

## 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.

### Attorney General

#### Democratic Nominee

#### Jay Jones

Jay Jones (D) is the Democratic candidate for Attorney General seeking to oust incumbent Attorney General Jason Miyares (R). From 2018 to 2021, he represented District 89 in the Virginia House of Delegates. Jones previously served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, where he was a member of the Office of Consumer Protection.

If elected, he pledges to address **consumer protection** issues, including companies he perceives participate in predatory lending and banks that discriminate in the home buying process. He also plans to target corporate polluters and resists attempts to roll back clean air and water laws. Other priorities include improving public safety, strengthening the state's justice system, and creating a Civil Rights Division in the office.

Jones has released his **public safety plan**, which addresses violent crime, illegal guns, and child safety. He proposes creating a drug trafficking unit in the office with the goal of improving regional partnerships and communication. Jones highlights his record of supporting increased pay raises for law enforcement during his time in the General Assembly.

He supports growth of the **digital economy**, including blockchain advancements, digital assets, and artificial intelligence, but believes Virginia's government needs to guide the adoption of these technologies.

The Virginia State Bar will host a debate between Jones and current Republican Attorney General Jason Miyares on October 16.

Jones trails behind Miyares on the funding front, with around \$1.2 million cash on hand as of June 30 compared to Miyares's \$7 million. Despite the funding disadvantage, a poll released by the Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University in July showed Jones leading Miyares 47 percent to 38 percent.

*Trivia: The Jones family has lived in the Norfolk area since the early 1900s.*