

Humphries, Joshua M.

From: Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:31 AM
To: DeJarnette, Anna H.
Cc: Kilgore, Klarke W.; Humphries, Joshua M.; Fero, Mark
Subject: Election Integrity Talking Points
Attachments: Election Integrity Talking Points.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Anna,

Here are some talking points to help our CLO's be knowledgeable about election integrity complaints.



Darrell DJ. Jordan Jr | Chief of Staff
Office of the Attorney General
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Richmond, Virginia 23219
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Djordan@oag.state.va.us
<https://www.oag.state.va.us>

OAG ELECTION INTEGRITY TALKING POINTS

Election Integrity:

- Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia.
- Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.
- Attorney General Miyares believes it should be easy to vote, and hard to cheat. In less than a year, AG Miyares has taken the following steps:
 - On Day One, the Office of Attorney General fired dozens of activist bureaucrats and hired highly qualified attorneys who are committed to upholding the Constitution. One of those hires was a trusted elections expert to lead the Office's efforts to uphold the law and hold election officials accountable (Josh Lief).
 - The Office of Attorney General is conducting several investigations into election irregularities and election official misconduct across the state. We cannot share the details of these investigations, but the results will be public in due time.
 - Attorney General Miyares has created an election integrity unit composed of attorneys and investigators that will work closely with law enforcement to ensure that this November's elections are conducted pursuant to the law and at the highest level of integrity.
 - The Office of Attorney General has successfully defeated several election lawsuits, including the one by Paul Goldman, a liberal activist, that sought to discredit the results of the 2021 election.
- Governor Youngkin has taken the following steps:
 - Signed a bill to stop outside interference in elections, including prohibiting money, gifts and services to election offices from private individuals or nongovernmental organizations.
 - Signed a bill to increase transparency by providing absentee results by precinct so voters can see who is voting absentee in person and by mail and what precinct they're coming from.
 - Signed a bill to make Virginia's voter rolls even cleaner by removing deceased voters every week (up from receiving report from Dept. of Vital Statistics once a month)
- While the Governor and Attorney General have accomplished a lot on this issue, there is still more reform needed, but that requires cooperation with the General Assembly and the Democrat-controlled Senate.
- For example, this year Republicans passed legislation to reinstate voter ID and end the use of unattended drop-boxes for ballots, only to see it die in the Senate.

2020 Ballot Retention Process:

- According to Virginia Code 24.2-669, ballots from old elections are discarded after 24 months. The ballots for the 2020 election are slated to be discarded this Fall.
- However, the Virginia Department of Elections maintains election results records of elections indefinitely.
- The Office of the Attorney General has reviewed the 2020 election results, along with hundreds of documents from concerned citizens and elected officials, and we have not seen any evidence of widespread fraud that would change the results of Virginia's 2020 election. Therefore, we have no justification to sue to stop the discarding of the ballots this year.
- Attorney General Miyares has pledged to call balls and strikes, and to work to promote free and fair elections conducted pursuant to law, but we cannot create law. Any change to the state law regarding ballot retention or other election practices must go through the General Assembly legislative process.

Humphries, Joshua M.

From: joshhumphries93@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2022 9:19 AM
To: Humphries, Joshua M.
Subject: Opinion | Jason Miyares: Why I created an Election Integrity Unit in Virginia - The Washington Post

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/10/19/jason-miyares-election-integrity-unit-virginia-fair-elections/>

Opinion Jason Miyares: Why I created an Election Integrity Unit in Virginia

Jason Miyares, a Republican, is the Virginia attorney general.

As a first-generation American and child of a parent who escaped an oppressive regime, I have a deep appreciation for our innate rights and liberties. That appreciation might not be understood by individuals whose families have never experienced anything other than the liberties America offers.

When I was growing up, my mother told me stories about her childhood and early life in communist Cuba. She told me the horror of the secret police coming to their house and kidnapping my uncle in the middle of the night. She told me the pain of seeing Havana's thriving metropolis before Fidel Castro and communism turned her world upside down. She shared how painful it was to live in a country where the vulnerable have no voice, where there was no consent of the governed — the opposite of the American republic we all call home.

Story continues below advertisement

Gratitude is one of life's most underrated of human traits. I'm so grateful for the life, freedom and opportunities we have here as compared with so many areas of the world where people don't have a voice.

The most sacred of these freedoms is the right to vote. The ability to participate in a democracy through choosing our elected officials is an incredible right that is a cornerstone of our American miracle. One of my strongest beliefs is the simple concept that it should be easy to vote but hard to cheat.

The Post's View: Virginia's 'Election Integrity Unit' achieves the opposite of its stated purpose

Every Virginian, regardless of political affiliation, should have full faith and confidence in our election system. There is no reason any Virginian should have any doubt walking into a voting booth or mailing

Josh Humphries
(540) 589-3071
Sent from my iPhone

Humphries, Joshua M.

From: Humphries, Joshua M.
Sent: Thursday, September 8, 2022 8:46 AM
To: dean@virginiahouse.gop; Lindsay Fisher
Subject: FW: Election Integrity Talking Points
Attachments: SB 80 Guidance.docx

Several of your folks have reached out, so thought you might like to see the below TP's and attached guidance.

From: Lief, Joshua N. <JLief@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Thursday, September 8, 2022 8:41 AM
To: Haley, Leslie A.T. <LHaley@oag.state.va.us>; Humphries, Joshua M. <JHumphries@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: FW: Election Integrity Talking Points

FYI

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Thursday, September 8, 2022 8:40 AM
To: Otto Wachsmann <DelOWachsmann@house.virginia.gov>
Subject: RE: Election Integrity Talking Points

You're welcome. As discussed, here is the latest guidance given by ELECT on HB205/SB80. Note that in addition to this, Commissioner Beals has addressed the issue in comments she has given at each of four in-person ELECT-sponsored trainings for registrars and electoral board members this summer, which occurred in four different cities across the state. ELECT is no longer receiving questions from registrars about this issue, but we understand there may still be some confusion, and are monitoring the issue. As I mentioned, we may want to tweak the legislation next session and will be in touch if we decide to proceed in that manner.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,
Josh Lief

From: Otto Wachsmann <DelOWachsmann@house.virginia.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 11:16 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N. <JLief@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Re: Election Integrity Talking Points

Thank you for the discussion this afternoon and thank you for the talking points.

Otto Wachsmann

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 5:02 PM, Lief, Joshua N. <JLief@oag.state.va.us> wrote:

Humphries, Joshua M.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 4:38 PM
To: Haley, Leslie A.T.; Humphries, Joshua M.
Subject: FW: Federal election over-reach through executive order
Attachments: 2022-05-25 FGA- protecting-states-control-over-election-rules-paper.pdf

Importance: High

See below FYI from Del. LaRock.

From: Dave A LaRock <DelDLaRock@house.virginia.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 3:12 PM
To: Susan.Beals@elections.virginia.gov; Lief, Joshua N. <JLief@oag.state.va.us>
Cc: Delegate LaRock <dlarock@house.virginia.gov>; matt.moran@governor.virginia.gov; jesse.lynch@governor.virginia.gov; Margaret Ransone <DelMRansone@house.virginia.gov>; Delegate Wachsmann <DWachsmann@house.virginia.gov>; Delegate Ransone <margaret99@house.virginia.gov>; Sen. William Stanley/Senate <wstanley@senate.virginia.gov>; senate district20/Senate <district20@senate.virginia.gov>; ali.ahmad@governor.virginia.gov
Subject: Federal election over-reach through executive order
Importance: High

Dear All,

In light of President Biden's recent Executive Order 14019, I feel we may need to go further than SB 80 / HB 205 did to protect the integrity of our elections from federal government manipulation at the local level. Attached is a paper published by the Foundation for Government Accountability on May 25 regarding these concerns. With three Congressional races in Virginia likely to be competitive this fall, I hope we are prepared to stay ahead of this. I understand from reading the attached FGA report and related coverage, that they've seen state guidance etc. to be insufficient in some cases; they seem to think that legislation is needed; see these links:

[After HR 1, Another Threat to Election Integrity Looms](#)

The Biden administration is trying to bypass Congress and override state election laws.

The American Spectator by [STEWART WHITSON](#) March 26, 2021, 10:53 AM

[Tipping Point - Dems Attempt to Override State Election Laws](#)

Stuart Whitson interview on OANN

Some other states have worked on legislative fixes, so I wonder whether we should work to do this in the current special session with "legislation as may be communicated from the Governor"?

Thank you for our consideration, and please let me know if I can assist in this or any other effort.

Sincerely,

Delegate Dave LaRock

Virginia House of Delegates, 33rd District

District Office: (540) 751-8364

DelDLaRock@house.virginia.gov

www.VoteLaRock.us

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

<https://twitter.com/LaRock4Delegate>

If you do not already subscribe to my email updates, I encourage you to [sign up here](#).

TALKERS FOR AMERICA'S ROUNDTABLE [11.1.22]

BACKGROUND

- **TOPICS:** Ceasefire, Immigration/Border/Fentanyl, Israel, EIU
- **HOSTS:** Joel and Natasha
- **LENGTH:** 15 minutes
- America's Roundtable is a Christian/Conservative weekly program with many listeners that focus on America's economy, free enterprise, healthcare, rule of law, security, foreign policy, and trade.
 - America's leadership in forging strategic partnerships with rule of law nations around the world while highlighting the principles of the Constitution and the liberties enshrined in the Bill of Rights.

OPERATION CEASEFIRE

- Operation Ceasefire is a proven approach to address violent criminal activity among serious and repeat offenders, which showed extreme success in Richmond from 2004-2008.
- The vast majority of violent crime is committed by repeat offenders. Operation Ceasefire leverages strategic and effective partnerships throughout Virginia to prosecute gun crime, invest in gang prevention, support community policing in high-crime neighborhoods, and **getting repeat, violent offenders off our streets**.
 - Implementing in 12 Virginia cities
- There isn't a "one-size-fits-all" solution to reducing violent crime – it takes cooperative, multifaceted strategies among law enforcement, prosecutors, community leaders, and government officials working in tandem – wanting to decrease violent crime and gang and gun violence isn't controversial. We're all working together towards the same goal – keeping Virginians safe
- Dedicating 5-6 **cross-designated Special Assistant United States Attorneys** with the OAG. These additional prosecutors will be focused on going after violent, repeat offenders and ensuring they receive the maximum punishment.
- Additionally, the OAG will be hiring 2-3 **Group Violence Intervention Coordinators** to promote proven group violence intervention strategies, coordinate resources, work with law enforcement, and develop relationships with the community to promote implementation of evidence-based practices to reduce, and prevent, violent gun and gang crimes.
- The General Assembly allocated \$5 million for Ceasefire in the budget. It was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor earlier this year. We're working through the process, and expect it to be fully funded this winter.
- **Victim/Witness Protection Program** to fund reasonable protective services to ensure that testifying does not put the victims' safety at risk → no longer have to disclose who they are in a courtroom setting on the witness stand.
 - Provide funds for reasonable lodging and relocation expenses, transportation, and the installation of systems and devices necessary to fulfill protective services.

STATISTICS

- In 2021, there were 16,823 violent criminal offenses (*murder, non-negligent manslaughter, rape, sodomy, sexual assault with object, aggravated assault, and robbery*) involving 19,461 victims, and firearms represented 45% of all known weapons used in aggravated assault. A firearm, particularly handgun, is the number one weapon or use of force involved in violent crime.
- Virginia's murder rate has nearly doubled in *one* decade!

TALKING POINTS

- Over the last several years, we have seen the heartbreaking news of more and more violent crime on our streets.
 - **The impact of crime in our communities is real, and painful for the victims.** Senseless acts of violence have resulted in empty chairs at birthday parties, graduations, and Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Crime, particularly violent crime, unfortunately trickles down into the fabric of the community.
- The full weight of my office has been, and will continue to be, put behind efforts to reduce violent crime in the Commonwealth.
- For several years, myself, supported by other legislators, worked to bring back a revised and revamped version of Operation Ceasefire to Virginia → you carried legislation on this in 2020.
- **Witness Protection**
 - One of the hardest things to do as a prosecutor is convince a victim to relive the worst moment of their life and testify in court. It takes an incredible amount of bravery. Frequently, victims worry that testifying will put them more at risk. Without victims willing to testify, prosecutors can't do their jobs and put these repeat offenders behind bars.
- The “defund the police” movement is another contributing factor to the rise in violent crime across our Commonwealth, and our nation.
 - The high vacancy rates in some cities PD's is far too high.
 - **The combination of the loss of law enforcement officers, with criminal first, victim last policies of the last two years have left our Commonwealth less safe and our communities crying out for help.**
- We are excited about the partnership ahead to restore safety to our communities. But let this be a warning to any and all who seek to further wreak havoc and senselessly engage in violent activity – stop or you will face the consequences.

FENTANYL/BORDER/IMMIGRATION

GENERAL

- Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine.
- “Nationally, we've lost 105,000 Americans to overdoses and that means that we've lost the equivalent of a Vietnam war, two of them every twelve months.”
- Number of fatal fentanyl overdoses in 2021 compared to 2020 increased by 22.8%.

VIRGINIA SPECIFIC

- In 2020, an average of 4 Virginians died of an opioid overdose daily.

