Current Congressional District Map

Representation

Statewide Partisanship — Current Delegation — 2014 Projections

Partisanship is a measure of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. See our Methodology section to learn how Partisanship is determined.

District Competitiveness

Majority Partisanship	Swing (50-<53%)	Lean (53-<58%)	Safe (58%+)
Districts	3	2	6

Redistricting

Republicans narrowly gained control of the State Senate in 2011, giving them control of the redistricting process. The state legislature passed its new congressional redistricting map on January 21, 2012. Not a single Senate Democrat voted in favor of the map.

Democrats rejected the map in part because it did not create a second majority-minority district. The map was subjected to multiple lawsuits, but courts have upheld the map's validity in every case, and on March 28, 2012 it was pre-cleared by the Department of Justice.
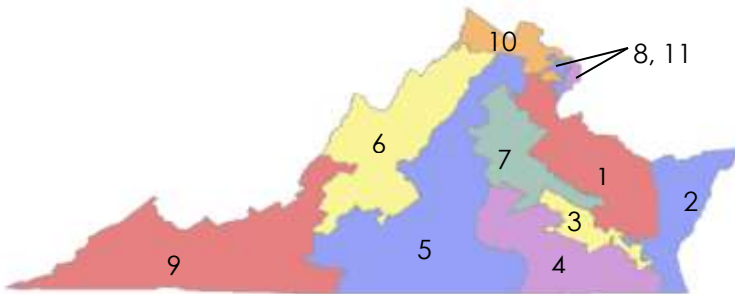
2014 Projections: 7 R, 3 D, 1 ?

Virginia's congressional delegation has grown increasingly Republican over the last two decades. Though the state is currently balanced in presidential elections, the 7-4 Democratic edge in seats in 1992 has become a reliable 8-3 Republican majority. We project Republicans to maintain that advantage in 2014.

Virginia has three balanced districts in terms of partisanship, but all three have solid incumbents who are expected to win by more than 10 points.

Date 2014 Projections Announced: April 2013.

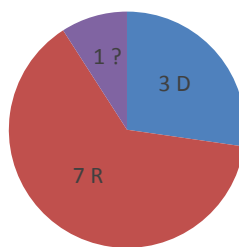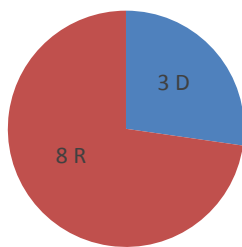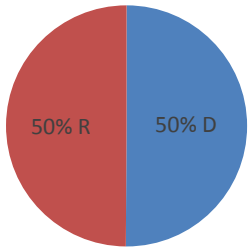**2012 Projections:** 6 R, 3 D, 2 ? All projections accurate.

Races to Watch: Scott Rigell (VA-2, R). Rigell represents a 49% Democratic district, making him the most at-risk incumbent in the state. As a result, Rigell was the only House Republican to vote against tying defunding Obamacare to the government shutdown.

Strongest Candidate: Rigell (VA-2, R): +5.5% POAC*

Weakest Candidate: Connolly (VA-11, D): -8.5% POAC
*POAC (Performance Over Average Candidate) is a measure of the quality of a winning candidate's campaign. It compares how well a winner did relative to what would be projected for a generic candidate of the same party and incumbency status. See our Methodology section to learn how POAC is determined.

Race and Gender in the U.S. House

All of Virginia's districts are majority white except the 3rd district, which is represented by Democrat Bobby Scott. Scott is the delegation's only African American, as well as the first candidate of Filipino descent to be elected in the U.S. He is also the first African American to represent the state since Republican John Mercer Langston was elected in 1890.

No women currently represent Virginia in Congress, and only three have done so in the state's history.

Dubious Democracy

Virginia's Democracy Index Ranking: 6th (of 50)

Virginia's earned its high ranking through its high voter turnout rate of 64.4% and a corresponding high percentage of eligible voters who voted for winning candidates. It also had a relatively low percentage of landslide races in 2012, though only one race was won by less than 10%.

Virginia does a poor job translating votes to representation, however, as Democrats control only 27% of its seats despite having the support of about half the state's voters in 2012.

Listed below are recent election results and 2014 election projections for Virginia's eleven U.S. House districts. All metrics in this table are further explained in the Methodology section of this report.

Partisanship is an indicator of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. It is determined by measuring how the district voted for president in 2012 relative to the presidential candidates' national averages. Developed by FairVote in 1997 and adapted by Charlie Cook for the Cook Partisan Voting Index, this definition of partisanship is based on only the most recent presidential election.

