Senate Bill 290 – Sen. Barbara Favola (D-Arlington)*  
*Virginia LCV Position: Support*

This legislation would ensure that roofs of new public buildings and those undergoing major renovations are solar-ready. School buildings would be designed and constructed to produce as much energy as they consume. The bill contains provisions that would allow localities to exempt a building from these requirements if they are not cost-effective.

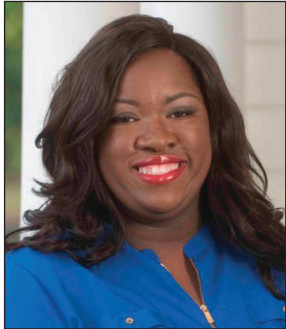
Current law requires new construction and major renovations of public buildings to meet high performance standards to save energy and taxpayer dollars while making the buildings healthier and



During my time in elected office, as a County Supervisor, a State Senator and as Attorney General, protecting the Commonwealth's clean air and water - and holding polluters accountable - were top priorities, and I'm incredibly proud of my lengthy record working to safeguard our environment. Virginia LCV's annual Scorecard remains an invaluable tool to determine whether elected leaders are putting environmental protection first, and I applaud VALCV's commitment to the health and well-being of not only our state's environment, but of all Virginians.

**Mark Herring,**  
**47th Attorney General**  
**of Virginia**





For too long, Black communities have faced environmental injustice without a seat at the advocacy table. Virginia LCV is doing such critical work to change this narrative by ensuring diverse communities like the 2nd District are included in important environmental and conservation conversations. As we fight against climate change, the Conservation Scorecard is another great tool VALCV has provided to empower voters and keep legislators accountable for their actions.

Del. Candi Mundon King,  
House District 2

more comfortable for occupants. Bipartisan legislation passed in 2019 called for new school construction to be designed and built to be energy positive. However, the roofs of some new schools have not been designed to accept the added weight of solar panels, and the costs of retrofitting roofs are a barrier to clean energy adoption.

SB 290 passed the Senate 22-18 with Sen. Jill Vogel (R-Fauquier) joining with Senate Democrats in support; it was subsequently defeated in the House of Delegates General Laws Committee on a 10-12 party-line vote. HB 471 was not taken up for consideration by the House General Laws Committee after a subcommittee recommended not advancing the bill.

### **Removing Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative**

*House Bill 1301 – Del. Terry Kilgore (R-Scott)*  
*Senate Bill 532 – Sen. Richard Stuart (R-King George)*  
*Virginia LCV Position: Oppose*

This legislation would have removed Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a multi-state market-based initiative to limit carbon dioxide from the power sector.

Since RGGI went into effect in 2009, carbon dioxide emissions from power plants in RGGI states have fallen by 47 percent, outpacing the rest of the country by 90 percent. RGGI states have seen ratepayer prices drop by 5.7 percent, even as the rest of the nation saw increases of 8.6 percent.

In Virginia, the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act, passed in 2020, directs 50% of RGGI revenue to low-income energy efficiency programs, 45% to flood resiliency projects, and 5% to administrative costs and statewide climate change planning. In Virginia's first year of participation in RGGI, the Commonwealth received \$228 million from RGGI auctions. These proceeds are already being used to create more energy-efficient, affordable hous-

ing units, help low-income families reduce energy bills, and enhance community flood prevention and protection.

HB 1301 passed the House of Delegates on a 52-48 party line vote, and was defeated in the Senate Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources Committee, 8-7, mirroring SB 532's defeat in that same committee two weeks prior.

## **Good Government**

### **Limiting Voter Registration Opportunities**

*House Bill 185 – Del. Margaret Ransone*  
*(R-Westmoreland)*  
*Virginia LCV Position: Oppose*

This legislation would have repealed Virginia law permitting same-day voter registration, and is one of nearly two dozen bills introduced to roll back measures to expand voting access that passed in 2020 and 2021. In order to provide time for technical updates needed to Virginia Department of Elections equipment and procedures, same-day voter registration is scheduled to go into effect this year.

Expanded access to voter registration is just one of several recent steps making it easier to vote, and making voting possible during the pandemic. These measures included extending the absentee voting window to 45 days, allowing voters to vote absentee without providing an excuse, and contactless drop-boxes. These measures led to a 20 percent increase in voter turnout in the 2021 gubernatorial election when compared to 2017.

HB 185 was combined with three other identical or closely-related bills, and passed the House on a 52-47 partisan vote. Democrats in the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee defeated the bill on a 9-6 vote, alongside other short-sighted attacks on voting rights.



## Enabling Executive Exemption to Safety and Environmental Regulations

*House Bill 208 – Del. Michael Webert (R-Fauquier)*

*Senate Bill 712 – Sen. Bill Stanley (R-Franklin County)*

*Virginia LCV Position: Oppose*

This legislation would have created an executive agency with the power to exempt business products, processes, or services from state laws or regulations. This would have shifted primary oversight of regulatory safeguards – including analyzing the risk level to the health, safety, and financial wellbeing of citizens – to an economic development agency.

It would also have reduced the role of agencies such as the Department of Health and Department of Environmental Quality, to a consultant capacity. Further, this legislation would report harm to the health, safety, or financial wellbeing of a consumer, but not require broader assessment of any public health impacts, or air or water quality impacts caused by the exemption to laws or regulations. Also, if passed, the bill stipulated that these exemptions and the reasons for granting them could be conducted behind closed doors.

HB 208 advanced from the

House General Laws Committee on a 13-8 vote, but was tabled unanimously in House Appropriations. SB 712 was advanced from the Senate General Laws and Technology Committee, but failed to advance in the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee.

## Removing Authority of Citizen Boards

*Senate Bill 657 – Sen. Richard Stuart (R-King George)*

*Virginia LCV Position: Oppose*

This legislation strips Virginia's regulatory citizen boards, including the State Air Pollution Control Board and State Water Control Board, of permitting authority. This legislation originated as a response to the Air Pollution Control Board decision where the Board properly applied the Virginia Environmental Justice Act in its denial of a natural gas compressor station permit in Chatham, Virginia due to its clear disproportionate impact to adjacent disadvantaged communities.

Virginia's State Water Control Board and State Air Board often served as the last line of defense when promulgated regulations lacked clear guidance or a project was being considered in a vulnerable community. These appointed bodies play critical

roles in ensuring that the Commonwealth's citizens have a meaningful voice in protecting Virginia's natural resources. While elected members of the General Assembly enact environmental laws that agencies implement through regulations and permits, Virginia's regulatory boards uniquely ensure that Virginians—volunteer members from the public—engage in meaningful decision-making that shapes the specific rules and permits designed to protect our air, water, lands, and communities.

When it became clear that the intent of the legislature was to strip citizen boards of their permitting authority, advocates worked diligently with the patron of the bill and members of the Senate to amend this legislation to at least retain the transparency that citizen boards promote, by ensuring that the most important environmental decisions continue to be made in full public view. The lopsided Senate vote reflects the custom of the Senate that compels a member to vote in favor of legislation when the patron agrees to amend a bill in a manner which that member supports.

This legislation, as amended, passed the Virginia Senate on a 32-8 vote and passed the House of Delegates 51-47 with Del. Matt Fariss (R-Campbell) joining Democrats in opposition.



Over the past few years, Virginia has moved from the bottom-of-the-pack to become a national leader in climate, conservation and clean energy. This year, we continued to build on that progress, as Virginia created thousands of clean energy jobs, increased clean energy deployment and invested in frontline communities that have been most impacted by pollution and climate change. I'm proud that the Senate defended the Virginia Clean Economy Act, and stopped attempts to undermine Virginia's climate progress, as so well outlined in Virginia LCV's 2022 Conservation Scorecard.

Sen. Jennifer McClellan,  
Senate District 9





“Virginia LCV’s Scorecard is an invaluable resource for Virginians who care about our environment and want to see their lawmakers prioritize clean air, clean water and protected lands. I’m incredibly proud of the work Virginia LCV does to advance strong environmental policies while holding elected officials accountable.”

