



WOMEN FOR THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION NEWSLETTER

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President CJ's Letter

Dear Friends,

For America's 250th Birthday, I am writing about people or events that contributed to our great nation.

If you have toured Washington, D.C., you have heard the name Pierre Charles L'Enfant.

L'Enfant's 1791 plan for the federal city of Washington, D.C., remains one of the most ambitious and symbolically charged urban designs in American history. Commissioned by President George Washington, L'Enfant was tasked with creating not just a functional capital, but a physical expression of the new republic's ideals. His design combined Enlightenment principles, Baroque grandeur, and political symbolism, producing a city that was at once practical, ceremonial, and aspirational.

At the heart of L'Enfant's plan was a carefully structured grid overlaid with diagonal avenues. The grid provided order and clarity, while the broad avenues created visual drama and facilitated movement across the city. These avenues—many named after states—intersected at circles and plazas, which L'Enfant intended as sites for monuments and civic spaces. This layered system distinguished Washington from the more rigid grid patterns of cities like Philadelphia, offering both navigational efficiency and opportunities for symbolic architecture.

Central to the plan was the placement of key institutions. The "Congress House" (now the Capitol) was positioned on Jenkins Hill, deliberately elevated to emphasize the importance of the legislative branch. The "President's House" (the White House) was set apart, connected to the Capitol by a grand avenue—what would become Pennsylvania Avenue. Between these two poles, L'Enfant envisioned a vast public promenade, later known as the National Mall. This open space was intended not only for

recreation but also as a democratic gathering ground, reinforcing the relationship between the government and the people.

L'Enfant drew inspiration from European capitals such as Paris and Versailles, particularly in his use of long sightlines and monumental axes. However, his vision adapted these influences to republican values. Rather than centering the city on a monarch's palace, L'Enfant distributed symbolic weight among branches of government and public spaces. The result was a city that conveyed authority without relying on traditional expressions of royal power.

One of the most intriguing—and ultimately unrealized—elements of L'Enfant's plan was his proposal for a grand monumental arch. This arch was intended to stand near the Capitol, serving as a ceremonial focal point and a tribute to the nation's founding leader. The structure would have echoed triumphal arches of ancient Rome and early modern Europe, symbolizing victory, unity, and national identity. Its placement and scale suggest that L'Enfant envisioned it as a defining landmark, anchoring the city's symbolic landscape.

However, the arch was never built. Several factors contributed to this. L'Enfant himself was dismissed from the project in 1792 after conflicts with commissioners and property owners, leaving aspects of his plan incomplete or subject to revision. Financial constraints also played a role.

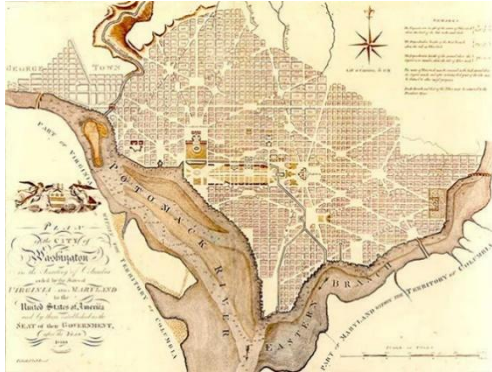
Despite the absence of the arch, L'Enfant's broader vision endured. Although modified by later planners such as Andrew Ellicott and revisited during the McMillan Plan of 1901, the core structure of Washington, D.C.—its axes, vistas, and symbolic layout—remains faithful to L'Enfant's original concept.

The unbuilt arch serves as a reminder of both the ambition and the constraints of early American urban planning. It highlights L'Enfant's desire to place the United States within a global tradition of monumental cities. L'Enfant's

plan succeeded in creating a capital that is not merely a seat of government, but a lasting symbol of national purpose and democratic ideals.

The Republic has survived 250 years. Maybe it is time now to build L’Enfant’s arch.

C.J. Hatcher, W.A.C. President



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In March, The Federalist’s Breccan Thies Spoke to WAC Members about His Experiences with ICE Operations in Minneapolis. In April, We Heard from the Family Foundation’s Victoria Cobb about Issues They are Working On

At our March Speaker’s Forum luncheon, WAC members enjoyed hearing from the Federalist’s White House Correspondent Breccan Thies about his experiences on the ground in Minneapolis during the recent immigration unrest. He did a ride-along with ICE where he witnessed first-hand what agents are up against every day. Agitators showed up to an arrest and heckled the agents the whole

time, filming and live-streaming on social media. It was chaotic and dangerous. Breccan also embedded himself incognito among agitators to get an idea about their thinking. He witnessed a well-funded agitator class of Americans who seem to hate our country and are paid to bring chaos, cultural destruction, and destroy our cities. It was frightening and sad.

Victoria Cobb, President of the Family Foundation of Virginia, was our speaker April 23, 2026. She spoke about 5 major issues in Virginia. First, she addressed the news regarding the SPLC “Unite the Right” hoax of 2017 in Charlottesville that had surfaced that morning. She addressed the unconstitutional effort of the Democrats to “gerrymander” Virginia’s already fair and equal congressional districts. Lastly, she addressed the proposed Virginia constitutional amendments that will be on the ballot in November: Marriage Equality, Abortion Rights, and Voting Rights Restoration (for the incarcerated). Her explanations of each and her passion to stand against these unnecessary amendments was contagious.









A Note from Our Election Integrity Committee Chair Karen Juul-Nielsen:

As education is one of WAC's primary missions, I thought a detailed review of Election Integrity would provide some valuable perspective for our members. I know I have learned a lot in doing the research! This is the first of several articles elaborating on the various aspects of Election Integrity, including historical perspective, core elements and definitions, landmark cases that influenced today's laws, and current controversies and debates. In this issue, the focus will be on a historical perspective. A lot has been written on Election Integrity with citations on professional legal documents being up more than 50% over the last two decades. The references I used are from an educational site that focuses on simplifying complex legal questions for nonprofessionals.

