



Virginia Peninsula Jewish Voter's Guide

The Community Relations Council (CRC) of the UJCVP is excited to share with you the 2023 Virginia Peninsula Jewish Voter's Guide. This year's election will be based on new legislative districts approved by the Virginia Supreme Court on December 28, 2021. This Guide will provide the information you need to be an informed voter. You can use the links below to determine which district is yours, which candidates are running, and where and how you can cast your ballot. Get started at *Who's My Legislator?* from the Virginia General Assembly to find your current legislators and your legislative district designations.

Once you know which district is yours, you can look for the corresponding candidate statements in these pages. We have collected statements only from candidates with districts on the Virginia Peninsula, including those running in uncontested races. The statements in this Voter's Guide were compiled by inviting each candidate to provide a photograph, a link to their campaign website, and a 300-word statement to the Jewish Community. We have provided the responses (in full) for each candidate who replied. For candidates who did not submit a statement, their bios were copied from their campaign websites and marked with an asterisk (*).

Election Day in Virginia is Tuesday, November 7, 2023. In-person, early voting is open between September 22 and November 4 at local voter registration offices. Check the Virginia Department of Elections website to register to vote or check your registration status to find your polling place, and to apply to receive an absentee ballot. Other statewide resources can be found here:

Who's My Legislator?

www.whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov

Voting on Election Day

www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/in-person-voting/

Absentee and Early Voting

www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/early-absentee

Accessible Voting

www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/accessible-voting/

*The Community Relations Council of the UJCVP does not make political endorsements.
This voter's guide is for educational purposes only.

Jeff Luckman, Chair of the Community Relations Council of the UJCVP
Eric Maurer, Executive Director of the UJCVP, emaurer@ujcvp.org



Senate District 23

Mamie E. Locke (D) - incumbent

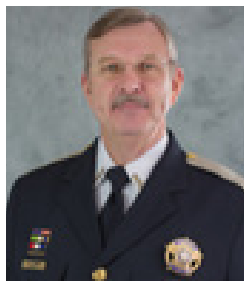
www.senatorlocke.com



I am Senator Mamie E. Locke. I have represented the 2nd District for 20 years. This district has now become the 23rd district following redistricting, covering the entirety of the City of Hampton and half of Newport News. Prior to serving in the Senate, I served on the City Council and as the Mayor of Hampton. I recently retired as Professor of Political Science

from Hampton University. In the Senate I serve on the following committees: Education & Health, General Laws & Technology, Rehabilitation & Social Services, Finance & Appropriations, and Rules (Chair). I am also Chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus. My priorities have always been education (all levels, from early childhood to higher education), housing, criminal justice reform, voting rights, and women's reproductive health care. I have served on the Virginia Housing Commission since serving in the Senate as well as the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission. Through the work of the latter and my membership in the Southern Poverty Law Center, I am a strong advocate for equality and justice. That is why my priority is funding for early childhood education (education is the great equalizer) and ensuring that a constitutional amendment for restoration of voting rights is enshrined in the Virginia Constitution. It is through the SPLC that I continue to learn about the proliferation of hate crimes, most notably antisemitism and holocaust-denial conspiracies. The organization publishes a hate map and publishes information about issues pertinent to racism, antisemitism, voting rights, and criminal justice reform. I use this information in my advocacy for ensuring that equality becomes a reality, not just for the 23rd District, but for the Commonwealth.

Senate District 24



Danny Diggs (R)

www.diggsforsenate.com

I am J. D. "Danny" Diggs. I have been married for 43 years and have 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren. I have been a law enforcement officer for 45 years with the last 23 years as the Sheriff of York and

Poquoson. I retired on January 1 to be a full-time candidate for State Senator. My reason for running is to serve the people of the 24th District as a common-sense conservative representative.

In 2016, I was blessed to have been chosen by AIPAC to visit and tour Israel with several other Sheriffs. The time I spent in Israel learning about the history, culture, and geopolitical issues being faced was eye opening and an experience that I will cherish.

As Senator, one of my priorities will be public safety. I believe we need to take a tough-on-crime approach to ensure that everyone feels safe in their homes, communities, and that our kids are safe in our schools. While we will never be able to fully eradicate hate speech and bigotry, we can actively take steps to punish people who commit hate crimes. In 2020, several bad-for-public safety bills were passed that allowed criminals to be released from jail early and in the 2020 Special Session they voted against a bill that would increase penalties for certain hate crimes. If someone commits a crime, they need to serve their full sentence and we should actively pursue individuals who are using antisemitism as a weapon to intimidate. As Sheriff, I did not tolerate any hate crimes and instructed my deputies to investigate any perpetrators to the fullest extent possible. I would support any legislation that would enhance the safety of the Jewish community. I hope that I can earn your support.