Dana Krauskopf,  
Virginia LCV Board  
Chair and owner of  
Hamanasi eco-resort

## Ridding Virginia’s Constitution of Jim Crow Barriers to Voting

*Senate Joint Resolution 1 – Sen.*

*Mamie Locke (D-Hampton)*

*House Joint Resolution 9 – Del.*

*Mike Cherry (R-Colonial Heights)*

*Virginia LCV Position: Support*

This legislation would allow voters to decide if people convicted of felonies and who have served their time should have their voting rights automatically restored once they are released. Currently, the governor decides whose rights are restored, and when.

The stipulation requiring the governor’s approval, dates back to a Jim Crow-era version of the constitution passed in 1902 that also included literacy tests and poll taxes. All three measures were explicitly introduced to limit representation of Black Virginians through “discrimination within the letter of the law, and not in violation of the law” according to the drafter, former U.S. Senator Carter Glass.

The proposed constitutional amendment was approved by the Virginia General Assembly last year when Democrats had majorities in both chambers. Under Virginia law, a constitutional amendment can only go before the voters if it is approved in two consecutive General Assembly sessions that are divided by an

election for the House of Delegates.

SJ 1 passed the Senate on a bipartisan 24-16 vote, but was defeated in a House Privileges and Elections subcommittee. A version of this legislation introduced by Del. Mike Cherry (R-Colonial Heights) was also defeated in the same subcommittee.

## Blocking Governor Youngkin’s Toxic Pick for Natural Resources

*Senate Joint Resolution 84 – Sen.*

*Adam Ebbin (D-Alexandria)*

*Virginia LCV Position: Support*

This legislation removed Andrew Wheeler, a former coal lobbyist and EPA director under President Donald Trump, from consideration for Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources.

The Governor’s cabinet is approved by the General Assembly. Secretaries are submitted to the Privileges and Elections Committees in both bodies for consideration. Amendments made to SJ 84 took the rare step of declining to approve Wheeler’s selection for this Cabinet post, which oversees five agencies that protect and restore the Commonwealth’s natural and historic resources, including the Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Depart-

ment of Wildlife Resources.

Virginia LCV was at the helm of the opposition to this nomination, shining a steady light on his record as a coal lobbyist and at Trump’s EPA, where Wheeler worked to dismantle the Clean Power Plan, limit coal ash clean up, and erode regulations protecting Americans from toxic mercury pollution. He also backed a 90 percent reduction in Bay cleanup funding, suppressed climate science, and silenced key scientists or replaced them with industry insiders. A cohort of more than 150 former and current EPA employees registered their opposition to Wheeler, as well, in a letter to the full Senate.

The Senate approved the committee amendment removing Wheeler’s name from consideration on a 21-19 party-line vote.

The implications of this legislative fight loomed large throughout session, with the House of Delegates rejecting several of former Governor Northam’s appointments as retaliation as part of a continuing bicameral tit-for-tat. Governor Youngkin would also veto several of the bill patron Sen. Adam Ebbin’s (D-Alexandria) bills in retaliation for carrying this legislation and his role in blocking four of Youngkin’s picks for the Parole Board (we go into more detail on this in the gubernatorial rankings section).



# Land Conservation

## Preserving Black, Indigenous and People of Color Historic Sites

*House Bill 141 – Del. Delores McQuinn (D-Richmond City)*  
*Senate Bill 158 – Sen. Ghazala Hashmi (D-Chesterfield)*  
*Virginia LCV Position: Support*

This legislation establishes a dedicated fund to award grants for the preservation of archaeological sites associated with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). The budget approved by the General Assembly includes \$5 million in grant funds provided for this program, as well as for a grant project coordinator to manage the program and other state and federal grants.

Traditionally, historic sites and resources important to underrepresented communities have not been prioritized for state conservation grant funding. The BIPOC Preservation Fund will help to ensure the preservation of these sites. Perpetual easements will ensure that the Commonwealth remains a partner in the long-term conservation of these important sites.

HB 141 was approved unanimously by both bodies of the General Assembly. Surprisingly, identical legislation, SB 158 only

passed the Senate 30-10, before going on to receive unanimous support in the House. Governor Northam's introduced budget proposal dedicated \$10 million to this fund. The General Assembly agreed to fund the initiative, but the final amount approved was reduced to \$5 million.

## Expanding Land Conservation Funds to Virginia Indian Tribes

*Senate Bill 31 – Sen. Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax County)*  
*Virginia LCV Position: Support*

Established in 1999, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation funds preservation of open spaces and parklands, lands of historical or cultural significance, farmlands, forests, and natural areas. From its inception to 2020, VLCF leveraged over \$76.6 million to protect more than 179,000 acres across Virginia.

This legislation helps Virginia Indian Tribes restore their homelands and conserve them for future generations by making them eligible for grants. It also increases tribal representation, requiring at least one citizen member of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees be a member of a state- or federally-recognized Virginia Indian Tribe.

Senator Marsden's initial proposal would have also made an additional series of modest

changes, including replacing the current funding formula with dedicated funding of \$40 million per year, added flexibility to requirements for funded projects, and required the board to better meet the needs of underserved communities. However, these changes were largely removed from the bill that passed the General Assembly, and the bill was further reduced in scope by amendments introduced by Governor Youngkin.

SB 31 passed the Senate 33-6, and cleared the House unanimously.

## Establishing Dedicated Funding for Virginia State Parks

*Senate Bill 545 – Sen. Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax County)*  
*Virginia LCV Position: Support*

Despite tourism being the second largest driver of our economy and a dramatic increase in park attendance as Virginians sought outdoor recreation opportunities during the pandemic, our state parks are underfunded by \$111.4 million per year, and Virginia is one of only 14 states that do not have a source of dedicated funding for their parks.

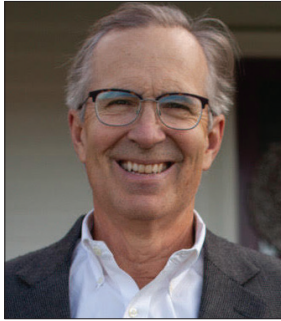
This legislation would have granted annual admission for all Virginians to every state park through a \$5 fee on private vehicle registrations. In addition to raising



I'm so thankful as a voter, that Virginia LCV gives me insight into how our decision-makers have voted on legislation that will be consequential to how we set the landscape up for the next generation. The Scorecard helps create an easy button for understanding if current decisions are in line with my support for preserving open space, and opportunities for cleaner energy and healthier, more equitable communities.

**Dana Wiggins, Chair,  
Virginia LCV Education  
Fund Board of Directors,  
and Director of Outreach  
and Consumer Advocacy,  
The Virginia Poverty Law  
Center**





The transparency that Virginia LCV's Conservation Scorecard brings to the legislative process is key to determining who the true conservationists are at the state legislature. Virginia needs this level of accountability; every Virginian deserves to know if their senator and delegate are prioritizing a clean and healthy environment, and whether their legislators deserve continued support - or deserve to be replaced by elected officials who value Virginia's clean air, clean water, protected lands and safe climate future.

**Dick Raines,**  
Virginia LCV Board  
Member and former  
Carfax CEO

\$30 million for our parks, it would have granted Virginians unlimited fee-free access to our parks and natural resource areas.

SB 545 failed to advance from the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee on a tie vote, 7-7, with one abstention.

### **Funding Wildlife Corridor Development**

*Senate Bill 707 – Sen. Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax County)*  
*Virginia LCV Position: Support*

This legislation sought to establish a Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund.

Habitat preservation is key to conserving Virginia's wildlife, but this is threatened by development as Virginia maintains the third-largest state-maintained highway system in the country. As temperature and precipitation patterns shift as a result of climate change, wildlife is being driven to higher altitudes and higher latitudes to find adequate food, water and shelter.

Without adequate wildlife corridors to allow animals to travel across their habitat, more than 60,000 deer-related crashes occur within the state each year costing approximately \$533 million in damages annually. Protecting wildlife corridors and improving habitat connectivity by planning for wildlife crossings led to a 98 percent reduction in wildlife-vehicle collisions at a

study site in Virginia.

This initiative would have built upon a successful bipartisan effort in 2021 that established the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan which directed the Commonwealth to identify important wildlife corridors and road crossings.

SB 707 passed the Senate 29-10, and passed the House Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources Committee 20-2 before being defeated on a 12-10 vote in the House Appropriations Committee.

