

VIRGINIA

Voters in Virginia will elect a governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general this year. All 100 seats in the house of delegates are up for reelection. Democrats are projected to have a slight advantage in the governor's race. The house is considered a battleground chamber and control will hinge on a handful of districts in November.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

Abigail Spanberger

Former U.S. Representative Abigail Spanberger (D) ran unopposed in the Democratic primary for governor on June 17, seeking to replace outgoing Governor Glenn Youngkin (R) who is unable to seek reelection as governors are limited to one term in Virginia.

First elected to Congress in 2018, Spanberger served three terms representing Virginia's 7th Congressional District, a competitive district that includes the cities of Stafford, Fredericksburg, and Culpeper. **During her tenure, Spanberger was ranked the most bipartisan member of Congress from Virginia** by the Lugar Center and Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy. She was critical of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and voted against the HEROES Act, a proposed \$3 trillion stimulus package in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, Spanberger described reducing the cost of prescription drugs as the top priority of families within her district, sponsoring the Public Disclosure of Drug Discounts Act. While she opposed the Trump Administration's environment and energy policies and was also critical of the proposed Green New Deal highlighting the inclusion of unrelated policy objectives without specific solutions for the problems it outlined.

If elected to the governor's office, Spanberger pledges to tackle the cost of **childcare**, remove regulatory burdens for **small businesses**, and grow the state's **workforce training and apprenticeship programs**. She also hopes to bring **clean energy jobs** through investments in offshore wind, rooftop solar, and other renewable energy sources.

Spanberger has released a healthcare affordability plan. In this agenda, she focuses on protecting **out-of-network pharmacies** by ensuring they receive a fair and reasonable payment, limiting prior authorization and **step therapy processes**, and creating a statewide **hospital price transparency** comparison tool. She has also vowed to protect **Medicaid expansion** work to **lower prescription drug costs**.

She has released an education plan which intends to make significant changes to the state's public education system for both K-12 schools and higher education institutions. She vows to address teacher shortages with increased funding and new recruitment efforts targeting former federal employees and military personnel transitioning to civilian careers. Standardized testing and mathematics training for teachers would be overhauled in her administration.

The Cook Political Report and The Center for Politics Sabato's Crystal Ball have rated this race as Lean Democratic.

Trivia: During her time as a postal inspector, Spanberger's work focused on money laundering and narcotics cases.