

Voter Guide

& Election Information

2023



James Madison Center
for Civic Engagement
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Election Information	
Sample Ballots	2
State Senate, District 2	3
State Delegate, District 34	7
Clerk of Court	10
Sheriff	11
Commonwealth’s Attorney	12
Harrisonburg City School Board	14
Rockingham County Board of Supervisors	16
Rockingham County School Board	21
Voting Information	
Registration	26
Absentee Voting	27
Voting on Election Day	28
Credits and Resources	30

The purpose of this guide is to provide an overview of the upcoming election: what’s on the ballot, candidate information, voter information, and more, complete with links, additional resources, and relevant election information.

Election Information

What's in This Section:

- 1. Sample Ballots 2
- 2. State Senate 3
- 3. State Delegate 7
- 4. Clerk of Court 10
- 5. Sheriff 11
- 6. Commonwealth's Attorney 12
- 7. Harrisonburg City Special Election 14
- 8. Rockingham County Local Elections 16

Each position section will include a position description followed by candidate names, party affiliations, and platforms.

Commonwealth of Virginia
Sample Ballot
 City of Harrisonburg
 Pct. 101 - Northeast (Simms)
 General and Special Elections
 Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Instructions to voters

To vote for a candidate, use a black pen to fill in the oval next to the name, like this:

To write in a qualified candidate who is not already on the ballot, fill in the oval and write the name of the person on the line.

If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.

If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your votes may not be counted.

Member Senate of Virginia 2nd District Vote for only one <input type="radio"/> Mark D. Obenshain - R <input type="radio"/> Kathy A. Beery - D <input type="radio"/> Joshua J. Huffman - L <input type="radio"/> Write-in	Commonwealth's Attorney Vote for only one <input type="radio"/> Marsha L. Garst <input type="radio"/> Write-in
Member House of Delegates 34th District Vote for only one <input type="radio"/> Tony O. Wilt - R <input type="radio"/> Esther M. Nizer - D <input type="radio"/> Write-in	Sheriff Vote for only one <input type="radio"/> Bryan F. Hutcheson <input type="radio"/> Write-in
Clerk of Court Vote for only one <input type="radio"/> Chaz W. Haywood <input type="radio"/> Write-in	Member School Board For unexpired term to end December 31, 2024 Vote for only one <input type="radio"/> Tom D. Domanoske <input type="radio"/> Write-in

Turn Ballot Over To Continue Voting →

Ballot Style # 001 Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01 101 - Northeast (Simms)

Authorized by the Electoral Board of the City of Harrisonburg, 409 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801
 The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, committee, individual or group using this ballot for their own purposes. Any reproduction of this ballot MUST be printed on white paper. The authority statement used for this ballot must comply with the requirements of either federal or state law, as appropriate. For state requirements, see §24.2-622 and §24.2-656 of the Code of Virginia. For federal requirements, call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-424-9530.

**Harrisonburg City
 Sample Ballot
 (House District 34)**

Commonwealth of Virginia, **SAMPLE BALLOT** DAYTON WITH TOWN 02031
 County of Rockingham
 General and Special Elections
 Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Making selections

To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval to the left of the name.
 To write in a candidate who is not already on the ballot, fill in the oval and write the name of the person on the line.
 If you want to change a vote or if you have made a mistake, ask an election officer for another ballot.
 If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your votes may not be counted.

Member Senate of Virginia 2nd District Vote for only one <input type="radio"/> Mark D. Obenshain - R <input type="radio"/> Kathy A. Beery - D <input type="radio"/> Joshua J. Huffman - L <input type="radio"/> Write-in	Commonwealth's Attorney Vote for only one <input type="radio"/> Marsha L. Garst <input type="radio"/> Write-in
Member House of Delegates 35th District Vote for only one <input type="radio"/> Chris S. Runion - R <input type="radio"/> Write-in	Sheriff Vote for only one <input type="radio"/> Bryan F. Hutcheson <input type="radio"/> Write-in
Clerk of Court Vote for only one <input type="radio"/> Chaz W. Haywood <input type="radio"/> Write-in	Commissioner of Revenue Vote for only one <input type="radio"/> J Daniel Cullers <input type="radio"/> Write-in
	Treasurer Vote for only one <input type="radio"/> L. Todd Garber <input type="radio"/> Write-in

Turn the ballot over

**Rockingham County
 Sample Ballot
 (House District 35)**

State Senate, District 2

The Senate is the upper house of Virginia's bicameral legislature with a four-year term and no limit to the number of times they may run for reelection. The duties of a Senator are to write, amend, and pass legislation in committees.