## **Land Use and Transportation**

### **Expanding Low-Income and Zero Fare Transit Ridership Programs**

*Senate Bill 342 – Sen. George Barker (D-Fairfax County)*  
*House Bill 142 – Del. Delores McQuinn (D-Richmond City)*  
*Virginia LCV Position: Support*

The Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) provides grants to improve regional transit connectivity and reduce barriers to transit use by supporting low-income and zero-fare programs. Prior to passage of this legislation, the law only allowed a maximum 25 percent of program funding to be used for low-income and zero-fare

programs. Yet there has been much greater demand for these fare reduction initiatives thus far, in part due to changing needs during the pandemic.

This legislation allows greater flexibility to distribute funding between the two programs, while ensuring a minimum of 25 percent of funds are directed to low-income and zero-fare programs.

This legislation passed the House of Delegates on a 92-8 vote, and passed the Senate 30-10. Despite overwhelming bipartisan support, Governor Youngkin introduced a sunset clause, meaning that this expansion of access to funding to popular low-income and zero-fare programs will expire on July 1, 2024 without future action by the legislature.

### **Preserving Access to Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure**

*House Bill 450 – Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (D-Alexandria)*  
*Senate Bill 278 – Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-Alexandria)*  
*Virginia LCV Position: Support*

As introduced, this legislation would have protected access to public electric vehicle charging stations by prohibiting a person from parking non-electric vehicles (EVs) in a space reserved for charging EVs and establishing consistent signage at charging locations. Violators would have faced a \$50 fine.





Photo Credit: **Heading South** by Linda Schmiel of Midlothian | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

HB450 passed the House 73-24 and passed the Senate 28-12.

This legislation was amended by Governor Youngkin to reduce the fine to \$25 and to change the bill to only allow parking of a vehicle at a charging station while actively charging. Unfortunately, this amendment was not discussed during the legislative session, with experts, or legislators, and will

likely cause enforcement difficulties. Currently, there is no way for an officer to determine whether an EV plugged into the charging station is actively charging, or has completed charging. Rather than risk a veto, the legislature approved this amendment, and HB450 is now law.

The Senate companion bill was vetoed outright.

## Protecting Vulnerable Road Users

*House Bill 920 – Del. Terry Kilgore (R-Scott)*

*Senate Bill 247 – Sen. Scott Surovell (D-Fairfax)*

*Virginia LCV Position: Support*

Pedestrian injuries and fatalities in Virginia have steadily increased over the last couple of decades.

In 2019, there were 1,625 vehicle crashes involving pedestrians, and 124 were fatal. These deaths accounted for 15 percent of all fatalities on Virginia’s roadways. During the first years of the pandemic, despite decreased road use, motor vehicle-pedestrian accidents continued to rise.

This legislation expands on earlier efforts to protect cyclists and pedestrians, termed “vulnerable road users,” that share roadways with automobiles. Previous legislation established legal protections for those walking and riding by making careless driving that results in injury of a vulnerable road user a Class 1 misdemeanor. However, this prior bill was silent on collisions that result in the death of a vulnerable road user. HB 920 and SB 247 expand these protections to make careless driving that results in the death of a vulnerable road user a Class 1 misdemeanor as well.

House Bill 920 and Senate Bill 247 passed both chambers unanimously.

## Reducing Transportation and Transit Revenue

*House Bill 1144 – Del. Michael Webert (R-Fauquier)*

*Virginia LCV Position: Oppose*

This legislation would have lowered the gas tax by \$0.05 cents per gallon, reducing costs





“Virginia LCV supports policies that make life better for all Virginians, and their Scorecard ensures legislators take climate change seriously. As a result, Virginia is the leading the Southeast and mid-Atlantic in efforts to mitigate climate change. Virginia LCV is a big reason Virginia can and will continue to lead moving forward.”

**Brian Jenkins, State  
Director of Virginia,  
Energy Foundation**

to out-of-state drivers and increasing oil company profits while passing only marginal savings on to Virginians. However, the loss in revenue would result in a \$28.2 million reduction in transit funding and a \$9.2 million reduction in rail funding.

Every penny in the statewide gas tax results in about \$50 million in transportation funding. These funds support roadway construction and maintenance in addition to infrastructure, public transit, rail, and other services that result in safe, clean, and reliable transportation. If the increase over the past year was repealed or suspended, it would lead to a \$250 million reduction in transportation funding.

Despite the need for transportation funding, four bills were introduced in the House of Delegates to reduce the gas tax, as well as a bill proposed by Governor Youngkin to repeal the gas tax for three months. None of this legislation provided a mechanism to supplement the lost funding, nor accounted for increased construction and labor costs for transportation caused by inflationary pressures, supply chain-induced shortages, or the possibility of a recession.

HB 1144 passed the House of Delegates on a party-line vote and was defeated in the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee.

## **Eliminating Clean Cars Standards**

*House Bill 1267 – Del. Tony Wilt  
(R-Rockingham)*

*Senate Bill 695 – Sen. Richard  
Stuart (R-King George)*

*Virginia LCV Position: Oppose*

This legislation would eliminate or unreasonably delay the Air Board’s authority to adopt Clean Car standards.

Current Virginia law requires the State Air Pollution Control Board to adopt Clean Car standards to control tailpipe emissions from cars and light-duty trucks. These standards, adopted in December of 2021, are one of the best tools available to curb transportation pollution. Transportation is the largest source of carbon pollution in Virginia, and most of these emissions come from cars and light-duty trucks. It is also a leading source of other harmful air pollutants.

Maintaining these cleaner air quality standards will provide many other benefits—including improved public health and equity, and economic growth. Without Clean Cars standards, purchasing an electric vehicle in Virginia would remain prohibitively difficult for most consumers.

House Bill 1267 passed the House of Delegates on a party-line vote of 52-48. This bill was defeated when it came before the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and

Natural Resources Committee on a party-line vote, 7-8. SB 695 was also voted down 7-8 in the same Senate committee.

## **Electrifying State Fleet Vehicles**

*Senate Bill 575 – Sen. Monty  
Mason (D-Williamsburg)*

*Virginia LCV Position: Support*

This legislation would transition fleet vehicles owned and operated by the Commonwealth to electric vehicles, reducing carbon pollution while saving taxpayer funds. Because government vehicles tend to accumulate more vehicle miles every year than average, electrifying them is an especially effective way to reduce carbon pollution and the cost of fuel to taxpayers.

This bill requires the use of a total cost of ownership calculator that compares the lifetime cost of purchasing a new vehicle that runs on gas or diesel against the lifetime cost of shifting to an electric vehicle. Accurately accounting for cost savings over the life of the vehicle makes adoption of an EV much more likely. Charging an EV in Virginia costs 63 percent less than fueling an equivalent gas-powered vehicle. Maintenance costs of EVs are three times lower than for gas vehicles in the first 3 years alone. Also, emergency vehicles are exempted from this requirement and agencies can apply



for a waiver for special use cases.

SB 575 passed the House and Senate unanimously. The bill was amended by Governor Youngkin without stakeholder consultation. The legislature accepted a minor amendment to the bill that removed a requirement that the Department of General Services produce fleet guidelines or regulations for other agencies – addressing concerns of the Attorney General.

The House and Senate rejected additional amendments that, due to poor legal construction, would have unintentionally limited the ability of agencies to adopt EVs. The bill was then signed into law by the governor.

### **Funding Equitable EV Charging Station Installation**

*Senate Bill 708 – Sen. Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax County)  
Virginia LCV Position: Support*

This legislation establishes a Driving Decarbonization Program and Fund to encourage more widespread installation of EV charging across the Commonwealth.

The program would generally provide up to \$20 million in grants each year to fund up to 50% of private developers' non-utility costs of EV charger installation. The program would also contribute to more equitable charging access by reserving \$5 million of this funding

annually for grants in historically economically disadvantaged communities, as well as offering increased grants of up to 70 percent of the developer's non-utility costs for charger installation in these areas.

SB 708 passed the Senate, 26-14, and the House Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee, 15-7, with bipartisan support. Unfortunately, the bill was defeated 12-10 in the House Appropriations Committee.

## **Water Quality**

### **Implementing Resilience & Flood Prevention Measures**

*House Bill 516 – Del. David Bulova (D-Fairfax County)  
Senate Bill 551 – Sen. Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax County)  
Virginia LCV Position: Support*

This legislation is part of a comprehensive suite of bills proposed by the Chesapeake Bay Commission intended to expand resiliency planning across the entire Commonwealth and improve community outreach.