- Synthetic opioid fentanyl was the driving force, causing or contributing to 76.5% of all overdose deaths in 2021, up from 2020.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **ASKED SCOTUS TO UPHOLD LAW THAT PROHIBITS ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO BREAK U.S. IMMIGRATION LAWS (9/29):** Joined an amicus brief asking the SCOTUS to uphold a federal statute used to enforce immigration laws in *United States v. Hansen*; prohibits the encouragement of migrants to come to the U.S. illegally for purposes of commercial advantage or private financial gain.
- **URGED PRESIDENT BIDEN TO CLASSIFY FENTANYL AS A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION (9/15):** Sent a joint letter with 18 other attorneys general demanding that decisive action is taken in response to the record increase in overdose deaths nationwide and declare fentanyl as a WMD. This classification would allow the federal government to coordinate responses with multiple agencies, including the DoHS, DoD, and DEA, as opposed to the federal government only treating fentanyl as a narcotics control problem.
- Opioid settlements distributed to localities by the **Opioid Abatement Authority** to abate and remediate the opioid epidemic through financial assistance to treat, prevent, and reduce opioid abuse and addiction in Virginia.
 - Virginia was one of the first states to have a legislative framework for the expenditure of opioid litigation funds.
 - This money will go directly towards combating the opioid epidemic.
 - It'll help communities take actionable steps to reduce, prevent and treat opioid addiction in their backyard
 - Every community is different. What works in Fairfax won't necessarily work in the Valley, or in Richmond - which is why this approach of giving money directly to the localities is so vital.
 - There isn't a one size fits all solution - the government closest to the people governs best, and that's the approach we're taking.
- One Pill Kills PSA

ISRAEL

TALKERS

- Antisemitism is the world's oldest form of bigotry. Lamentably, despite the lessons of history, antisemitic hate still plagues society.
 - Defending the right to religious freedom
- Virginia has been a pioneer for religious freedom since the earliest days of this nation and, as Attorney General of this great Commonwealth, I'm dedicated to protecting Virginians from any form of hate and antisemitic intolerance.

ACTION ITEMS

- I was proud that my very first "coffee with the AG" was focused on the issue of combating antisemitism
- Additionally, we will be convening "working groups" to expand on the recommendations from these events and bring them to the Governor's Commission.
- ATTORNEY GENERAL MIYARES JOINS AMICUS BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF TEXAS' ANTI-BDS STATUTE

- BDS Movement, or “Boycott Divest and Sanction” Movement, is an effort to economically strangle Israel by cutting it off from trade and commerce with the rest of the world.
- **Targeting a particular religious or ethnic group to inflict economic harm is discrimination.**

EIU

TALKERS FROM OPED

- As a first-generation American and child of a parent who escaped an oppressive regime, I have a deep appreciation for our innate rights and liberties. An appreciation that might not be understood by individuals whose families have never experienced anything other than the liberties America offers.
- I want every Virginian to have absolute confidence in our election system.

PURPOSE:

- To **provide advice, support, and resources** to ensure that Virginia election law is applied in a uniform manner, and increase confidence in our state elections. More specifically:
 - To provide legal advice to the Virginia Department of Elections
 - To investigate and prosecute violations of Virginia election law
 - To work with the election community throughout the year to ensure uniformity and legality in application of election laws
 - To work with law enforcement to ensure legality and plurality in elections
- The Office of the Attorney General has original jurisdiction in election law and many of our attorneys have unique subject matter experience.
 - That’s why we decided to reorganize and create a specific election integrity unit within my office.
- The EIU will create a new focus within the Office of the Attorney General on our elections process and help with coordination and cooperation between the Board of Elections and the election community
- No additional or new funding was needed for the creation of the unit.

TALKING POINTS:

- My view is simple – **it should be easy to vote and hard to cheat.**
- This unit will bring a new found focus and level of coordination and cooperation between the election law attorneys in my office and our partners in the election community to ensure Virginia’s elections remain fair and transparent.
- I pledged during the 2021 campaign to increase transparency and strengthen confidence in our state elections.
- The EIU will work to help restore confidence in our democratic process in the Commonwealth through increased transparency measures and the encouragement of open dialogue between my office and local election officials

Jordan Jr Darrell H.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 3:59 PM
To: Teixeira, Andrew J.; Lichacz, Ian B.
Cc: Jordan Jr Darrell H.; Kilgore, Klarke W.
Subject: Fw: DRAFT TALKERS for America's Roundtable
Attachments: TALKERS FOR AMERICA'S ROUNDTABLE [11.1.22].docx

for tomorrow's 2:30 interview

From: Smith, Chloe <CHSmith@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 3:10 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: DRAFT TALKERS for America's Roundtable

Attached.



Chloe Smith | Press Assistant
Office of the Attorney General
202 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
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CHSmith@oag.state.va.us
<https://www.oag.state.va.us>

Jordan Jr Darrell H.

From: Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:54 AM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W.; Kilgore, Klarke W.
Subject: RE: Virginia Attorney General Miyares Op-Ed Submission

Nice. I'm fine with this.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:39 AM
To: Jordan Jr Darrell H. <DJordan@oag.state.va.us>; Kilgore, Klarke W. <KKilgore@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Fw: Virginia Attorney General Miyares Op-Ed Submission

Ya'll okay with this? Looks like they just changed some capitalization.

From: Riley, Jamie <Jamie.RileyKolsky@washpost.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:33 AM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Re: Virginia Attorney General Miyares Op-Ed Submission

Well, Monday got away from me. Here's the first edit of his piece. Please mark requested changes in bold or all caps. After you send it back, I'll send it to the copy desk, where it will be read at least twice. Then I'll send it back to you again. We can publish when it's ready, and it will be on Sunday's Local Opinions page, which runs in the Metro section.

I'll add links while you're going over the edit. You'll see them in the next edit I send you.

Thanks!

Jamie

Jason Miyares: Why I created an Election Integrity Unit in Virginia

Jason Miyares, a Republican, is the Virginia attorney general.

As a first-generation American and child of a parent who escaped an oppressive regime, I have a deep appreciation for our innate rights and liberties. That appreciation might not be understood by individuals whose families have never experienced anything other than the liberties America offers. Growing up, my mother told me stories about her childhood and early life in communist Cuba. She told me the horror of the secret police coming to their house and kidnapping my uncle in the middle of the night. She told me the pain of seeing Havana's thriving metropolis before Castro and communism turned her world upside down. She shared how painful it was to live in a country where the vulnerable have no voice, where there was no consent of the governed — the opposite of the American republic we all call home.

Jordan Jr Darrell H.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 3:31 PM
To: Teixeira, Andrew J.; Kilgore, Klarke W.; Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Subject: Fw: Clarification Request

see below

From: Colligan, Brian <brian.colligan@pilotonline.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 3:27 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Cc: Kris Worrell <kworrell@virginiamedia.com>
Subject: Re: Clarification Request

Hey Victoria,

Thanks for that info and, as well, for the invitation to meet with the attorney general. While we don't hold off-the-record board meetings, we'd be happy to find some time in October to sit down with the AG on the record to discuss his time in office so far and his aspirations for the rest of his term. (I would suggest some time sooner but I'm afraid I have some existing commitments in the next two weeks.) It would be myself, the executive editor and a reporter at our offices in downtown Norfolk (a different location than when I met with him on previous occasions). Let me know if that works and we can try to find a date/time that works for everyone.

Thanks again,
Brian

On Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 5:50 PM LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us> wrote:
Hi Brian,

The unit is not made up of 20 lawyers. As the press release states, it is made up of about 20 attorneys, paralegals, and investigators who already work at the AG's office. So while some members of the unit do have criminal experience, not all and it is incorrect to assume that all 20 individuals could do criminal appeals.

Virginia law gives the Attorney General original and broad jurisdiction over election law. The unit is new because we are bringing together and restructuring our resources, placing newfound focus on the matters in an effort to increase collaboration and cooperation between OAG, the State Board and Department of Elections, law enforcement and the election community. However, our powers and jurisdiction under the code of the Virginia haven't changed.

Regardless of our disagreements on this issue, I would like to offer to your editorial board the opportunity to meet AG Miyares and have an off the record coffee with him. Let me know if that is of interest.

Best,
Victoria

From: Colligan, Brian <brian.colligan@pilotonline.com>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 3:01 PM

To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>

Subject: Re: Clarification Request

Hey Victoria,

Thanks for the note. That fact sheet is very helpful and thanks for sending it.

Just so I have this straight, none of the lawyers for this unit have criminal experience or the ability to handle criminal appeals, even though the fact sheet specifies they will be handling criminal and civil cases? The AG's office called this a "new" unit in the press release but it's just a reorganization based on existing work the AG's office was already doing? The AG's office already had 20 lawyers working on election law cases before this announcement?

Thanks again for reaching out. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,
Brian

On Fri, Sep 16, 2022 at 2:13 PM LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us> wrote:

Hi Brian,

I'm writing because we believe your recent editorial on the Attorney General's election integrity unit needs some clarification.

The section below attempts to describe the staffing of the unit. However, you fail to mention that since our Office already has broad and original jurisdiction over election law, these attorneys were already practicing election law as employees of the OAG. That's why no additional funds are needed for the unit - the work is already being done. We've simply restructured attorneys who are already employees.

"Then there is a question of resource allocation. In February, Miyares pleaded with the General Assembly for additional staffing, saying that his office was unable to keep pace with the number of criminal appeals following the jurisdictional expansion of the Virginia Court of Appeals.

At the time, Miyares said he needed another 75 staffers. That it came after the AG fired 30 staff, including 17 lawyers, after taking office only to request money to hire staff surely raised lawmakers' eyebrows. But Miyares' office is now apparently so flush with resources that he can task 20 lawyers to a vanity project to tackle a non-existent problem. That is informative as lawmakers consider future staff and funding requests."

Equating criminal appeals and election law lawyers is also not accurate, as each requires a specific type of experience and knowledge - that's like saying a brain surgeon can perform open heart surgery. Mark Herring also requested the additional criminal appeals lawyers in light of the general assembly.

Attached here is a fact sheet about the unit.

Because of the Pilot's Editorial Board's interest in covering the Attorney General, we'd love to set up a meeting for you to talk to the Attorney General, in person, about his administration and priorities. Please let me know what your availability looks like.

Best,
Victoria



Victoria W. LaCivita | Director of Communication
Office of the Attorney General
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Richmond, Virginia 23219
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VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us
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Jordan Jr Darrell H.

From: Thrift, Deborah B.
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:34 PM
To: Jordan Jr Darrell H.; Scott, Paulette
Cc: Wells, Christie A.
Subject: RE: updated Election Integrity Unity talking points

Thank you – this will help.

From: Jordan Jr Darrell H. <DJordan@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Scott, Paulette <PScott@oag.state.va.us>; Thrift, Deborah B. <DThrift@oag.state.va.us>
Cc: Wells, Christie A. <CWells@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: RE: updated Election Integrity Unity talking points

Sorry. Here it is.

From: Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Scott, Paulette <PScott@oag.state.va.us>; Thrift, Deborah B. <DThrift@oag.state.va.us>
Cc: Wells, Christie A. <CWells@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: updated Election Integrity Unity talking points

Paulette and Deb,

Here is an Election Integrity Unit fact sheet. This will help answer phonecalls. 😊

Jordan Jr Darrell H.

From: Scott, Paulette
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:47 PM
To: Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Subject: RE: updated Election Integrity Unity talking points

Got it, thanks!

The Best as always.
Thanks DJ. Paulette

From: Jordan Jr Darrell H. <DJordan@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Scott, Paulette <PScott@oag.state.va.us>; Thrift, Deborah B. <DThrift@oag.state.va.us>
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Cc: Wells, Christie A. <CWells@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: updated Election Integrity Unity talking points

Paulette and Deb,

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Jordan Jr Darrell H.

From: Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:17 PM
To: DeJarnette, Anna H.
Cc: Kilgore, Klarke W.; LaCivita, Victoria W.
Subject: RE: Election Integrity Unit fact sheet
Attachments: Office of Attorney General Election Integrity Unit Fact Sheet.docx

My apologies. Here is the correct version.

From: Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:16 PM
To: DeJarnette, Anna H. <ADeJarnette@oag.state.va.us>
Cc: Kilgore, Klarke W. <KKilgore@oag.state.va.us>; LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Election Integrity Unit fact sheet

Hey Anna,

Here is an Election Integrity Unit fact sheet with the most up-to-date talking points for the CLO's. 😊

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Jordan Jr Darrell H.

From: Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Scott, Paulette; Thrift, Deborah B.
Cc: Wells, Christie A.
Subject: updated Election Integrity Unity talking points

Paulette and Deb,

Here is an Election Integrity Unit fact sheet. This will help answer phonecalls. 😊

OAG ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT FACT SHEET:

- What will the Unit do?
 - Provide legal advice to the State Board and Department of Elections.
 - Investigate and prosecute violations of Virginia election law and take civil actions as appropriate to enforce election law.
 - Defend challenges to Virginia's election law and practices.
 - Work with the State Board and the Department of Elections, law enforcement and the election community to promote uniformity in elections and enforce the law as written.
 - Protect the rights of Virginians from voter intimidation, suppression or anything that wrongfully infringes on their right to vote.
 - Continue to review changes to voting practices, including to local precincts, boundaries, and polling places, to protect minority voters' right to vote.
- The unit is made up of around 20 existing attorneys, investigators, and paralegals within the office of the attorney general. However, the number of staff assigned to election matters varies depending on workload.
 - The attorneys and staff within the unit will work on elections issues as the need arises. These duties are in addition to work they are already doing at OAG.
- No additional or new funds are required for this unit.
- The Attorney General has original and broad jurisdiction over election law.
 - The AG serves as legal counsel to the Board and Department of Elections.
 - Original jurisdiction to prosecute and/or bring suit with respect to any election law violations and to assure the enforcement of the election laws.
 - The AG also has statutory authority to protect the rights of voters.
- The Attorney General **already had all of these powers.**
- The unit is simply a restructuring, placing a newfound focus on the matters to increase collaboration and cooperation between OAG, the State Board and Department of Elections, law enforcement and the election community.
- The Attorney General believes it should be easy to vote and hard to cheat.
- As the son of an immigrant, whose family fled a country with no consent of the governed, the Attorney General wants every Virginian to have full confidence in our election system.

Jordan Jr Darrell H.

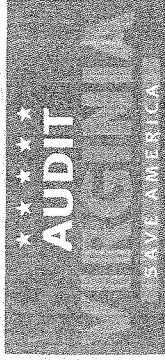
From: Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Scott, Paulette; Thrift, Deborah B.
Cc: Wells, Christie A.
Subject: RE: updated Election Integrity Unity talking points
Attachments: Office of Attorney General Election Integrity Unit Fact Sheet.docx

Sorry. Here it is.