Mark Obenshain (R, Incumbent)

Website: <https://www.markobenshain.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/markobenshain/>

Email: mark@markobenshain.com



Kathy Beery (D)

Website: <https://beeryforvirginia.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KathyBeery4VA>

Email: beeryforvirginia@gmail.com



Joshua Huffman (L)

Website: <https://principlesbeforeparty.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Joshua-Huffman-for-Virginia-Senate/100094130564221/>

Email: conservativeva@gmail.com

What do you see as the main barriers to creating and sustaining affordable housing, both in the greater Shenandoah Valley and more specifically in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County? What will you do to address those barriers?

Obenshain: The housing market is primarily driven by economics – supply and demand drive the housing prices up or down and interest rates also play a role in the market. With interest rates being high currently, it makes affordable housing much more challenging to obtain for so many. The Commonwealth has a new tax credit for affordable housing. Based on the results we see over the next year or two, it may be something that could be expanded. I am opposed to adding any additional regulations or barriers to the home building industry which can add to their cost of building affordable single-family and multi-family housing.

Beery: Nationally, the housing market is being distorted by hedge fund investors seeking to extract high returns from renters. The state can address this and other problems by allocating more control over housing policies to localities. For example, allowing localities to limit the percentage of housing stock controlled by absentee investors, giving them more control over zoning regulations, and encouraging regional zoning boards to coordinate housing development in between the county and city. We also need to ensure that no state funds or resources for affordable housing are left unused.

Huffman: I'd say the main barrier to affordable housing is an insufficient supply of housing caused by zoning laws. As such, I believe that if zoning laws were changed, we would see more housing being built and an overall decrease in the cost to either rent or buy. However, this is an issue that typically would be handled by the local government and not by the General Assembly.

This summer, Virginia was named the best state for Customized Workforce Training by Business Facilities' State Rankings Report. In light of this recognition, what types of policy action would you propose to continue strengthening a rapidly growing and diversifying workforce in Rockingham County and Harrisonburg?

Obenshain: We are blessed to have a strong and diverse workforce here in Harrisonburg/Rockingham County. Our local institutions of higher education, JMU and BRCC, offer programs specifically tailored to meet the local workforce needs, often partnering with our local businesses as part of their initiatives. At the state level we have grant programs, such as the Workforce Credential Grant, which help with training costs to fill jobs in high demand fields. I fully support these grant programs and hope to see them expanded. If we are training and educating students here, we want them to stay here to work, live, and raise their families.

Beery: We must help people find jobs that pay well and benefit our communities.

Here are some things I will work on:

- Expediting professional credentialing for refugees and immigrants.
- Fixing the backlogged system of certifying healthcare workers.
- Supporting apprenticeship programs with unions and businesses.
- Promoting an industrial hemp economy that will benefit farmers and encourage new industries.
- Making sure that state regulations encourage the creation of cooperative enterprises whose profits remain in local communities.
- Ensuring incubators for small business development can provide multilingual services.
- Finishing the commitment to create a medical marijuana and CBD sector.

Huffman: The best policy for the state government would be to work to keep taxes low and maintain a good education system. Although there is a great temptation to increase the power of the government to both correct issues in society and bolster good outcomes, I think maintaining a hands-off approach is the best answer in most situations.

The most recent US Department of Agriculture census found that counties in the Shenandoah Valley comprised four of the top five producers of Virginia agriculture. Simultaneously, many parts of the Valley have faced severe heat and weather outcomes in recent months--the City of Harrisonburg is currently in a Drought Warning Stage and residents are being asked to voluntarily conserve water. How do you plan to support farmers and agriculture producers while also being mindful of environmental sustainability?

Obenshain: Agriculture is the largest private industry in Virginia. It employs over 381,000 Virginians. The total value-added impact of agriculture is \$43 billion, and the economic impact is \$82 billion. It is an essential and vibrant part of our economy here in the Valley. I carried legislation to help our dairy farmers continue to thrive and help them develop better stewardship practices. I support the environmental BMP (Best Management Practices) program which has been tremendously successful in the Commonwealth. I will continue to work with the Governor's Administration and our agricultural stakeholders to identify additional opportunities for continued growth and sustainability.

Beery: Tensions over water among farmers, industries, and communities need to be managed before they get heated. The state should reward cities, suburbs, and industries for reducing water consumption and finding ways to reuse water. Farmers need to be assisted with acquiring more efficient irrigation equipment. One crop can tie farmers and town residents together for mutual benefit and climate action. Industrial hemp sequesters carbon and renews the soil. Hemp can replace some of the worst non-fossil fuel drivers of climate change – concrete, cotton, and paper. Hemp diversifies income for farmers while supporting new industrial jobs. Working together makes it easier to take on the shared problem of sustainability.