Specifically, these bills implement recommendations from the first Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan. They clarify that Virginia's Chief Resilience Officer will oversee development of both plans, allowing for leadership and

comprehensive implementation of statewide flood mitigation and protection programs. They also establish the Virginia Coastal Resilience Technical Advisory Committee to assist with the updates and require the development of a community outreach and engagement plan to ensure meaningful involvement by affected and vulnerable community residents by the end of 2022.

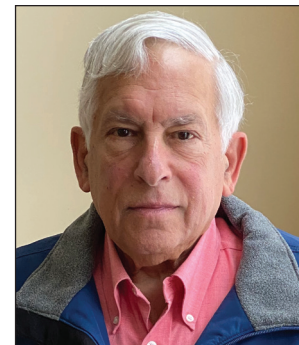
HB 516 passed the House of Delegates unanimously, and cleared the Senate with strong bipartisan support, 27-12. SB 551 passed both bodies with similar margins.

### **Establishing the Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund**

*House Bill 1309 – Del. David Bulova (D-Fairfax County)  
Senate Bill 756 – Sen. Lynwood Lewis (D-Accomack)  
Virginia LCV Position: Support*

This legislation establishes a \$25 million revolving loan fund for property owners and government entities to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multi-hazard threats with minimum damage to social wellbeing, health, the economy, and the environment.

The creation of the Resilient Revolving Loan Fund serves as another tool in the resilience toolbox to secure federal funds, and is a candidate for the allocation of



Virginia was a leader at the start of the Republic. We are once again a leader in achieving the highest standards for clean air, safe drinking water, a healthy Bay, flowing rivers and streams, land conservation and “best practices” approaches to remedy the climate crisis. Virginia LCV’s Conservation Scorecard will ensure we stay a national leader in the the years and decades ahead!

**Loren Hershey, Virginia LCV Honorary Council Member, former Virginia LCV Board Member**





Photo Credit: **Wachapreague Sunset** by Jeremy Grant of Onancock | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

dedicated funding additional general fund revenues in the future.

Unfortunately, while an allocation of \$25 million was required to access Federal Storm Act funding, this funding was obtained by raiding the Community Flood Preparedness Fund, rather than the allocation of additional monies toward resilience.

As a recommendation of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, HB 1309 received broad bipartisan support in the House, passing on a 74-26 vote before passing the Virginia Senate unanimously.

### **Conserving Tree Canopy During Development**

*Senate Bill 537 – Sen. Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax County)*

*Virginia LCV Position: Support*

An estimated 50,000 acres of forest and non-urban tree canopy are converted to other land uses per year in Virginia due to timber harvest, urbanization, agricultural expansion, and other drivers. These land use changes, particularly in urban and suburban localities, hinder Virginia's

ability to reduce stormwater runoff and achieve its "Watershed Implementation Plan" commitments to restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

This legislation extends a framework to conserve tree canopy during development that was formerly limited to just the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

As introduced, the legislation represented a comprehensive compromise between water and land conservationists and developers to provide a tree fund to support tree canopy expansion on private land, as well as develop a tree bank, that would provide for replacement of tree canopy within the bounds of a locality, if tree canopy requirements could not be met onsite.

Despite the compromise nature of the introduced bill, the version introduced by Del. Bulova was defeated in a House subcommittee. After the introduced version of Senate Bill 537 passed the Virginia Senate on a bipartisan 24-15 vote, the bill was limited in scope in the House to simply extend the tree canopy preservation framework available in the Chesapeake Bay watershed statewide. This pared down version passed the House of Delegates on a 77-18 vote.



# House Scorecard

✓ = Patron Credit

	Delegate	District	Party	2022 Score	2021 Score	Career Score Since 2000	HB73	HB74	HB118	HB206	HB1301	SB290	HB185	HB208	SB657	HB141	SB31	SB707	HB142	HB450	HB920	HB1144	HB1267	SB575	SB708	HB1309	SB537	SB551
	Adams, D.	68	D	100%	100%	99%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AB	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Adams, L.	16	R	39%	12%	32%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	X	✓	X	X	✓		X	X	✓
	Anderson	83	R	56%	N/A	56%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Austin	19	R	45%	17%	39%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓
	Avoli	20	R	56%	36%	39%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Bagby	74	D	100%	100%	99%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Ballard	12	R	50%	N/A	50%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	X	✓	X	X	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Batten	96	R	33%	12%	23%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		X	X	✓	X	X	✓		X	X	✓
	Bell	58	R	44%	8%	32%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		X	X	✓
✓	Bennett-Parker	45	D	100%	N/A	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Bloxom	100	R	50%	56%	50%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
	Bourne	71	D	100%	100%	99%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Brewer	64	R	32%	8%	24%	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X	✓
✓	Bulova	37	D	100%	100%	97%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Byron	22	R	39%	4%	33%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	X	✓	X	X	✓		X	X	✓
	Campbell, J.	6	R	45%	13%	31%	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓		✓	X	✓	X	X	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Campbell, R.	24	R	50%	8%	32%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		✓	X	✓
	Carr	69	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	Cherry	66	R	53%	N/A	53%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		X	✓	✓
	Clark	79	D	100%	N/A	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Convirs-Fowler	21	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		NV	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Cordoza	91	R	44%	N/A	44%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	X	✓	X	X	✓		✓	X	✓
	Coyner	62	R	43%	48%	42%	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	NV	✓
	Davis	84	R	50%	36%	43%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
	Delaney	67	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Durant	28	R	47%	N/A	47%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	NV		X	✓	✓
	Edmunds	60	R	50%	44%	49%	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Fariss	59	R	42%	22%	37%	X	X	X	X	X		X		✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	NV	✓
	Filler-Corn	41	D	100%	100%	99%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Fowler	55	R	47%	21%	39%	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓		✓	NV	✓	X	X	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Freitas	30	R	33%	8%	21%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		X	X	✓	X	X	✓		X	X	✓
	Gilbert	15	R	44%	0%	26%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	X	✓	X	X	✓		X	✓	✓
	Glass	89	D	100%	N/A	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓



✓ = right X = wrong NV = Not Voting AB = Abstained

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Delegate	District	Party	2022 Score	2021 Score	Career Score <small>Since 2000</small>	HB73	HB74	HB118	HB206	HB1301	SB290	HB185	HB208	SB657	HB141	SB31	SB707	HB142	HB450	HB920	HB1144	HB1267	SB575	SB708	HB1309	SB537	SB551
Gooditis	10	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Greenhalgh	85	R	50%	N/A	50%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		X	✓	✓
Guzman	31	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Hayes	77	D	100%	100%	97%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Head	17	R	44%	17%	31%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	X	✓	X	X	✓		X	✓	✓
Helmer	40	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Herring	46	D	100%	100%	98%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Hodges	98	R	50%	24%	42%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Hope	47	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Hudson	57	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Jenkins	76	D	100%	96%	99%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Keam	35	D	100%	100%	99%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		NV	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Kilgore	1	R	47%	17%	37%	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	NV	✓	X	X	✓		✓	NV	✓
Knight	81	R	36%	16%	35%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Kory	38	D	94%	100%	99%	✓	X	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Krizek	44	D	100%	100%	99%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LaRock	33	R	39%	12%	30%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		X	X	✓	X	X	✓		X	✓	✓
Leftwich	78	R	45%	29%	41%	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		✓	X	✓
Lopez	49	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Maldonado	50	D	100%	N/A	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
March	7	R	33%	N/A	33%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		X	X	✓	X	X	✓		X	X	✓
Marshall	14	R	40%	20%	36%	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
McGuire	56	R	33%	8%	24%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		X	X	✓	X	X	✓		X	X	✓
McNamara	8	R	39%	29%	29%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	X	✓	X	X	✓		X	X	✓
McQuinn	70	D	100%	100%	96%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Morefield	3	R	41%	20%	35%	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Mullin	93	D	100%	100%	99%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Mundon King	2	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Murphy	34	D	100%	96%	99%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
O'Quinn	5	R	50%	16%	35%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	X	✓	X	X	✓		✓	✓	✓
Orrock	54	R	56%	16%	43%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		✓	✓	✓
Plum	36	D	100%	100%	96%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Price	95	D	100%	100%	99%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Ransone	99	R	39%	8%	27%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	X	✓	X	X	✓		X	X	✓
Rasoul	11	D	100%	96%	95%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