From: Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Scott, Paulette <PScott@oag.state.va.us>; Thrift, Deborah B. <DThrift@oag.state.va.us>
Cc: Wells, Christie A. <CWells@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: updated Election Integrity Unity talking points

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*You Are Cordially Invited to:
Loudoun Town Hall for Election Integrity & Forensic Investigation*



Honored Guest Speakers
*Virginia Senator Amanda Chase
Virginia Delegate John McGuire (Invited)*
Special Guest: Nationally Leading Forensic Investigator - TBA!
Additional - TBA!

Moderated By:

Audit Virginia and Rule of Law Committee - Election Integrity Task Force



ELECTION INTEGRITY
TASK FORCE

About:

A public forum to review forensically determined trends in election fraud including concerns over fraudulent ballots, illegitimate voters, and voter rolls, with a reflection on forensic findings in Maricopa County, Arizona in example, methods for working successfully with legislators and government officials, with discussion on protocols to follow due process of law in reporting claims, conducting investigations, and seeking remedy. The event hosts a special session welcoming public comment on their concerns over election integrity, and to air grievances before public officials and decision makers.



THIN BLUE LINE
CAUCUS

Thursday, September 29, 2022 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm



Zion Springs Bed & Breakfast, Patriot Pub, Hamilton, Virginia
Cash Bar, Light Refreshments
There is no cost or obligation to attend.

Contact: *Velma Anne Ruth, Exec. Dir., Rule of Law Committee, 202.352.1745, velmaanne@registeredindie.net*

More information: www.ElectionIntegrityTaskForce.com

Jordan Jr Darrell H.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 11:43 AM
To: Teixeira, Andrew J.
Cc: Kilgore, Klarke W.; Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Subject: Fw: Speaking Invitation (Loudoun County) & Meeting Request - AG Election Integrity Unit
Attachments: 092922 - Invitation - EITF Town Hall - 091622.pdf

From: Velma Anne Ruth <velmaanne@registeredindie.net>
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 11:40 AM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Speaking Invitation (Loudoun County) & Meeting Request - AG Election Integrity Unit

Victoria LaCivita
Communications Director
Virginia Attorney General Miyares

Greetings Victoria,

By virtue of this email, on behalf of our Election Integrity Task Force we would like to welcome a representative of Attorney General Miyares - Election Integrity Unit to join us as a guest speaker for an upcoming Town Hall in Loudoun County, where we will be hosting Jovan Hutton Pulitzer.

We would also like to arrange a meeting with members of the Election Integrity Unit in Richmond.

Of course if AG Miyares is available to speak, or participate in the meeting, it would be our distinct privilege to meet him, and/or honor his presence in Loudoun County.

Mr. Pulitzer is a professional forensic investigator on election integrity, addressing ballots, voter rolls, and related issues, currently working with the Arizona Legislature and office of AG Brnovich, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, and more. Mr. Pulitzer is also the chief architect of the Maricopa County AZ audit, the ballot inspection and voter identification sections. Please see attached and below for more information.

Mr. Pulitzer is visiting with us Wed Sept 28 - Th Sept 29, is available for meeting either morning. The speaking invitation for the Election Integrity Unit representative is for the evening of Thursday, September 29. This event is free to attend, with RSVP.

Feel free to advise if there is any additional information that would be helpful.

Best Regards,
Velma

Presentation: Maricopa County Audit Results - Jovan Pulitzer
June 27, 2022

Real America's Voice: 2-hour presentation by Jovan Hutton Pulitzer on the extensive results of the Maricopa County, Arizona forensic audit:

<https://americasvoice.news/watch-our-exclusive-live-coverage-of-tonights-arizona-forensic-audit-presentation/>

Velma Anne Ruth
Executive Director
Rule of Law Committee
Mobile: 202-352-1745
Programs: velmaanne@registeredindie.net
Fundraising: velmaanne@theliststore.net
www.RuleOfLawCommittee.com



ELECTION INTEGRITY
TASK FORCE

The Election Integrity Task Force is a coalition of legislators, law enforcement, issue experts, analysts, grassroots organizations, and volunteers who have been selflessly dedicated to restoring the electoral system. This initiative is supported by Rule of Law Committee (501c4, est. 2001) providing advocacy, partnership development, strategic planning, fundraising and related support to task force members.

www.ElectionIntegrityTaskForce.com

Jordan Jr Darrell H.

From: Virginia Lawyers Weekly <dailyalert_va@lawyersweekly.com>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 1:08 PM
To: Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Subject: George Mason grad receives Oliver White Hill Award

[Click here](#) to view this message in a browser window.

VIRGINIA Lawyers Weekly



TOP HEADLINES - Sept. 12, 2022



George Mason grad receives Oliver White Hill Award

Jessica Choate's passion for service began when she was 9 years old after she saw the devastation from ...

UPCOMING LAWYERS WEEKLY EVENTS

Leaders in the Law

Oct. 25, 2022 | 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Honoring an annual class of lawyers who are setting the standard for other lawyers.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Virginia completes transfer of inmates for prison renovation

Prison officials in Virginia on Sept. 7 completed the transfer of more than 200 inmates from the Lawrenceville Correctional Center to prepare for a multi-year ...

Utility ratemaking case remanded

Where an electric power company recorded its costs related to the early retirement of several coal-fired electricity generating plants as asset impairments, the ...

Case with live controversy incorrectly dismissed

Where the circuit court ruled that appellant was the third-party beneficiary of a long-term ground lease but appellant and appellee did not agree what rights ...

Delivery driver injured while delivering railcar wheel sets — \$303,920.24 verdict

On May 30, 2019, the plaintiff, Raymond Riddick, was working as a truck driver for UPS delivering and receiving wheel sets ...

Refer your next injury case to the firm that attorneys trust.

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COOPER HURLEY INJURY LAWYERS
THE CAR CRASH EXPERTS

RESTATEMENT

Recent stories of note you may have missed

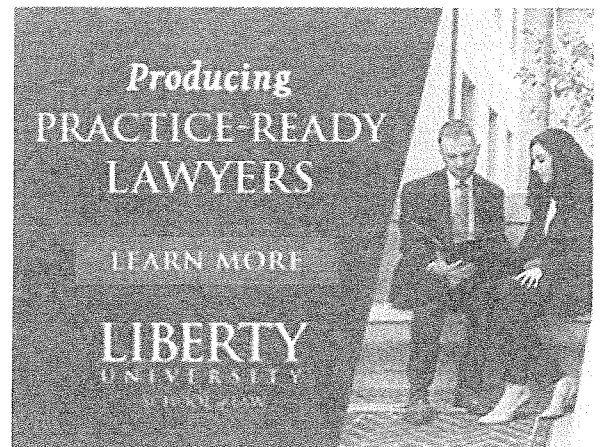
FTCA suit barred by sovereign immunity

A federal court in Virginia has dismissed the claim of a woman who entered a naval base and was injured when a guard activated a security barrier.

NEWS ACROSS VIRGINIA

Virginia Attorney General Miyares adds new 'Election Integrity Unit'

Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares has established an "Election Integrity Unit" within his office to work with state and local election officials and oversee investigations into potential crimes. More from WRIC ABC8 News



Virginia Lawyers Hall of Fame

Nominations open for 2023

The Virginia Lawyers Hall of Fame event honors members of Virginia's legal community over 60.

[NOMINATE NOW >](#)

Influential Women of Law

Nominations open for 2023

This event honors outstanding women lawyers and judges who are making a difference in the profession, their communities and our commonwealth.

[NOMINATE NOW >](#)

FEATURED LEGAL JOB

AIRPORT GENERAL COUNSEL

The Norfolk Airport Authority (NAA) is seeking to bring on a dedicated, results driven individual who thrives in a fast-paced environment with shifting priorities to fill our Airport General Counsel position.

VERDICT & SETTLEMENT REPORTS

Submit your verdict or settlement report

Have you received a verdict or settled a case recently? Fill out a Verdict & Settlement Report form today and help your colleagues determine what their files are worth for trial or settlement value.

Employees resist employer calls to return to the office

Prior to March 2020, only about 8% of US workers performed their jobs fully remote, about 32% worked hybrid and 60% worked fully on-site at a workplace, according to a recent Gallup poll. More from the Richmond Times-Dispatch

LAWYERS WEEKLY RESOURCES

Legal Client Service You Can Take to the Bank

Clients can access financial information from their bank on their phone. Why can't they do the same with your law firm?

[View the full resource center >](#)

WOODS ROGERS VANDEVENTER BLACK

A RIGHT TO APPEAL

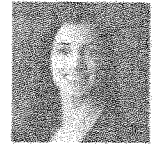
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Thomas
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Elaine
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wrvblaw.com

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Jordan Jr Darrell H.

From: J. Garren Shipley <gshipley@virginiahouse.gop>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 7:00 AM
To: Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Subject: Weekly Tipsheet for September 12, 2022

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WEEKLY TIPSHEET

Good morning! Below is your tipsheet for the week of September 12, 2022. If you have items for future tipsheets, please send to Garren at gshipley@virginiahouse.gop by 4 p.m. the preceding Friday.

Top-Line Message Points

Republicans made some significant promises on the campaign trail in 2021, including a pledge to get Virginia out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative -- a cap-and-trade system driving up power bills for every Virginian. While Democrats in the General Assembly blocked our efforts to act legislatively. Governor Youngkin has begun the process through administrative policy, much to the consternation of Democrats.

Below, find background information and topline messaging points:

- Earlier this month, Governor Youngkin began the process of changing policy to remove Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.
- RGGI, is a multi-state compact established by states in the northeast to cap their emissions of carbon dioxide from power plants.
- Each year RGGI sets a limit for how much carbon can be emitted by utilities in member states, and auctions off the rights to those emissions, offering fewer credits each year for sale.

- Virginia utilities must either have to retire coal-fired units and replace them with natural gas or other sources – or purchase credits on the open market.
- The State Corporation Commission found that the net cost for Dominion alone would be \$6 billion in terms of credits and “stranded assets” -- power plants that can’t be used -- resulting in up to a 10% increase on the average electric bill, or \$144 per year.
- Worse, even after the disruption and expense, RGGI does not reduce carbon emissions.
- Democrats have cried foul, but once again they've been caught out by their own bad legislation.
- When Democrats passed the law authorizing participation in RGGI, they made it permissive, not mandatory.
- Said simply, the law says the Commonwealth is "is authorized" to participate, but it is not required to do so.
- "Authorized" is not the same as "shall," no matter how much Democrats protest to the contrary.
- As President Obama liked to say, elections have consequences.

Social Shareables

x

x

Del. Chris Head, R-Botetout, tells the House a story of hopes and dreams that collided head on with reality -- just like the plan to phase out gasoline cars will unless Virginia changes course.

x

Where do Democrats stand on abortion? How late is too late? Governor Youngkin has proposed his number, 15. That's three weeks longer than the European standard for abortion. In 2019, House Dems said their number was 40-abortion until the moment of birth. What about now?

Twitter

- Virginians should make laws for Virginians. Not Californians. We must uncouple from their bad laws.
- It's a simple question for Democrats. How late is too late to have an abortion. It's a number, 1-40. Where do they stand?
- Why are @VADemocrats so insistent on holding our schools to the lowest possible standards?
- Republicans want higher standards in our schools. Democrats just want to make excuses.
- What's so controversial about wanting higher standards in our schools?
- If we demand excellence in education, we will get students who have an excellent education.

Legislative Meetings

[Click here for current LIS Calendar.](#)

News & Notes

[Late British monarch a presence in Virginia during its highs and lows](#)

['That's just wrong;' Lawmakers react to Virginia legislation on electric vehicles](#)

[Future of Virginia air board committee in question](#)

[Tolled I-66 'Express Lanes' to open on expressed timeline](#)

Todd Gilbert
P.O. Box 71596
Henrico, Va 23255

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Jordan Jr Darrell H.

From: Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:31 AM
To: DeJarnette, Anna H.
Cc: Kilgore, Klarke W.; Humphries, Joshua M.; Fero, Mark
Subject: Election Integrity Talking Points
Attachments: Election Integrity Talking Points.docx

Anna,

Here are some talking points to help our CLO's be knowledgeable about election integrity complaints.

OAG ELECTION INTEGRITY TALKING POINTS

Election Integrity:

- Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia.
- Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.
- Attorney General Miyares believes it should be easy to vote, and hard to cheat. In less than a year, AG Miyares has taken the following steps:
 - On Day One, the Office of Attorney General fired dozens of activist bureaucrats and hired highly qualified attorneys who are committed to upholding the Constitution. One of those hires was a trusted elections expert to lead the Office's efforts to uphold the law and hold election officials accountable (Josh Lief).
 - The Office of Attorney General is conducting several investigations into election irregularities and election official misconduct across the state. We cannot share the details of these investigations, but the results will be public in due time.
 - Attorney General Miyares has created an election integrity unit composed of attorneys and investigators that will work closely with law enforcement to ensure that this November's elections are conducted pursuant to the law and at the highest level of integrity.
 - The Office of Attorney General has successfully defeated several election lawsuits, including the one by Paul Goldman, a liberal activist, that sought to discredit the results of the 2021 election.
- Governor Youngkin has taken the following steps:
 - Signed a bill to stop outside interference in elections, including prohibiting money, gifts and services to election offices from private individuals or nongovernmental organizations.
 - Signed a bill to increase transparency by providing absentee results by precinct so voters can see who is voting absentee in person and by mail and what precinct they're coming from.
 - Signed a bill to make Virginia's voter rolls even cleaner by removing deceased voters every week (up from receiving report from Dept. of Vital Statistics once a month)
- While the Governor and Attorney General have accomplished a lot on this issue, there is still more reform needed, but that requires cooperation with the General Assembly and the Democrat-controlled Senate.
- For example, this year Republicans passed legislation to reinstate voter ID and end the use of unattended drop-boxes for ballots, only to see it die in the Senate.

2020 Ballot Retention Process:

- According to Virginia Code 24.2-669, ballots from old elections are discarded after 24 months. The ballots for the 2020 election are slated to be discarded this Fall.
- However, the Virginia Department of Elections maintains election results records of elections indefinitely.
- The Office of the Attorney General has reviewed the 2020 election results, along with hundreds of documents from concerned citizens and elected officials, and we have not seen any evidence of widespread fraud that would change the results of Virginia's 2020 election. Therefore, we have no justification to sue to stop the discarding of the ballots this year.
- Attorney General Miyares has pledged to call balls and strikes, and to work to promote free and fair elections conducted pursuant to law, but we cannot create law. Any change to the state law regarding ballot retention or other election practices must go through the General Assembly legislative process.