Monty Mason (D) - incumbent

www.masonforvirginia.com



Hello to the Jewish community of the Virginia peninsula! My name is Monty Mason, and I am running for re-election in the newly drawn 24th district which covers York County, Williamsburg, Poquoson, and parts of Newport News and James City County. Throughout my time in the General Assembly, I have relied on many different factors to guide me as a legislator, including my family, my moral compass, and my faith.

The mission for me has always been to create a Commonwealth that works for everyone, regardless of what you look like, where you come from, or what faith you practice. As antisemitic incidents have been on the rise across Virginia, I have taken action to combat that discrimination directly by supporting policies like voting to establish grant funds for non-profits at risk of hate crimes including synagogues.

I have also supported other vital legislation aimed at protecting and supporting the Jewish community, including voting for HB 1606. This bill updated the definition of antisemitism in Virginia code to match the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition, which will be helpful to

law enforcement as they review antisemitic incidents across the Commonwealth.

I have enjoyed a very close relationship with the United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula for the past ten years in the General Assembly and I look forward to continuing that friendship. There is still much work still to be done, but I am dedicated to ensuring that the Jewish community of the peninsula and entire commonwealth are supported in Richmond. It would be an honor to have your support for my re-election this year.

Senate District 26

Pamela Garner (D)
www.garnerforva.com



Pam served over 30 years in the Air Force and Air National Guard, retiring as Lieutenant Colonel. Her last position was Strategic Plans and Policy Joint Director, successfully managing high-level military programs. She managed statewide COVID-19 response efforts across 11 agencies and localities, managed budgets of more than \$25.5 million, commanded

a 200+-member military squadron, and overhauled inefficient systems to increase productivity and transparency.

She earned a bachelor's and master's degree in physics and taught high school physics and math in Richmond, Chesterfield, and Gloucester County public schools for over a decade.

She is a small business owner in Gloucester and serves as an elections officer there.

She and her husband, Chief Master Sgt. Angus Garner, founded a non-profit with four other couples to provide health and financial literacy seminars, scholarships, and school supplies for local students in the Middle Peninsula Gazette Journal Article B C United Outreach Aug 5. Their daughter Breanna Bowman is a physical therapist.

She has served her country and community since 1989. Now she wants to serve you! She is vowing to protect reproductive freedom, expand gun safety and ensure strong public schools so every child gets a world class education. Democracy is on the ballot, and we MUST protect all Human Rights. She will also fight against unlawful discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military status, or disability. If you want to learn more, donate or volunteer connect with the campaign at <https://www.garnerforva.com>.

Ryan McDougle (R) - incumbent
www.ryanmcdougle.com



*As a lifelong resident of Hanover County, Ryan understands the interests of the local community while seeking to maximize individual freedoms and conservative principles. Ryan's commitment to public service is influenced by a grounded and humble upbringing. He quickly learned the value of hard work through his Mother's small business, Sandy's Plants, at a young age. He went on to attend James Madison University before attaining his Juris Doctor degree at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law and The College of William and Mary.

Upon graduation, Ryan worked as a prosecutor for the Hanover County Commonwealth Attorney's Office, where he specialized in prosecuting domestic violence and family abuse offenders. His professional work on behalf of children grew into a personal commitment that resulted in the creation of the Hanover County Child Advocate Response Team. Ryan began his legislative service in the House of Delegates in 2002 and went on to win a special election in 2006 for a vacant 4th Senate District Seat, where he currently serves. Ryan is Chairman of the Virginia Senate Republican Caucus. He is honored to be a member of the Judiciary, Privilege and Elections, Rehabilitation and Social Services and Rules Committee.

Ryan currently operates his own law practice, McDougle Law Firm, P.C. in Hanover. When he is not practicing law, working downtown at the Capitol, or visiting with constituents in the 4th District, Ryan spends his time with his wife Dr. Robyn McDougle and their daughter, Reagan.

House of Delegates District 69



Chad Green (R)
www.greenfordelegate.com

Supervisor Chad Green is a lifelong resident of Hampton Roads. Born and raised on the Peninsula, Chad attended the Hampton Roads Academy before his admission to university. Chad is a practicing attorney, and is admitted to practice law in several states, and the United States Supreme Court. Chad is also a licensed waterman, boat captain, and published author. Chad was first elected to the York County Board



of Supervisors in 2015. During his tenure, he served as Vice Chairman of the Board for one year, and Chairman for two. Chad has held the line on taxes, supported law enforcement, and worked to grow York County's economy. He is also an active member of his community, including serving as the President Emeritus as the Grafton Kiwanis Club, on the Board of Directors of the Victory YMCA, and on the Board of Directors for the York County Waterways Alliance. He is also a lifetime member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Chad is also the father of two children, and is married to his wife, Ashley.