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Delegate	District	Party	2022 Score	2021 Score	Career Score <small>Since 2000</small>	HB73	HB74	HB118	HB206	HB1301	SB290	HB185	HB208	SB657	HB141	SB31	SB707	HB142	HB450	HB920	HB1144	HB1267	SB575	SB708	HB1309	SB537	SB551			
Reid	32	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Robinson	27	R	40%	16%	38%	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓		✓	X	✓	X	X	✓		X	✓	✓			
Roem	13	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Runion	25	R	45%	38%	37%	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		✓	X	✓			
Scott, D.	80	D	100%	96%	99%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Scott, P.	88	R	25%	N/A	25%	X	X	X	NV	X		X		X	✓	✓		X	X	✓	X	X	✓		X	X	NV			
Sewell	51	D	100%	N/A	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Shin	86	D	100%	N/A	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Sickles	43	D	100%	96%	97%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Simon	53	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Simonds	94	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
✓ Subramanyam	87	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	AB	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Sullivan	48	D	100%	100%	99%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Tata	82	R	50%	N/A	50%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		X	✓	✓			
Taylor	63	R	56%	N/A	56%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Torian	52	D	95%	92%	92%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Tran	42	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
VanValkenburg	72	D	100%	100%	99%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Wachsmann	75	R	56%	N/A	56%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Walker	23	R	45%	16%	25%	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		X	✓	✓			
Wampler	4	R	32%	9%	19%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓			
Ward	92	D	100%	100%	92%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Ware	65	R	50%	48%	50%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		✓	X	✓			
Watts	39	D	100%	100%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
✓ Webert	18	R	39%	15%	43%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	NV		X	X	✓	X	X	✓		✓	X	✓			
Wiley	29	R	50%	28%	37%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		X	✓	✓			
Willett	73	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Williams	9	R	44%	N/A	44%	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		X	✓	✓			
Williams Graves	90	D	100%	96%	98%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Wilt	26	R	56%	28%	39%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Wright	61	R	30%	0%	35%	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓		X	X	✓	X	X	✓		X	X	✓			
Wyatt	97	R	40%	16%	25%	X	X	X	✓	X		X		X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓			
Average			71%																											



## Senate Scorecard

✓ = Patron Credit

V = Patron Credit																																													
	Senator	District	Party	2022 Score	2021 Score	Career Score (Since 2000)	HB73	HB74	HB118	HB206	HB1301	SB290	HB185	SB657	SB712	SJ1	SJ84	HB141	SB31	SB545	SB707	HB920	HB1144	HB1267	SB278	SB342	SB575	SB708	HB1309	SB537	SB551														
✓	Barker	39	D	95%	86%	87%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			X	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
	Bell	13	D	95%	95%	97%	X	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
	Boysko	33	D	100%	100%	100%				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
	Chase	11	R	40%	5%	34%				✓		X				X	X	✓	X		X	✓			X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X													
	Cosgrove	14	R	67%	16%	44%				✓		X				X	X	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X														
	Deeds	25	D	95%	100%	92%	X	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
	DeSteph	8	R	67%	16%	44%				✓		X				X	X	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X														
	Dunnavant	12	R	67%	27%	49%				✓		X			X	✓	X	✓	✓		NV	✓			✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓													
✓	Ebbin	30	D	100%	100%	98%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
	Edwards	21	D	95%	86%	85%	X	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
✓	Favola	31	D	100%	100%	99%				✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
	Hackworth	38	R	50%	N/A	50%				✓	X	X	X	X		X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓		X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓													
	Hanger	24	R	70%	47%	51%				✓	X	X		X		✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
✓	Hashmi	10	D	100%	100%	98%				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
	Howell	32	D	100%	100%	92%				✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
	Kiggans	7	R	50%	32%	36%				✓		X			X	X	X	✓	✓		X	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X													
✓	Lewis	6	D	96%	86%	88%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		X		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
✓	Locke	2	D	100%	100%	92%				✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
	Lucas	18	D	100%	86%	83%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
✓	Marsden	37	D	100%	86%	89%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
✓	Mason	1	D	96%	91%	96%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
	McClellan	9	D	100%	100%	99%				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	AB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
	McDougle	4	R	50%	11%	41%				✓		X	X			X	X	✓	✓		X	✓			X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓													
	McPike	29	D	100%	100%	100%				✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		NV	✓	NV													
	Morrissey	16	D	95%	95%	93%				✓	✓	✓		X		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
	Newman	23	R	47%	18%	36%	X	X	X	✓		X				X	X	✓	✓		X	✓	X		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X													
	Norment	3	R	53%	27%	48%			X	✓		X				X	X	✓	✓		X	✓	X		✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓													
	Obenshain	26	R	32%	9%	32%	✓	X	X	✓	X	X		X		X	X	✓	X	X	X	✓		X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	X													
	Peake	22	R	44%	21%	35%				✓		X	X			X	X	✓	X		X	✓			✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	X													
	Petersen	34	D	95%	95%	91%				✓	✓	✓		X		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
	Pillion	40	R	63%	33%	42%				✓		X			X	X	X	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓													
	Reeves	17	R	41%	11%	36%				✓		X	X		X	X	X	✓	X		X	✓			X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓													
	Ruff	15	R	41%	16%	36%				✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓													



						Energy & Climate						Good Government					Land Conservation				Land Use & Transportation							Water Quality			
Senator	District	Party	2022 Score	2021 Score	Career Score <small>(Since 2000)</small>	HB73	HB74	HB118	HB206	HB1301	SB290	HB185	SB657	SB712	SJ1	SJ84	HB141	SB31	SB545	SB707	HB920	HB1144	HB1267	SB278	SB342	SB575	SB708	HB1309	SB537	SB551	
Saslaw	35	D	100%	86%	80%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spruill	5	D	100%	86%	79%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stanley	20	R	42%	21%	40%				✓	X	X		X		X	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓		X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Stuart	28	R	45%	22%	48%				✓	X	X		X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓		X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Suetterlein	19	R	32%	6%	31%				✓	X	X		X		X	X	✓	X	X	X	✓		X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
✓ Surovell	36	D	95%	86%	93%	X	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	AB		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Vogel	27	R	76%	58%	75%				NV		✓	X		X	✓	X	✓	✓		✓	✓	X		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Average:			76%	61%																											

Photo Credit: **Blue Grass Road** by Michael Bedwell of Monterey | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia





# Youngkin gets 'F' in first conservation ranking

In his first few months on the job, Governor Glenn Youngkin (R) has done little to advance environmental protection, focusing instead on rolling back important environmental safeguards, while appointing individuals with deep ties to the fossil fuel industry to his administration and to important regulatory posts.

Furthermore, Gov. Youngkin has shown little interest in working with the legislature to find common ground; instead he's proven to be incredibly uncollaborative, even with members of his own party, and used the bully pulpit of his office to pick political fights, killing bipartisan legislation as retribution to the bills' patrons, while ignoring the actual policy considerations.

With three and a half years left in his term, we sincerely hope better days are ahead. However, Gov. Youngkin's hostility to sound environmental policy and his lack of leadership in just a short several months has earned him a grade of "F" in our first rankings of this Administration.



## Rankings Overview

- Environmental Agenda **F**
- Executive Actions **F**
- Appointments **F**
- Legislative Actions **D**
- Leadership & Governance **F**

## Environmental Agenda

Grade: F

*Justification: Youngkin's legislative agenda lacked substance, didn't match up to statements he made on the campaign trail, and was accordingly defeated.*

On the campaign trail, Youngkin gave very little attention to the environment. While acknowledging when he was forced to in a televised interview that we have a “climate challenge” and that “all living beings” play a role, he mentioned few of what could be considered environmental priorities. These included: addressing the combined sewer overflow problems that plague the James and Potomac Rivers, leading to excess pollution in these tributaries and the Chesapeake Bay that they flow into (this was the topic of a political mailer where Youngkin attacked his opponent and claimed his administration would fix this issue), and addressing flooding along the coast.

Youngkin's 2022 legislative agenda included a bill (House Bill 847 and Senate Bill 569) that would have created the Coastal Virginia Resilience Authority to oversee the Community Flood Prevention Fund, legislation the environmental community opposed and defeated on the grounds that it created an unnecessary, duplicative and burdensome layer of bureaucracy and would have taken resources away from inland, flood-prone communities, as flooding is not just a coastal issue here in Virginia.