Election integrity is the foundational principle ensuring that every legal vote is cast, counted, and reported accurately and transparently, free from fraud or improper influence.

The concept of election integrity in America is not a modern invention but a constantly evolving story of struggle and reform. The narrative begins with the U.S. Constitution itself. The framers, wary of centralized power, delegated the authority to administer elections primarily to the states in Article I, Section 4. This created a system of 'federalism' that, to this day, results in a patchwork of different election laws across the country. The first major tests of this system came after the Civil War. The Fifteenth Amendment (1870) was a monumental step, prohibiting the denial of the right to vote based on "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." However, its promise was systematically undermined by states through discriminatory practices like poll taxes and literacy tests, chipping away at the very idea of a fair election for all. This era highlighted a core tension that still exists: the balance between state control and the federal government's duty to protect the fundamental right to vote. The 20th century saw a series of expansions of the franchise, each adding a new layer to the concept of integrity. The Nineteenth Amendment (1920) granted women the right to vote, the Twenty-fourth Amendment (1964) banned poll taxes in federal elections, and the Twenty-sixth Amendment (1971) lowered the voting age to 18. The most significant piece of legislation during this period was the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It was a powerful federal intervention designed to dismantle the legal barriers that had prevented African Americans from voting, establishing a system of federal oversight for jurisdictions with a history of discrimination. The 2000 presidential election and the 'Bush vs Gore' controversy exposed vulnerabilities in the mechanics of voting itself. Issues with "hanging chads" and inconsistent recount standards across

Florida counties triggered a national crisis of confidence. The federal government responded with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), which provided funds to states to update voting equipment, create statewide voter registration databases, and ensure the availability of provisional ballots. Today, the journey continues. Debates over mail-in voting, cybersecurity, and voter ID laws are the modern front lines in the long-running effort to define what makes an election truly secure, accessible, and fair for every American.

Election integrity is not governed by one single law but is built upon a framework of constitutional amendments and federal statutes that set the ground rules. States then build their own specific election codes upon this foundation. In addition to the laws mentioned above, The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), often called the "Motor Voter Act," aimed to make voter registration easier. Its key provision requires states to offer voter registration opportunities at driver's license agencies, public assistance offices, and through the mail. The goal is to increase the number of registered voters, a key component of an accessible election system. Lastly, the Electoral Count Reform Act of 2022 governs the process of how Congress counts and certifies the [Electoral College](#) votes after a presidential election. The reforms clarified ambiguous language to prevent future attempts to improperly overturn election results. The federal laws provide a baseline, but the day-to-day reality of voting is dictated by state law.

In the next newsletter, I will look more closely at the core elements and key components of Election Integrity. In the meantime, please consider how you can participate in our upcoming primary election held on August 4. We are in serious need of more election officers and poll watchers. To qualify, you need to be a registered voter in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Remember: you can register to vote this year as long as you turn 18 before November 3, which means there are lots of teens who can participate – please reach out to those you know, we need the youth!

Karen Juul-Nielsen, 713-806-8385



An Update from Our Legislative Issues Chair Marianne Gustafson:

**Virginia Supreme Court strikes down
Referendum, May 8, 2026**

**** (please highlight and paste into your internet search bar any links that are not live) ****

Virginia has battled extensively on the legislative, political, and legal fronts in the last month to preserve our rights

under Virginia Code (laws) and the Virginia Constitution and to protect fair US House of Representatives representation for almost 50% of Virginia voters.

Referendum: Referendum machinations leading up to the April 21 election, Early In-Person (EIP) voting for the 6 weeks prior, and the attendant and material legal actions and decisions before and afterwards have tried our resolve.

We should thank the RNC for helping to fund the legal costs for the valiant and successful legal proceedings to fight the illegally created and implemented Referendum.

The Referendum would have allowed the legislature to redraw/gerrymander US House of Representatives seats (a violation of the Virginia Constitution) at least 4 House seats to change them from Republican to Democrat.

The Virginia Supreme Court (VSC) **struck down the Referendum on May 8, 2026** as violating the Virginia Constitution in a variety of detailed ways.

You can read the Court decision here. <https://www.vacourts.gov/static/opinions/opnscvwp/1260127.pdf>

"We hold that the legislative process employed to advance this proposal violated Article XII, Section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia. This constitutional violation incurably taints the resulting referendum vote and nullifies its legal efficacy," read an opinion written by Justice D. Arthur Kelsey.

The underpinnings to the VSC oral arguments and decision were the Tazewell District Court decisions in early 2026 detailing the illegalities regarding the Referendum. The day after the vote, The Tazewell District Court delivered a temporary injunction against certifying the voting results until the VSC could hear the case and render its decision, which it did on May 8 last week, nullifying the Referendum because of its numerous illegalities.

Original Tazewell ruling: <https://virginiamercury.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Redistricting.pdf>

April 22 Injunction:

https://wjla.com/resources/pdf/4288eb73-da4f-4708-8d97-fbe1acd9098e-CL2600026600PO62_Certified.pdf#toolbar=0&navpanes=0&scrollbar=0

Interestingly, a new Virginia law requires that elections be certified by the 14th day after the election. (HB1384) That day was May 5th. The Referendum election vote was not certified and the day before the VSC chose not to lift the Tazewell temporary injunction against certification.

Virginia AG appeal to US Supreme Court: Virginia AG Jay Jones and his out-of-state legal team (a cost not yet delineated to Virginia taxpayers) filed at the US Supreme

Court Monday, May 11 to intercede (including typos for the words Virginia and Senator and delivering it to the wrong court initially) and reinstate the outcome of the vote and the gerrymandered districts as proposed by Democrats in the Virginia legislature. Normally, the US Supreme Court does not intervene in matters of State law. Chief Justice Roberts oversees emergency appeals from Virginia. Republicans have until late Thursday to respond.

