



VIRGINIA LEAGUE OF  
CONSERVATION VOTERS

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECAP



# WHAT WE'LL COVER

- Lay of the Land
  - Chamber breakdowns
  - Key dynamics between stakeholders
- 2026 Legislative Session
- Veto Session & the Budget
- Governor's Final Actions



**BLAIR ST. LEDGER-OLSON**

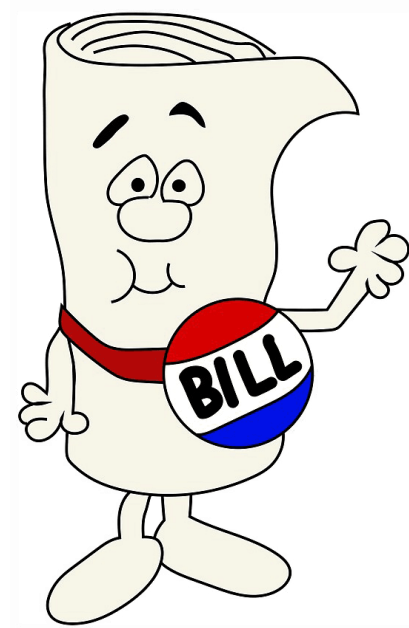
Director of Advocacy & Campaigns

[blair@valcv.org](mailto:blair@valcv.org)

# TIMELINE & PROCESS

Even Year = Long Session: 60 days

1. Introduced → committees → floor
2. Crossover (Feb 17th)
3. Committees → floor → enrolled
4. Sine Die (March 14th)
5. Governor amendments → veto session



# HOUSE BREAKDOWN

House of Delegates (64 D - 36 R)

- Democratic Leadership:
  - Speaker of the House: Delegate Don Scott (Portsmouth)
  - Majority Leader: Delegate Charniele Herring (Alexandria)
  - Caucus Chair: Kathy Tran (Fairfax)
- Republican Leadership:
  - Minority Leader: Delegate Terry Kilgore (Wise)
  - Caucus Chair: Delegate Scott Wyatt (Hanover)



# SENATE BREAKDOWN

Senate (21 D - 19 R)

- Democratic Leadership:
  - Majority Leader: Senator Scott Surovell (Fairfax)
  - Caucus Chair: Senator Mamie Locke (Hampton)
  - President Pro Tem: Senator Louise Lucas (Portsmouth)
- Republican Leadership:
  - Minority Leader: Senator Ryan McDougale (Hanover)
  - Caucus Chair: Senator Mark Obenshain (Rockingham)



# KEY DYNAMICS

- **Beginning:**
  - Over 2,300 bills introduced
  - New Governor, Lt Governor, and Attorney General sworn in on Saturday, January 17th, 2026
  - Redistricting fight
- **Middle:**
  - Appointments leading to special elections
  - New administration struggling to engage, larger democratic caucus, federal impacts from HR 1
- **End:**
  - Over 1,200 bills passed, with special budget session looming...

