

VA-01 District Primer

In 2024, Republican Rob Wittman won this seat by 61, 212 votes. That works out to a margin of approximately 25 votes per precinct—and *that's close!* With your help, we're going to **FLIP** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates

Filing Deadline: May 26

Primary: August 4

Midterms: November 3

Recent Election Results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
Harris: 203,204 (50.5%) Trump: 191,696 (47.7%)	Robert J. Wittman (R): 269,657 (56.3%) Leslie Mehta (D): 208,445 (43.5%)	R. J. Wittman (R): 191,828 (56%) Herb Jones (D): 147,229 (43%)

District Facts & Stats



Largest Cities

- Tuckahoe, pop. 49,183
- Mechanicsville (parts), 38,683
- Short Pump, 29,026

Geography

Bordered to the north by the Potomac River, VA-01 stretches east to west from Chesapeake Bay to the Richmond suburbs. It includes the historic cities of Williamsburg, Yorktown, and Jamestown. The district is home to several military installations including Naval Weapons Station, the US Coast Guard Training Center at Yorktown, and Camp Peary, near Williamsburg.

Citizenry

The population is 823,798 with 271.1 people per square mile. The district is approximately 70% white; 13% of residents are Black, and 6% are Hispanic. Twenty percent of the population is over 65. The median household income is \$100,817, with 6.7% of households being below the poverty line; 7.3% of children live in poverty. Slightly less than half the population has a bachelor's degree or higher.

Over eight percent of adults—more than 52,000 residents—are veterans, of whom nearly 18,000 fought in the Gulf War.

The Local Vibe

VA-01 has voted Republican in recent years, but not by huge margins. The seat has been held by the Republican incumbent since 2007. There is also a Senate race on the ballot, and incumbent Senator Mark Warner (D) faces a primary challenge on August 4 as well.

ICE tried to buy a warehouse in Ashland for detentions in January 2026, which was only stopped when the Canadian owner backed out after local protests. In 2025 and 2026, thousands protested at No Kings rallies in Richmond and Norfolk.

Key Issues

- **Threats to essential services:** In 2024, almost 38,000 residents were without health insurance. Ten hospitals in the state are at risk of closure, including one in the district and five more nearby. One in 10 adults is food insecure.
 - **An absentee rep:** Wittman hasn't held a town hall in the district since 2019.
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About the Candidates

Robert J. Wittman | GOP Incumbent

Robert J. Wittman, 67, has represented VA-01 continuously since 2007. He serves as Vice Chair of the House Committee on Armed Services, chairs the subcommittee for Tactical Air and Land Forces, and sits on the subcommittee for Seapower and Projection Forces. He is also on the House Committee on Natural Resources, and serves on two of its subcommittees, Energy and Mineral Resources, and Water, Wildlife and Fisheries.

Wittman has said ICE needs to hire more agents. He voted for the One Big Beautiful Bill of 2025. In 2016, he bragged that he had voted in favor of repeal or partial repeal of the Affordable Care Act more than 40 times. He also voted to defund Planned Parenthood. His largest donors are from the defense industry. He also gets funding from AIPAC and has been endorsed by President Trump.

Democratic Challenger(s)

There are several possible candidates; we'll know more after the primary election on August 4. Until then, we've identified these front runners:

A lifelong Virginian, **Shannon Taylor**, 58, was the first woman to be elected as the Attorney for the Commonwealth's Henrico County. She has been reelected 3 times and is the first Democrat in 24 years to hold the seat. Taylor's campaign focuses on reducing costs and tax burdens for working families, and investing in energy, infrastructure and small businesses to create good-paying jobs. Her focus on healthcare includes protecting Medicare and Social Security for seniors, lowering cost of prescription drugs, and making healthcare affordable.

A retired Navy Commander and former F-18 pilot who grew up in VA-01, **Jason Knapp**, 51, held leadership positions at NATO and US European command, and he was a Defense Fellow in Congress. He currently serves as an adjunct professor of government at American University. Knapp is focused on lowering costs for working families, especially energy costs; making housing, healthcare, and quality education more affordable and accessible; protecting Social Security and other programs that constitute the nation's social safety net; advancing reproductive freedom; helping veterans and military families; and defending workers rights including the rights to unionize and engage in collective bargaining as secured by the PRO Act.

The contrast: Wittman's challengers are focused on improving the lives of working families in the district, including addressing health care and housing affordability. Their commitment to service stands in stark contrast to the GOP incumbent, who cares so little about his constituents that he hasn't held a town hall in years, and remains committed to the increasingly unpopular and extremist Trump agenda.