<https://www.scotusblog.com/2026/05/virginia-asks-supreme-court-to-allow-it-to-reinstate-congressional-map-that-would-advantage-demo/>

Not addressed Referendum issue: The Referendum Ballot wording and its legality in propagandized word choice have not been litigated.

Irregularities in election processes bring doubt to Referendum election outcome and prior elections:

Numerous issues occurred with last-minute ballot dumps in Northern Virginia, as well as large decreases in tabulated ballots in purple areas outside Richmond. 72,000 ballots were erased from one district.

In Albemarle, machines went down – over 3000 ballots from Early Voting had to be reprocessed. Additionally, poll workers shared at the Electoral Board public meeting that poll books were not bringing up accurate voter registration data when voters presented their IDs for processing.

State Sen pro tempore, Louise Lucas of Portsmouth VA, who pushed for the 10/1 gerrymandering to eliminate at least 4 Republican seats in Congress: FBI executed search warrants at @ 10 businesses owned/operated by State Senator Pro Temp Louise Lucas and funded by Medicaid and cannabis dispensary businesses in an active corruption/bribery investigation.





Democrats Redistricting Outburst

By Kimberly Strassel, Wall Street Journal

The most bizarre aspect of the left's reaction to their recent gerrymandering setbacks is that they claim to be shocked and surprised. Yet the U.S. Supreme court has been moving for years to tighten the Voting Rights Act, and its recent decision in *Louisiana v. Callais* (reining in racial gerrymanders) had been predicted since oral arguments in October. Virginia Democrats were separately warned last fall – by Republicans and legal scholars – that they had missed the window to amend the state constitution, which would have been necessary to impose the new map lawfully – which is exactly what the Virginia Supreme Court ruled last week. Liberal shock over the twin rulings is either feigned or obtuse.

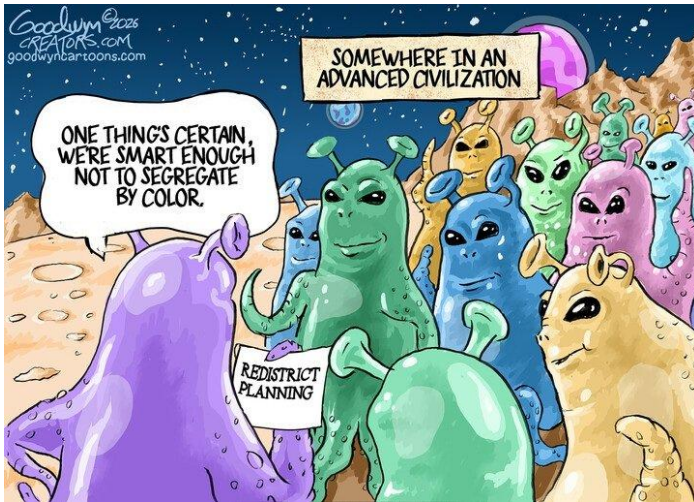
But that isn't stopping the party from using the defeats to double down on claims of racism and to amp up judicial smears, frivolous litigation, and radical plans to have their way. The party knows these tactics are unlikely to gain them any legal wins or additional seats prior to the midterm. The intention instead looks to be to key up outrage in the Democrat base, to drive midterm turnout. Democrats were happy to keep the redistricting fight at the state level so long as they were winning. Now that they're behind, they are turning it into a national campaign issue.

- **'Jim Crow 2.0':** Partisan gerrymanders are as old as the hills, and both sides know that race had become a proxy for partisan advantage. It's a tricky issue, but the Supreme Court's *Callais* decision is an honest attempt to rein in racial gerrymanders that offend the Constitution. The left is breezing past all that, instead accusing Republicans of attacks on "democracy" and an outright effort at disenfranchisement. "This is an attack on black people specifically," says progressive commentator Elie Mystal on MS NOW. It's been "framed as a Democrats versus Republican issue, as a battle for the soul of the House of Representatives. It is not. It is an attack by white people against the very concept of black representation. This is Jim Crow 2.0." Tennessee Democratic state Rep. Justin Pearson called the new Tennessee map—which breaks up the state's one majority-black district—a bid for "more political and racial dominance and white supremacy in the state of Tennessee." Democrats know this claim is overwrought, not the least because that Memphis district is currently represented by a white Democrat (Rep. Steve Cohen).

- **Court smears:** House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries took court-smearing to a new low, accusing an "illegitimate Supreme Court majority" of a "scheme to suppress the vote and rig the midterm elections and beyond." This is entirely unfounded, a partisan attempt to undermine the court's legitimacy, the better to argue one day for packing it with liberal justices. Democrats also cast aspersions on Virginia's Supreme Court—although it consists of nonpartisan judges elected by majorities of the state legislature (often controlled by Democrats). Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin called the Virginia decision "an outrageous outburst of right-wing judicial activism" and the state justices "right-wingers in black robes."
- **Emergency litigation:** The same left that is beating up the U.S. Supreme Court is also begging it to intervene on its behalf. Virginia Attorney General Jay Jones on Monday filed an emergency appeal asking the Supreme Court to invalidate the Virginia Supreme Court decision on grounds that the state court "overrode the will of the people." This case is going nowhere fast, since the Virginia Supreme Court ruled that the process Democrats used to redistrict violated the state constitution—and the U.S. Supreme Court is typically loath to tell a state high court how to interpret its own constitution. So why bother with the emergency request? The cynical take is that this too is about politics—that Democrats are banking on getting turned down by the justices, a rejection they'll use to pile on complaints that the high court is partisan and stacked against them. Democrats are also litigating GOP maps in Texas, Missouri, Florida, Wisconsin and Tennessee.
- **Stack, stack away:** Most disturbing was a New York Times report that Democrats (including Jeffries and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer) held a private talk on Saturday that included discussing a plan to remove every current Virginia Supreme Court justice—in one go—and replace them with redistricting-friendly judges. The Times reported this proposal would involve "lowering the mandatory retirement age for Virginia's Supreme Court from 75 to 54, the age of the youngest current justice." Then Democrats would use their Virginia legislative majorities to replace the court with their own gerrymander-friendly picks. So, having passed a redistricting plan in violation of the state constitution, they now propose to dismiss the court that called them out on it. Why bother with a separation of powers or the rule of law?