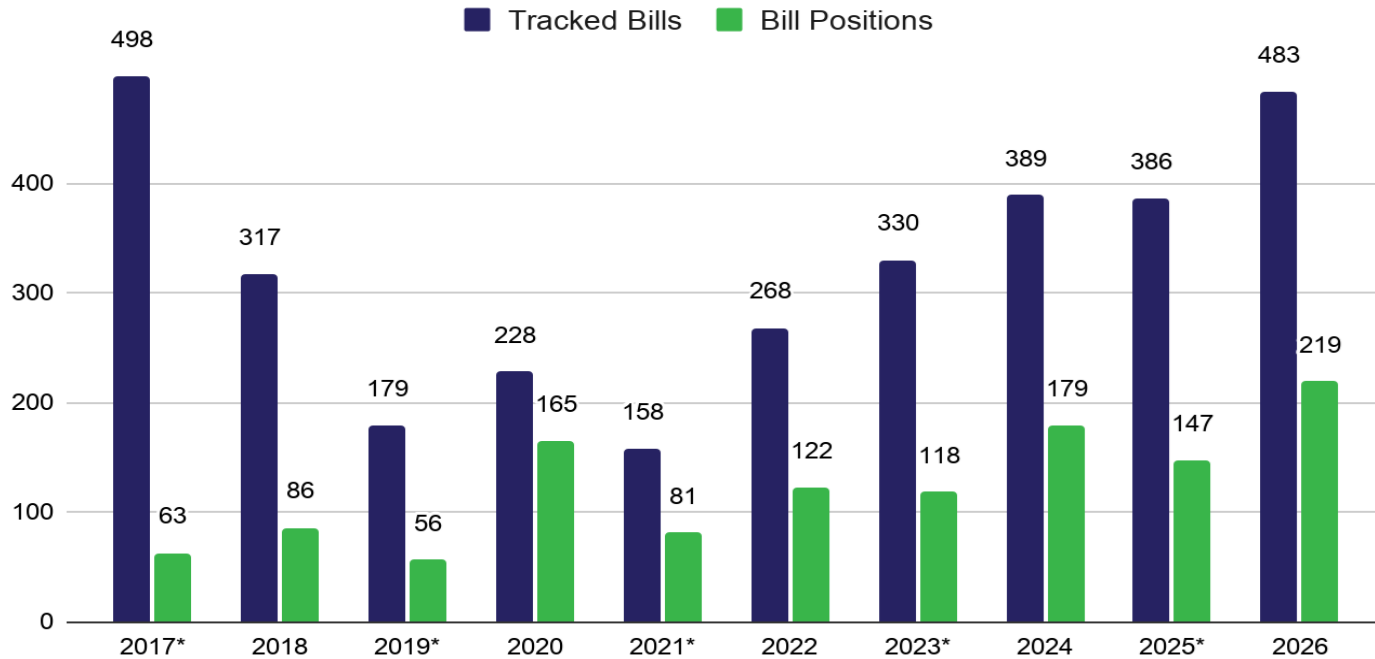


# KEY DYNAMICS

- Political Dynamics
  - Governor's first session
  - Redistricting
- House vs Senate
- Other Stakeholders
  - Data Centers vs Dominion



## VCN Bill Tracking & Positions Taken Over The Years



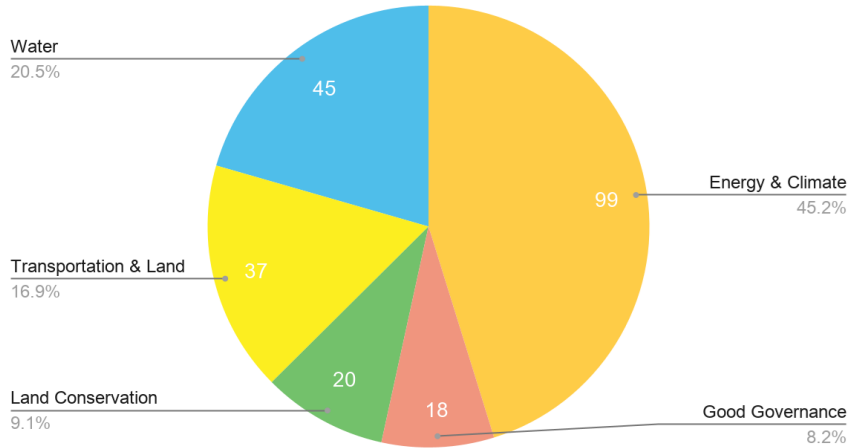
**483** Tracked Bills – **192** Supported Bills – **22** Opposed Bills