Huffman: In Harrisonburg the city government owns and operates a golf course that uses a considerable amount of water. Is that the best use of our limited resources, especially when we are in drought conditions? Along these same lines, we should encourage landowners to abandon the idea of lawns which are not an efficient use of land, aren't particularly beneficial to local wildlife and bees, and often require ample water resources. Although a green lawn might look nice, it doesn't serve much of a purpose.

House of Delegates, District 34

The House of Delegates is the lower house of Virginia's bicameral legislature with a two-year term and no limit to the number of times they may run for reelection. The duties of a Delegate are consistent with that of a Senator, in that they write, amend, and pass legislation in committees and as a House.



Tony Wilt (R, Incumbent)

Website: <https://www.delegatewilt.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DelTonyWilt>

Email: tony@tonywilt.com



Esther Nizer (D)

Website: <https://www.nizer4va.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nizer4va>

Email: nizer4va@gmail.com

What do you see as the main barriers to creating and sustaining affordable housing, both in the greater Shenandoah Valley and more specifically in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County? What will you do to address those barriers?

Wilt: The reality is a hot market combined with high interest rates makes the prospects for renting or purchasing affordable housing extremely difficult. I favor incentives and the removal of barriers to affordable housing, over rent controls or other heavy-handed government intervention that often have the opposite effect. Virginia has a new affordable housing tax credit. Depending on the results we are seeing coming from that, we may want to look at expanding it. Additionally, we must be mindful of the regulatory burdens being placed on those in the housing industry through the building code and other regulatory programs. I've consistently opposed legislation that drives up housing costs by adding regulatory barriers.

Nizer: We must first decide that we are going to work together to solve the issue. How do we define affordable housing? From high construction costs to income disparities, a lack of affordable housing is detrimental to the quality of life for our citizens. I worked in the real estate industry for over 10 years and saw housing costs rise annually. The 2021 US Census reports that the median cost of a house in Harrisonburg is \$231,500 with a median income of \$51,500. It is higher today. The availability of funding through credits including federal and state can be limited but would certainly be an option worth considering.

This summer, Virginia was named the best state for Customized Workforce Training by Business Facilities' State Rankings Report. In light of this recognition, what types of policy action would you propose to continue strengthening a rapidly growing and diversifying workforce in Rockingham County and Harrisonburg?

Wilt: Programs like the Talent Accelerator and Workforce Credential Grant are yielding results to train individuals in high demand fields and meet the needs of our local employers. While many existing programs center around our community college system, I believe our four-year institutions, like JMU, have a strong role to play in this work as well. JMU has great programs to meet these workforce needs, particularly in areas like nursing and education. My office is currently working with JMU to specifically expand capacity in the nursing program and related fields.

Nizer: I am a big proponent of education and workforce training. Accessible and affordable education especially in vocational programs to develop lifelong learning opportunities. Since COVID-19, we have seen flexibility in the work schedule. I would encourage companies to continue to adopt flexible work schedules including remote where feasible. Paying a living wage including unemployment benefits, healthcare access, and paid family and medical leave, will provide a cushion for workers in times of need and will often encourage an employee to stay with a company.

The most recent US Department of Agriculture Census found that counties in the Shenandoah Valley comprised four of the top five producers of Virginia agriculture. Simultaneously, many parts of the Valley have faced severe heat and weather outcomes in recent months--the City of Harrisonburg is currently in a Drought Warning Stage and residents are being asked to voluntarily conserve water. How do you plan to support farmers and agriculture producers while also being mindful of environmental sustainability?

Wilt: The agriculture industry is essential for our local economy. Beyond just the farmers, it supports various businesses that account for many of our local jobs. Ensuring our farmers can remain successful while protecting our environment has been and will remain a top focus for me. In recent years, I spearheaded bipartisan collaboration that resulted in a program that aids our dairy farmers and incentivizes the implementation of stewardship practices. Additionally, I carried successful legislation to create a more generous tax credit when farmers voluntarily implement environmental best practices. I will continue to look for new tools to expand these efforts.

Nizer: Supporting farmers and agriculture producers in a sustainable way is necessary for food security and environmental protection. Encouraging farmers to adopt sustainable farming techniques, such as crop rotation, and reduced pesticide use, to minimize environmental impact. I would support programs that offer financial incentives to farmers who commit to conserving their land and adopting eco-friendly practices. Providing research and education programs can assist farmers in staying up to date on current agricultural practices and technologies.