The Administration also pushed a bill (House Bill 1144 and Senate Bill 541) to reduce the tax levied on gas and diesel, legislation that we opposed and scored this year that would have deprived the Commonwealth of transportation and mass transit funding while returning little



A car drives through a flooded Norfolk street in May 2020 after several days of rain and heavy tidal flooding. The Youngkin Administration has been working to eliminate one of our best tools to help localities address flooding by moving to pull Virginia out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Photo Credit: Aileen Devlin | Virginia Sea Grant via Flickr.

savings back to Virginians. Youngkin worked to push the same flawed policy through an additional bill in the special session and through the budget process.

## Executive Actions

Grade: F

*Justification: All four of Youngkin's Executive Actions dealing with the environment would take us in the wrong direction on clean air, clean water and a safe and healthy environment.*

## RGGI

On his first day in office, Gov. Youngkin issued Executive Order 9, instructing his agencies to “evaluate Virginia’s participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and immediately begin regulatory processes to end it.” This directive, in and of itself a foregone conclusion to what would come next, led to a hastily prepared report overlooking the many benefits of RGGI to Virginia and calling for the repeal of regulations to comply with this proven cap-and-invest program, which is returning hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue to the state each year to protect communities



from the impact of flooding and sea level rise, and to lower the energy burden for our state's lowest income residents.

## Plastics

In April, Gov. Youngkin issued Executive Order 17, overturning a previous Executive Order that instructed state agencies and higher education institutions to reduce their use of single-use plastics, while calling for the need for increased recycling and waste reuse – a worthy goal but counterintuitive in an Executive Order that will result in more plastic waste in our natural environment. Overall, this is a dangerous back-peddling of sound policy intended to protect our environment and health from the danger of plastic pollution.

## Regulatory Rollbacks

In his Executive Order 6, Youngkin claims that “excessive regulation imposes a significant burden on Virginia’s economy,” despite the fact that we were named America’s Top State for Business by CNBC in 2021, going on to direct all Executive Branch entities under his authority to “initiate regulatory processes to reduce by at least 25 percent the number of regulations not mandated by federal or state statute.” The underpinning of this Executive Order was 2018’s House Bill 883, legislation that Virginia LCV opposed



At left: Plastic debris clogs the coast near a water's edge. Plastic pollution poses a severe risk to marine life and our health, as more plastic enters the environment and breaks down, entering ecosystems and never leaving. One of Governor Youngkin's Executive Orders would reverse gains Virginia's government agencies and higher education institutions have made in reducing plastic waste.

Photo Credit: Robert Vicol via Flickr

on several grounds. First, it presented an unnecessary obstacle to the current implementation of rules and regulations that protect public health and the environment; secondly, expert agencies are using sound science and decades of data to develop rules and regulations, and obstructing this process is counter productive; and finally, rules and regulations are already reviewed every few years to ensure that they are working so this legislation wasn't needed in the first place.

On June 30, Youngkin followed up on this order by issuing Executive Order 19 establishing an Office of Regulatory Management tasked with meeting the arbitrary 25-percent benchmark of regulatory reduction.

## Appointments

Grade: F

*Justification: While there are some sensible, respected appointments on this list, Wheeler's initial nomination to the Secretariat and his subsequent appointment to a new post tasked with cutting regulations justifies a grade of "F."*

### Andrew Wheeler, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Head of the Environmental Protection Agency under former President Trump, and before that a coal lobbyist, Wheeler built his career around gutting environmental laws and maximizing windfalls for big polluter industries at the expense of our health, and the health

of our environment, making him one of the worst picks for this post in our Commonwealth's history.

After the legislature rejected this appointment, Youngkin selected Travis Voyles for this post; he now serves as Acting Secretary, until he can be confirmed by the legislature. Hardly the lightning rod that Wheeler is, Voyles most recently served as Oversight Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works under Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W. Va.). To date, this Secretariat's office remains well under-staffed, with no announcements of additional personnel.

Despite having his appointment defeated, Wheeler remained in the Youngkin Administration, first as a Senior Advisor, advising the

Governor on environmental policy, and even appearing in lieu of the Acting Secretary for official business and meetings with stakeholders, and now as the leader of a new Office of Regulatory Management tasked with cutting state regulations by 25 percent.

#### **Matthew Lohr, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry**

A member of the House of Delegates from 2006-2010, Lohr, a Republican, earned a career score of 39 percent from Virginia LCV for his time in office. Lohr was commissioner of Virginia's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services under Gov. Bob McDonnell; most recently Lohr served as Chief of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in the Trump Administration. Lohr is a fifth-generation farmer on a century farm and a native of the Shenandoah Valley. Lohr is considered qualified for this post, was a fairly non-controversial choice for Youngkin's cabinet, and many in the conservation community have a good working relationship with him.

#### **Michael Rolband, Director, Department of Environmental Quality**

Rolband founded Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc. in 1991, is a well-known figure on stormwater management and water quality issues and has helped shape water quality policy in Virginia for a number of years. His appointment was both praised by some in the community, but also criticized for testifying in support of the Mountain Valley Pipeline. As DEQ Director he has so far issued a report on RGGI laying out the beginning of our state's withdrawal from this program and has signaled his agency's intent to expedite an already at times flawed permitting process. With DEQ - and not our citizen-led boards - now in charge

of environmental permits, the power of this post to help or hurt our environment has increased substantially, and we will be watching the actions of DEQ closely.

#### **Matthew Wells, Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation**

As chair of VirginiaForever, a coalition of business and environmental groups that advocates for more funding for conservation, Wells advocated for greater investments in environmental protection at the General Assembly. Although his previous position included government relations for the forestry products company WestRock, Wells is respected within the environmental space and seen as someone we can work with at this post.

#### **Air Pollution Control Board**

In May, Youngkin replaced four members of the Air Board with individuals that have one thing in common: deep ties to the fossil fuel industry, the Virginia Manufacturing Association, or the industries the Air Board would be in charge of regulating.

The appointment process itself was equally troubling. As retribution for rejecting Wheeler's cabinet nomination, House Republicans blocked a number of outgoing Governor Northam's appointments, including his picks for the Air Board, a move that broke precedent and gave Youngkin more appointments earlier in his administration - a move that may come back to hurt them in their last year, and forever politicize these appointments from here on out.

These include:

**James Patrick Guy II**, general counsel for Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative.

**Jay Holloway**, managing partner with Climate Law & Strategy, PLLC; former partner

at Williams Mullen where he represented the Virginia Manufacturers Association in suing over our state's membership in RGGI.

**David Hudgins**, executive director for the Virginia Energy Consumer Trust, a group aligned with fossil fuel interests and the Virginia Manufacturers Association that opposes clean energy; former director of member and external relations for Old Dominion Electric Cooperative.

**Donald L. Ratliff**, president of consultancy Commonwealth Connections Inc., former and current coal lobbyist.

#### **State Water Pollution Control Board**

In the same May decision, Youngkin re-appointed Robert "Bob" Dunn to the Water Board. A former DuPont employee, Dunn chaired the Water Board as it signed off on major permits for both the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley Pipelines. He left the board in 2018 when Gov. Northam declined to reappoint him to the post.

### **Legislative Actions**

*Grade: D*

*Justification: Actions taken into consideration include vetoes of and amendments to legislation and Youngkin's action on the budget. While some of Youngkin's legislative actions took us in the wrong direction, or were nonsensical and arbitrary, environmental priorities were largely spared in the state budget, including funding for the Chesapeake Bay.*

At the conclusion of the 2022 Regular Session, Youngkin sent down over 100 amendments to bills, and 26 vetoes of legislation that had passed with fairly broad bipartisan support. Here are several examples that impacted



environmental priorities:

## Vetoed

### **SB 250 Nonhazardous solid waste management facilities; increases the annual fees.**

This legislation would have increased solid waste fees, giving the Department of Environmental Quality, which has been woefully underfunded for years, an increased stream of revenue. It originally passed the Senate 24-16 and the Republican-controlled House 67-30-1. The Senate took no further action on the bill.

