

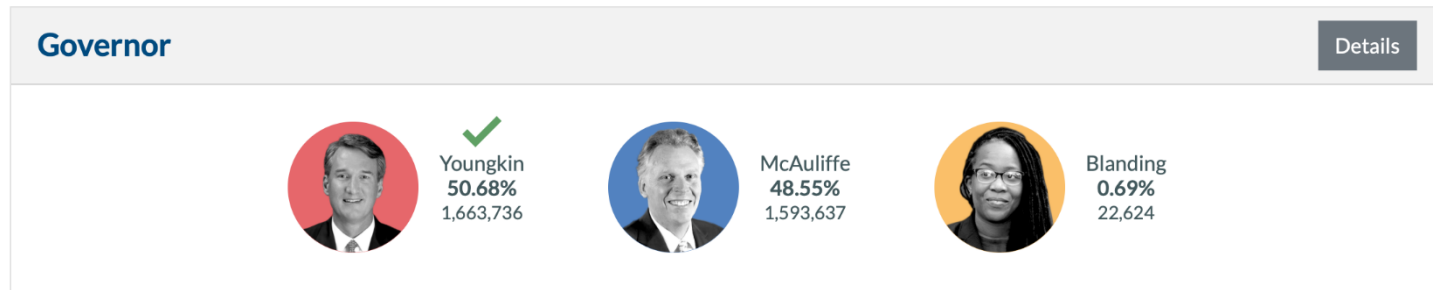
2021 Virginia State and Local Elections

Elections were held in the Commonwealth of Virginia Tuesday, November 2. This year's ballot featured contests for Virginia's three Constitutional offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General as well as all 100 seats of the Virginia House of Delegates, with party control at stake.

Former U.S. Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill once said, "all politics is local." In Virginia, the reverse also holds true - all politics are national. In 2017, Virginia saw a blue wave sweep over the Commonwealth as voters staged a backlash against President-elect Donald Trump. Four years later, the Democrats' own President Joe Biden cast a long shadow over the state elections. Republicans scored a sweep of Virginia's three statewide Constitutional offices and regained control over the Virginia House of Delegates, picking up seven seats. While a red wave swept the state, Northern Virginia remained deep blue as Democrats dominated local election contests.

Governor

Political newcomer and former Carlyle Group CEO Glen Youngkin pulled off a surprise victory, defeating former Governor Terry McAuliffe 50.68% to 48.55%.



Provided courtesy of the Virginia Public Access Project

The Youngkin-led Republican sweep restores divided government in Virginia. Combined with the reinstated Republican majority in the House of Delegates, Youngkin will provide a check against the Democratic legislative dominance of the last four years. This could potentially benefit VAMA members as we have spent much of the last four years on the defensive against overreaching activist policies, particularly on housing-related issues.

It is yet to be seen whether Youngkin's administration will more closely resemble that of former Governor Bob McDonnell, with a focus on pro-business policies and economic development, or that of former Governor Jim Gilmore, with a heavier focus on divisive partisan issues. Notably, he was critical of Virginia's electric utility monopoly Dominion Energy during the campaign and has pledged to work towards lowering costs to consumers. This is a positive harbinger for housing providers.

Lieutenant Governor

Republican nominee and former Winsome Sears defeated Democratic challenger and former Delegate Hala Ayala to be seated as Virginia's next Lieutenant Governor. Sears received 50.82% of the vote to Ayala's 49.08%.

Lt. Governor

[Details](#)

✓
Sears
50.82%
1,659,919



Ayala
49.08%
1,602,975

Provided courtesy of the Virginia Public Access Project

Winsome Sears served one term in the Virginia House of Delegates between 2002 and 2004 before departing to run for Congress. Returning to the General Assembly, Sears will likely have the opportunity to cast tie-breaking votes on key issues while presiding over the Senate, which is currently divided 21-19 in favor of Democratic control. In this way she may act as an additional check against potentially harmful legislation.

Attorney General

Former Virginia Beach Delegate Jason Miyares pulled off an upset victory against two-term Democratic Attorney General Mark Herring. Miyares garnered 50.49% of the vote to Herring's 49.43%.

Attorney General

[Details](#)

✓
Miyares
50.49%
1,649,013



Herring*
49.43%
1,614,622

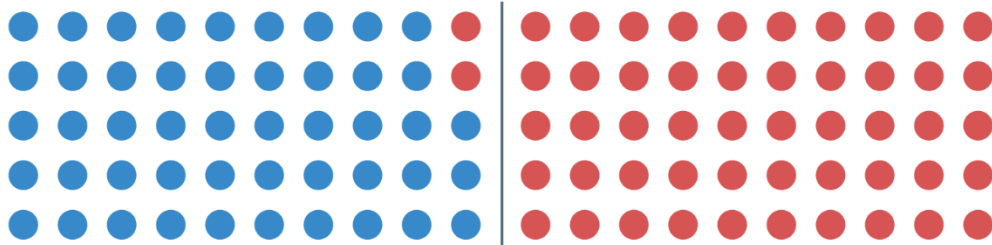
Provided courtesy of the Virginia Public Access Project

VAMA worked well with Miyares during his tenure in the House of Delegates, and held strong relationships with Miyares and his staff during his tenure in his House and hopes to build on those in his new role.

Virginia House of Delegates

Entering this year's election cycle, the Democrats held a 55-45 margin of control over the Virginia House of Delegates. Republicans won seven seats, giving them a 52-48 seat majority going into the 2022 legislative session. The implications of this shift are substantial.

Change
-7



48 Democrats

0 Undecided

52 Republicans

Change
+7

Provided courtesy of the Virginia Public Access Project

With majority control come the spoils of leadership. The new Republican majority will usher in a complete restructuring of Committee assignments; particularly as it relates to the Housing Subcommittee of the Committee on General Laws in front of which VAMA frequently appears.

The seven Democratic incumbents defeated in 2021's elections were Delegates Chris Hurst (Roanoke), Josh Cole (Stafford), Roslyn Tyler (Brunswick), Nancy Guy (Norfolk), Alex Askew (Virginia Beach), Martha Mugler (Hampton) and Lashrecse Aird (Petersburg).