House of Delegates District 70

Michael Bartley (L)

www.votebartley.wordpress.com



I want to bring liberty and justice for ALL Virginians. I have lived in my house in Hiddenwood since 2008. I live in a four generational household with my wife, two children, mother-in-law and grandmother-in-law. I am an aerospace engineer at Eagle Technologies, and the moderator of my church, Warwick UCC. The fundamental unfairness of law being unevenly

applied and punishing people unjustly is the primary reason for interest in politics.

My big three issues are: End all victimless crimes. We squander money and ruin lives by sending police officers after people who are doing things that cause no harm to others. Our policing resources are scarce, and we need to focus on bringing justice to the victims of crimes.

Fund children, not schools. Educating our children is one of the most important things we can do for our future. Unfortunately, our tax dollars go to a school system that has assistant principals that do not know what to do when a child has a gun. I support funding children so they can take their education dollars to any school, public or private, that best supports their educational needs. This would include Jewish education, or any public or private school.

End corporate welfare. Spending the tax dollars collected from profitable companies to subsidize their competition is foolish and wrong.

My political philosophy can be summed up as fiscally conservative and socially tolerant. My faith can be summed up in five words: love your neighbor as yourself. I believe this philosophy is aligned with the Jewish community.

God bless,

Michael Bartley

Shelly Simonds (D) - incumbent

www.simondsfordelegate.com



Shelly Simonds is a current member of the Virginia House of Delegates who is running for re-election in the 70th district in Newport News. She is a former journalist and Spanish teacher, who started her time in elected office as a member of the Newport News School Board. Del. Simonds is a passionate advocate

for students and teachers as a member

of the Education Committee in the House, where she has passed legislation promoting STEM education and workforce development. She also co-founded the Career and Technical Education Caucus, a bi-partisan effort to connect students to careers. After a dramatic tied election in 2017, Del. Simonds has been dedicated to fair elections and voting rights while serving on the Privileges and Elections Committee in the House. Del. Simonds attended Bucknell University for her undergraduate degree and Stanford University for her Master's degree. With two daughters currently away attending college, she lives with her husband, a NASA engineer, in the northern part of the City of Newport News.



Matt Waters (R)

www.mattwaters.com

My name is Matt Waters, and I am the Republican candidate running for House Delegate seat 70 in Newport News VA. I am a father of five and married 25 years. I am the CEO of a political consulting company based in Washington DC that

was founded in 2008. I am a native of Newport News VA, born and raised, and moved to Northern Virginia where I received my BA from George Mason University and my MA from Reformed Theological Seminary. My top three priorities are focused on Education, Economic Opportunity and Medical Freedom.

With the rise of technological advancements, education is portable and affordable. My priority is outcome--or, put another way, are our 28,000 K-12 public school children being given the best education? I think everyone agrees there is room for major improvement. Education is a gift we give our children. Together, we can make K-12 education safer and our students more successful.

I will also advocate that we expand and extend Enterprise Zones across the Newport News area, offering businesses unforeseen opportunities to invest, tax free, in our city. Enterprise Zones create jobs and renew communities. Together, can renew the strong manufacturing spirit of Newport News.

My third priority is lofty, that of introducing a Medical Freedom Amendment to our Constitution. This also speaks directly to Religious Freedom as well. The government of Virginia (of the US) does not have the right or authority to close public places of worship. Medical freedom is a fundamental right. While we all hold different views, protecting each other's medical rights

unifies, while allowing for diversity. Let's respect, and protect, our medical rights.

House of Delegates District 71



Jessica Anderson (D)
www.jessicaandersonforva.com

Jessica "Jess" Anderson is a lifelong Virginian, wife, mother, community activist, and runner. She has raised her family in the 71st District for the past 21 years, which includes the entire City of Williamsburg and parts of James City and

New Kent Counties. Jess currently works as a front office receptionist at a public elementary school in her district.

Jess's priorities include strengthening the public education system, enacting family care policies like paid sick leave and affordable childcare, protecting reproductive rights, and passing common sense gun safety reforms that will keep our kids and communities safe. Jess is a proud supporter of equality and will seek to advance legislation that roots out discrimination and hate in all forms.

