

NEW VIRGINIA MAJORITY

2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

COVID-19 RELIEF & A JUST ECONOMIC RECOVERY

ECONOMIC JUSTICE:

- ◆ Improve Virginia Employment Commission; extend unemployment benefits to gig workers
- ◆ Remove minimum wage exemption for agricultural workers
- ◆ Increase state revenue by implementing mandatory combined reporting and reinstating the estate tax
- ◆ Equitably legalize marijuana to address economic and social impact of past criminalization on low-income communities and communities of color
- ◆ Improve and streamline the rent relief program and repayment options for rent and utility bills



EDUCATION:

- ◆ Pass and fully fund the School Equity and Staffing Act using the Revenue Reserves
- ◆ Delay student enrollment adjustment for school divisions
- ◆ Maintain state direct aid to schools through the end of the next school year
- ◆ Increase broadband access and affordability
- ◆ Maximize new federal stimulus dollars for school divisions; prioritize distribution equitably based on student need



HEALTH:

- ◆ Clarify that Medicaid Emergency Services cover COVID-19 screening, testing, treatment, and vaccinations
- ◆ Extend Medicaid/FAMIS MOMS pre-natal coverage, including non-Emergency Medicaid labor and delivery coverage to undocumented individuals who meet all non-immigration eligibility criteria
- ◆ Increase age limit immigrant children can qualify for Medicaid and FAMIS to 21
- ◆ Pass paid sick days and family and medical leave legislation



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SAFE, CLEAN, & WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

▶ CRIMINAL JUSTICE:

- ◆ Implement restorative justice practices, such as automatic expungement and rights restoration, clemency, sentence reductions, and retroactive sentencing
- ◆ Marijuana convictions that are no longer criminalized should qualify for automatic expungement
- ◆ End qualified immunity for law enforcement officers
- ◆ Eliminate mandatory minimum sentences for simple assault and battery against law enforcement officers
- ◆ End cash bail and other court fees and fines that criminalize poverty
- ◆ End Virginia's death penalty



▶ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- ◆ Direct agencies to create environmental justice plans and consider cumulative impacts
- ◆ Authorize agencies to promulgate environmental justice regulations
- ◆ Codify the Environmental Justice Interagency Work Group
- ◆ Ensure utility customers can access 100% renewable energy and affordable, fair utility bills



▶ IMMIGRANT JUSTICE:

- ◆ Prohibit 287g agreements between localities and Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- ◆ Improve data privacy protections for undocumented Virginians obtaining Driver Privilege Cards
- ◆ Repeal Virginia's legal presence requirement for state and local public benefits eligibility



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EXPANDING DEMOCRACY

VOTING RIGHTS

- ◆ Establish a constitutional right to vote that cannot be abridged or taken away; establish a state-level Voting Rights Act



ELECTIONS:

- ◆ Establish an absentee ballot curing process that allows pre-processing and election reporting, allows emergency absentee voting, makes secure drop box locations permanent, and removes the witness signature requirement
- ◆ Improve curbside voting access and allow pre-registration
- ◆ Allow State Board of Elections and/or the Governor to extend voter registration deadlines when there is a technical issue
- ◆ Join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact