



VIRGINIA LEAGUE OF  
CONSERVATION VOTERS

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECAP



# WHAT WE'LL COVER

- Lay of the Land
  - Chamber breakdowns
  - Key dynamics between stakeholders
- 2025 Legislative Session
- Veto Session & the Budget
- Governor's Final Actions



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# HOUSE BREAKDOWN

## House of Delegates (51 D - 49 R)

- Democratic Leadership:

- Speaker of the House: Delegate Don Scott (Portsmouth)
- Majority Leader: Delegate Charniele Herring (Alexandria)
- Caucus Chair: Kathy Tran (Fairfax)

- Republican Leadership:

- Minority Leader: Delegate Todd Gilbert (Shenandoah)
- Caucus Chair: Delegate Amanda Batten (Williamsburg)



# SENATE BREAKDOWN

Senate (21 D - 19 R)

- Democratic Leadership:
  - Majority Leader: Senator Scott Surovell (Fairfax)
  - Caucus Chair: Senator Mamie Locke (Hampton)
  - President Pro Tem: Senator Louise Lucas (Portsmouth)
- Republican Leadership:
  - Minority Leader: Senator Ryan McDougale (Hanover)
  - Caucus Chair: Senator Mark Obenshain (Rockingham)



# KEY DYNAMICS

- Political Dynamics
  - Governor's last session
  - Election Year
  - 2025 is an election year in Virginia
    - House of Delegates
    - Governor
    - Lt Governor
    - Attorney General
- House vs Senate
- Other Stakeholders



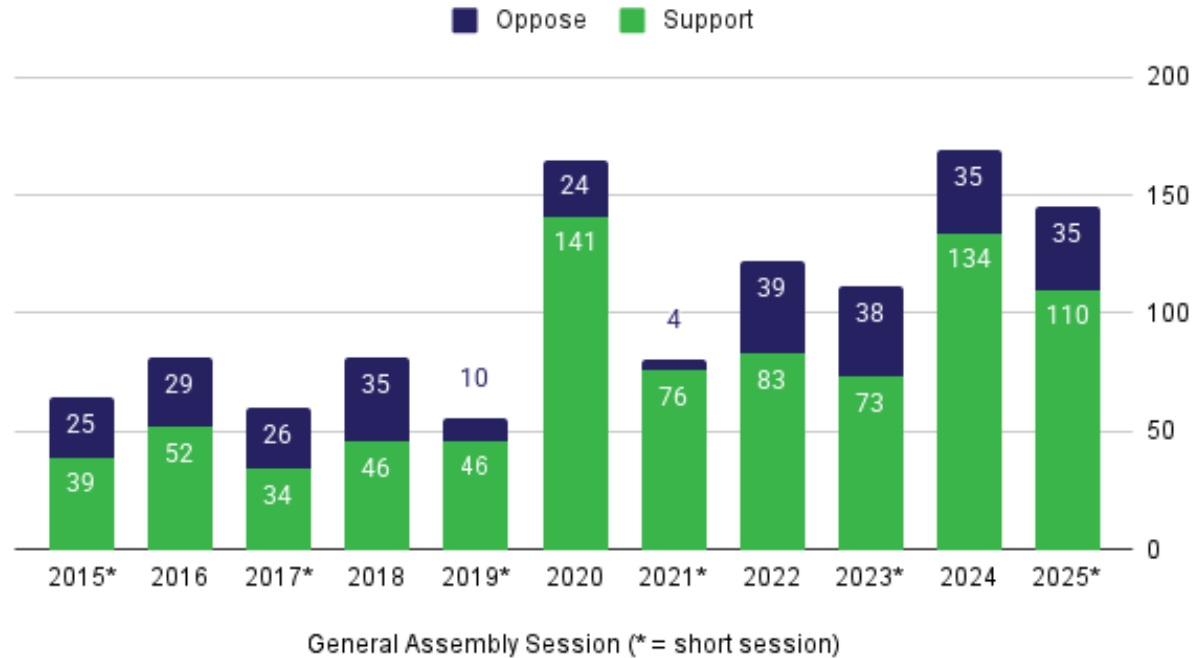


# KEY DYNAMICS

- **Beginning:**
  - Water crisis handled by a brand new Richmond Mayor
- **Middle:**
  - Delays meant extra ctte hearings, bills not getting heard
  - New federal administration + political tensions
  - “Vibes were bad”
- **End:**
  - 917 bills passed, with special sessions looming...



