

Important information from Delegate Wren M. Williams for you to review and share with your neighbors, church members, colleagues, friends, family and contacts.

Thanks!

Bob Deeds – CARMA Member

Wren M. Williams is with Virginia House Republicans at Virginia State Capitol. [14th Richmond](#)

What Democrats Did to Virginia This Session — And What They DIDN'T Do

They ran on affordability. They had the House, the Senate, and the Governor's office all to themselves. Here's what they actually did.

THE MONEY GRAB

\$15 Minimum Wage (HB 1/SB 1) — Raises Virginia's minimum wage from \$12.77 to \$15/hour by 2028, then ties it to inflation forever. Richmond is setting payroll for every small business in Virginia, regardless of location. When your costs go up by law, jobs and hours go down. Passed on a party-line vote.

Paid Sick Leave Mandate (HB 5/SB 199) — Every employer in Virginia must now provide paid sick leave whether they can afford it or not. No small business exemption. The cost gets passed directly to you — higher prices, fewer hours, fewer jobs.

Paid Family Leave Payroll Tax (HB 1207/SB 2) — A brand new state payroll tax hits employers and employees starting in 2028 to fund up to 12 weeks of government-paid leave for other people. This is money taken out of your paycheck every pay period, handed to a new state bureaucracy to redistribute to others.

Public Sector Union Bill (HB 1263) — Repeals Virginia's longstanding ban on government employee unions. Now state and local government workers can collectively bargain — meaning union bosses negotiate your tax dollars away

at the table, and you don't get a seat. This will be a massive cost increase on our localities, forcing our communities to come up with the money to pay for it. And where do local governments get their money? You. **[OBJ] Passed 62-34.**

THE LANDLORD SHAKEDOWN

Democrats passed a sweeping package of bills that stack the deck against property owners:

- **Eviction timelines extended — Tenants now get 14 days to respond to eviction filings instead of 5. The longer the process drags out, the longer small landlords go without rent. What happens if those landlords can't make their mortgage? Now there's no place to rent. [OBJ]**

- **Attorney's fees capped at \$50 — Even if you win in court, your attorney fees are capped at \$50 if the tenant pays up before the hearing. You eat the legal cost. Good luck finding an attorney. [OBJ]**

- **Can't screen for prior evictions — Landlords are barred from rejecting applicants based on dismissed or expungeable eviction records. You can't protect your property from someone who was just evicted. And bad actors know this. They will tumble from soft-hearted landlord to soft-hearted landlord, screwing each one out of rent several months out of each year over the course of many years in a row.**

- **Government can now sue you on your tenant's behalf — Localities can now take you to court over habitability complaints, even if your tenant hasn't filed anything.**

- **Mandatory air conditioning — Government now tells you what amenities you must provide in your own property. Now, tie that back to habitability complaints. If you don't provide mandatory air conditioning, and that air conditioning goes out during the hot summer, the government can now sue you for them. Period. [OBJ]**

- **Required payment methods — Must accept Venmo, Zelle, credit cards, cash, and more. No say in how you collect rent.**

The goal is to make private rental housing function like public housing — with all the headaches, all the cost, and none of the control. More red tape on landlords means fewer rentals available and higher rents for everyone.

YOUR GUN RIGHTS — 12 BILLS PASSED

Not a single Republican co-sponsored any of them.

Assault Weapons Ban (SB 749/HB 217) — Bans sale and transfer of the most common semi-automatic rifles in America. Passed 21-19 on a pure party-line vote.

Public Carry Ban (SB 727) — Bans carrying a firearm with a standard magazine anywhere open to the public. That's most legal carry pistols. Law-abiding gun owners are now criminals for carrying what they've carried for years. And this applies to every single public location, including when your cars, tires touch a public street. [OBJ]

Sue the Gun Industry (SB 27) — Lets anyone injured by a criminal with a gun sue the entire firearms industry supply chain: manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, etc. You don't sue Ford and your local dealer [OBJ] when a drunk driver kills someone.

Ghost Gun Felony (HB 40) — Building your own firearm — legal since before the Constitution — is now a Class 5 felony. Up to 10 years in prison. So not only can you not buy a firearm, you can't build one either. And the government said that. Pretty much the exact opposite of the second amendment. [OBJ]

Mandatory Safe Storage (HB 871) — Government tells you how to store your gun in your own home. They must be [OBJ] in a locked storage container at all times. [OBJ] When someone kicks in your door at 2 a.m., a locked safe won't save you.

PROTECTING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM ICE

Democrats love illegal aliens more than you. [OBJ]

ICE Cooperation Ban (HB 1441) — Bars Virginia law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration agents. [OBJ] Bans 287(g) agreements that let local officers assist ICE. Before 2025, Virginia had zero 287(g) agreements. Under Gov. Youngkin, it expanded to 28 — and ICE arrests went from roughly 1,000 to over 7,000 in a single year. Democrats just shut that down. If you're here illegally, Virginia is now a sanctuary.

THE MAP RIGGING SCHEME — VOTE NO APRIL 21

Democrats are trying to throw out the bipartisan redistricting commission that Virginia voters approved in 2020 and let themselves draw new congressional maps. The map they already drew would flip Virginia's congressional delegation from 6D-5R to 10D-1R — eliminating four

Republican seats. One court already ruled this process was illegal. They appealed and pushed forward anyway. The ballot question was written by Democrats and uses the phrase “restore fairness” — which is a lie. Virginia’s current maps received an A rating from the nonpartisan Princeton Gerrymandering Project. Vote NO on April 21.

And they buried the new partisan maps inside the state budget (HB 29) — the same budget they couldn’t even finish. Now, they’re having to repeal the law that they violated and continue to violate in violation of the constitution which makes this special election unconstitutional!

ENERGY — YOUR BILLS ARE GOING UP

Democrats rejoined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) — a cap-and-trade energy tax that Youngkin withdrew Virginia from because it was driving up electricity bills. Rejoining means your power bill goes back up. That’s not a promise — it’s how RGGI works. They called it affordability and sold it as clean energy. It’s just gas lighting.

WHAT THEY PROMISED AND DIDN’T DO

They campaigned on affordability. They controlled everything. Here’s what they killed or ignored:

- No car tax repeal. Republicans filed it. Democrats killed it in committee. Again. Instead, they’re gonna study.^[OBJ]**
- No grocery tax repeal. Republicans filed it. Democrats tabled it in the Senate.**
- No repeal of the tax on tips or overtime — those were in Youngkin’s budget. Democrats stripped them out. They didn’t raise taxes, they just eliminated tax breaks.^[OBJ]**
- No budget. After months in session with a trifecta and a two billion-dollar surplus, they couldn’t agree on a budget (because they can’t figure out how to pay for all their egregious spending) and adjourned without one. Spanberger has until April 13 to act on bills; they’ll be back April 22 to fight about spending your money some more.**

The bottom line: They took more from your paycheck, made it harder to own property, eliminated^[OBJ] your gun rights, blocked immigration enforcement, rigged the congressional map, and drove your energy bills up — then left without passing a budget.

I voted NO on every single one of these. Share this so your neighbors know what happened in Richmond this session. Vote NO by April 21. ^[OBJ]
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