Kilgore, Klarke W.

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Darrell DJ. Jordan Jr | Chief of Staff
Office of the Attorney General

202 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

O: (804) 786-5874 | M: | F:

DJordan@oag.state.va.us

<https://www.oag.state.va.us>

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Kilgore, Klarke W.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 2:45 PM
To: Jordan Jr Darrell H.; Kilgore, Klarke W.; Lichacz, Ian B.; Teixeira, Andrew J.
Subject: Fw: Election Integrity Politicians Attached
Attachments: Politicians re_ Election Integrity.pdf; Highlights - Politicians re_ Election Integrity .pdf

From: Victoria LaCivita <victoria.lacivita@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 2:43 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Fwd: Election Integrity Politicians Attached

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Chloe Smith** <chloedsmith5@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 13, 2022 at 2:13 PM
Subject: Election Integrity Politicians Attached
To: Victoria LaCivita <victoria.lacivita@gmail.com>

I attached the Highlights as a separate document, but they are also on the main document as well.

HIGHLIGHTS

- “You can run the best campaign, you can even become the nominee, and you can have the election stolen from you.” – Hillary Clinton, May 2019
- “We had this little election back in 2018 and, despite the final tally and the inauguration and the situation we find ourselves in, I do have one very affirmative statement to make. We won.” – Stacey Abrams, April 2019
- “If Stacey Abrams doesn’t win in Georgia, they stole it. It’s clear.” – Senator Sherrod Brown, November 2018
- “She would be the governor of Georgia today had the governor of Georgia not disenfranchised 1.4 million Georgia voters before the election. That’s what happened to Stacey Abrams. They took the votes away.” – Terry McAuliffe, October 2021
- “We actually won the last presidential election, folks. They STOLE the last presidential election!” – Terry McAuliffe, 2004
- “We will transform the anger about Florida into energy about politics. We will prove there is victory after denial, democracy after Florida...justice after the Supreme Court.” – Terry McAuliffe, January 2001
- “You know this: If Katherine Harris, Jeb Bush, Jim Baker, and the Supreme Court hadn’t tampered with the results, Al Gore would be president, George Bush would be back in Austin, and John Ashcroft would be home reading Southern Partisan magazine.” – Terry McAuliffe, January 2001
- “You see, I’m here to tell you that just because you win doesn’t mean [you’ve] won.” – Stacey Abrams, October 2021
- “Today we are witnessing democracy at work. This is not, as some of our Republican colleagues have referred to it, sadly, frivolous. This debate is fundamental to our democracy. The representatives of the American people...are standing up for three fundamental American beliefs: that the right to vote is sacred; that a Representative has a duty to represent his or her constituents; and that the rule of law is the hallmark of our Nation...This is their only opportunity to have this debate while the country is listening, and it is appropriate to do so...We have a responsibility to take advantage of [this opportunity]. The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy. A discussion of that foundation, again, should not be considered frivolous.” – Nancy Pelosi, January 2005

HIGHLIGHTS

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Terry McAuliffe

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- “We actually won the last presidential election, folks. They STOLE the last presidential election!” – [2004](#)
- “We will transform the anger about Florida into energy about politics. We will prove there is victory after denial, democracy after Florida...justice after the Supreme Court.” – [January 2001](#)
- “You know this: If Katherine Harris, Jeb Bush, Jim Baker, and the Supreme Court hadn’t tampered with the results, Al Gore would be president, George Bush would be back in Austin, and John Ashcroft would be home reading Southern Partisan magazine.” – [January 2001](#)
- “George Bush says he’s for election reform...count all the votes and start practicing democracy in America again.” – [January 2001](#)

Stacey Abrams

- “You see, I’m here to tell you that just because you win doesn’t mean [you’ve] won.” – [October 2021](#)
- “I come from a state where I was not entitled to become the governor, but as an American citizen and as a citizen of Georgia, I’m going to fight for every person who has the right to vote to be able to cast that vote. And here in Virginia, you need to cast that vote for Terry McAuliffe!” – October 2021
- “It was not a free and fair election. We had thousands of Georgians who were purged from the rolls wrongly...it was not fair to the thousands who were forced to wait in long lines because they were in polling places that were under-resourced, or worse, they had no polling places to go to because more than 300 had been closed. It was not fair to the thousands that were put on hold with their registrations. And it was not fair to those who filled out absentee ballots and, depending on the county you sent it to, it either was counted or not counted, assuming you received it in time.” – [November 2018](#)
- “Brian Kemp oversaw for eight years the systematic and systemic dismantling of our democracy, and that means there could not be free and fair elections in Georgia this year.” – [November 2018](#)

- “We don’t know what really happened because of the miasma of voter suppression.”
– December 2018
- “Words matter...for me, concession, there’s a legal and moral nature to conceding. It means you accept that something is right, that it is just, that it is proper. What happened was not just.” – December 2018
- “We didn’t lose. We just didn’t get the governor’s mansion.” –January 2019
- “A candidate could always be better, but I don’t believe there’s a flaw in our process that someone can point to and say this is why this happened. The results were purely and fully attributable to voter suppression.” – March 2019
- “I don’t concede that I lost. I acknowledge that I’m not the governor of Georgia. That’s made plain every day I don’t walk into the Governor’s Mansion.” –March 2019
- “We had this little election back in 2018 and, despite the final tally and the inauguration and the situation we find ourselves in, I do have one very affirmative statement to make. We won.” –[April 2019](#)
- “I’m not saying they stole it from me, but they stole it from the voters of Georgia.”
–April 2019
- “This is not a speech of concession, because concession means to acknowledge an action is right, true, or proper.” –[November 2018](#)
- “Under the watch of the now former secretary of state, democracy failed Georgia.”
– [November 2018](#)

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA)

- “[I]...object to the counting of the electoral votes of the State of Ohio on the ground that they were not, under all of the known circumstances, regularly given.” –Congressional Record Archive, [January 2005](#)

Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH)

- “How can we possibly tell millions of Americans who registered to vote, who came to the polls in record numbers, particularly our young people...to simply get over it and move on?” – [January 2005](#)

Hillary Clinton

- “[Trump] knows he’s an illegitimate president.” – [September 2019](#)
- “[B]ecause let’s remember three words: Bush vs. Gore. A court took away a presidency.” – [March 2016](#)
- “As we look at our election system, I think it’s fair to say that there are many legitimate questions about its accuracy, about its integrity, and they’re not confined to the state of Ohio. I would hope that this body, and thanks to the objection of my friend from California, this debate which is starting today will continue.” – [January 2005](#)
- “You can run the best campaign, you can even become the nominee, and you can have the election stolen from you.” – [May 2019](#)
- “If [Stacey Abrams] had a fair election, she already would have won.” – [November 2018](#)

Bill Clinton

- “By the time it was over, our candidate had won the popular vote, and the only way they could win the election was to stop the voting in Florida.” – [January 2001](#)

Nancy Pelosi

- “Mr. Speaker, today we are witnessing democracy at work. This is not, as some of our Republican colleagues have referred to it, sadly, frivolous. This debate is fundamental to our democracy. The representatives of the American people in this House are standing up for three fundamental American beliefs: that the right to vote is sacred; that a Representative has a duty to represent his or her constituents; and that the rule of law is the hallmark of our Nation.” – [January 2005](#), House Floor speech
- “Today’s electoral challenge is not intended to overturn the results of the election. It is instead to discuss the real problems with our electoral system and the failings of the process in Ohio and elsewhere. It is about election reform, not about the election result. The Members of Congress who have brought this challenge are speaking up for their aggravated constituents, many of whom may have been disenfranchised in this process. This is their only opportunity to have this debate while the country is listening, and it is appropriate to do so... We have a responsibility to take advantage of [this opportunity]. The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy. A discussion of that foundation, again, should not be considered frivolous.” – [January 2005](#), House Floor speech

Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA)

- “Problems in the Ohio election [could have been] outcome determinative.”

OAG ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT FACT SHEET:

- What will the Unit do?
 - Provide legal advice to the State Board and Department of Elections.
 - Investigate and prosecute violations of Virginia election law and take civil actions as appropriate to enforce election law.
 - Defend challenges to Virginia's election law and practices.
 - Work with the State Board and the Department of Elections, law enforcement and the election community to promote uniformity in elections and enforce the law as written.
 - Protect the rights of Virginians from voter intimidation, suppression or anything that wrongfully infringes on their right to vote.
 - Continue to review changes to voting practices, including to local precincts, boundaries, and polling places, to protect everyone's right to vote.
- The unit is made up of around 20 existing attorneys, investigators, and paralegals within the office of the attorney general. However, the number of staff assigned to election matters varies depending on workload.
 - The attorneys and staff within the unit will work on elections issues as the need arises. These duties are in addition to work they are already doing at OAG.
- No additional or new funds are required for this unit.
- The Attorney General has original and broad jurisdiction over election law.
 - The AG serves as legal counsel to the Board and Department of Elections.
 - Original jurisdiction to prosecute and/or bring suit with respect to any election law violations and to assure the enforcement of the election laws.
 - The AG also has statutory authority to protect the rights of voters.
- The Attorney General **already had all of these powers.**
- The unit is simply a restructuring, placing a newfound focus on the matters to increase collaboration and cooperation between OAG, the State Board and Department of Elections, law enforcement and the election community.
- The Attorney General believes it should be easy to vote and hard to cheat.
- As the son of an immigrant, whose family fled a country with no consent of the governed, the Attorney General wants every Virginian to have full confidence in our election system.

Kilgore, Klarke W.

From: Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:17 PM
To: DeJarnette, Anna H.
Cc: Kilgore, Klarke W.; LaCivita, Victoria W.
Subject: RE: Election Integrity Unit fact sheet
Attachments: Office of Attorney General Election Integrity Unit Fact Sheet.docx

My apologies. Here is the correct version.

From: Jordan Jr Darrell H.
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:16 PM
To: DeJarnette, Anna H. <ADeJarnette@oag.state.va.us>
Cc: Kilgore, Klarke W. <KKilgore@oag.state.va.us>; LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Election Integrity Unit fact sheet

Hey Anna,

Here is an Election Integrity Unit fact sheet with the most up-to-date talking points for the CLO's. 😊

Slemp, Charles H. "Chuck"

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 11:38 AM
To: Haley, Leslie A.T.
Cc: Slemp, Charles H. "Chuck"; Kilgore, Klarke W.; Jordan Jr Darrell H.; LaCivita, Victoria W.
Subject: Positive Emails on Election Integrity

Categories: Election Integrity

Wanted to pass along that we have started to receive many emails thanking the AG for the election integrity unit. We got maybe 5 negative emails right after the announcement. We have received probably 20 positive emails this week.

Thanks,
Josh



Joshua N. Lief | Senior Assistant Attorney General/Chief

Office of the Attorney General

202 North 9th Street

Richmond, Virginia 23219

O: (804) 786-0067 | M: (804) 801-9143 | F:

JLief@oag.state.va.us

<https://www.oag.state.va.us>

Slemp, Charles H. "Chuck"

From: Haley, Leslie A.T.
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 11:39 AM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Cc: Slemp, Charles H. "Chuck"; Kilgore, Klarke W.; Jordan Jr Darrell H.; LaCivita, Victoria W.
Subject: RE: Positive Emails on Election Integrity

Categories: Election Integrity

Yeah!

From: Lief, Joshua N. <JLief@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 11:38 AM
To: Haley, Leslie A.T. <LHaley@oag.state.va.us>
Cc: Slemp, Charles H. "Chuck" <CSlemp@oag.state.va.us>; Kilgore, Klarke W. <KKilgore@oag.state.va.us>; Jordan Jr Darrell H. <DJordan@oag.state.va.us>; LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Positive Emails on Election Integrity

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Thanks,
Josh



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<https://www.oag.state.va.us>

Slemp, Charles H. "Chuck"

From: Slemp, Charles H. "Chuck"
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 7:17 PM
To: chris.piper@elections.virginia.gov
Cc: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: RE: Sen. Chase's Floor Amendment

Categories: Election Integrity

Chris,

Josh Lief shared your email with me. Your message is a very disappointing, politically charged email that I can only assume you plan on leaking.

The Attorney General is the son of a Cuban immigrant. His mother fled a country where there was no consent of the governed and chose to come to America – penniless and homeless - because of the freedoms we are promised. Free and fair elections are a pinnacle of these freedoms. Almost fifty years to the day that she fled communism, she was able to vote for her son to represent her in the oldest democracy in the western hemisphere, the Virginia General Assembly. The Attorney General, both as a candidate and as Attorney General, has said that the 2020 election was fair, and that President Biden legitimately won the election. He has said this publicly multiple times. Attorney General Miyares believes that our election process is one of the most important institutions that makes our democracy work. He is committed to ensuring that we have an election system that Democrats, Republicans, and Independents throughout Virginia can be fully confident about.

Let me be very clear: Our Office is looking forward to working with the many public servants at the Virginia Department of Elections, and local election officials, and supporting them in their work to administer safe and secure elections. By doubting that, you are doubting the integrity of the Attorney General and for that you should be ashamed.

Lastly, Senator Chase requested a meeting with policy officials in the Office of the Attorney General. Our team met with her, as they would any sitting State Senator who requests a meeting. When an elected representative of the people asks for an opportunity to meet with representatives of the Attorney General, our door is open to listen to their concerns.

Please forward this to members of the State Board of Elections.

Best wishes to you in your future endeavors,
Chuck Slemp

From: Piper, Christopher <chris.piper@elections.virginia.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 3:44 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N. <JLief@oag.state.va.us>
Cc: Lewis, Carol L. <CLewis@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Sen. Chase's Floor Amendment

Josh,

Members of the State Board of Elections have been blind copied.