### **SB 278 Parking of vehicles; electric vehicle charging spots, civil penalties.**

This legislation would have imposed up to a \$50 fine to motorists who park non-electric vehicles in designated charging stations for electric vehicles. It passed the legislature with wide bipartisan support. Youngkin weakened the House version but vetoed this bill carried by Sen. Adam Ebbin with no explanation. The Senate voted 22-18 to pass the bill in its enrolled form, which failed to reach the two-thirds majority needed to override the veto.

### **SB 280 Electric utilities, certain; local reliability data provided to a locality upon request.**

SB 280 would require Dominion Energy to provide requesting



Governor Youngkin signs a bill into law on Friday, Apr. 1, 2022. Photo Credit: Christian Martinez, Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin.

localities in their service territory with reliability data within 30 days of a locality making a request. Youngkin vetoed this bill, also carried by Sen. Adam Ebbin, but signed its identical House companion carried by Del. Charniele Herring. The Senate voted 22-18 to pass the bill in its enrolled form, which failed to reach the two-thirds majority needed to override the veto.

### **SB 347 Electric utilities; SCC to establish for certain utilities annual energy efficiency savings targets.**

This bill required the State Corporation Commission to establish for Dominion Energy annual energy efficiency savings targets for customers who are low-income, elderly, disabled, or veterans of military service. This legislation had passed the Senate with no objections and passed out of the House on a wide 74-24 bipartisan margin. The Senate took no further action on the bill.

### **SB 508 Virginia Community Preparedness Fund; shifts administration to Water and Soil Conservation Board.**

This legislation would have shifted control of the Community Flood Preparedness Fund from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to the appointed Soil and Water Conservation Board in an attempt to bring transparency to how the state manages the millions of dollars of revenue it gains from participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. After the Senate unanimously rejected Youngkin's amendments to this legislation to keep DCR in charge of program administration, Youngkin vetoed the bill outright on the last day he had to act, a

process termed a “pocket veto” that prevented the legislature from voting on the bill any further.

## Amendments

### **HB 142 and SB 342 Transit Ridership Incentive Program; amount of funds to be used to establish programs.**

The bill was intended to support the establishment of programs to expand ridership and reduce the impact of transit fares on low-income individuals. It passed the House 92-8 and the Senate 30-10. Youngkin’s amendments to the bill mean these programs will expire in July 2024.

### **HB 450 Parking of vehicles; electric vehicle charging spots, civil penalties.**

Having vetoed the Senate companion bill, which was identical to the House version, Youngkin weakened this bill, lowering from \$50 to \$25 the civil penalty cap for parking a non-EV in an EV charging space, and complicating enforcement by making the penalty also apply to EVs that have finished charging.

### **HB 558 and SB 565 Natural gas, biogas, and other gas sources of energy; definitions, energy conservation.**

This was legislation that Virginia LCV opposed, and Youngkin’s amendments make the bill even worse. As originally passed, the bill would let natural gas companies capture and distribute methane from sources like landfills or farm operations, expanding gas infrastructure without any assurances of actual methane reduction, all while passing costs for new infrastructure on to ratepayers. Youngkin’s amend-

ment removes a “societal cost test” provision in the bill recognizing the negative impact of greenhouse gas emissions to society when considering cost recovery.

### **SB 575 DGS; state fleet managers to use total cost of ownership calculations, report.**

This commonsense bill requires state agencies to take into consideration the long-term cost of ownership for light-duty vehicles, a calculation that often favors electric vehicles due to savings on maintenance and fuel over their internal combustion counterparts. Youngkin’s amendments would have weakened the bill considerably, actually limiting the Department of General Services’s ability to transition the fleet to cost-saving EVs - unintended consequences that could have made it more difficult to purchase EVs than the status quo. The Senate rejected all but one of these amendments and this bill was signed into law.

### **HB 1309 and SB 756 Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund; created**

This legislation created the Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund (RVRLF) to help local governments finance important resiliency projects. The original legislation passed the Senate unanimously and cleared the House on a vote of 73-25. Youngkin introduced an amendment in the nature of a substitute that shifted oversight of the RVRLF, including decisions over which localities receive funding, how much funding is granted, and whether monies come in the form of a grant or a loan, from the citizen-led Soil and Water Conservation Board to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, consolidating control of resiliency funding within the executive branch.

## State Budget

In June, after a drawn-out budget process, characterized by miscommunication and tension between the House, Senate and the Governor’s office, Youngkin sent his line-item budget amendments to the General Assembly for their consideration.

Environmental priorities from the conference report passed by the legislature were largely spared by Youngkin’s amendments, except for one issue: a proposal to suspend the 26-cent-per-gallon gas tax, which would rob Virginia of more than \$900 million in transportation funding, including a \$106.9 million cut for public transportation, a \$32.4 million cut for passenger rail, a \$730 million cut for road maintenance and construction, and nearly a \$12 million cut for ports. Youngkin attempted the same policy change through legislation (SB 6001) introduced in April’s special session, which was defeated in the Senate Finance Committee.

## Gas Tax Breakdown

- \$730M Less to Maintain Roads
- \$106.9M Less for Public Transportation
- \$32.4M Less for Passenger Rail
- \$3 Back to the Average Driver Per Week



# State Budget Highlights

Here are some of the environmental priorities that made it into the final budget as well as some missed opportunities and setbacks as passed in the conference report and signed into law:

## Water Quality

**Water Quality Improvement Fund: \$314 million**

This is the full allocation proposed by the legislature, but \$26 million less than Governor Northam's outgoing budget.

**Virginia's Agricultural Cost-Share Program for Best Management Practices: \$256.5 million**

This was the full proposed appropriation.

**Combined Sewer Overflow: \$165 million**

This was the full allocation from Gov. Northam and the Senate.

**Urban and Community Forestry: \$0**

This item was zeroed out from as much as \$6 million of proposed funding to expand urban tree canopy.

**Stormwater Local Assistance Fund: \$25 million**

This is a reduction from Gov. Northam's \$100 million to help localities manage stormwater runoff.

**Wastewater Nutrient Removal: \$72 million**

This is an increase over the original \$69 million proposal.

**PFAS: \$380,000**

Includes \$60,000, reduced from \$600,000, to help the Virginia Department of Health to continue studying the occurrence of forever chemicals in the Commonwealth's public drinking water, and \$320,000 to the Department of Environmental Quality to support surface and groundwater testing for PFAS.

**Polystyrene (Styrofoam) Ban: Budget Language**

Delays the agreed-upon ban on styrofoam food packaging by five years.

**Environmental Literacy: \$350,000 (budget amendment)**

**Derelict Boat Removal: \$3 million (budget amendment)**

## Land Conservation

**Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: \$32 million**

This is an increase from Gov. Northam's \$30 million but less than the Senate's proposed \$52 million.

**Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund: \$1.75 million**

This is a reduction from as much as \$8 million.

**Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund: \$9.75 million**

This is an increase in funding from a baseline of \$2 million.

**Multi-use Trails: \$93 million**

This is a historic level of funding but a reduction from as much as \$233 million in proposed funding.

**Preservation, Historic Black, Indigenous and Persons of Color Sites: \$5 million**

This is a reduction in funding from \$10 million.

**Tribal Land Preservation: \$0**

This was zeroed out from an initial proposed \$12 million.

## Transportation and Land Use

**Rail: \$791.1 million**

This is only a slight reduction in funding from \$798 million.

**Public Transit: \$1.5 billion**

This is only a slight reduction in funding from \$1.52 billion.

**Virginia Housing Trust Fund: \$150 million**

This is a reduction in funding from \$300 million.

**Electric Vehicles - Rebates: \$0**

A budget amendment providing \$40 million each year for EV rebates was rejected.

**Electric Vehicles - Infrastructure: \$0**

Budget amendments providing \$10M per year for the Virginia Rural EV Charging Network Program and \$15M for VDOT to establish a grant program to expand EV infrastructure in rural and underserved localities were rejected.

**Driving Decarbonization Grant Fund: \$0**

A budget amendment providing \$20 million each year for this program was rejected.

**Air Quality Monitoring: \$0**

This is a reduction from \$5.5 million of funding to protect roadside communities.

## Climate and Clean Energy

**Low-to-Moderate-Income Solar Loan: \$0**

Reduced from as much as \$30 million to help expand clean energy.

**RGGI Funding Diversion: \$36.4 million**

Directed \$11.4 million to the Town of Hurley for disaster relief and \$25 million to the new Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund.