Clerk of Court, Harrisonburg City

The Rockingham County Circuit Court Clerk's Office serves Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg with a term limit of eight years and no limit to the number of times they may run for re-election. The Code of Virginia lists over 800 responsibilities and duties for the Clerk. The Rockingham County web page highlights the responsibilities of the Clerk of Court including; filing of all civil suits, Docketing and filing of criminal actions, recording land records and plats, including judgments and UCCs, issuing marriage licenses, probating wills and qualifying fiduciaries, including the appointment and qualification of guardians for minors or incapacitated adults, processing notary public applications, and recording military discharge forms.



Chaz W. Haywood (R, Incumbent)

Website:

<https://www.rockinghamcountyva.gov/directory.aspx?EID=44>

Email: chazforclerk@gmail.com

What are some key issues that you have encountered in your role as Clerk of Court, and how have you made progress on these issues during your current term?

No answer provided.

Why are you seeking re-election? What specific goals do you have in mind for your position if chosen to serve another term?

No answer provided.

Sheriff, Rockingham County

The Rockingham County Sheriff's Office serves Rockingham County, the independent City of Harrisonburg, and the incorporated towns of Bridgewater, Broadway, Dayton, Elkton, Grottoes, Mt. Crawford, and Timberville with a term limit of four years and no limit on the number of times they may run for reelection. Duties of the Sheriff include enforcement of the law or seeing that it is enforced in the locality from which the sheriff is elected; assisting in the judicial process as provided by general law; and being charged with the custody, feeding, and care of all prisoners confined in the county or city jail.



Bryan Hutcheson (R, Incumbent)

Website: <http://www.rcso-va.com/sheriff-bryan-hutcheson.html>

Email: bhutcheson@rockinghamcountyva.gov

What are some key issues that you have encountered in your role as Sheriff, and how have you made progress on these issues during your current term?

No answer provided.

Why are you seeking re-election? What specific goals do you have in mind for your position if chosen to serve another term?

No answer provided.

Commonwealth's Attorney

Rockingham County, its constituent municipalities, and the City of Harrisonburg are served by one Commonwealth's Attorney who is aided by twelve Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys appointed by the Commonwealth's Attorney. These prosecutors represent the people in criminal matters brought before the General District, Juvenile and Domestic Relations, and Circuit Courts of Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg. The duties of Commonwealth's Attorney involve serving as the chief law enforcement officer of a city, town, or county within Virginia. Additionally, the office has a primary duty to prosecute all felonies and most misdemeanors charged within the jurisdiction.



Marsha Garst (R, Incumbent)

Website:

<https://www.rockinghamcountyva.gov/293/Commonwealths-Attorney>

Email: garstforcommonwealthsattorney@gmail.com

What are some key issues that you have encountered in your role as Commonwealth's Attorney, and how have you made progress on these issues during your current term?

Garst: As Commonwealth's Attorney, I have faced the key issues of violent crime and the drug epidemic. To address these issues, I have expanded our victim witness program to assure that all victims have advocate support and a voice in order to assure my office is responsive to the needs of the public and/or victims. I and my dedicated staff assure the vigorous prosecution of crime, with a special focus on violent crime. I have staffed my office with professional and competent people. We have a sexual crimes unit and offer bilingual services. I personally prosecute all murder cases. To assure that we are properly addressing drug crimes, I applied to the Supreme Court of Virginia for a Drug Treatment Court, which provides treatment and programs to return nonviolent offenders to a better life. I treat each victim as if they are my family member and I work hard to be fair to all parties, including those charged with a crime.

Why are you seeking re-election? What specific goals do you have in mind for your position if chosen to serve another term?

Garst: I am seeking re-election to continue my mission to make the City of Harrisonburg and the County of Rockingham a safe and enjoyable place to live. My major goals are to:

- 1) Expand the drug treatment court to assure better alternatives to incarceration and a brighter future for our residents. However, I will also continue to seek harsh punishment on dealers of fentanyl and other hard drugs;
- 2) Push for aggressive punishment on rapists and sex offenders by expanding my sexual crimes unit;
- 3) Continue the vigorous prosecution of homicides and other violent crimes by assuring proper victim representation and skilled services in court.

My greatest goal is to make the City I was born and raised in and where I raised my family a place others want to live in too. As the first woman elected Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Harrisonburg and the County of Rockingham, I want to open the door for others to serve.