I am not sure if you are aware, but earlier today Sen. Chase offered a floor amendment to the budget to provide \$3 million to "conduct election integrity investigations" that would allot 22 full time positions to the Office of the Attorney

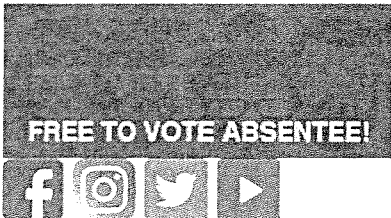
General (OAG). Thankfully, it was ultimately defeated in a voice vote. This is coming the day after a meeting was held with her and the OAG in which she touted that she provided "evidence" that was "very well received" by the Attorney General and not more than two weeks after news of an election denier hired to be Deputy Attorney General to oversee elections resigned only after her social media posts touting election conspiracies and January 6 insurrectionists as "patriots" became public. These issues raise numerous concerns for me and my staff and the broader elections community in Virginia.

As you know, the Department is dedicated to working to address actual issues and answer legitimate questions about Virginia's elections process. Department staff and local election officials work hard every day to ensure that Virginia's elections are safe, secure, fair, and free. We are happy to work hand in hand with the OAG in these efforts, but we need assurances directly from the Attorney General that he supports the work of the Department of Elections and our local election officials and that he rejects these conspiracy theories vocalized by the Senator and others like the former Deputy Attorney General.

At this point, I believe it is incumbent upon General Miyares to make a public statement or, at the very least, provide a statement to my staff, the general registrars, and the Electoral Board members that he is behind us and committed to promoting the good work these dedicated public servants have done to administer safe and secure elections that the public can trust. Anything less would legitimize concerns that the Attorney General will not faithfully defend the good work of these dedicated public servants.

Regards,

Christopher E. "Chris" Piper
Commissioner
Virginia Department of Elections
chris.piper@elections.virginia.gov
(804) 864-8903



Department of Elections Email Disclaimer:

This message, including any attachments, may summarize laws, regulations and policies of the Virginia Department of Elections or the Commonwealth of Virginia. Furthermore, this message and any responses sent to this email address may be subject to public disclosure under FOIA. For more information, please call the Virginia Department of Elections at 1-800-552-9745 or visit <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/e-mail-disclaimer/index.html>.

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N. <JLief@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 4:22 PM
To: Bell, Justin I.; Ferguson, Donald; Flaherty, James M.; Hezel, Flora L.; Laws, Joshua E.; Lewis, Carol L.; Myers, Elizabeth B.; Peay, Elizabeth B.; Hogue, Ashley R.; Harris, Susan; Waldrop, John W.; Ambrosio, Bridget E.; Herring, James R.; Andrews, Travis S.

<https://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/2452-september-9-2022-attorney-general-miyares-announces-new-election-integrity-unit>

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Rascona, Ciara (GOV) <Ciara.Rascona@governor.virginia.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:30 AM
Subject: CLIPS ROUNDUP 9/20

Governor Mentions

WHSV: [Virginia governor discusses new education model policies](#) (By Colby Johnson)

The new guidelines include policies like preventing school staff from concealing information about a child's gender identity from parents. "It's not to exclude teachers, counselors, and administrators, but parents should be the first place and then they should be working together for the child's benefit," said Youngkin.

THE WASHINGTON POST: [Opinion | The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a bad deal for Virginia](#) (By Travis Voyles)

When Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) was elected last year, he pledged to bring down taxes and reduce the cost of living for all Virginians. His push to withdraw Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) — a cap-and-trade scheme with liberal states — is a fulfillment of that promise.

NBC4: [Virginians Getting One-Time Tax Rebates up to \\$500](#) (By Sarah Mattalian)

Eligible taxpayers will receive a one-time payment of up to \$250 per individual and up to \$500 per married couple, according to the Virginia Department of Taxation... The rebate is part of a larger effort by the government of Virginia to provide citizens financial relief.

THE WINCHESTER STAR: [Va. begins issuing rebate checks](#)

Millions of eligible Virginia taxpayers will soon see one-time rebates coming their way, according to a news release from Gov. Glenn Youngkin's office... "As Virginians face high inflation and prices coming from policies set in Washington, these one-time tax rebates will help families lower the cost of living," Youngkin said in the news release.

THE NEW YORK TIMES: [OPINION | Glenn Youngkin Is Playing a Dangerous Game](#) (By Jamelle Bouie)

Youngkin is on a tour of the country, speaking and raising money for Republican candidates in key presidential swing states. And as he crisscrosses the United

States in support of the Republican Party, Youngkin is neither avoiding Donald Trump nor scorning his acolytes; he's embracing them.

HUFF POST: [Glenn Youngkin Won As A 'Normal' Republican. Now He's Endorsing 'Big Lie' Booster Kari Lake](#)(By S.V. Date)

"We have to look forward. That's what we have to do as Republicans," Youngkin said, using the euphemism some Republicans have adopted to suggest the party should stop dwelling on Trump's false claims. "The reality of course is that we have to work to make people feel more confident about the election process." Lake, though, is not likely to stop repeating Trump's lie that the election was rigged and stolen when it comes time for Youngkin's Oct. 19 visit.

NEW YORK MAGAZINE: [A Country-Club Radical](#) (By Sarah Jones)

Youngkin reportedly wants to run for president, and if he does, it is likely that his far-right sympathies will become ever more apparent. Moderation offers no path to victory in today's GOP. Its decades-long [turn toward extremism](#) is nearly complete. Youngkin is but a man of his time.

NEWSMAX: [Youngkin Hitting Campaign Trail as Speculation Swirls Over Possible WH Plans](#) (By Fran Beyer)

Virginia GOP Gov. Glenn Youngkin is expected to jump onto the campaign trail for Arizona governor candidate Kari Lake in October — and it reportedly may be ahead of his own possible 2024 presidential bid.

WASHINGTON EXAMINER: [Youngkin to stump for Arizona's Kari Lake: Report](#) (By Ryan King)

"Republicans make better governors than Democrats. Gov. Doug Ducey championed hallmark education reforms and the state's largest tax cut during his term. Arizona deserves another Republican governor," Youngkin said in a statement to the *Washington Examiner*.

TOWNHALL: [Youngkin Makes a Move in Arizona](#)

"Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin is expected to stump for Arizona governor candidate Kari Lake next month, escalating his midterm campaign efforts ahead of a prospective 2024 presidential bid," [POLITICO](#) reports. "Youngkin is embarking on the Arizona trip as part of a broader nationwide campaign tour to bolster Republican candidates for governor."

VIRGINIA MERCURY: [Miyares plays 'election integrity' politics to romance the MAGA base](#) (By Bob Lewis)

The latest to give comfort toward that antidemocratic end is Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares, who is creating a 20-person “election integrity unit” in his office. That’s particularly dismaying because Miyares is not among the Republicans who falsely claim President Joe Biden usurped Donald Trump’s presidency through fraud. At least that’s what the office’s spokeswoman, Victoria LaCivita, recently assured the Mercury’s Graham Moomaw.

WRIC: [Can Youngkin change transgender student policies across Virginia?](#) (By Jackie DeFusco)

“I’m excited about the new policies. I feel like they encompass parental rights and protect the rights of all students,” said Terra Lawrence, a mother in Hanover. “When you have a child, you want to have a say in their upbringing, in their education and in their values so I felt like the previous policy really didn’t protect that.”

THE GUARDIAN: [Virginia seeks to strip transgender school students of protections](#) (By Gloria Oladipo)

The proposed policies are a stark contrast from protections passed under former Democratic governor Ralph Northam’s administration. Last year’s policies told schools to call students by names and pronouns that reflected their gender identity without “any substantiating evidence”, [the AP](#) reported.

WTOP: [Legal challenges likely against new Virginia policies on transgender students, Del. Roem says](#) (By Neal Augenstein)

Virginia’s first openly transgender state lawmaker tells WTOP she expects legal challenges will be filed soon to challenge new state Department of Education policies that would dramatically change the rights of LGBTQ students in Virginia schools... “I would not be surprised if there was a lawsuit to be filed, either as a preliminary injunction, or once there’s actual harm caused to a student because of what the governor is doing here,” Roem said.

THE FREE LANCE-STAR: [Editorial: Youngkin is taking away \(many\) parents' rights](#)

The problem with parents rights as Youngkin talks about it, of course, is that he pits one parent’s rights against another’s. If one parent insists her child not be exposed to evolution, and another parent in the same class insists her child is, someone is going to lose.

WVTF: [Will school divisions follow Youngkin administration's transgender student policies?](#) (By Michael Pope)

Todd Gathje at the Family Foundation says the new guidelines respect the rights of teachers. "What we really need to make sure that we're putting in place and respecting the constitutional rights and free speech rights of everyone, of all students and teachers and faculty; to make sure they're not compelled to say something," Gathje says.

LOUDOUN NOW: [Youngkin to Roll Back Protections for Transgender Students](#) (By Alexis Gustin)

The state Department of Education's 2021 model policies guided schools to "consider the health and safety of the student in situations where students may not want their parents to know about their gender identity," and guided schools to address it on a case-by-case basis. They also directed staff to "work with students to help them share the information with their family when they are ready to do so."

ARLNOW: [APS "reviewing" new state guidelines about transgender students, but keeping current policies for now](#) (By Matt Blitz)

Arlington Public Schools is "aware of and are reviewing" new draft policies handed down by the Commonwealth late last week regarding the rights of transgender students...In response this morning, APS released a statement saying that it is reviewing the guidelines and will continue to adhere to its own policies related to transgender students.

WTOP: [Northern Va. school systems still reviewing new policies on transgender students](#) (By Scott Gelman)

In a letter to the school community Sunday, Fairfax County Superintendent Michelle Reid said the state's largest school system is dedicated "to providing a caring climate and culture where each and every student, staff member, and family is welcomed, respected, valued, and supported, as they experience a deep sense of belonging."

WUSA: [Virginia school districts respond to Gov. Youngkin's new transgender student policies](#) (By Alanea Cremen and Matthew Torres)

Alexandria City Public School officials sent a letter to parents to assure the district's commitment to gender-affirming policies. They say what Gov. Youngkin proposed late Friday does not align with the district's mission to provide a welcoming environment.

NBC4: [Why Some Legal Experts Think Virginia Governor's Policy Restricting Trans Students' Rights Won't Hold Up](#) (By Drew Wilder)

Legal challenges will likely start to take shape this week against Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's new policies restricting the rights of transgender students at schools.

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: [Two professors question legality of Youngkin's transgender policies](#) (By Jessica Nocera and Charlotte Rene Woods)

"I think the guidelines themselves are on very legally shaky grounds, frankly," Craig Konnoth, a University of Virginia School of Law professor said in an interview Monday. "I think the guidelines are confusing and I think they haven't been thought out [and] I don't think they're supported by substantial evidence."

WDBJ: [Critics challenge Youngkin's executive actions](#) (By Joe Dashiell)

With a divided General Assembly, Governor Glenn Youngkin is taking action to advance many of his policy goals. But some of his moves are generating pushback from Democrats, who say he is overstepping his authority and defying state law... There are a number of recent examples, Democrats argue, including the governor's decision to pull out of RGGI, the administration's plan to allow private colleges to receive funding for laboratory schools and the policy on transgender students released late last week.

WVEC: [Youngkin proposes new rules for transgender students in Virginia](#) (By Emily Harrison)

In Hampton City, a spokesperson released a statement saying: "Hampton City Schools has several School Board Policies that address nondiscrimination with respect to all protected classes under local, state and federal law, to include gender identity. Once the 2022 Model Policies become effective, we will make any changes if needed in our guidelines to ensure we are in compliance with state code."

VPM: [How would Gov. Glenn Youngkin's new model policy around transgender students affect your school-age kids?](#)

A 30-day comment period opens Sept. 26 on [the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall](#) website. After the comment period ends, Virginia Department of Education staff will review the responses. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow will need to approve the document for the policy to be put in place.

CARDINAL NEWS: [Five questions for Youngkin's upcoming energy policy](#) (By Dwayne Yancey)

Youngkin ran for office on an "all of the above" energy platform and has already endorsed the Mountain Valley Pipeline in a letter to federal regulators, so don't expect him to renounce fossil fuels. Indeed, the prologue to [the public input form](#) explicitly says that the final plan will include an "all of the above" energy policy.

It also lays out three other goals: lowering the cost of living (so presumably lowering the cost of energy), creating jobs and “bringing people to Virginia,” which fits into Youngkin’s focus on reversing the state’s net out-migration trends.

Local News

THE ROANOKE TIMES: [CASEY: ‘Election activists’ bombard Virginia registrars with demands for information](#) (By Dan Casey)

Miyares formed an “Election Integrity Task Force.” He has reassigned 20 lawyers, paralegals and support staff who worked in other sections of the AG’s office, such as consumer protection. It’s unclear what the task force is investigating, because zero substantive allegations have emerged of widespread fraud in recent Virginia elections. But there remain a huge number of unsupported suspicions, which have fueled conspiracy theories.

WDBJ: [Virginia businesses can apply for tourism grants](#) (By Isabella Ledonne)

Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) is offering micro-businesses with fewer than 20 employees up to \$5,000 to help with the off-season. The grants will go to businesses that generally depend on tourism revenue. That can include businesses like boutiques, bed and breakfasts’ and festival organizations.

WSLS: [Virginia Tech gets \\$80 million grant to promote climate-friendly farming](#)

Virginia Tech will lead groundbreaking research to curb climate-changing gases, thanks to the university’s biggest grant ever. The university was awarded \$80 million to research ways to implement climate-smart practices on farms. Most of the money, at least \$54 million, will go directly to farmers and producers to help them put those practices into action for crop and animal production.

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT: [Virginia Zoo welcomes baby giraffe, the 5th addition to the zoo’s herd](#) (By Caitlyn Burchett)

Tisa, a Masai giraffe, weighed approximately 120 pounds at birth and already stands 6 feet tall. She’s expected to grow to be 14 feet tall. Dr. Tara Reilly, the zoo’s veterinarian, found Tisa is “healthy and full of personality,” and is strong and already learning to run, a zoo spokesperson said in a press release Monday.