This bitterness might be more understandable if Democrats suddenly found themselves the victims of an unexpected gerrymander ambush. But they've been playing the game as long as Republicans, and until recently a lot more efficiently. (Where did the GOP get its idea to aggressively

rewrite maps? From watching how well the left had done it in states like Massachusetts and Illinois.) It's a bummer for Democrats that the Supreme Court has finally moved to return to constitutional principles and rein in abusive racial gerrymanders. It's a bummer for Democrats (if not a surprise) that what was always a difficult bid to redraw Virginia didn't work out – and that they blew more than \$60 million on the process. But politics ain't beanbag. And pronouncing the “end of democracy” every time you lose a fight risks having voter tune you out.



The Role of Responsibility in a Free Society

By Jim Cardoza, American Thinker

A free society is not sustained by a constitution alone. It depends on habits, incentives, and the often-unseen cultural foundations that make liberty workable in practice. Laws may define freedom, but it is behavior that determines whether that freedom can survive.

Responsibility is the flip side of liberty. Liberty requires responsible citizens, yet many of our modern institutions -- whether in public policy, education, or criminal justice -- systematically erode the incentives for responsible behavior. When irresponsibility grows, so does the argument for restricting freedom.

This is not speculation -- it is observable in policy debates. Consider firearms. The vast majority of gun owners never commit crimes. Yet when a minority acts irresponsibly or violently, the political response of the Left is not to isolate the offenders; it is to expand restrictions broadly. American philosopher Lysander Spooner pointed out the absurdity of this notion: “To ban guns because criminals use them is to tell the law-abiding that their rights and liberties depend not on their own conduct, but on the conduct of the guilty and

lawless.” Nonetheless, the notion persists among gun control supporters and is routinely the knee-jerk reaction to any and all shooting incidents.

Irresponsibility provides big government advocates a rationale to expand state powers by enacting more regulation. It is a precursor to achieving a larger goal, which may explain policies that promote it. The welfare state is a great example of this. Great Society programs were sold to the public as a means of providing temporary help to the vulnerable but put into play incentives that alter behaviors in ways that perpetuate dependency rather than alleviate it.

The welfare state has led to family instability and economic dependence by altering incentives around work, marriage, and child-rearing. Research on welfare policy has long documented these effects. One study found that welfare reforms were associated with increases in certain delinquent behaviors among youth, suggesting that policy changes can influence behavioral outcomes in complex and sometimes counterproductive ways.

When benefits are structured in ways that penalize work, discourage family formation, or subsidize choices that would otherwise carry consequences, they foster precisely the conditions that discourage responsibility and thoughtful behavior. Over time, this creates a population more dependent on state support -- and therefore more susceptible to state control.

Data consistently illustrates that cities with higher rates of single-parent households experience significantly higher levels of crime -- up to 118% higher violent crime rates and 255% higher homicide rates in some analyses. While correlation does not prove causation, the association is too strong to dismiss lightly.

The welfare state not only traps individuals in dependency, it serves to perpetuate it across generations. It creates a social doom loop. As dependency becomes entrenched, so too does the justification for expanded government oversight. The less capable individuals are of self-governance, the more plausible it becomes to argue that they require governance by others.

The same erosion of responsibility can be seen in education. Over time, grading standards have softened, disciplinary expectations have weakened, and the emphasis on measurable achievement has been largely replaced by an emphasis on self-esteem.

The intention may seem humane: to avoid discouraging students. But the effect is the opposite. When standards fall, the lesson that effort matters is diluted. Students are taught that performance and outcome are only loosely connected.

This does not produce confident, capable citizens; it produces individuals less prepared for the demands of a free society. It produces individuals with high self-esteem and little market value, susceptible to notions that race and other arbitrary factors determine success, rather than effort and hard work.

Criminal justice policy provides another illustration of how incentives can encourage irresponsibility. If laws are not enforced consistently, or if penalties are perceived as minimal or avoidable, the deterrent effect weakens. The justice system does not merely punish behavior; it signals expectations. When the reward of criminal activity is more compelling than the risk, behavior adjusts accordingly. And when accountability is ignored, calls for more comprehensive -- and often more intrusive -- forms of control inevitably follow.

These trends increase irresponsibility in measurable ways -- crime, dependency, and instability. When the social costs of that behavior rise, the public demand for regulation, oversight, and control grows -- and liberty contracts.

This cycle is rarely acknowledged because each policy is justified on its own terms -- safety, fairness, and compassion. But the cumulative effect is a gradual shift from a system premised on individual responsibility to one premised on institutional management.

If liberty is to flourish, this trajectory must be reversed through a reorientation of incentives. Policies must be evaluated not only by their intentions but also by the behavioral incentives put into motion. A program that alleviates immediate hardship but entrenches long-term dependency does far more harm than good.

Policymakers must look beyond the next election cycle. Institutions must reinforce self-responsibility rather than displace it in favor of feel-goodism. In welfare, this means aligning assistance with work and self-sufficiency. In education, it means restoring standards that reward effort and achievement. In criminal justice, it means ensuring that laws are consistently enforced and that consequences are clear and certain.

Liberty is not merely a legal condition; it is a cultural achievement. It depends on millions of daily decisions made by individuals -- decisions to act responsibly even when no one is watching.