Harrisonburg City Public Schools Board

The Harrisonburg City School Board is composed of six members and makes critical education decisions for the schools within the city: six elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. The election for the school board is non-partisan, such that all who are running are considered independent candidates.



Tom Domonoske (Incumbent)

Website: <https://harrisonburg.k12.va.us/District/1125-School-Board.html>

Email: voteTomD@gmail.com

What are some key issues that you have encountered in your role as a member of the Harrisonburg City School Board, and how have you made progress on these issues during your current term?

Domonske: The core key issue that I have encountered as a member of the Harrisonburg City School Board is the need for people to have accurate information when making decisions. Whether by policy makers, those who implement policies, or those who comment on policies, discussions are limited by the accuracy of their information. I am learning how to more efficiently determine when information is accurate enough to move forward in any conversation. The other common issue is the need for people to experience that someone is listening to them and taking their needs into account. This is a continual learning process of setting aside my own ideas and working to understand what someone else is trying to communicate.

Why are you seeking re-election? What specific goals do you have in mind for your position if chosen to serve another term?

Domonoske: I am seeking re-election because I failed in my efforts to recruit other potential candidates to fill out the four forms and collect the 125 signatures necessary to be on the ballot. I am the only person who did this for the one year remaining in the seat I currently occupy by appointment. I waited to do this and first tried to recruit others. Because I failed, I am running unopposed for this School Board seat, much like other important positions like Commonwealth's Attorney and Sheriff. My goal is to listen with humility and strive for accurate information.

Rockingham County Board of Supervisors

The board approves the annual budget, sets the tax rate, enacts ordinances, and sets policy in accordance with all local, state, and federal laws. The election for Rockingham County Board of Supervisors is non-partisan, such that all who are running are considered independent candidates.

District 2, one seat

Localities served: Dayton, Singers Glen, Edom, Linville, Mt. Clinton, Silver Lake, Hinton (partial)



Sallie Wolfe-Garrison (Incumbent)

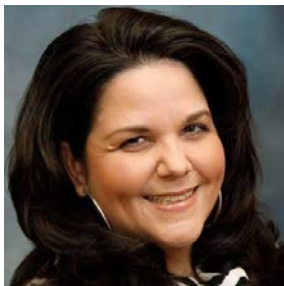
Website:

<https://www.rockinghamcountyva.gov/Directory.aspx?EID=149>

Email: d2salliewg@gmail.com

District 4, one seat

Localities served: Bridgewater, Mt. Crawford, North River, Briery Branch, Montezuma, Pleasant Valley, Ottobine, Hinton (partial)



Leila Longcor

Website: <https://leilalongcor.com/>

Email: leilalongcor@gmail.com



Jared Cromer

Website: <https://www.jaredcromer.com/>

Email: bobwadeshop@msn.com

District 5, already appointed but running for a full term

Localities served: Elkton, McGaheysville, Massanutten, Stony Run, Swift Run, South Fork, Penn Laird (partial)



Joel Hensley

Website: <https://hensleyforsupervisor.com/>

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/JoelHensleyForSupervisor/>

Email: joelhensleyforsupervisor@gmail.com

Rockingham County is increasingly gaining new residents, including many individuals and families who are members of immigrant or refugee populations. In light of these circumstances, how do you plan to ensure Rockingham is an affordable place to live and work?

Wolfe-Garrison: No answer provided.

Longcor: As a local realtor for over 20 years, I have a lot of experience finding homes for families. I feel that the answer to this situation is a private/public partnership. This would involve partnering with nonprofit organizations, developers, and local businesses to develop affordable housing and job placement. This will require a leader with a very clear understanding of the needs of our community, and a clear understanding of the bank lending process to establish home ownership. I am that leader.

Cromer: Rockingham County is growing at an average rate of 1% per year. This data is from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. This data is also available from the County. Most of that growth has followed the county's Comprehensive plan to locate growth in our designated Urban Development areas and around the seven incorporated towns. I plan to continue to follow the plan. Growth needs to be managed and responsible. I also will continue to work with and communicate with the various groups and organizations that are working with our immigrants to assure the folks deciding to live here are making informed decisions and understand our market. The market works to determine housing cost and averages salaries.

Hensley: Focusing on the kind of economic development that pays high wages and results in less negative impact on the community as a whole is the best way to ensure affordability, as well as the ability to survive national recessions. This ensures that all residents living here can access affordable homes by way of diverse quality job opportunities.

If elected, how do you plan to support and grow local business and commerce in Rockingham County?

Wolfe-Garrison: No answer provided.