Several years ago, while going through a difficult divorce, Jess navigated social safety net programs so that she could provide for herself and her three daughters. She will bring a unique perspective to the House of Delegates on how we can better uplift and support Virginians during their toughest times and believes that all families deserve the same opportunities to thrive as she has had. Jess is ready to get to work for the 71st District and deliver results on the issues affecting her community the most.

For more information or to reach out to the campaign, visit her website at Jess4VA.com.

Amanda Batten (R) - incumbent

www.amandabatten.com



*Delegate Amanda Batten represents the 96th District (soon to be the 71st District) in the Virginia House of Delegates. First elected in 2019, Amanda is Caucus Chair of the House Republicans. She is a member of the House Commerce and Energy, House Rules, House Education, and House Public Safety Committees.

Amanda also serves on the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Board of Trustees, the Commission on Civic Education, the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission, the Online Virginia Network Authority, and the Governor's Aerospace Advisory Council. Prior to her election, Amanda worked as a legislative aide to former Delegate Brenda Pogge.

Amanda resides in Toano with her husband, Rick. Her son, Troy, is an engineering major at Virginia Tech. She is currently a James City County Ruritan member and a board member of the Colonial Virginia Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Amanda previously served on the board of the Thomas Nelson Community College Educational Foundation, the Virginia Symphony Society, and as president of the Providence Classical School Board. A graduate of Ashford University, Amanda has also completed the University of Virginia's Sorensen Political Leaders Program and the Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance's LEAD Historic Triangle program.

House of Delegates District 85

Marcia Price (D) - incumbent

www.pricefordelegate.com



I am Marcia "Cia" Price, and I am proud to represent the 95th District in the Virginia House of Delegates, an honor I have had since 2016. In that role, I also serve as the Vice Chair of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, and I serve on the Health, Welfare, and Institutions Committee and General Laws Committee. I have previously served as Vice-Chair of

the Privileges and Elections Committee and Chair of the Voting Rights Subcommittee, among other leadership roles. Since I was first elected to the House, I have been focused on protecting and expanding voting rights, which we were able to do even more effectively once we passed my bill, the Voting Rights Act of Virginia, in 2021. Access to the ballot box ensures all of our other rights and helps us obtain a representative government responsive to the needs of its constituency. Alongside community organizers and advocates, I have also championed efforts to support housing justice, increase healthcare access through Medicaid Expansion, secure more mental health resources for the Commonwealth's children, fight domestic terrorism, especially with hate crimes and hate speech, create much-needed reforms to the student debt crisis, and increase critical funding for public education. This crucial work continues.

I am also dedicated to addressing the epidemic of gun violence that continues to plague our communities. We know there are community-based, non-profit-driven, data-backed approaches that result in safer communities and less firearm violence. As extremist political rhetoric continues to incite hate-fueled violence against religious, racial, and social groups, it's even more important that we address gun violence in a substantive way; one that provides direct interventions and resources for innovative programs, and protects targeted communities.

I have the honor of representing the district where I was born and raised, and this is truly my home. I take my role as a public servant, very seriously. And I feel called to speak truth to power, stand up to those weaponizing hate to win elections, push back against extremism, and focus on delivering results for the residents we are so honored to serve. My work is inspired by the concerns I hear directly from constituents, and I look forward to hearing your ideas and feedback.

House of Delegates District 86

A.C. Cordoza (R) - incumbent

www.cordozaforvirginia.com



*A.C. Cordoza was born to a family full of work ethic and a belief in service to our nation. Growing up, A.C. spent many days working with his father learning the value of hard work and technical precision serving as an apprentice to his fathers construction projects. Enlisting into the Air Force to serve America was A.C.'s destiny as generations of Cordozas

had done. Following a service of 3 years A.C. honorably left the Air Force and sought to further his education at Thomas Nelson Community College. There he began to gain interest in politics during the 2008 Presidential Campaign as the possibility of the nation electing the first black President. Soon after the election, A.C. began reflecting on the policies of the new Democratic Party finding that his core values did not align with the Democrats, but the Republicans. A servant's heart led A.C. to being asked to run for the Virginia House of Delegates in 2021 where he successfully won a race that he was outspent by big corporate money 16:1. Today, A.C. is known as the voice for the blue collar worker, focusing on real solutions for problems facing Virginia's working class.

Unlike many in office, A.C. Cordoza cannot be bought, he votes for his community and for what is right for the people of the 86th District. From service to the country to service to the city of Hampton he worked in cyber security for Newport News Shipbuilding where he focused on keeping our Naval assets safe against enemy threats. AC works for the City of Hampton and lives in Hampton where he serves as Vice-Chairman of the Hampton Republican Party. A.C. Cordoza votes for his community and for what is right for the people of Hampton, Poquoson and York County. In his first two years in office, Delegate Cordoza has earned the reputation as one of Virginias most effective legislators passing 10 bills into law, advancing four resolutions and securing a historic Virginia Attorney Generals opinion that benefits prioritizing educational opportunities.

