



# VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## 2019 VIRGINIA ELECTIONS

More info: [JMU.edu/vote](http://JMU.edu/vote)

### WHO IS UP FOR ELECTION?

The entire General Assembly:  
100 members of the House of Delegates  
40 members of the Virginia Senate

General Election Dates  
September 20, 2019 - In-person  
Absentee Voting at local registrars  
begins

October 15, 2019 - Deadline to  
Register to Vote or Update  
Registration

October 29, 2019 - Deadline to  
Request an Absentee Ballot  
November 5, 2019 - General  
Election

Register to Vote or Update Voter  
Registration:  
[jmu.turbovote.org](http://jmu.turbovote.org)



James Madison Center  
for Civic Engagement

### The Basics:

- Founded as the House of Burgesses in 1619 and named General Assembly in 1776
- Bicameral Legislature: Split between State Senate (Upper Chamber) and House of Delegates (Lower Chamber)
- Annual legislative session to pass legislation on important topics and pass a state-wide budget

### Legislative Session

- Even-numbered years: 60-day session
- Odd-numbered years: 30-day session, traditionally extended to 45 days.
- Sessions can be extended through a two-thirds vote of both chambers.
- A special session of the General Assembly can be convened by the Governor "when, in his opinion, the interest of the Commonwealth may require and shall convene a special session upon the application of two-thirds of the members elected to each house" (Article IV, Section 6, Virginia Constitution).

### The (Simplified) Process to Pass a Bill

- Once bills are introduced in either chamber, they are referred to a committee. The Clerk of the Senate refers Senate bills and the Speaker of the House refers House bills.
- Bills must then pass through their referred committee before being read to the House or Senate floor for a vote.
- If passed by one chamber, it then moves to the other chamber to repeat the same process and is voted on by that chamber.
- Any revisions to the originally passed bill must be returned to the original chamber for another vote.
- The bill then goes to the Governor's desk to be signed or vetoed.
- In the event of a veto, the House and Senate can override with two-thirds votes to pass the law.

### VIRGINIA SENATE: 40 MEMBERS, EACH W/ 4-YEAR TERMS

Presided over by Lieutenant Governor - Currently Justin Fairfax

Current Control: Republican (21 seats to 19 seats)

JMU Representation: 26th District, Represented by Sen. Mark Obenshain (R)

Committees: Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources; Commerce and

Labor; Courts of Justice; Education and Health; Finance; General Laws and

Technology; Local Government; Privileges and Elections; Rehabilitation and Social

Services; Rules; Transportation.

### HOUSE OF DELEGATES: 100 MEMBERS, EACH W/ 2-YEAR TERMS

Presided over by the Speaker of the House of Delegates - Currently Kirk Cox

Current Control: Republican (51 seats to 49 seats)

JMU Representation: Located in 26th District, represented by Del. Tony Wilt (R)

Committees: Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources; Appropriations;

Commerce and Labor; Counties, Cities, and Towns; Courts of Justice; Education;

Finance; General Laws; Health, Welfare, and Institutions; Militia, Police and Public

Safety; Privileges and Elections; Rules; Science and Technology; Transportation.