REUTERS: [Kids’ climate change lawsuit tossed by Virginia judge](#) (By Clark Mindock)

A Virginia state judge has tossed a lawsuit filed on behalf of 13 young people who claim a state law that promotes fossil fuel development violates their constitutional rights, finding the government is immune to the kinds of arguments made by the kids. Judge Clarence Jenkins Jr on Friday rejected the lawsuit, which was filed

earlier this year by Our Children's Trust (OCT), a nonprofit law firm that advocates on environmental issues.

VA Conservative

BACON'S REBELLION: Transformation to Achieve Effectiveness and Efficiency—Again (By Dick Hall- Sizemore)

The success of the administration's efforts at transformation will depend on its commitment to stay on top of the various projects as they are being developed and to follow up on adopted changes in procedure and policies, including working with the General Assembly to enact any needed legislation. Most importantly, success will depend on the willingness of succeeding administrations to sustain whatever changes are made.

BACON'S REBELLION: Youngkin on Fire (By Kerry Dougherty)

Finally, Youngkin is playing serious offense. He's being true to himself and the people who voted for him. He seems to have grown impervious to the relentless attacks from nuts on the left. A strong sign that Youngkin's now playing hardball came over the weekend with the release of new policies by his Department of Education. The new regs simply reinforce parental rights and strip schools of their power to come between a parent and child.

THE TENESSE STAR: Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin to Travel to Arizona to Endorse Kari Lake (By Charlotte Hazard)

"I am looking forward to hitting the trail over the next two months to help great Republican candidates like Sheriff Joe Lombardo [Nev.] flip blue states red," Youngkin said in a statement, Politico reported. "We saw a movement start in Virginia last year. I can't wait to bring the spirit of Virginia to these states and keep that momentum going."

https://www.bdtonline.com/news/wrong-information-sent-to-southwest-virginia-voters/article_00db643e-4ef3-11ed-b3d7-078a9dff8e55.html

FEATURED

Wrong information sent to Southwest Virginia voters

By GREG JORDAN Bluefield Daily Telegraph
Oct 19, 2022



A voting sign is displayed in this file photograph.

File photo



TAZEWELL, Va. — Voters in Bluefield, Va., learning that their new polling place is the Richlands Police Department and a Cedar Bluff woman being told that her new polling place is in Russell County are two examples of the errors being found among notices that

were mailed out in Southwest Virginia.

The Virginia Department of Elections has identified that there is an issue with voter notices sent to some voters in Southwest Virginia, according to a statement issued by the department. Voters with a P.O. Box may have received a voter notice with incorrect voting locations.

Localities affected by the notices include Tazewell and Buchanan Counties as well as Bristol City and the counties of Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Washington and Wise, according to the state Department of Elections.

Tazewell County Registrar Brian Earls said Tuesday that the state had hired a third-party vendor to mail out voting notices.

“It all stemmed back originally to this being a redistricting year, and all of our House and Senate district numbers changed and everybody had to get a new voter card,” Earls said. “Everyone was issued a new voter notice so the state took on the expense and took it on to mail them out themselves, and so we had the first wave that went out and they sent it to everyone’s physical address even if you had a P.O. Box. That was the first issue.”

The new voter notices were sent out later were sent to P.O. Boxes to make up for the mistakes that were in the first wave of mailings, Earls said.

“So then this batch that was sent out to P.O. Boxes had the wrong information,” he said. “It was way off. The only thing that was correct was the name and address on the front (of the envelope), but on the inside it had a different name and a voting location that may or may not have been within this county.”

Earls said his office had appreciated the state hiring a third-party vendor.

“It would be a tough call right now to mail out for Tazewell County 28,000 plus cards. We thought it was going to be a good thing because we didn’t have to do it ourselves,” he said.

The state Commissioner of Elections sent out a statement Monday about the situation. Earls said that he has posted it on his office’s Facebook page, but his office has been receiving “nonstop call from angry people.”

“Some people in Bluefield (Va.) said they were assigned to vote at the police department in Richlands. A couple in Cedar Bluff said the husband had been changed to Richlands and the wife was changed to Russell County,” he recalled.

The Department of Elections will mail corrected notices to all affected voters. Citizens can check their voting information on the department’s website at www.elections.virginia.gov or by calling 804-864-8901 and dial 0 for the operator.

“It was just an unfortunate situation all around,” Earls said. “They will be getting corrected notices. Feel free to dispose of those (old notices) because they were incorrect.”

— Contact Greg Jordan at gjordan@bdtonline.com

Contact Greg Jordan at gjordan@bdtonline.com

Trending Video

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 10:42 AM
To: ez1059966@gmail.com
Subject: Election Integrity
Attachments: ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT FACT SHEET FINAL .pdf

Good morning,

I'm in receipt of your email regarding election integrity. The Unit will be 100% non-partisan. I have attached a fact sheet that hopefully will assuage some of your concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 10:41 AM
To: Corywarnick@hotmail.com
Subject: Election Integrity
Attachments: ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT FACT SHEET FINAL .pdf

Good morning,

I'm in receipt of your email regarding election integrity. I'm enclosing a fact sheet that I hope will assuage your concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 10:34 AM
To: sunnyday1969@gmail.com
Subject: Election Integrity
Attachments: ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT FACT SHEET FINAL .pdf

Good morning,

I am in receipt of your email regarding election integrity. Attached is a fact sheet that I hope will assuage your concerns.

Thanks,
Josh

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 12:35 PM
To: mlwaranch@outlook.com
Subject: Election Integrity
Attachments: ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT FACT SHEET FINAL .pdf

Thank you for your email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views and asked me to respond. I hope the attached fact sheet on the Election Integrity Unit might assuage your concerns.

Sincerely,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 10:46 AM
To: squad35lt@gmail.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Good morning Mr. Taber,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views and asked me to respond. I hear your concerns and I can assure you the mission of this unit is to call balls and strikes under the Code of Virginia. It is not to target one political party or group of voters. I'm attaching below a fact sheet on the unit. I appreciate your perspective but wanted to reach out in an attempt to assuage your concerns. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Thanks,
Josh Lief

OAG ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT FACT SHEET:

- What will the Unit do?
 - Provide legal advice to the State Board and Department of Elections.
 - Investigate and prosecute violations of Virginia election law and take civil actions as appropriate to enforce election law.
 - Defend challenges to Virginia's election law and practices.
 - Work with the State Board and the Department of Elections, law enforcement and the election community to promote uniformity in elections and enforce the law as written.
- The unit is made up of around 20 existing attorneys, investigators, and paralegals within the office of the attorney general. However, the number of staff assigned to election matters varies depending on workload.
 - The attorneys and staff within the unit will work on elections issues as the need arises. These duties are in addition to work they are already doing at OAG.
- No additional or new funds are required for this unit.
- The Attorney General has original and broad jurisdiction over election law.
 - The AG serves as legal counsel to the Board and Department of Elections.
 - Original jurisdiction to prosecute and/or bring suit with respect to any election law violations and to assure the enforcement of the election laws.
 - The AG also statutory authority to protect the rights of voters.
- The Attorney General **already had all of these powers.**
- The unit is simply a restructuring, placing a newfound focus on the matters in an effort to increase collaboration and cooperation between OAG, the State Board and Department of Elections, law enforcement and the election community.
- The Attorney General believes it should be easy to vote and hard to cheat.

- As the son of an immigrant, whose family fled a country with no consent of the governed, the Attorney General wants every Virginian to have full confidence in our election system.

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:52 PM
To: shawn_norton78@yahoo.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Thank you for your email. See the fact sheet below on the unit, that hopefully will assuage your concerns. Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

OAG ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT FACT SHEET:

- What will the Unit do?
 - Provide legal advice to the State Board and Department of Elections.
 - Investigate and prosecute violations of Virginia election law and take civil actions as appropriate to enforce election law.
 - Defend challenges to Virginia’s election law and practices.
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- The Attorney General believes it should be easy to vote and hard to cheat.
- As the son of an immigrant, whose family fled a country with no consent of the governed, the Attorney General wants every Virginian to have full confidence in our election system.

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:51 PM
To: john.haines1@verizon.net
Subject: Election Integrity

Thank you for your email. Please see the fact sheet on the unit below, which hopefully will assuage some of your concerns. Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

OAG ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT FACT SHEET:

- What will the Unit do?
 - Provide legal advice to the State Board and Department of Elections.
 - Investigate and prosecute violations of Virginia election law and take civil actions as appropriate to enforce election law.
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- The Attorney General believes it should be easy to vote and hard to cheat.
- As the son of an immigrant, whose family fled a country with no consent of the governed, the Attorney General wants every Virginian to have full confidence in our election system.

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:45 PM
To: Glitterisgold2@aol.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Thank you for your email. Please see below for information on the unit. I hope this assuages some of your concern.
Sincerely,

Josh Lief

OAG ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT FACT SHEET:

- What will the Unit do?
 - Provide legal advice to the State Board and Department of Elections.
 - Investigate and prosecute violations of Virginia election law and take civil actions as appropriate to enforce election law.
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- The Attorney General believes it should be easy to vote and hard to cheat.
- As the son of an immigrant, whose family fled a country with no consent of the governed, the Attorney General wants every Virginian to have full confidence in our election system.

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:43 PM
To: m.ashe.faia@gmail.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Thank you for your email. Please see below for you information. Sincerely yours
Josh Lief

OAG ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT FACT SHEET:

- What will the Unit do?
 - Provide legal advice to the State Board and Department of Elections.
 - Investigate and prosecute violations of Virginia election law and take civil actions as appropriate to enforce election law.
 - Defend challenges to Virginia’s election law and practices.
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- The Attorney General believes it should be easy to vote and hard to cheat.
- As the son of an immigrant, whose family fled a country with no consent of the governed, the Attorney General wants every Virginian to have full confidence in our election system.

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:19 AM
To: cladafarm@ymail.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Good morning,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views and asked me to respond. I'm the contact for the election integrity unit.

Sincerely,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 11:41 AM
To: sxcastro@gmail.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Dear Ms. Castro,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

Attorney General Miyares believes it should be easy to vote, and hard to cheat. The Office of Attorney General is conducting several investigations into election irregularities and election official misconduct. We cannot share the details of these investigations, but the results will be public in due time. Attorney General Miyares has created an election integrity unit composed of attorneys and investigators that will work closely with law enforcement to ensure that future elections are conducted pursuant to law and at the highest level of integrity.

The Office of Attorney General has successfully defeated several election lawsuits, including the one by Paul Goldman that sought to discredit the results of the 2021 election. Governor Youngkin signed several new laws that will promote election integrity including laws that:

- Stop outside interference in elections, including prohibiting money, gifts and services to election offices from private individuals or nongovernmental organizations;
- Increase transparency by providing absentee results by precinct so voters can see who is voting absentee in person and by mail and what precinct they're coming from.
- Make Virginia's voter rolls even cleaner by removing deceased voters every week (up from receiving report from Dept. of Vital Statistics once a month)

While the Governor and Attorney General have accomplished a lot on this issue, there is still more reform needed, but that requires cooperation with the General Assembly. By way of example, the House of Delegates passed legislation to reinstate voter ID and end the use of unattended drop-boxes for ballots, only to see those die in the Senate.

2020 Ballot Retention Process:

- According to Virginia Code 24.2-669, ballots from old elections are discarded once the time has expired for initiating a recount, contest, or other proceeding in which such ballots may be needed as evidence. Therefore, the ballots for the 2020 election are slated to be discarded this Fall.
- However, the Virginia Department of Elections maintains election results records of elections indefinitely.
- The Office of the Attorney General has reviewed the 2020 election results, along with hundreds of documents and concerns from citizens and elected officials and has not seen any evidence of widespread fraud that would change the results of Virginia's 2020 election. Therefore, we have no justification commence a proceeding to stop the discarding of the ballots this year.

- Attorney General Miyares has pledged to call balls and strikes, and to work to promote free and fair elections conducted pursuant to law, but we cannot create law. Any change to the law regarding ballot retention or other election practices must go through the legislative process.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and please let me know if you have any follow up questions. I'd be happy to have a discussion with you about some of the concerns you have at the local level with regard to the counting of ballots.

Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:30 AM
To: jcnagy1@gmail.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Dear Janos Nagy,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

Attorney General Miyares believes it should be easy to vote, and hard to cheat. The Office of Attorney General is conducting several investigations into election irregularities and election official misconduct. We cannot share the details of these investigations, but the results will be public in due time. Attorney General Miyares has created an election integrity unit composed of attorneys and investigators that will work closely with law enforcement to ensure that future elections are conducted pursuant to law and at the highest level of integrity.

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- Make Virginia's voter rolls even cleaner by removing deceased voters every week (up from receiving report from Dept. of Vital Statistics once a month)

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- Attorney General Miyares has pledged to call balls and strikes, and to work to promote free and fair elections conducted pursuant to law, but we cannot create law. Any change to the law regarding ballot retention or other election practices must go through the legislative process.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:29 AM
To: Tumbleweedme@hotmail.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Dear Ms. Kinney

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

Attorney General Miyares believes it should be easy to vote, and hard to cheat. The Office of Attorney General is conducting several investigations into election irregularities and election official misconduct. We cannot share the details of these investigations, but the results will be public in due time. Attorney General Miyares has created an election integrity unit composed of attorneys and investigators that will work closely with law enforcement to ensure that future elections are conducted pursuant to law and at the highest level of integrity.

The Office of Attorney General has successfully defeated several election lawsuits, including the one by Paul Goldman that sought to discredit the results of the 2021 election. Governor Youngkin signed several new laws that will promote election integrity including laws that:

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While the Governor and Attorney General have accomplished a lot on this issue, there is still more reform needed, but that requires cooperation with the General Assembly. By way of example, the House of Delegates passed legislation to reinstate voter ID and end the use of unattended drop-boxes for ballots, only to see those die in the Senate.

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- Attorney General Miyares has pledged to call balls and strikes, and to work to promote free and fair elections conducted pursuant to law, but we cannot create law. Any change to the law regarding ballot retention or other election practices must go through the legislative process.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 1:45 PM
To: Trici_J@protonmail.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Dear Ms. Jones,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

Attorney General Miyares believes it should be easy to vote, and hard to cheat. The Office of Attorney General is conducting several investigations into election irregularities and election official misconduct. We cannot share the details of these investigations, but the results will be public in due time. Attorney General Miyares has created an election integrity unit composed of attorneys and investigators that will work closely with law enforcement to ensure that future elections are conducted pursuant to law and at the highest level of integrity.