Jarris Taylor (D)

www.jarristaylorfordelegate.com



*Dr. Jarris Louis Taylor, Jr., is a Veteran, Educator, Leader who is running for the House of Delegates in the 86th District. Dr. Taylor's theme is Service Before Self and his vision for the 86th District is to provide world renowned representation in the General Assembly for all the members of the District with an emphasis on five key priorities:

Education, Healthcare (Women's Reproductive Rights), Veterans, Environment, and Transportation.

Dr. Taylor is a servant leader, committed and dedicated to community service and has held numerous executive leadership positions while serving the nation and the Commonwealth of Virginia: Obama Administration, 2009 – 2017, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. United States Air Force, Master Sergeant (Retired) 1985 – 2005. He is currently a member of National Security Leaders for America and a Board of Trustees member of the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation. He was appointed by Governor Tim Kaine to the Commonwealth of Virginia Governor's Advisory Board on National and Community Service, Chair, 2008-2010; Commonwealth of Virginia Governor's Commission on National and Community Service, Commissioner, 2007- 2008. He is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

House of Delegates District 87

John Chapman (R)

www.johnchapmanforvirginia.com



*Growing up in the Newmarket area of Newport News, John had the opportunity of spending time in both Central Baptist School and later Warwick High School. This meant learning from an early age the value of hard work and sacrifice. Sacrifice meant doing without many things so he and his siblings could attend a Christian school and the values he was taught at

home would carry into his school environment.

John and Marlin have always looked for ways to be involved in serving others. In New York, they served in youth ministry at their Indonesian church. In Richmond, they enjoyed



the opportunity to serve as therapeutic foster parents. In Hampton, John currently serves as a Deacon at Bethel Baptist Church as well as overseeing the Wednesday children's outreach ministry, Awana. He also currently serves on the school board for Bethel Christian School.

Dramatic changes have occurred in Hampton since John's childhood. It is a different city where crime continues to increase right outside his door. The cost of living is out of control and families are fighting just to survive. Instead of working together with families to educate the children of the community, we have entered a battle between parents' values and the values of the State.



Jeion Ward (D) - incumbent
www.jeionward.com

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula for the opportunity to introduce myself and connect with your community.

I'm immensely proud to serve as your delegate in the General Assembly, and I bring with me a lifetime of experiences deeply rooted in the Civil Rights Movement. Growing up in pre-integrated Virginia during the era of the Civil Rights Movement, I witnessed firsthand the struggles and triumphs of that time. I remember how the Jewish community stood side by side with Dr. King in those pivotal moments, and it left an indelible mark on me.

My dedication to eradicating hate speech, bigotry, and antisemitism is unwavering. I understand the profound importance of unity in our communities and the shared values that bind us together. I carry the lessons of those times with me as I work tirelessly to ensure that every member of our community feels safe, respected, and protected.

My legislative priorities align with our shared commitment to fighting hate and promoting security. I staunchly support measures that combat antisemitism and create a safer, more inclusive Virginia Peninsula. Access to nonprofit security grant funding is a vital tool in safeguarding our religious and community institutions against potential threats, ensuring peace of mind for all.

In addition to these priorities, I am deeply dedicated to addressing the broader concerns of our community, including affordable housing, funding for public education, economic development, and protecting women's reproductive rights. My goal is to create an environment where everyone, regardless of background, has equal opportunities to thrive and succeed.

I am honored to work hand in hand with the Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula and all of my constituents to effect positive change and build a brighter future for our region.

Delegate Jeion Ward

About the CRC

The Community Relations Council of the UJCVP leverages the collective strength of our diverse and vibrant Jewish community on the Virginia Peninsula to address issues of vital concern based on Jewish values, consensus, and respect for diversity. The priorities of the CRC are:

- i. Fostering positive and meaningful relationships throughout the community, including with public officials, and civic and faith leaders;
- ii. Combatting antisemitism, anti-Zionism and hatred through Holocaust and Israel education, collaboration, and advocacy;
- iii. Building relationships and collaborations with other religious and ethnic groups that share common concerns on community relations issues;
- iv. Advocating for and supporting the needs of the global Jewish community with an emphasis on at-risk communities across the globe.
- v. Review, critique and advocate for legislation on federal, state and local issues that affect the regional Jewish community and enhance our community's ability to serve vital human needs.