Longcor: As a business owner myself I understand the need for less red tape and low taxes and will work diligently to keep it that way. I will support and grow local business and commerce in Rockingham County through collaboration with my constituents and by not making unnecessary zoning decisions that would impact their businesses. I will also work with the school board to expand our vocational program to increase workforce readiness and use our TOT (tourism tax) to increase local tourism.

Cromer: Rockingham County has a well balanced and well managed economic environment. The market dictates growth. I plan to adhere to the County's plan on our growth areas and ensure new growth is needed and supported. We have a positive and attractive market. I plan to continue making Rockingham county a place where businesses want to continue operations or expand operations and new businesses desire to locate to. We then will be able to decide if that business is a fit for the County and its residents at that time and for the future. We need to keep our growth controlled and well planned.

Hensley: You help grow local businesses and commerce by encouraging new industries that support these businesses, not compete with them. You support local businesses by keeping their taxes low and not enacting silly ordinances. Also, by not making zoning decisions that would negatively impact their business model.

How will you balance the tension between improving county amenities and property tax rates?

Wolfe-Garrison: No answer provided.

Longcor: I will prioritize core services and plan strategically for all large expenditures like capital improvement projects. I will also vote to use our Transient Occupancy Tax (tourism tax) for things that promote tourism like bike lanes and farmer's markets, but also provide a better quality of life for our citizens. I will maintain open and transparent communication with the community regarding county finances and work collaboratively with our citizens to ensure their needs are met.

Cromer: I think we can find ways to utilize various user fees and some grants to develop and pay for some amenities. We will need to evaluate, case by case, the proposed amenity and determine, will the majority be impacted or do we need user fees for those people using that particular amenity. Parks and playgrounds are a good example of those areas used by many. They enhance the county and help make our area a more attractive place to live and work.

Hensley: Prioritize essential services and seek cost-effective solutions. Make sure that growth is at a pace that the county can actually handle which eliminates the need to ever raise taxes. The whole purpose of growth is supposed to diversify the tax base, meaning, you don't need to raise taxes.

What transportation challenges do you see the county facing in the next year or two? How do you plan to address those challenges?

Wolfe-Garrison: No answer provided.

Longcor: We will have crowded roadways because of the overdevelopment. I will work with all emergency services to ensure we have enough staff in place to keep our citizens safe. I will work with VDOT [Virginia Dept. of Transportation] to expand roadways like South Main Street because keeping our citizens safety will be my top priority. I will also work with local agencies to start a carpooling and ride-sharing campaign and look for more park and ride locations throughout the county. Carpooling programs and partnerships with ride-sharing services can help reduce the number of vehicles on the road, thus easing traffic congestion.

Cromer: Let me speak about District 4. In this district one big concern is traffic moving through and around Bridgewater. The County is currently studying the issue around Dinkel Avenue and traffic involving the interstate. These areas should be carefully analyzed with realistic solutions being brought forward. VDOT may need to revisit the Don Litten Parkway plan and determine if that is now a viable option. With any new projects, we will hope to use revenue sharing with VDOT and developer interest and money to help offset those costs. Our more rural routes are always a concern for safety. We have lots of slower moving and large farm equipment on these roads as well as buses and bikers. I will encourage VDOT to continue with needed bridge improvements and road improvements to ensure more safe travel. As always, drivers are the best defense to safety. Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.

Hensley: I-81 is going to continue to be an issue for many. The way the county can alleviate transportation challenges would be through smart growth. Excessive development means more traffic and more dangerous road situations for our residents. Near Rt. 33 East in particular, we need turning lanes. This needs to come first, before we add more traffic pressure anywhere.

Rockingham County School Board

The Rockingham County School Board is composed of five members and makes critical educational decisions for Rockingham County schools. The election for the school board is non-partisan, such that all who are running are considered independent candidates.

District 2, one seat



Amber Ham

Website: <https://www.hamforschoolboard.com/>

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/hamforschoolboard>

Email: Hamforschoolboard@gmail.com



Ashley Burgoyne

Website: <https://www.ashleyburgoyne.com/>

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/burgoyneforschoolboard>

Email: ashleyburgoynedistrict2@gmail.com



Larry Chico

Website: <https://www.chicoforschoolboard.org/>

Social Media: <https://bit.ly/LarryChico>

Email: chicoforschoolboard@gmail.com

Rockingham County School Board

District 4, one seat



Sara Horst

Website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/saradavishorst/home>

Social Media: <https://bit.ly/SaraHorst>

Email: sarahorstdistrict4@gmail.com



Charlette McQuilkin (Incumbent)

Website: <https://charletteforschoolboard.com/>

Email: cdmcquilkin@gmail.com

District 5, one seat



Hollie Cave

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/holliecave>

Social Media: <https://bit.ly/HollieCave>

Email: holliecave77@gmail.com



Paula Lam

Website: <https://www.paulaelam.com/>

Social Media: <https://bit.ly/PaulaLam>

Email: paulaelam@gmail.com

Mental health and chronic absenteeism are two factors greatly impacting student success, both at the state and local levels. What are ways the school board can help combat these crises, whether through separate or coordinated approaches?