The Office of Attorney General has successfully defeated several election lawsuits, including the one by Paul Goldman that sought to discredit the results of the 2021 election. Governor Youngkin signed several new laws that will promote election integrity including laws that:

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- Attorney General Miyares has pledged to call balls and strikes, and to work to promote free and fair elections conducted pursuant to law, but we cannot create law. Any change to the law regarding ballot retention or other election practices must go through the legislative process.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 8:43 AM
To: jdfuller1946@gmail.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Dear Mr. Fuller,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

Attorney General Miyares believes it should be easy to vote, and hard to cheat. The Office of Attorney General is conducting several investigations into election irregularities and election official misconduct. We cannot share the details of these investigations, but the results will be public in due time. Attorney General Miyares has created an election integrity unit composed of attorneys and investigators that will work closely with law enforcement to ensure that future elections are conducted pursuant to law and at the highest level of integrity. We *are* focused on the 2022 election and beyond which was a main point of your email.

The Office of Attorney General has successfully defeated several election lawsuits, including the one by Paul Goldman that sought to discredit the results of the 2021 election. Governor Youngkin signed several new laws that will promote election integrity including laws that:

- Stop outside interference in elections, including prohibiting money, gifts and services to election offices from private individuals or nongovernmental organizations;
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Thank you again for taking the time to write and please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 8:36 AM
To: jp125@pm.me
Subject: Election Integrity

Dear Mr. Penney,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

Attorney General Miyares believes it should be easy to vote, and hard to cheat. The Office of Attorney General is conducting several investigations into election irregularities and election official misconduct. We cannot share the details of these investigations, but the results will be public in due time. Attorney General Miyares has created an election integrity unit composed of attorneys and investigators that will work closely with law enforcement to ensure that future elections are conducted pursuant to law and at the highest level of integrity.

The Office of Attorney General has successfully defeated several election lawsuits, including the one by Paul Goldman that sought to discredit the results of the 2021 election. Governor Youngkin signed several new laws that will promote election integrity including laws that:

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- Attorney General Miyares has pledged to call balls and strikes, and to work to promote free and fair elections conducted pursuant to law, but we cannot create law. Any change to the law regarding ballot retention or other election practices must go through the legislative process.

With regard to ERIC, Virginia joined that program during the administration of Governor Bob McDonnell and it is helpful in cleaning up Virginia's voter rolls and finding people who voted more than once in the same election. I am aware of these articles, but have seen no evidence that ERIC is a potential source of voter fraud.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 8:01 PM
To: whc673@gmail.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Dear Mr. Crawford,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

Attorney General Miyares believes it should be easy to vote, and hard to cheat. The Office of Attorney General is conducting several investigations into election irregularities and election official misconduct. We cannot share the details of these investigations, but the results will be public in due time. Attorney General Miyares has created an election integrity unit composed of attorneys and investigators that will work closely with law enforcement to ensure that future elections are conducted pursuant to law and at the highest level of integrity.

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- Attorney General Miyares has pledged to call balls and strikes, and to work to promote free and fair elections conducted pursuant to law, but we cannot create law. Any change to the law regarding ballot retention or other election practices must go through the legislative process.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 4:03 PM
To: khcassell@charter.net
Subject: Election Integrity

Dear K H Cassell,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write and please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Mjcastorani@comcast.net
Subject: Election Integrity

Dear Mr. Castorini,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write and please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 4:00 PM
To: kenlub@gmail.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Dear Ken,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares and meeting with me and others earlier this year. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write and please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 3:57 PM
To: bmjamers@icloud.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Dear Mr. Jamerson,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write and please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 3:55 PM
To: orene.blum@cox.net
Subject: Election Integrity

Dear Orene McKenzie Blum,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write and please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 3:52 PM
To: ms.shopping@mac.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Dear Ms. Hoerst,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write and please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 3:50 PM
To: tot2trish@aol.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Dear Ms. Balbalian,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

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Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 3:48 PM
To: daveharder50@gmail.com
Subject: Election Integrity

Dear Mr. Harder,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

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With regard to ERIC, that initiative was adopted when Governor McDonnell was in office and is a bipartisan initiative to clean up the voter rolls and find those that double voting.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Sincerely yours,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 5:02 PM
To: delowachsmann@house.virginia.gov
Subject: Election Integrity Talking Points

Delegate Wachsmann – here are the talking points I referred to.

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

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Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 2:33 PM
To: Robert@viriniainterfaithcenter.org
Subject: Election Integrity Unit
Attachments: ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT FACT SHEET FINAL .pdf

Robert,

Good chatting with you. As we discussed, here is a fact sheet on the election integrity unit. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Josh Lief

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Ambrosio, Bridget E.; Andrews, Travis S.; Bell, Justin I.; Ferguson, Donald; Flaherty, James M.; Harris, Susan; Herring, James R.; Hezel, Flora L.; Laws, Joshua E.; Myers, Elizabeth B.; Peay, Elizabeth B.
Subject: Election Integrity Unit
Attachments: ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT FACT SHEET_Rev 6.docx

As requested in today's team meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks,

Josh

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 10:49 AM
To: Andrews, Travis S.
Subject: emails
Attachments: Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission; Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission; Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Please do a generic thanks email to this person. I'm going to take a look at the suggestions but we clearly don't initiate legislation on behalf of the Governor. Thanks.

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 10:17 AM
To: Johnson, Christine L.
Subject: Fact sheet
Attachments: ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT FACT SHEET_JL Rev 3.docx

OAG ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT FACT SHEET:

- What will the Unit do?
 - Provide legal advice to the State Board and Department of Elections.
 - Investigate and prosecute violations of Virginia election law and take civil actions as appropriate to enforce election law.
 - Defend challenges to Virginia's election law and practices.
 - Work with the State Board and the Department of Elections, law enforcement and the election community to promote uniformity in elections and enforce the law as written.
 - Protect the rights of Virginians from voter intimidation, suppression or anything that wrongfully infringes on their right to vote.
 - Continue to review changes to voting practices, including to local precincts, boundaries, and polling places, to protect minority voters' right to vote.
- The unit is made up of around 20 existing attorneys, investigators, and paralegals within the office of the attorney general. However, the number of staff assigned to election matters varies depending on workload.
 - The attorneys and staff within the unit will work on elections issues as the need arises. These duties are in addition to work they are already doing at OAG.
- No additional or new funds are required for this unit.
- The Attorney General has original and broad jurisdiction over election law.
 - The AG serves as legal counsel to the Board and Department of Elections.
 - Original jurisdiction to prosecute and/or bring suit with respect to any election law violations and to assure the enforcement of the election laws.
 - The AG also has statutory authority to protect the rights of voters.
- The Attorney General **already had all of these powers.**
- The unit is simply a restructuring, placing a newfound focus on the matters to increase collaboration and cooperation between OAG, the State Board and Department of Elections, law enforcement and the election community.
- The Attorney General believes it should be easy to vote and hard to cheat.
- As the son of an immigrant, whose family fled a country with no consent of the governed, the Attorney General wants every Virginian to have full confidence in our election system.

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 4:09 PM
To: Smith, Chloe
Subject: Fw: ABC7 question: Dept of Elections follow-up

for records

From: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 4:08 PM
To: Heather Graf <hgraf@sbgvtv.com>
Subject: Re: ABC7 question: Dept of Elections follow-up

Hi Heather,

You can attribute the below to Miyares Spokesperson Victoria LaCivita

“The Attorney General is very frustrated with the vendor who made this mistake. This type of error is unacceptable, and our office is working with the Department of Elections in exploring all legal remedies against the vendor and ensuring that voters receive the correct information.”

From: Heather Graf <hgraf@sbgvtv.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 1:32 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: ABC7 question: Dept of Elections follow-up

Hi Victoria,

Hope you are doing well.

I’m following up on last week’s news that the Virginia Dept of Elections sent out incorrect voter notices to voters in Fairfax County and Prince William County.

(I’ve put the press release from Dept of Elections below, where they note it was an issue with the printing vendor, saying it ended the relationship with that vendor and “will explore all legal remedies”)

I just wanted to see if this is something the AG’s office would look further into, in the form of an investigation by the election integrity unit the Attorney General announced in September.

I’m asking bc the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted yesterday to send a letter to their representatives in the General Assembly, asking for an investigation into what happened with this incorrect info being mailed out to voters.

Please let me know when you get a moment, and if you can send me a statement or response on this from the AG's office.

Thanks!

Best,

Heather Graf

ABC7

571-867-7114

**INCORRECT VOTER NOTICES SENT TO TOWN VOTERS
IN FAIRFAX AND PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTIES**

RICHMOND, VA - Voter notices sent to town voters in seven towns in Fairfax and Prince William counties included incorrect voting location information for Election Day.

The error was due to a printing issue in which the voting location was kept static on the print job and not changed for each voter. The number of affected voters in each town includes:

Dumfries: 3029

Haymarket: 1079

Occoquan: 878

Quantico: 367

Clifton: 199

Herndon: 13,387

Vienna: 12,169

The General Registrars of Fairfax County and Prince William County are sending corrected notices to these voters immediately. The Department of Elections will reimburse these localities for their expenses.

These notices will not affect any voter's ability to vote early because the notices only contained incorrect voting information for Election Day polling places. All affected voters will be mailed their correct voting information on Monday, October 24.

The Department of Elections will cease its relationship with the printing vendor and will explore all legal remedies.

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 4:09 PM
To: Smith, Chloe
Subject: Fw: ABC7 question: Dept of Elections follow-up

for records

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Subject: ABC7 question: Dept of Elections follow-up

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Heather Graf

ABC7

571-867-7114

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The Department of Elections will cease its relationship with the printing vendor and will explore all legal remedies.

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 2:40 PM
To: Smith, Chloe
Subject: Fw: Attorney General Miyares Announces New Election Integrity Unit

for records

From: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 2:35 PM
To: Margaret Barthel <mbarthel@wamu.org>
Subject: Re: Attorney General Miyares Announces New Election Integrity Unit

Hi Margaret,

See below. You can attribute this to Miyares Spokesperson Victoria LaCivita

There is no estimated budget for the unit because it is entirely in house and made up of current OAG employees.

The Attorney General has frequently defended the results of the 2020 election and just won a court case that sought to discredit the 2021 Virginia elections. The Virginia Department of Elections and Office of the Attorney General have reviewed the 2020 election results, along with hundreds of documents of concerns from citizens and elected officials, and have not seen any evidence of widespread fraud that would change the results of Virginia's 2020 election.

Regarding what the unit is focused on, I would refer you back to the press release.

The members of this unit are individuals who already work in election related issues, as the Attorney General has original jurisdiction on this matter. Some of the individuals already deal with election matters exclusively, and others will be apart of the unit in addition to their other responsibilities as an employee of the OAG.

I would also like to flag this recent piece in the Wall Street Journal. https://www.wsj.com/articles/democrats-invented-election-denial-2005-bush-kerry-clyburn-jan-6-voting-machines-maga-republicans-biden-speech-11662581117?mod=opinion_major_pos5

From: Margaret Barthel <mbarthel@wamu.org>
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 12:39 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Cc: Colleen Grablick <grablick@wamu.org>
Subject: RE: Attorney General Miyares Announces New Election Integrity Unit

Hi Victoria,

Thanks for this! I had a couple questions in follow up to this announcement.

Do you have an estimate of the budget for this new unit?

Does AG Miyares have any specific instances of irregularities or issues that have occurred in Virginia elections in the past that caused him to create this unit and shape its focus?

Does AG Miyares dispute that the 2020 or 2021 elections in Virginia were free and fair?

Moving forward, are there particular areas for concern in the November 2022 election that the new unit will be focused on?

Will the 20 attorneys, investigators and paralegals in this new unit be taken off of work in other areas of the OAG, or are they new hires?

Really appreciate your help answering these questions.

Thanks,
Margaret

Margaret Barthel
Northern Virginia Reporter
WAMU 88.5 American University Radio
(m) 774.573.2838
wamu.org | @wamu885 | @margaretbarthel

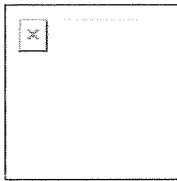
From: OAG Press <vlacivita@oag.state.va.us>

Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 11:00 AM

To: Margaret Barthel <mbarthel@wamu.org>

Subject: Attorney General Miyares Announces New Election Integrity Unit

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Use caution with links and attachments.



COMMONWEALTH *of* VIRGINIA
Office of the Attorney General

Jason S. Miyares
Attorney General

202 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
FAX 804-786-1991
Virginia Relay Services
800-828-1120

For media inquiries only, contact:
Victoria LaCivita
(804) 588-2021
vlacivita@oag.state.va.us

Attorney General Miyares Announces New Election Integrity Unit

RICHMOND, VA - Attorney General Jason Miyares (me-YAR-ez) today announced the creation of the Election Integrity Unit at the Office of the Attorney General. This unit will provide legal advice to the Department of Elections, investigate and prosecute violations of Virginia election law, work with the election community throughout the year to ensure uniformity and legality in application of election laws, and work with law enforcement to ensure legality and purity in elections.

The purpose of the unit is to provide advice, support, and resources to ensure that Virginia election law continues to be applied in a uniform manner, and increase confidence in our state elections.

“I pledged during the 2021 campaign to work to increase transparency and strengthen confidence in our state elections. It should be easy to vote, and hard to cheat. The Election Integrity Unit will work to help to restore confidence in our democratic process in the Commonwealth,” said Attorney General Miyares.

Virginia has a system of elections that divides authority among 133 local electoral boards and general registrars and the bi-partisan State Board of Elections. The new Election Integrity Unit will work with the State Board, the Department of Elections and the dedicated, hard-working local election officials in the upcoming election and beyond. The unit is made up of more than 20 attorneys, investigators and paralegals from across the various divisions in Office of the Attorney General.