## VCN Bill Positions Over the Years



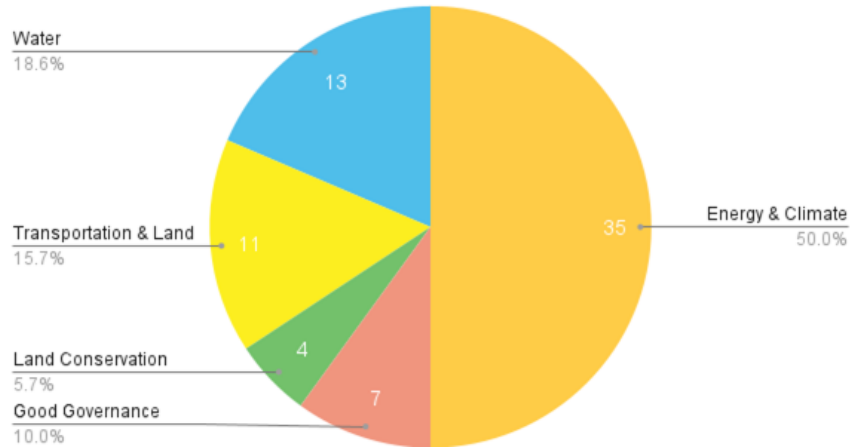
386 Tracked Bills – 110 Supported Bills – 35  
Opposed Bills



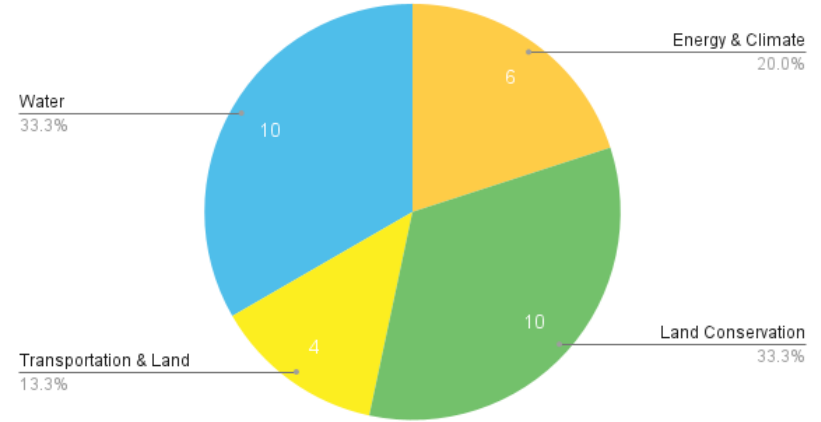
VIRGINIA  
CONSERVATION  
NETWORK

Bill Positions over 10 years

Bill Positions by Issue



Budget Report Items by Environmental Issue



$\frac{1}{2}$  of Bill Positions Energy & Climate  
 $\frac{2}{3}$  of Budget Positions Land Conservation & Water