Ham: Mental health affects every aspect of our lives which can include relationships, behavior, social-emotional health, academic success, and attendance in schools.

My Commitment: Prioritize High-Quality Education and Mental Health Support.

As a School Board Member, I will:

- Consistently assess and support the implementation of effective strategies that address mental health.
- Be solution-focused to fill positions district-wide and create new positions as needed to support mental health and student services.
- Give teachers the resources they need to help the students.

It's critical that we keep mental health at the forefront of the services that we provide to RCPS students!

Burgoyne: No answer provided.

Chico: No answer provided.

Horst: The mental health and chronic absenteeism of our students is of great concern to me. I will work closely with the School Board members and the superintendent to provide the necessary resources to address these issues. One suggestion I have is to house our own board certified therapists for students at each of our high schools as needed. Rather than miss school for counseling appointments, students can receive their counseling services at their schools, missing only the amount of time needed for an appointment. These therapists would bill Medicaid and private insurance for services.

McQuilkin: No answer provided.

Cave: No answer provided.

Lam: No answer provided.

Virginia is recognized as having one of the lowest rates of teacher pay, which has caused teacher shortages around the Commonwealth. How can we better support and retain high-quality teachers in the Rockingham County Public School system?

Ham: I value ALL Rockingham County Public School staff and they should know that they are the #1 resource in our schools!

My Commitment: Value and Support Educators/ Employees. How do we value and support them?

- Advocate for a pay increase!
- Give needed resources to do their job well!
- Opportunities to voice their opinions/ concerns without fear!
- Acknowledge their hard work & dedication!

RCPS is fortunate to have talented employees who love their students! We need to enhance our support to build a successful learning environment. Valuing and supporting RCPS's #1 resource (employees) is a top priority!

Burgoyne: No answer provided.

Chico: No answer provided.

Horst: Rockingham County is no longer one of the top districts in the valley for pay, but the teacher shortage is not caused by low pay alone. Teachers cite burn out as their main reason for leaving. Lack of planning time, lack of resources, and lack of disciplinary support rank at the top of reasons teachers are leaving the profession. Here is how we address that - we reallocate Professional Learning Community (PLC) days to be used only as work days. We add more planning time for our elementary teachers by bringing in math specialists and Spanish teachers for additional planning periods. I will work diligently with the School Board to provide the necessary allocations to prioritize teacher pay.

McQuilkin: No answer provided.

Cave: No answer provided.

Lam: No answer provided.

Rockingham County has recently experienced an influx of new residents, including many individuals who speak English as a second language. How should the school system holistically support the flourishing of ESL students and their families, academically and socially?

Ham: The diversity of RCPS continues to grow and the schools continue to address the increased need. Communication is key to learning for students and when there is a barrier learning becomes more difficult academically and socially. RCPS should continue to enhance services that may include:

- Increase bilingual support and communication for students and parents through staffing, translated materials, and technology.
- Ensure all staff are trained in cultural sensitivity and techniques to fill the gaps.
- Promote an inclusive environment in the schools and programming which could include the family.
- Partner with community resources to provide additional support.

Burgoyne: No answer provided.

Chico: No answer provided.

Horst: RCPS has many programs in place to support our English Language Learner (ELL) students. Our priority is academic instruction and learning the English language. Our students need strategic time with certified ELL instructors who can provide targeted instruction for each individual child. I will ensure our ELL teachers have the resources necessary to educate all of our students.

McQuilkin: No answer provided.

Cave: No answer provided.

Lam: No answer provided.

Voting Information

What's in This Section:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----|
| 1. Voter Registration | 26 |
| 2. Absentee Voting | 27 |
| 3. Voting on Election Day | 28 |

Voter Registration

The online and mail registration deadline for the November 7, 2023 General Election was on October 16, 2023. However, **you can still vote by same day registering on Election Day at your precinct's polling location.**

Click [here](#), scan the QR code below, or visit <https://bit.ly/JMUvotingprecincts>.