Make no mistake, everyone acts in their own perceived self-interest. Rewarding good behavior and discouraging bad behavior encourages self-regulation. A society that cannot rely on the self-discipline of its citizens will inevitably rely on the discipline imposed by the state. That is the quiet trade

being made by those who seek to empower the state and weaken individual liberty.

The defense of liberty must begin in the restoration of the incentives and institutions that make responsibility the rule rather than the exception. For in the end, a free society is not defined by how much it permits, but by how much it can trust its citizens to govern themselves.



Virginia GOP Candidates for the US Senate

This year, Virginia has three GOP candidates running for the nomination for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Mark Warner. The primary to determine the winner will be held on August 4, 2026, with early voting beginning on June 18, 2026 and ending on August 1, 2026. The winner of the primary will challenge Warner in the general election on November 3, 2026. Below is a brief background on each candidate (listed in alphabetical order) which was taken largely verbatim from their websites in an effort to reflect different candidate approaches to their campaign; their positions on issues listed on their website is also included. All opinions in the information are the opinions of each individual candidate reflected on their website, and not necessarily those of WAC's newsletter editor.



Kim Farington

Kim Farington is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), inventor, successful entrepreneur, and respected public servant of 33 years.

As an astute and dedicated steward of America's finances, Kim led major financial reforms at the Department of War, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Office of Personnel Management, and the White House, saving taxpayers over one billion dollars.

Upon her retirement from government service as the Chief Financial Officer of the First Responder Network Authority – where she managed a budget of 100 billion dollars – Kim became the founder and CEO of KTech, a small business focused on financial management, cybersecurity, and human capital management. Kim is also an inventor and holder of three patents.

She earned an associate's degree from Indiana University, a bachelor's degree in accounting from Excelsior College, a Certificate for Executive Leadership in Artificial Intelligence from the Partnership for Public Service, and a Certificate in Public Leadership from the Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education

In addition to being a CPA, she is a Certified Telecommunications Network Specialist, a Former Board member of Excelsior College's National Cybersecurity Institute in Washington, DC, and a current member of the Indianapolis School of Liberal Arts Advisory Board at Indiana University

Today, Kim lives with her husband Dave, a retired Navy Captain, in Fairfax Station, Virginia. They are both faith-based Christians, attending Catholic Mass and Protestant services together. She is committed to using her vast experience in government financial management and business to improve the lives of all Virginians.

Issues

- **Government spending:** Expose and eliminate inefficiencies, waste and fraud in government spending, and reduce the national debt
- **2nd Amendment:** Make certain Congress passes no laws that impede our second amendment rights
- **Small businesses:** Protect and help small businesses grow
- **Supreme Court:** Supports appointing constitutional conservative judges and opposes court-packing
- **Education:** Supports school choice and parental rights; opposes politicized curriculum content
- **Unemployment:** Promotes domestic manufacturing and deregulation to spur job creation
- **Immigration:** Supports border wall completion and deportation of criminal offenders. Adheres to the fundamental principle that the first duty of the American government is to protect American citizens, not those who break our immigration laws.

- **Violent crime:** Advocates tough-on-crime policies and increased police funding
- **National security:** Advocates increased military spending and strong defense posture (“peace through strength”)
- **Energy policy:** Strongly supports oil, gas, coal, and nuclear expansion; opposes federal fossil fuel restrictions on its use

If you would like to learn more about Kim, volunteer for, or contribute to her campaign, please go to her website at: <https://kimforvirginia.com/>



Bert Mizusawa

Bert Mizusawa is a retired Major General of the United States Army, a former senior executive in the federal government, and a nationally respected leader in law, national security, and public service. His career spans more than four decades across military command, legislative oversight, executive leadership, and private legal practice – serving at the highest levels of government while remaining grounded in the responsibilities of leadership and service.

Throughout his career, Mizusawa has operated at the intersection of law, security, and governance. As a military officer, he commanded troops in combat and led complex joint and interagency operations overseas. As a civilian leader, he held senior roles in both the legislative and executive branches of government, helping shape national defense policy and overseeing some of the largest institutions in the federal system.

Mizusawa commanded the Combined Joint Interagency Task Force in Afghanistan, coordinating efforts across US agencies, coalition partners, and international organizations to combat corruption, narcotics trafficking, terrorist financing, and illicit networks. He later served as a Senior Advisor to the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, providing counsel on national security challenges at the highest level.

In civilian service, Mizusawa served as Deputy Under Secretary of the Army, a three-star equivalent Senior Executive position, where he helped oversee a global organization of more than one million uniformed and civilian personnel. Earlier in his career, he worked directly for the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, playing a key role in defense oversight and co-authoring landmark legislation that continues to shape U.S. defense strategy today.

A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Mizusawa earned both a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School and a Master in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School. He is also a MacArthur Fellow in International Security. Following his government service, he founded and led successful private enterprises, including a federal contracting firm and a law practice focused on complex legal and regulatory matters.

Across military, government, and civilian life, Bert Mizusawa has built a record defined by service, accountability, and leadership under pressure – bringing deep experience, steady judgement, and a lifelong commitment to the public good.

Issues

- **Fiscal Responsibility** – The national debt has more than tripled since Mark Warner has joined the Senate. Back then he said he would lead the way to balancing the budget, but he's joined the extreme left spenders in Washington. I will focus government on its core functions and bring excessive spending under control.
- **Affordability** – The tax code is overly complex and burdensome. I support a simpler tax code with fewer brackets and larger standard deductions.
- **Defending our Military** – Virginia needs a pro-military Senator, not one who votes to tie their hands and micromanages missions. I authored the Trump doctrine for foreign policy and was appointed senior advisor for national security technology and business integration at the CIA. I know the military and the global challenges we face.
- **Second Amendment** – Our Constitutional right to keep and bear arms is key to the security of freedom and individual liberty. I will defend our rights to citizen self-defense and fight any effort to infringe on that right.
- **Immigration** – While America grew as a nation of immigrants and should continue their lawful assimilation, it's high time for us to be a nation of Americans. We must keep our borders secure while making legal immigration for those seeking the American dream an easier process. Those who legally immigrate should be prepared to assimilate.
- **Energy** – Nuclear power is clean, cheap, reliable and safe. I support bringing new nuclear power on-line to slash the ever-increasing energy costs for American households.