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CONSERVATION  
NETWORK

VCN's 2025 Bill & Budget Positions by the Issue

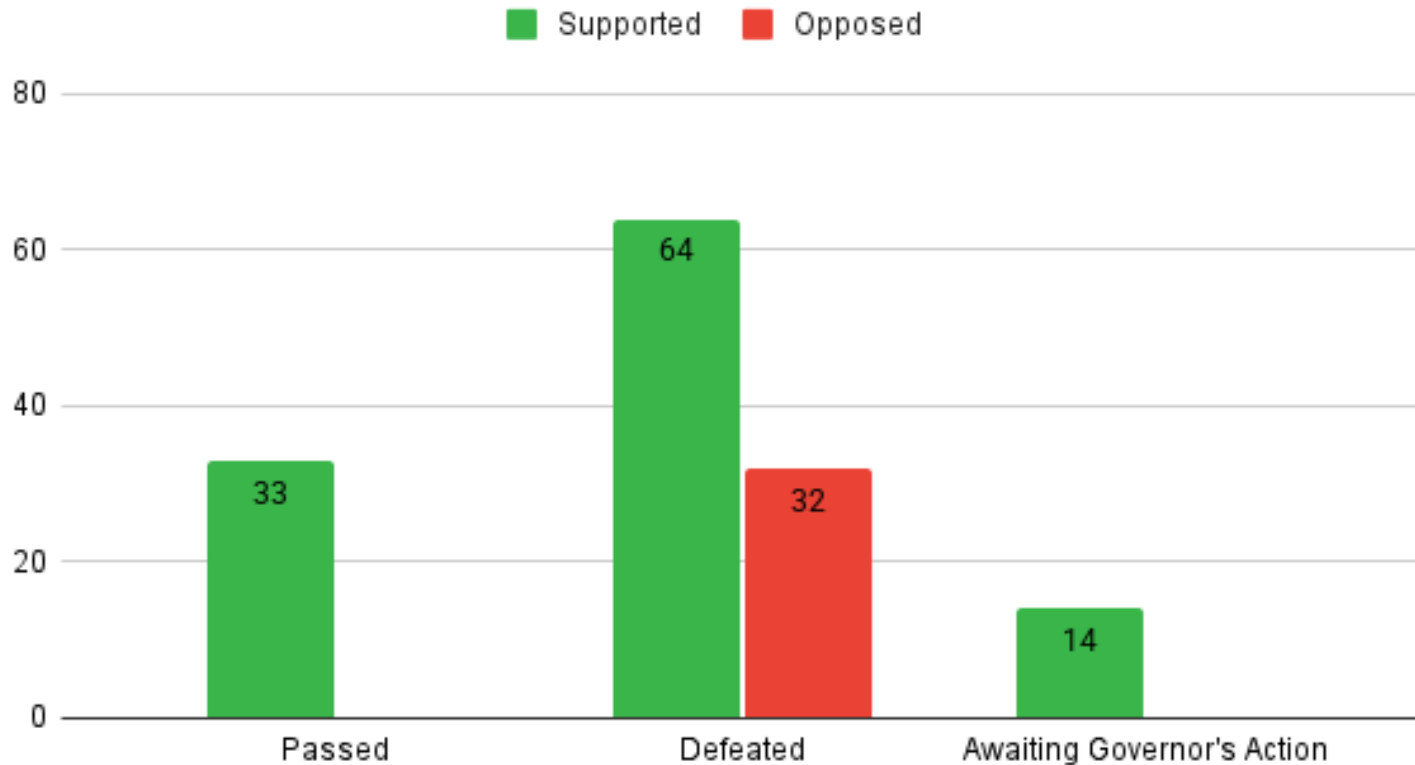


# VETO SESSION & THE BUDGET



- Legislation:
  - Governor Youngkin:
    - Signed 599 bills, amended 159 bills, & vetoed 157 bills
    - General Assembly accepted 69 of the Governor's amendments and returned 91 original bills & the budget to his desk
- Budget:
  - General Assembly delivered a bipartisan budget to the Governor that prioritized clean water, some land conservation, and RGGI protection
    - Governor Youngkin sent down 8 hard item vetoes & 205 budget amendments
    - The General Assembly accepted 33 of those amendments, rejected the rest, and sent the amended budget back to Youngkin for consideration

## Final Environmental Policy Results



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VCN's 2025 Bill Positions

# GOVERNOR'S FINAL ACTIONS

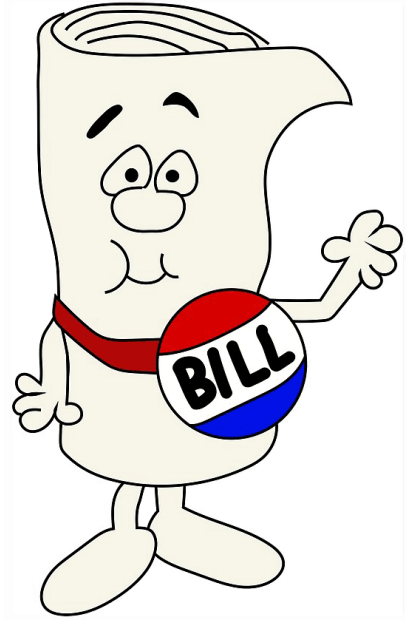


- Legislation:
  - General Assembly accepted 69 of the Governor's legislative amendments and sent 91 original bills & the budget to his desk
  - As of May 2nd 11:59pm, Governor Youngkin has signed 53 bills of those bills, and vetoed the remaining 38
- Budget:
  - Governor Youngkin sent down 8 hard item vetoes & 205 budget amendments
    - The General Assembly accepted 33 of those amendments and sent the amended budget back to Youngkin for consideration.
    - Of the 172 items that the General Assembly sent back to the Gov, he approved 135 and line item vetoed 37, totalling in a \$900M reduction in spending.