Voting Precincts

If you are unsure about your voter registration status:

Click [here](#), scan the QR code below, or visit <https://jmu.turbovote.org/check-your-registration/voter-info>



Registration Status

Absentee Voting

Mail-In

The deadline for requesting a mail-in absentee ballot was on October 27, 2023. However, if you are voting by absentee, you may return your completed ballot to your local general registrar's office or a designated ballot drop-off location, in person or by mail.

In-person: Your ballot must be returned by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

By mail: Your ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day.

Special Federal ID Requirements For First-Time Absentee By Mail Voters

Voters who receive a notice about this requirement must include a copy of an acceptable form of ID with their completed ballot.

If a voter returns an absentee ballot by mail without a copy of one of these forms of ID, the absentee ballot will be treated as a provisional ballot and counted only if the voter provides a copy of the ID to the electoral board by the deadline applicable to all voters.

Voting Early

In Virginia, you can begin voting early up to 45 days before Election Day. To vote early, visit your local registrar's office or a satellite voting location in your county or city to cast your ballot. Remember, November 4, 2023, is the last Saturday and the last day to vote early before Election Day on Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

Early Voting is available for residents of Rockingham County at the Rockingham County Administration Center Board of Supervisors Room:

20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg 22802

- 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday until Friday, November 3, 2023
- 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., on Saturday, November 4, 2023

Early Voting is available for residents of the City of Harrisonburg at the Harrisonburg City Hall:

1st Floor, 409 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

- 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday until Friday, November 3, 2023
- 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., on Saturday, November 4, 2023

Voting On Election Day

Precincts

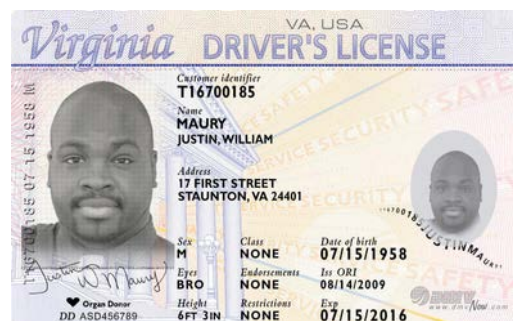
Click [here](#) for the Harrisonburg Precinct Map, scan the QR code below, or visit <https://bit.ly/JMUvotingprecincts>



Acceptable Identification

In-person and first-time absentee voters must include a copy of any of the following types of ID with their completed ballot:

- Valid VA Driver's License
- Valid US Passport
- Any identification issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia, one of its political subdivisions, or the US government
- Student ID Card issued by any institution of higher education in VA, including a JACard (James Madison University Student ID) or MobileID
- Employee ID card with a photograph
- A current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that includes a voter's name and address



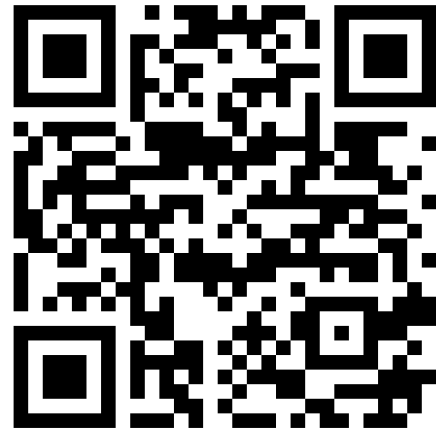
Transportation

On Election Day, Bird offers free rides to vote. Click [here](#), scan the QR code below, or visit <https://www.bird.co>

You can also check out Rideshare2Vote. Their goal is to make sure everyone has free, convenient, and reliable voter transportation and rides to get to the polls and exercise their right to vote in Virginia and 14 other states. Click [here](#), scan the QR code below, or visit <https://rideshare2vote.com/virginia/>



Bird



Rideshare2Vote

Credits and Resources

Primary Authors

Dr. Kara Dillard, Associate Director
Valeria Lopez-Postigo, Democracy Fellow
Leia Surovell, Communication Fellow
Mya Wilcox, Democracy Fellow

*Special thank you to the candidates, campaigns,
and supporting Madison Center staff.*

James Madison Center for Civic Engagement Contact Information

Email: civic@jmu.edu
Social Media: @jmucivic

Additional Resources

Harrisonburg City Election Information

<https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/vote>



Rockingham County Election Information

[https://www.rockinghamcountyva.gov/179/
Election-Information](https://www.rockinghamcountyva.gov/179/Election-Information)



Madison Center Election Guide and FAQ

[https://www.jmu.edu/civic/vote/election-
guide.shtml](https://www.jmu.edu/civic/vote/election-guide.shtml)