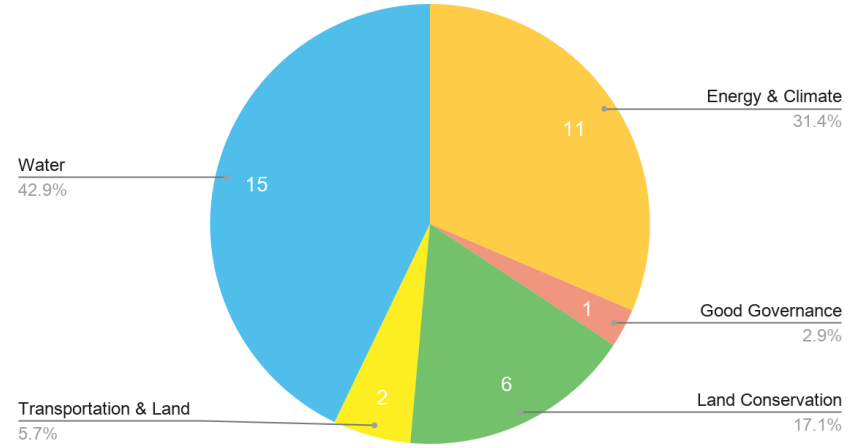
VIRGINIA  
CONSERVATION  
NETWORK

Bill Positions over 10 years

Bill Positions by Issue



Budget Report Items by Environmental Issue



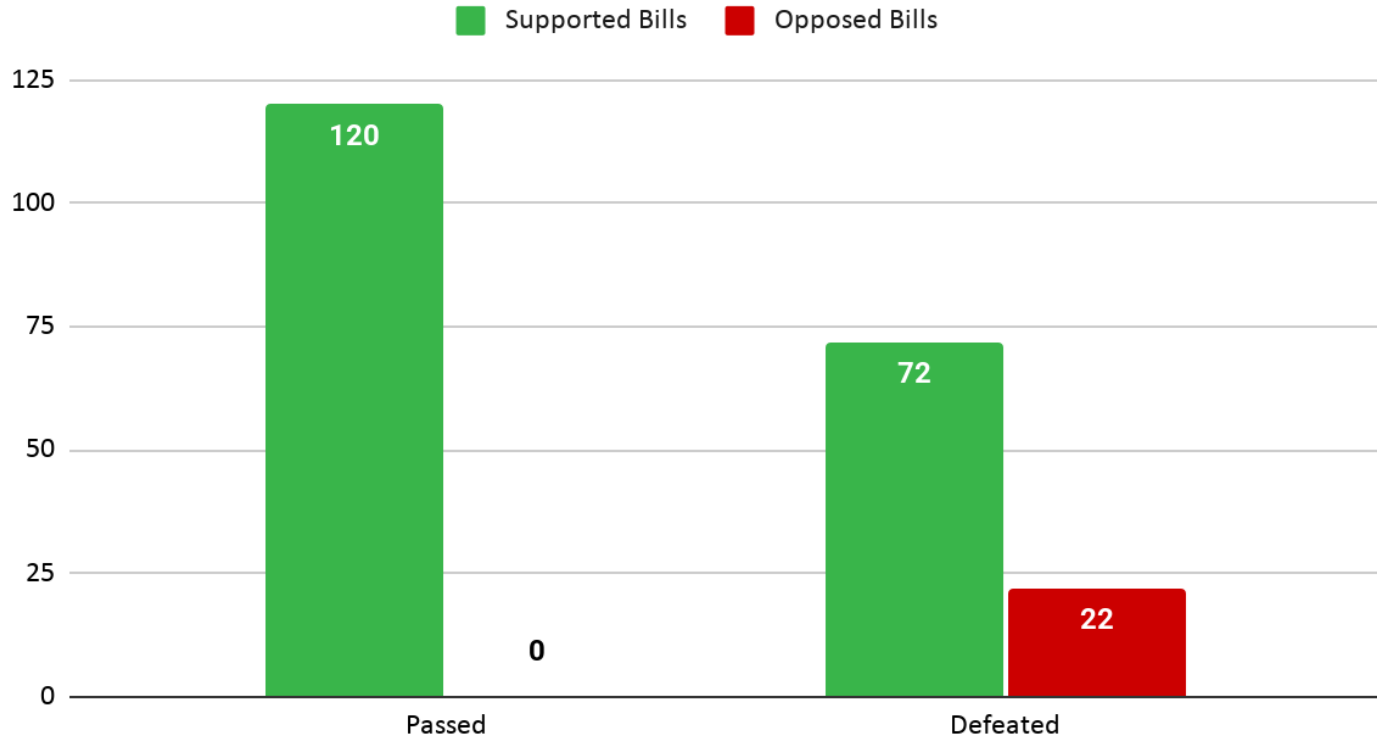
~½ of Bill Positions Energy & Climate  
~¾ of Budget Positions Energy & Climate & Water

# VETO SESSION & THE BUDGET

- Governor Spanberger:
  - Took action on over 1,100 bills, including:
    - amendments to 180 bills
    - 8 vetoes
- During veto session, the legislature:
  - Rejected many amendments,
  - Accepted some,
  - Preemptively overrode a potential veto
- The governor will have 30 days to either sign or veto legislation sent back to her desk
- Budget still TBD