# BILL SPOTLIGHTS

- **Water**

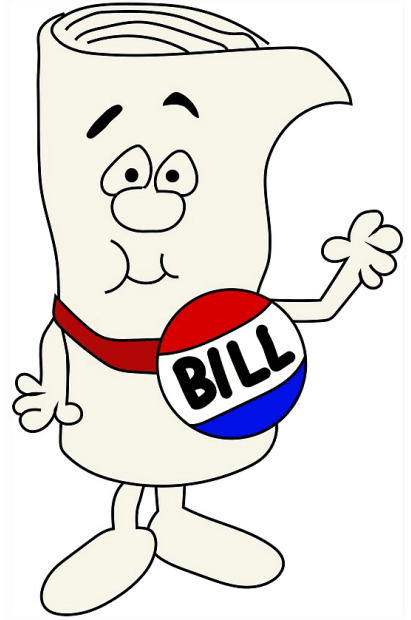
- Efforts to shift stormwater management and agriculture BMPs \$\$ from the Chesapeake Bay Watershed were defeated.
- No new good plastics bills (such as HB 1618) were passed, but no bad bills were passed either. A study on updating the Litter Tax was passed (HJ 448), and the foam ban remains intact.
- Wetlands Taskforce (HB 2034) was amended and signed.
- A tree canopy bill (HB 2630) was passed and signed.
- The Blue Catfish bill (HB 2782) was vetoed.
- The Joint Subctte on Recurrent Flooding was resurrected via HJ 437.
- A coastal storm risk management JLARC study (HJ 437) passed.
- One PFAS bill passed (HB 2050) and one was vetoed (SB 1319).



# BILL SPOTLIGHTS

- **Land Use & Transportation:**

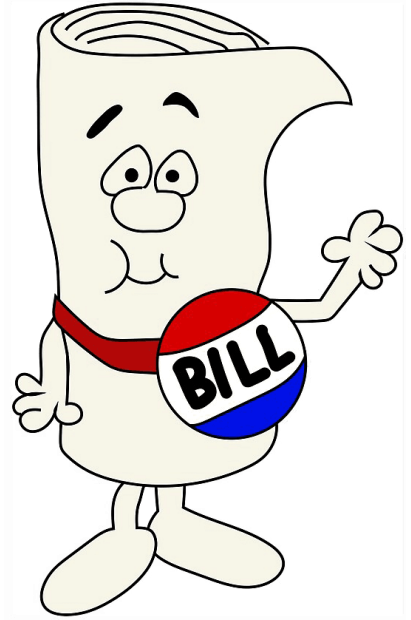
- Invasive Plants bill (HB 1941 & SB 1166) passed & was signed.
- Virginia's Great Outdoors Act (HB 2059) was heard but left in a House Appropriations subcommittee.
- Wildlife Corridors (HB 2025 & SB 1341) was defeated.
- Oak Hill Park (HB 2306) was defeated in the Senate after being sent back to ctte from the floor.
- Rural EV legislation (HB 1791) was vetoed, but the state of the budget language is uncertain.
- Advanced Clean Car Standards repeal (SB 806) was defeated in the Senate.



# BILL SPOTLIGHTS

- **Energy:**

- OSW Workforce Dev (HB 1616) was vetoed.
- DG (HB 1883 / SB 1040) was vetoed after Gov amendments were rejected.
- Virtual Power Plants (HB 2346 / SB 1100) was signed in its original form.
- Solar schools (HB 1934 / SB 1192) was signed in its original form.
- The Interconnection bill (HB 2266 / SB 1058) was amended and signed.
- The Low Income EE & Weatherization bill (HB 1935 / SB 777) was vetoed.
- The IRP bill (HB 2413 / SB 1021) was vetoed.
- All data center bills except for HB 2084 were either defeated or vetoed.





# QUESTIONS?



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