If you would like to learn more about Bert, volunteer for, or contribute to his campaign, please go to his website at: <https://bertforsenate.com/>



David Williams

David Williams is a proud American, lifelong Republican, and dedicated leader ready to fight for our country in the U.S. Senate.

Born in Plainfield, New Jersey, and raised in San Diego, California, David grew up in a middle-class household anchored in faith, discipline, and love of country. His mother served as a public school teacher, and his father, a retired Navy Chief Warrant Officer, instilled in him a deep respect for duty and service.

At 14, David moved with his family to Decatur, Georgia, where he attended an under-resourced high school. There, he saw firsthand how strong values and determination could overcome difficult circumstances. His faith, forged in those formative years, continues to guide his life and leadership today.

David enlisted in the U.S. Navy before earning a competitive ROTC scholarship to attend Morehouse College. Upon graduating he became an infantry officer in the U.S. Marines. He deployed to Iraq twice as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he led a platoon of Marines and during his second deployment engaged in combat operations. Following his military service, David began a diplomatic career advancing American interests across Latin America in the U.S. Department of State. He then joined the CIA as a Case Officer, where he coordinated security and intelligence-related matters and served as a Chief of Station. David continues his service to date as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Marine Corps Reserves.

His experience on the front lines of war and diplomacy has shaped his unwavering belief in conservative principles: limited government, strong borders, secure communities, and the unmatched power of the American Dream.

Now living in Reston, Virginia, with his wife and three children, David is stepping forward once again not to serve abroad, but to serve at home.

Issues

- **Protecting Our Communities** – David is committed to restoring law and order. He has seen what happens when government fails to enforce the rule of law. In too

many American cities rising crime, open drug use, and weak enforcement are putting families at risk.

- **Education that Empowers Families** – David grew up attending underfunded public schools and saw how the system often fails our children, especially in minority communities. But he also saw the power of education to change lives. A proud graduate of Morehouse College, David believes every student deserves the chance to succeed not because of government mandates, but because of opportunity, discipline, and high expectations. He supports school choice, parental rights in education, and policies that empower students, not bureaucrats.
- **The Voice Virginia Needs** -- David is running for U.S. Senate because America is worth fighting for. He's a patriot with real world experience who knows what it takes to lead and stand up for the values that make America special: faith, family, freedom, and the flag.
- **Fiscal Responsibility and Smarter Government** – With decades of experience in federal service, David knows first hand how bloated and inefficient Washington has become. He supports a strategic, conservative approach to reducing the size of government while protecting national security and core services. David will champion common-sense reforms that eliminate waste, promote transparency, and rebuild trust in our institutions.
- **Defending the American Dream** – David believes in personal responsibility, hard work, and the freedom to rise. He knows poverty is a challenge, not a life sentence. He's lived the journey from humble beginnings to the halls of leadership, thanks to faith, discipline, and perseverance. Now he wants to ensure every American has the same opportunity. Whether through military service, vocational training or education, David will fight for pathways to prosperity, not government dependency.

If you would like to learn more about David, volunteer for, or contribute to his campaign, please go to his website at: <https://www.davidwilliamsforva.com/>



GOP Candidates for Virginia's 5th Congressional District Race

So far this year, we have two GOP candidates running in the primary for the 5th Congressional District seat: incumbent Rep. John McGuire and challenger Melanie Lucero. The filing deadline to run for the seat is May 26, 2026. The primary to determine the winner will be held on August 4, 2026, early voting begins June 18, 2026 and ends August 1, 2026. The winner of the primary will challenge the Democrat nominee in the general election on November 3, 2026. Below is a brief background on each candidate which was largely taken verbatim from their websites in an effort to reflect different candidate approaches to their campaigns; their positions on issues is also included. All opinions in the information are opinions of each individual candidate reflected on their website, and not necessarily those of WAC's newsletter editor.



Representative John McGuire

**Endorsed by President Trump in
the 2024 and 2026 Primaries**

**Fearless, Unapologetic, Christian
Conservative**

John McGuire was born and raised in Central Virginia. As a child, he was abandoned and spent his early childhood years in the foster care system, attending nine different elementary schools. By the grace of God, his grandparents rescued him and his older sister from the foster care system and raised them until John graduated from high school in 1988.

Service

Following high school graduation, John felt a call to service that led him to join the United States Navy. He served ten years as a Navy SEAL deploying to countries all across the world defending our nation against evil before returning home to Virginia in 1998.

Back in his hometown in Central Virginia, John founded his small business, SEAL Team PT Inc., a fitness organization dedicated to helping teams and individuals become stronger, healthier and more confident. 25 years later, his company is well-renowned for changing people's lives and helping train Division I athletes and corporations all over the world. In addition to running a successful business, John is also a highly regarded motivational speaker.

Faith

John has never been known to back down from adversity. When tragedy struck in 2006, John was told he would never walk again. But through his sheer determination and by the grace of God, John was able to overcome a life-altering injury. John is using that second chance to be a servant-leader who fights for our Christian conservative values every day.

Leadership

John understands that teamwork is one of the greatest keys to success in life. From his experience in the SEALs, running a successful business, and raising a family, John knows that by bringing people together anything is possible through hard work and determination. John knows what it takes to bring people together to find a solution to any problem. As a husband and father of five, he understands the importance of building a true partnership between our families, our communities, and our government. John and his wife, Tracy, currently reside in Goochland County with their dog, Remi.