Performance Over Average Candidate (POAC) is an indicator of how well the winner did compared to a hypothetical generic candidate of the same district, incumbency status, and party, based on their winning percentages in 2010 and 2012. A high POAC suggests that the winner appealed to independents and voters from other parties in addition to voters from his or her own party. A low POAC suggests that the winner did not draw many votes from independents and other parties.

District	Incumbent	Party	Race/ Gender	Year First Elected	2012 2-Party Winning Percentage	POAC	District Partisanship (Dem)	2014 Projected Dem %	2014 Projection
1	Wittman, Rob	R	White/M	2007[1]	57.7%	0.5%	44.4%	40.3%	Safe R
2	Rigell, Scott	R	White/M	2010	53.8%	1.9%	48.8%	43.7%	Likely R
3	Scott, Bobby	D	Black-Asian/M	1992	81.5%	-1.8%	77.6%	79.7%	Safe D
4	Forbes, Randy	R	White/M	2001	57.0%	1.5%	47.4%	42.2%	Likely R
5	Hurt, Robert	R	White/M	2010	56.4%	-1.9%	44.8%	42.5%	Likely R
6	Goodlatte, Bob	R	White/M	1992	65.4%	0.6%	38.4%	33.9%	Safe R
7	OPEN (Cantor, Eric)	R	White/M	2000	58.5%	-2.7%	40.5%	40.5%	Safe R
8	OPEN (Moran, Jim)	D	White/M	1990	67.9%	-4.8%	66.5%	66.5%	Safe D
9	Griffith, Morgan	R	White/M	2010	61.4%	-8.5%	34.0%	37.2%	Safe R
10	OPEN (Wolf, Frank)	R	White/M	1980	60.1%	5.5%	47.5%	47.5%	No Projection
11	Connolly, Gerry	D	White/M	2008	63.2%	-4.4%	61.2%	61.2%	Safe D

[1] Wittman was elected in a December 2007 special election following the death of Representative Jo Ann Davis.

Virginia's Fair Representation Voting Plan

Super District (w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win (plus 1 vote)	Partisanship (D/R %)	Current Rep.: 8 R, 3 D	Super District Rep.: 5 R, 5 D, 1 ?
A (CDs - 5,6,9)	3	727,366	25%	39 / 61	3 R	2 R, 1 D
B (CDs - 8,10,11)	3	727,366	25%	58 / 42	1 R, 2 D	1 R, 2 D
C (CDs - 1,2,3,4,7)	5	727,366	16.7%	51 / 49	4 R, 1 D	2 R, 2 D, 1 ?

Partisan and Racial Impact: This fair voting plan would make it equally likely that Republicans or Democrats would win a majority of Virginia's congressional seats, in contrast to the current heavy Republican advantage. We project five seats to be won by both the GOP and the Democrats, with one toss up seat. Black voters would be able to elect a candidate of choice from super district C.
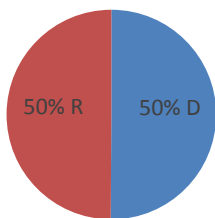
How Does Fair Representation Voting Work?

Fair representation voting methods such as ranked choice voting describe American forms of proportional representation with a history in local and state elections. They uphold American electoral traditions, such as voting for candidates rather than parties. They ensure all voters participate in competitive elections and ensure more accurate representation, with the majority of voters likely to elect most seats and backers of both major parties likely to elect preferred candidates.
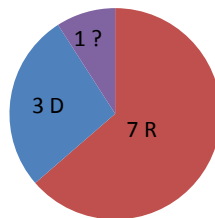
Instead of 11 individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines these districts into three larger "super districts" with three or five representatives. Any candidate who is the first choice of just over a quarter of voters in a three-seat district will win a seat. Any candidate who is the first choice of more than one sixth of voters in a five-seat district will win a seat.

Comparing a Fair Representation Voting Plan to Virginia's Current Districts
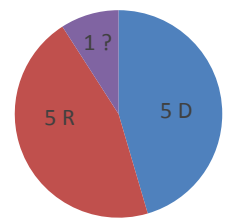
Statewide Partisanship

2014 Projections

FairVote's Plan

Partisanship is an indicator of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. See our Methodology section to learn how Partisanship is determined.

Benefits of a Fair Representation Voting Plan

More accurate representation: Congressional delegations more faithfully reflect the preferences of all voters. Supporters of both major parties elect candidates in each district, with accurate balance of each district's left, right, and center.

More voter choice and competition: Third parties, independents and major party innovators have better chances, as there is a lower threshold for candidates to win a seat. Because voters have a range of choices, candidates must compete to win voter support.

Better representation of racial minorities: Racial minority candidates have a lower threshold to earn seats, even when not geographically concentrated. More voters of all races are in a position to elect candidates.

More women: More women are likely to run and win. Single-member districts often stifle potential candidates.

View more fair voting plans at FairVotingUS.com