Photo Credit: **Nicholson Farm Sunset** by Kurt Engleman of Richmond | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

Likewise, this amendment was defeated in the Senate with Republican Emmett Hanger voting with Democrats to kill this proposal after it had initially passed the House of Delegates on a vote of 55-41.

Had it passed, the Institute on Taxation and Economic Pol-

icy found that 30 percent of the projected “savings” from this plan would have likely flowed to oil producers, and another 24 percent to the trucking industry and out-of-state tourists. Less than one-third of the benefit from suspending the state gas tax would have actually gone back into the pockets

of Virginia residents. Even if all the savings of this proposal went directly to Virginia consumers, it would only save the average driver roughly \$3 a week - hardly enough to make a difference to commuter pocket books while creating a huge hole in the state budget for taxpayers to fill at a later date.

Overall, the budget was a true compromise between the Republican-led House and Democrat-controlled Senate. It largely moves the ball forward in funding for natural resources protections, with some exceptions, and is also free of language in the original House budget attacking Virginia’s ability to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (it does, however, divert some one-time funding from this program to fund disaster relief in Hurley, Va. and a new resiliency fund).

## Leadership and Governance

*Grade: F*

*Justification: In just a few short months, Youngkin’s shown a penchant for vindictiveness, political theater, leaning into divisive culture war issues, and failing to effectively communicate with the legislature to do the work of the Commonwealth.*

If Governor Youngkin was actually interested in finding common ground and working with the narrowly Democratic-controlled Senate, he had the opportunity to do so by working with several swing members to advance his agenda. Instead, he came out of the gate with a number of divisive and controversial executive orders, and tapped former Trump Administration officials for key posts in his Administration, ac-



tions that were clearly in his political self-interest, not Virginians’.

Youngkin has also shown himself to be vindictive.

Nine of the 25 bills that Youngkin vetoed were bipartisan bills from Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-Alexandria) that had passed the legislature with broad support. In some cases, Youngkin even signed into law the companion legislation. As chair of the Privileges and Elections Committee, Ebbin presided over removing Andrew Wheeler from consideration for Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, setting off a tit-for-tat over appointments with the House that led to the Senate also rejecting Youngkin’s picks for the Parole Board.

There are even reports that lawmakers of his own party had to cancel vacations to attend the start of a special session that they weren’t ready for, evidence he wasn’t even coordinating with the leaders of his own party.

With budget talks at a standstill due to differences between the House and Senate during the regular session, Youngkin caught members off guard in calling lawmakers back to Richmond for a special session on April 4, making the call via a self-funded campaign style ad, an announcement that came out while the House Chair of Appropriations, a Republican, was on vacation out of the country. With no budget deal in place, and with Youngkin even admitting to reporters he had not spoken with Democratic leaders in the Senate about the budget, lawmakers were in session for less than two hours, before negotiations returned to the budget conferees. The legislature finalized its work on the budget on June 1, nearly two months after Youngkin’s special session that was intended to speed along the process.

Several of Youngkin’s legislative actions also



Photo Credit: **Manchester Bridge** by Michael Mancuso of Chesterfield | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

undermine democracy, free speech and our constitution.

Youngkin attempted to force new elections this fall for the entire Loudoun County School Board, cutting short the terms of seven of nine members, action that runs afoul of Virginia’s Constitution and feeds into a conservative “Parents’ Rights” movement in the wake of controversies surrounding how school officials handled issues of race, gender and sexual assault.

One of Youngkin’s budget amendments was even a non-starter for his own party. It would have created a felony penalty for individuals who protest outside of a court building

or judge’s residence in the wake of demonstrations outside of Supreme Court Justice’s homes in Northern Virginia over a leaked ruling on abortion rights. This amendment was never taken up in the House. Youngkin had come under fire in right-wing media for not cracking down on protestors.

The lack of communication and collaboration, along with a vindictive streak, engagement in culture war, and a pursuit of headline-grabbing but empty policies undermine Youngkin’s ability to govern for the good of the Commonwealth, demonstrating more a penchant for political theater and headlines than in actual results that improve the lives of Virginians.

# We Need Your Help in the Fights Ahead

You can easily see the value of Virginia LCV's work within the pages of this year's Scorecard; it's clearly an invaluable tool to assess legislators' commitment to conservation, and the decided lack of commitment of Governor Youngkin, in our first-ever gubernatorial rankings.

The Scorecard is just part of our work, however. Each and every day Virginia LCV fights for Virginia's environment; we fight for clean air, clean water and protected lands, we fight for a secure climate future, and we fight for environmental justice and a just democracy. Virginia LCV has a profound impact on conservation in our Commonwealth; we work to add needed transparency to conservation legislation with our accountability work; we hold our elected officials responsible for their actions to protect – or to harm – our environment; we support pro-conservation candidates, and work hard to defeat polluters and their political allies; we serve as a source of policy, legislative and political guidance for a vast range of allies; and we work to empower Virginians in all corners of our Commonwealth to advocate for a clean, healthy, and just Virginia.

**As you can see in this Scorecard, we work hard to battle back attacks on Virginia's environment.**

This year we held the line on climate after attack after attack – and we'll continue holding Governor Youngkin and his administration accountable every step of the way.

**We need you in this fight.**

Your support of Virginia LCV makes this work possible.

It can only be done with the help of dedicated conservationists throughout our Commonwealth – supporters who understand that Virginia's environment requires a strong political and legislative voice.

**Please use the enclosed envelope to give generously today. To give online, please visit our website, [valcv.org](http://valcv.org), or scan this code to become a supporter, to renew your contribution, or to give an additional donation.**

**Support Virginia  
LCV's Work Today!**



# Virginia LCV: Conservation's Political Voice in the Commonwealth

Virginia League of Conservation Voters is the political voice of conservation in the Commonwealth. We work tirelessly to protect all of Virginia's treasured natural resources – clean air and water, thriving communities and rural landscapes, productive farms and forests, historic battlefields and Main Streets, and ample public lands and open spaces.

To do this, we advocate for and secure strong public policy at the state level, hold elected officials accountable for their positions on conservation issues, and endorse conservation-minded candidates for state office. Of the organizations in Virginia's conservation community, Virginia LCV is unique in that we provide the political power of bringing legislators' records on conservation issues to the forefront of their campaigns and the minds of their voters.

## Conservation Accountability

Virginia LCV's annual Conservation Scorecard provides the only comprehensive look at how legislators voted on the year's most important conservation issues. From land conservation, to water quality, to transportation, to energy, the scorecard provides an inside take on what happened in Richmond on a full spectrum of issues. Further, the Scorecard provides a distinctive and useful tool for voters as they choose who represents their conservation values in Richmond. As a constituent and a Conservation Voter, it is important for you to let your elected officials know you saw their scores. Thank those who helped protect Virginia's natural resources and urge those who didn't to do better.

## Conservation Endorsements

As conservation's political voice in the Commonwealth, Virginia LCV proudly endorses and seeks to elect and re-elect candidates to office who prioritize conservation. In addition to using the Conservation Scorecard, we issue an inclusive candidate questionnaire, research the dynamics of races, and lead candidate interviews to determine which candidates deserve our "conservation seal of approval."

Virginia LCV's endorsed candidates receive our guidance on how to make conservation issues a priority in their races, our financial support, and our outreach efforts to ensure Conservation Voters in their districts know of our endorsement. All of these factors are important to seeing our candidates win and to seeing a Conservation Majority in the legislature.

## Conservation Advocacy

After candidates are sworn in, Virginia LCV staff and members work diligently to advocate for conservation values in the General Assembly. Our efforts are essential to guaranteeing legislators are best educated on the importance and value of protecting our natural resources and safeguarding our clean air, clean water and open spaces. The more they hear from us, and especially from you, the more victorious we will be.

## Join Our Team

Check in at [valcv.org](http://valcv.org) to keep updated on what's happening with conservation issues in Virginia. There, you can take important conservation actions, support our work, get updated on Virginia LCV news, and follow our positions on critical legislation during the General Assembly session.





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Virginia LCV is a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization and gifts to it and its Political Action Committee are non-tax deductible.



**VIRGINIA LEAGUE OF  
CONSERVATION VOTERS**

100 West Franklin Street, Suite 102  
Richmond, VA 23220

Phone: 804.225.1902  
Web: [valcv.org](http://valcv.org)  
Email: [info@valcv.org](mailto:info@valcv.org)