Issues

- **National Defense:** One of my priorities in Congress has been focused on keeping the American people safe at home and abroad. Part of this focus has been ensuring the strength of the United States Defense Industrial Base and making sure that our warfighters have what they need for the fight now and in the future. Virginia and the 5th District are home to many important equities and installations that are the pride of our military and the Commonwealth.
- **Agriculture:** My district is home to a historic agricultural community that was cleaned out during previous Democratic administrations. As I work with

my colleagues to restore American agricultural dominance, I'm especially focused on protecting our produce and animals from foreign diseases, supporting our specialty crop, forestry, and logging industries, and raising up the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

- **Law Enforcement:** We wouldn't have a country without our brave men and women in law enforcement. While in Congress, I have cosponsored and voted for bills that support our law enforcement officers and ensure they have the tools and support they need as they serve our communities. I will always stand with our federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement, and I proudly back the blue.
- **Pro-Life:** Life is a miracle and must always be protected. I am a proud Member of the Congressional Pro-Life caucus and have cosponsored important bills as well as signed onto letters and Amicus Briefs advocating for pregnant women and the unborn. I am unapologetically pro-life, and I will always fight to help every mother and baby.
- **Affordability:** While in Congress, I have fought to make life more affordable for every American. I have advocated for cutting through bureaucratic red tape, reducing taxes so more of what you earn stays in your pocket, and creating more affordable housing options for first-time homebuyers. The American people know how to spend their money better than the government and should be empowered to attain the American Dream.
- **Healthcare:** Our healthcare system is broken thanks to an overly complicated regulatory environment and perverse incentives put in place by previous Democratic presidents and Congresses. Despite being the world leader for pharmaceutical and medical device innovation, we are nowhere near the top for health outcomes and affordability. We need to promote competition and consumer choice by increasing transparency in our healthcare system and fixing problems while they're small by focusing on preventive care

If you would like to learn more about John, volunteer for, or contribute to his campaign, please go to his website at: <https://www.mcguireva.com/>



Melanie Lucero

For Melanie, a life of service wasn't a choice – it was a calling. At 18, while her peers were choosing colleges, she enlisted in the United States Marine

Corps. She attended Military Occupational Specialty School, graduating at the top of her class, and served as an Intelligence Analyst in high-stakes environments where you don't get points for trying – you get results.

Growing up, Melanie's life was upended when her father entered an arranged marriage to an illegal alien – a union that resulted in abuse, financial fraud, and identity theft. That personal experience drives her fight to hold government leaders who facilitate illegal immigration accountable and protect American citizens.

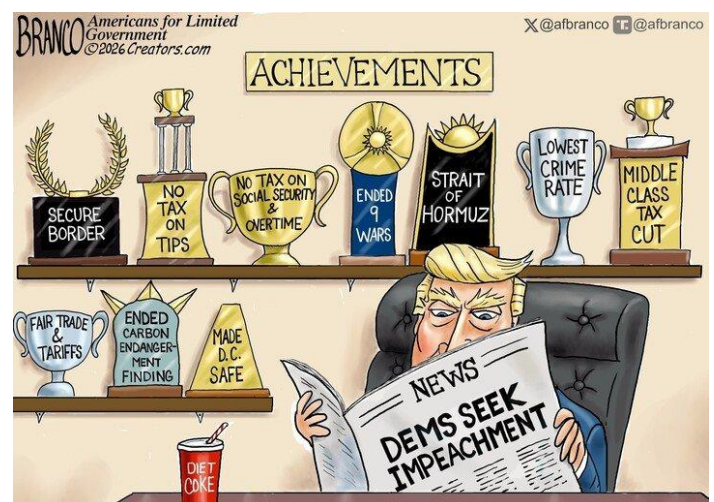
After her service in the Marine Corps, Melanie transitioned into the U.S. Intelligence Community, where she continued to serve in support of counter-terrorism operations. She later married her husband Michael Boyce and built the M Group, a thriving real estate investment business serving the Lake Anna area. Every day, she helps hard-working Virginians achieve the American Dream by finding the place they call home.

Her service did not end with the uniform – it evolved. Now she's ready to serve again, bringing the structure discipline and accountability the Marine Corps gave her to Congress. She's running to fight for the 5th District's disenfranchised constituents with the honesty and backbone you deserve.

Issues

- **Veterans and Constituent Services** – Melanie's office will provide robust constituent services – whether you're a veteran struggling with the VA or a senior seeking social security answers, your case will be treated with urgency and importance.
- **Ending Illegal Immigration** – Melanie supports building the wall, properly funding ICE, empowering Border Patrol Agents, and ending federal funding for sanctuary cities. She will reform DHS immigration policies to ensure no one bypasses legal or security requirements for citizenship.
- **Right to Life** – Melanie believes that life begins at conception and that every unborn baby is worthy of protection. She would work to defund Planned Parenthood, support the born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and support legislation to end all federal funding of abortions.
- **Second Amendment** – The right to keep and bear arms is non-negotiable. Melanie is a proud gun owner and will oppose any legislation that infringes on your Second Amendment rights -- no red flag laws, no gun registries, no bans on commonly-owned firearms.
- **America First Foreign Policy** – Melanie supports President Trump's 'peace through strength' approach. As a veteran, she understands the human cost of military deployment and will vote to deploy troops only when there is a clear mission and decisive plan for victory.
- **Economy and Jobs** – Melanie will partner with the Trump Administration to cut reckless government spending, investigate fraud, reduce taxes, back tariffs, and bring manufacturing back to America.
- **Healthcare Freedom** – Obamacare has always been unaffordable – premiums and deductions have skyrocketed. Melanie supports repealing Obamacare and allowing patients to select insurance plans that work for them and their families.
- **Education and Parental Rights** – Parents – not bureaucrats – should decide what's best for their children. Melanie supports school choice, opposes Critical Race Theory, and gender ideology in classrooms, and will fight to keep the federal government out of local education.
- **Energy Independence** – Melanie supports unleashing American energy – backing domestic drilling, approving pipelines, and opposing Green New Deal regulations that kill jobs and raise costs. Energy independence means lower prices and national security.
- **Election Integrity** – Melanie supports the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act to ensure election integrity by requiring proof of citizenship to register and vote in federal elections.

