

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

Republican Nominee

Attorney General Jason Miyares

Jason Miyares is seeking a second term after assuming office in January 2022. During his first election bid, he defeated three Republican challengers in the primary election and narrowly defeated two-term Democratic incumbent Mark Herring in the general election.

Prior to his position as the top law enforcement officer, Miyares represented District 82 in the House of Delegates from 2016 to 2022. His professional experience includes working as a private attorney, a prosecutor, and in the office of former Congressman Scott Rigell (R).

His campaign is focused on [accomplishments](#) from his first term in office, which includes addressing the opioid crisis, children's mental health, and immigration. Regarding his efforts on **fentanyl enforcement and work to lower overdoses**, he touts large settlements from pharmaceutical companies and the [opening](#) of the Center for Women Struggling with Substance Abuse funded by opioid settlement grant money.

Miyares is leaning into his work on **public safety**, which his campaign also centered on in 2021. He calls Operation Ceasefire, a grant-driven program launched in 13 Virginia cities, one of his proudest [achievements](#) in the office. The program focuses on addressing gun violence and fentanyl dealers, supporting victim protection funding, and supporting community policing. Miyares [says](#) he would expand Operation Ceasefire and continue to prioritize victims if he was reelected.

The Virginia State Bar will host a debate between Miyares and his Democratic opponent Jay Jones on October 16.

As of June 30, Miyares had significantly more hand on cash than Democratic opponent and former Delegate Jay Jones, with just under \$7 million cash on hand. Although Republicans may face an uphill battle at the top of the ticket this fall, some see a path for a split-ticket outcome thanks in part to the incumbent attorney general's name recognition and financial edge. The last time voters elected a split ticket in the Commonwealth was 2005. A poll released by the Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University in July showed Jones leading Miyares 47% to 38%.

Trivia: Miyares was Virginia's first Latino attorney general.