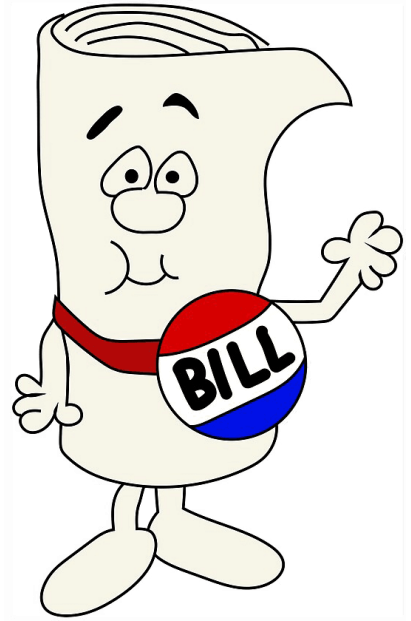
## Final Environmental Outcomes



# BILL SPOTLIGHTS

- **Water**

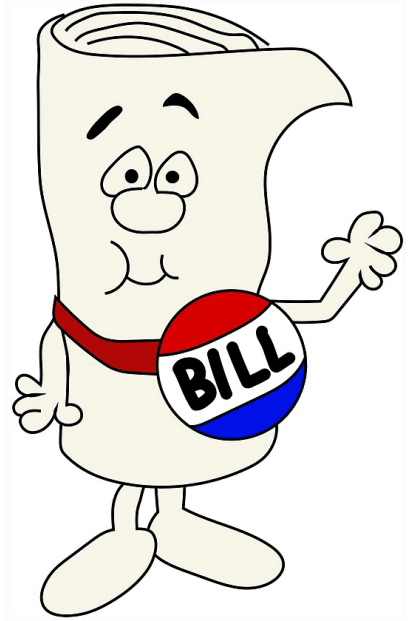
- Funding for stormwater management and agriculture BMPs currently uncertain due to budget negotiations
- No new good plastics bills were passed, but no bad bills were passed either. Foam ban remains intact.
- PFAS package on industrial & biosolid sources passed, as well as local testing authority clarified
- A tree canopy bill (HB 549/SB589) was passed and signed.
- Numerous wetlands, marsh migration, and other habitat bills were passed and signed into law.



# BILL SPOTLIGHTS

- **Land Use & Transportation:**

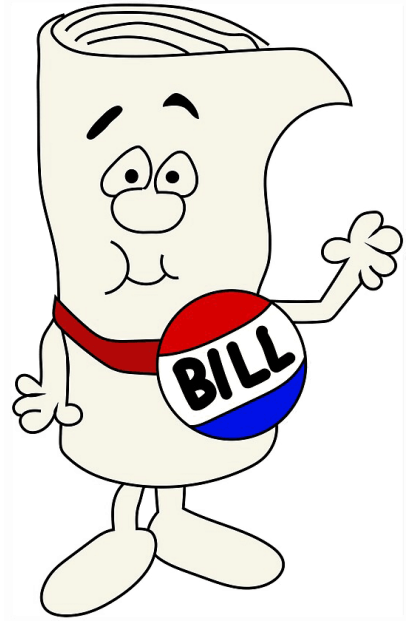
- Additional Invasive Plants bills (HB 88 & HB 109) were passed & signed into law
- Virginia's Great Outdoors Act (HB 641) was incorporated into HB897, and the Senate vehicle (SB 393) failed in Senate Finance
- Wildlife Corridors (HB 597) was passed and signed into law.
- Both Oak Hill Park vehicles (HB 500/SB157) were defeated in Senate Finance, but House budget includes language.
- Rural EV legislation (HB 324) was continued to 2027 in House approps
- Bills that advance EV charging infrastructure were passed (HB1225/SB407 + HB833)



# BILL SPOTLIGHTS

- **Energy:**

- Virginia is on its way to being back in RGGI
- OSW Workforce Dev (HB 67 / SB25) was passed and signed into law
- Entire Affordable Clean Energy Package was passed and signed into law:
  - DG Expansion & Balcony Solar
  - Battery Storage
  - Rooftop Permitting
  - Consumer Protections
- ApCo & Co Op Virtual Power Plants bills were passed and signed into law
- Demand Flex (HB284 / SB371) was passed & signed into law
- Dominion bills (HB1393 / SB253) are expected to be signed after some Gov amendments were accepted during reconvene



# QUESTIONS?



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