If you would like to learn more about Melanie, volunteer for, or contribute to her campaign, please go to her website at: <https://www.melanielucero.com/>



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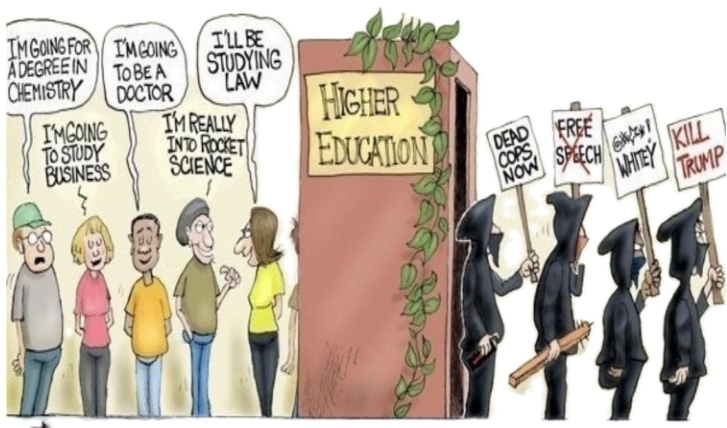
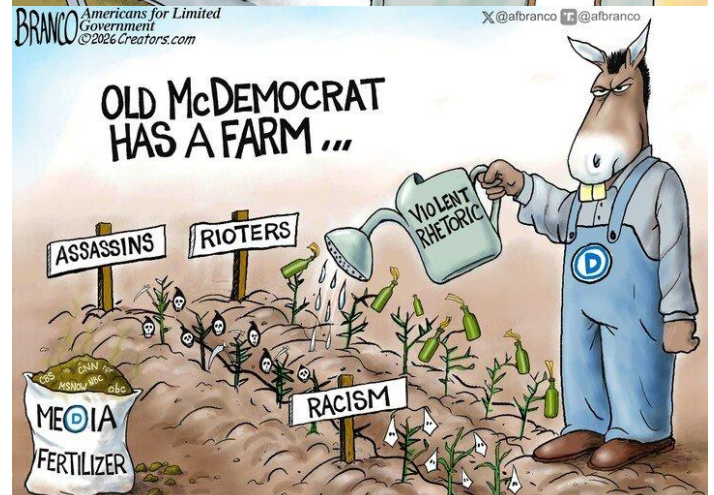
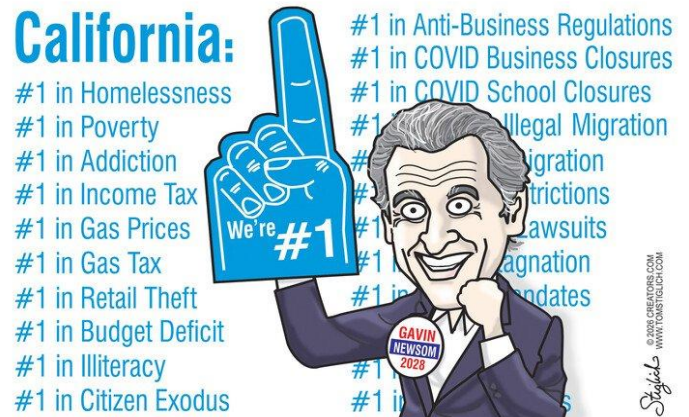
Legislative Issues Chair Marianne Gustafson
mgustaf1@gmail.com

Newsletter Chair Tamara Thies
tamaramct@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events

May Speakers Forum and Luncheon – Thursday, May 28 -- Greencroft Club, Registration begins at 11:30am, Speaker: Philip Van Cleave, President of Virginia Citizens Defense League

June Speakers Forum and Luncheon – Thursday, June 25 – Greencroft Club, Registration begins at 11:30am, Speaker: Stephen McDowell, Providence Foundation





Women for the American Constitution Membership Form 2026

Name: _____ Date of Application or Renewal: _____

Check Applicable: _____ Renewal Member; _____ New Member

Check One: _____ Active Member (\$40.00) Women; Will be eligible to make motions and vote; to hold office and to serve on committees.

_____ Associate Member (\$20.00) Men; Will be eligible to serve on committees but are ineligible to vote.

_____ Student (\$10.00) College/HS; Will be eligible to serve on committees but are ineligible to vote.

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Birthday (Month & Day): _____ Email Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Your Voting Place: _____

Please make checks payable to "Women for the American Constitution"

Mail to: WAC Membership; C/O Treasurer; P.O. Box 5727; Charlottesville, VA 22905

WAC SERVICE COMMITTEES

Working together, we can do great things! Volunteer for at least ONE Standing Committee:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| _____ Education | _____ Newsletter / Nat'l Issues |
| _____ Elections / Poll Watching, etc. | _____ Community Outreach |
| _____ Finance / Reservations | _____ Local & State Issues |
| _____ Membership / Marketing | _____ Programs / Speakers Forum |
| _____ Fundraising | _____ Social Media |



LOCAL ISSUES: As part of our education goal in "local policy" for 2026, each WAC member will be asked to attend one Albemarle County Board of Supervisors Meeting or one Albemarle County School Board Meeting during 2026. (There are 2 of each per month, so a member will choose to attend at least one of the 48 available meetings. She (and others who attend the same meeting) will give a brief report to the membership at the following monthly Speakers Forum / Lunch Meeting.