What We’re Going to Do

- Day 1: Orientation to Virginia
- Day 2: Modern Virginia Political History
- Day 3: Current Politics in Virginia

Your General Assembly at Work

Virginia Congressional Districts 2018
Virginia women are part of a nationwide trend in more female candidates running this year for the U.S. House of Representatives. Female Major Party Congressional Nominees in Virginia

House of Representatives
District 1
Rob Wittman (R)

House of Representatives
District 2
Scott Taylor (R)
House of Representatives District 3
Bobby Scott (D)

Congressional District 1 (Wittman) and 2 (Taylor)
Boundaries in Williamsburg

House District 1
Rob Wittman, Republican Incumbent
Vangie Williams, Democratic Challenger
Rob Wittman
- Born in 1959
- BS Biology, Virginia Tech,
- Masters in Public Health, UNC,
- Ph.D. Public Policy and Administration, VCU
- Local government and House of Delegates 26 years
- Elected to Congress 2007
- Lives in Montross
- Married, 2 children, 2 grandchildren

Vangie Williams
- Born in King George in 1968
- BS, History, Ashford University
- MBA, Ashford University
- DBA, Walden University
- Realtor
- Strategic Planner
- Senior Manager, high-tech corporation in McLean, Virginia (10 years)
- Married, 6 daughters

House District 2 Race
Scott Taylor, Republican Incumbent
Elaine Luria, Democratic Challenger
Scott Taylor
- Born in Maryland 1979
- Navy Seal – 8 years
- Virginia House of Delegates
- BA International Relations, Harvard University Extension
- Elected to Congress in 2016

Elaine Luria
- Born in Birmingham AL 1975
- United States Naval Academy 1993-1997
- 20 year career in the US Navy; surface warfare officer and nuclear engineer
- Business owner
- Married, one child
- Lives in Virginia Beach

United States Senate
Corey Stewart (R)  Tim Kaine (D)
Corey Stewart
- Born in Minnesota 1968
- BA Georgetown
- JD William Mitchell Law School
- International Trade attorney
- Chairman, Prince William County Board of Supervisors
- Virginia state chair for 2016 Trump campaign
- Married, 2 children

Tim Kaine
- Born in Minnesota 1968; raised in Kansas
- BA University of Missouri, JD Harvard Law School
- Missionary in Honduras
- Richmond City Council, Mayor of Richmond, Lt. Governor of Virginia, Governor of Virginia
- 2016 Democratic VP candidate
- Married, three children

Virginia Demographic Projections
Population Diversity – oddly, black equals white on this map

Poverty level – deep green equals greater poverty

SNAP Benefits, 2015
Percent of households with at least one person receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (commonly known as “food stamps”) in July, 2015.
After the 2020 census

Reapportionment

- In Article 1, Section 2, of the Constitution
- [An] Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct.

Reapportionment

- Purpose
- Representation
- Allocation of Tax revenues
RE-APPORTIONMENT – HOW?

- **Step 1**: 2020 US Population (estimated): 334,000,000
- **Step 2**: Divided by H of R Districts: 334,000,000 / 435 =
- **Step 3**: Population per District: 767,000

RE-APPORTIONMENT – HOW?

- **Step 4**: Virginia Population 2020 (est): 8,800,000
- **Step 5**: Divided by population per district: 8,800,000 / 767,000 = 11.46

RE-APPORTIONMENT – HOW?

- Virginia gets 11 seats, with .46 left over.
- This is almost 1/2 of a seat, which equals . . .
- .46 x 767,000 = 352,820 “left over” people
**HOW DOES THE US RE-APPORTION?**

- **Step 6:**
  - States with “left-over” people are then listed according to the size of their “left-over” population.
  - Seats are allocated one at a time to the states on the list.

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**Why is this Important?**

- Changed representation in the House of Representatives
- Changed Electoral College vote
Then – The States Redraw District Lines

- 7 states contain only one congressional district – no districts
- In 6 states, redistricting is done by an independent commission
- In the other 37 states, it’s done by the state legislature
- Also done for state and county offices

Gerrymandering

- Elbridge Gerry, MA
- Districts looked like a salamander
- Therefore “Gerrymander”
Gill v. Whitford
- Argued before the Supreme Court on October 3, 2017
- "Cartography is before the court"
- Case arose from Wisconsin's 2010 GOP redistricting efforts – "Red Map"
- Raised Questions – In the 2012 elections, Wisconsin Republicans won < ½ of the vote, got 3/5 of the seats in the state legislature.

Gill v. Whitford (continued)
- Other relevant recent cases:
  - Maryland – Benisek v. Lamone
  - North Carolina –
    - Harris v. Cooper
    - Common Cause v. Rucho
    - League of Women Voters v. Rucho.

Role Of The Department Of Justice In Overseeing Redistricting
- Voting Rights Act of 1964 – DOJ oversees redistricting in Southern states
  - 2013 – Shelby County v. Holder
  - Decision – Virginia and other states no longer under extra supervision
Virginia and the Voting Rights Act

- Charge - General Assembly had “packed” black voters into one district
- In the case of Wittman v. Personhuballah the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal of a District Court ruling; ordered that it be replaced with a court-ordered redistricting on January 16, 2016
- Eastern Virginia District Court had said that Congressional Districts cannot be gerrymandered for partisan gain.

Virginia and the Voting Rights Act

- Issue was 3rd and 4th District of Va
  - 3rd District hopped the James River in several places and divided multiple locality boundaries
  - Created 89% majorities for black Representative Bobby Scott (D) while surrounding Republican incumbents enjoyed majorities of 16-24%.

Virginia and the Voting Rights Act

- Subsequent appeals by Republican lawmakers to the Supreme Court were unsuccessful. (This was Wittman v. Personhuballah)
- 1 result – in previously Republican District 4, Democrat was elected in 2016
New Court ruling about House of Delegates districts
New District lines to be drawn by October 30
Will impact 2019 state House elections

NEW** -- July 2018
Federal Court Ruling

CONGRESSIONAL BOUNDARIES ORDERED REDRAWN

UPDATE: August 10: Court gave GOP House Leadership 2 weeks (until August 24) to present their plan.
Governing is always a Work In Progress

What will happen next? TBD

Conclusions

Our federal system allocates significant power to the states

“A Republic, if you can keep it.”

“All politics is local.”

Make a Difference

- Identify national problems
- Work on local solutions