Under Virginia law, the Attorney General has broad original jurisdiction in the area of elections. Specifically, the law states that the Attorney General “shall have full authority to do whatever is necessary or appropriate to enforce the election laws or prosecute violations thereof. The Attorney General shall exercise the authority granted by this section to conduct an investigation, prosecute a violation [and] assure the enforcement of the elections laws”

###

Office of the Attorney General | [Website](#)

Office of the Virginia Attorney General | 202 N 9th St, Richmond, VA 23219

[Unsubscribe mbarthel@wamu.org](mailto:mbarthel@wamu.org)

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Sent by vlacivita@oag.state.va.us powered by



Try email marketing for free today!

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2022 4:22 PM
To: Smith, Chloe
Subject: Fw: Correction Request

for records

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Jim Spencer <jspencer@dailyprogress.com>
Subject: Correction Request

Hi Jim,

I'm writing to request a correction in your recent editorial. The below statements - which you write as fact, not as your board's personal opinion - are false.

Virginians will face unnecessary intimidation in the form of an election security team

A partisan goon squad looking to root out non-existent voter fraud

- It is inaccurate to say that that "Virginians will face unnecessary intimidation" because one of the duties of the Attorney General - and therefore the unit - is to protect Virginians from voter intimidation. As the son of an immigrant, whose family fled a country with no consent of the governed, the Attorney General wants every Virginian to have full confidence in our election system.
- Additionally, it is inaccurate to say that there is no voter fraud, as our office announced indictments two weeks ago.

As we have stated, on the record, to many reporters, the election integrity unit is a restructuring of currently election law attorneys, paralegals and investigators who already work in the Office of the Attorney General, placing a newfound focus on the matters to increase collaboration and cooperation between OAG, the State Board and Department of Elections, law enforcement and the election community.

Additionally, the Attorney General has original and broad jurisdiction over election law matters according to Virginia law. Therefore, the unit will be responsible for

- Provide legal advice to the State Board and Department of Elections.
- Investigate and prosecute violations of Virginia election law and take civil actions as appropriate to enforce election law.
- Defend challenges to Virginia's election law and practices.
- Work with the State Board and the Department of Elections, law enforcement and the election community to promote uniformity in elections and enforce the law as written.
- Protect the rights of Virginians from voter intimidation, suppression or anything that wrongfully infringes on their right to vote.

- Continue to review changes to voting practices, including to local precincts, boundaries, and polling places, to protect minority voters' right to vote.

Thank you,
Victoria

Barnes, Tyler B.

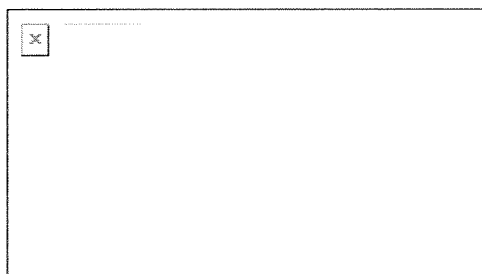
From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 3:02 PM
To: Smith, Chloe
Subject: Fw: Fox 5 DC

for records

From: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 3:01 PM
To: Fitzgerald, Tom <Tom.Fitzgerald@FOX.COM>
Subject: Re: Fox 5 DC

Hi Tom,

Here's a link to the press release. <https://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/2452-september-9-2022-attorney-general-miyares-announces-new-election-integrity-unit>



September 9, 2022 - Attorney General
Miyares Announces New Election
Integrity Unit - oag.state.va.us

202 North 9th Street Richmond, Virginia 23219 804-786-
2071 FAX 804-786-1991 Virginia Relay Service 800-828-
1120

www.oag.state.va.us

In addition, here's some information that should be helpful. You can attribute it to Miyares Spokesperson Victoria LaCivita.

The purpose of the unit is to provide advice, support, and resources to ensure that elections in the Commonwealth are conducted in a legal and uniform manner pursuant to law, and increase confidence in Virginia's elections. The members of the unit are current employees of the Office of the Attorney General who already work on election related matters, in addition to their other responsibilities. It is important to note that no additional or new funds are required for the unit. Information, if public, would be announced by our office at the appropriate time. Some of the information is confidential attorney client privileged and/or relates to pending investigations.

Chapter 10 of Title 24.2 of the Virginia Code provides for a series of criminal charges for violating election law. For example, I would refer you to our statement about the former Prince William Registrar.

Best,
Victoria

From: Fitzgerald, Tom <Tom.Fitzgerald@FOX.COM>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 12:01 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: RE: Fox 5 DC

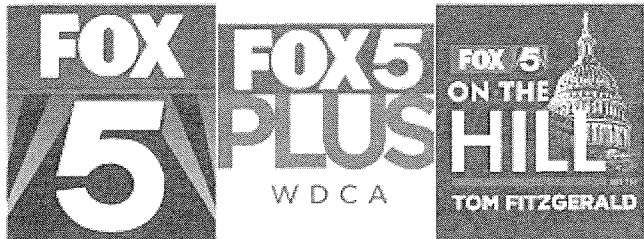
Hello,

If there's a press release or someone who might be available for a brief interview who you could suggest that would be a help.

Just as a launching point, could you tell me: What issue is the unit addressing, what the aim of the unit is, who will be on it, how will we learn what the findings are, could criminal charges emerge if laws are found to be broken?

Thanks, Tom

Tom Fitzgerald
Reporter, Host & Anchor
Fox Television WTTG
(202) 359-1143
tom.fitzgerald@fox.com
@FitzFox5DC



From: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 11:51 AM
To: Fitzgerald, Tom <Tom.Fitzgerald@FOX.COM>
Subject: Re: Fox 5 DC

Hi Tom,

The Attorney General is unavailable but I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Thanks,
Victoria

From: Fitzgerald, Tom <Tom.Fitzgerald@FOX.COM>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 11:48 AM

To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>

Subject: Fox 5 DC

Hello,

This is Tom Fitzgerald from Fox 5 News. I'd like to know if the Attorney General would be available today to do a brief zoom interview about his new Election Integrity Unit.

Thanks, Tom

Tom Fitzgerald

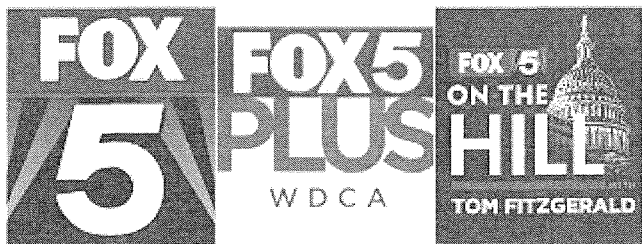
Reporter, Host & Anchor

Fox Television WTTG

(202) 359-1143

tom.fitzgerald@fox.com

@FitzFox5DC



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Barnes, Tyler B.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:41 AM
To: Smith, Chloe
Subject: Fw: Media Request: Interview about the new Virginia election integrity unit

for records

From: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:40 AM
To: Chelsea Brooks-Giles <brooksgilecc@vcu.edu>
Subject: Re: Media Request: Interview about the new Virginia election integrity unit

Hi Chelsea,

Here's some information that should help. You can attribute the below to Miyares Spokesperson Victoria LaCivita

According to Virginia law, the Attorney General has jurisdiction over all election law matters, serves as legal counsel to the Board and Department of Elections, and has original jurisdiction to prosecute and/or bring suit with respect to any election law violations. Therefore, the Office of the Attorney General already has attorneys within a section dedicated to election law matters. The unit is a restructuring of these attorneys, placing a newfound focus on the matters in effort to increase collaboration and cooperation between our office, prosecutors, law enforcement and the election community.

Because all of the individuals in the unit are already employees of the Office of the Attorney General, no additional budget or new dollar is needed for the unit to operate.

The Attorney General believes that it should be easy to vote and hard to cheat. As the son of an immigrant, whose family fled a country with no consent of the governed, the Attorney General wants every Virginian to have full confidence in our election system.

From: Chelsea Brooks-Giles <brooksgilecc@vcu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:40 AM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Re: Media Request: Interview about the new Virginia election integrity unit

Hello Ms. LaCivita,

Thank you very much. These are the questions that I have about the integrity unit.

- 1.
- 2.
3. What type of fraud or circumstances

4. has transpired in Virginia to require an integrity unit?

5.

2.

3.

4. What kind of impact does the attorney

5. general hope the integrity unit will have on elections and politics in the future?

6.

3.

4.

5. What kind of reaction or response does

6. the attorney general anticipate from the public since the integrity unit was announced?

7.

4.

5.

6. The integrity unit does not have its

7. own budget. What kind of issues could this facilitate?

8.

5.

6.

7. How will the integrity unit get its

8. money?

9.

6.

7.

8. Why is a budget for the integrity unit

9. not necessary?

10.

I greatly appreciate your willingness to respond and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Chelsea Brooks-Giles

On Tue, Sep 13, 2022 at 1:55 PM LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us> wrote:
Hi Chelsea,

Sorry, I should have been more specific. I'm happy to answer any questions you may over email, and you can attribute the quotes to me.

Here's our press release on the topic. <https://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/2452-september-9-2022-attorney-general-miyares-announces-new-election-integrity-unit>

From: Chelsea Brooks-Giles <brooksgilecc@vcu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 1:50 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Re: Media Request: Interview about the new Virginia election integrity unit

Hello Ms. LaCivita,

Great, thank you. Would you be willing to meet for a short interview sometime this week?

Sincerely,
Chelsea Brooks-Giles

On Tue, Sep 13, 2022 at 1:09 PM LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us> wrote:
Hi Chelsea,

The Attorney General is not available but I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks,
Victoria

From: Chelsea Brooks-Giles <brooksgilecc@vcu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 12:45 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Media Request: Interview about the new Virginia election integrity unit

Hello Ms. LaCivita,

My name is Chelsea Brooks-Giles, and I am a VCU journalist. I am working on an article about the possible future impacts of the 20-person election integrity unit recently announced by Virginia attorney general, Jason Miyares.

If possible, I would like to meet with Attorney General Miyares sometime this week for a 10-15 minute interview to discuss this topic. My deadline is Friday, September 23 at 6 p.m.

Alternatively, if the attorney general is not available, I would be happy to speak with a representative who is familiar with the election unit.

Thank you very much, your time and assistance are greatly appreciated. I can be reached at (804) 461-1334 or at the email address brooksgilecc@vcu.edu.

Sincerely,

--
Chelsea Brooks-Giles | she/her |
VCU Student Reporter

VCU Honors College
Robertson School of Media and Culture
Society of Professional Journalists
(804) 461-1334
brooksgilecc@vcu.edu

--

Chelsea Brooks-Giles | she/her |
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brooksgilecc@vcu.edu

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Smith, Chloe
Subject: Fw: Request from TIME Magazine

for records

From: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2022 11:57 AM
To: Maddie Carlisle <madeleine.carlisle@time.com>
Subject: Re: Request from TIME Magazine

Hi Maddie,

Here's some more, on background information that should help you. I'd also refer you to the previous email I sent, as that answers some of your questions.

- It is not a new office. It is a new unit, within our office, made up of attorneys, investigators and paralegals who already handle election law matters and are already employed by the office. No new or additional funds are being used.
- As previously stated, the unit is a **restructuring** of these attorneys, placing a newfound focus on the matters in effort to increase collaboration and cooperation between our office, prosecutors, law enforcement and the election community.
- The Attorney General **already has** original and broad jurisdiction over election law matters under Virginia law. Therefore, the unit's responsibilities are
 - Provide legal advice to the State Board and Department of Elections.
 - Investigate and prosecute violations of Virginia election law and take civil actions as appropriate to enforce election law.
 - Defend challenges to Virginia's election law and practices.
 - Work with the State Board and the Department of Elections, law enforcement and the election community to promote uniformity in elections and enforce the law as written.
 - Protect the rights of Virginians from voter intimidation, suppression or anything that wrongfully infringes on their right to vote.
 - Continue to review changes to voting practices, including to local precincts, boundaries, and polling places, to protect minority voters' right to vote.

Best,
Victoria

From: Maddie Carlisle <madeleine.carlisle@time.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 4:43 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Re: Request from TIME Magazine

Dear Victoria,

I hope you're doing well! Thanks so much for sending along this information last week. I'm reaching out because I'm writing a story about Virginia's new election integrity office and Attorney General Jason Miyares' push to ensure elections run smoothly and in a fair manner. I wanted to see if it would be possible to have some access to the new office while I write the piece. Would it be possible to speak with the new lawyers about what their new responsibilities entail, what type of cases they plan on bringing, what they're investigating, etc? I'm really interested in how the Attorney General is streamlining all these processes. Would the Attorney General perhaps be available for an interview? Or perhaps the attorney tasked with running the election integrity office?

Feel free to call or text me at 646-629-4671 if you have any questions.

Best,
Maddie

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 4:45 PM Maddie Carlisle <madeleine.carlisle@time.com> wrote:
Thank you Victoria!

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 2:22 PM LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us> wrote:
Hi Maddie,

You can attribute the below to Miyares Spokesperson Victoria LaCivita.

According to Virginia law, the Attorney General has jurisdiction over all election law matters, serves as legal counsel to the Board and Department of Elections, and has original jurisdiction to prosecute and/or bring suit with respect to any election law violations. Therefore, the Office of the Attorney General already has attorneys within a section dedicated to election law matters. The unit is a restructuring of these attorneys, placing a newfound focus on the matters in effort to increase collaboration and cooperation between our office, prosecutors, law enforcement and the election community.

Because all of the individuals in the unit are already employees of the Office of the Attorney General, no additional budget or new dollar is needed for the unit to operate.

Some of the staffers in the unit will work full time on election matters. However, the majority will not be full time, and while they already devote significant time to election issues, they have other responsibilities in their roles at the OAG.

We cannot comment on ongoing investigations.

From: Maddie Carlisle <madeleine.carlisle@time.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 5:18 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Re: Request from TIME Magazine

Hi Victoria,

Is EOD tomorrow doable?

Thanks,
Maddie

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 5:04 PM LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us> wrote:
Hi maddie,

What's your deadline?

Thanks
Victoria

From: Maddie Carlisle <madeleine.carlisle@time.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 4:55 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Request from TIME Magazine

Hey there,

My name is Maddie Carlisle and I'm a reporter with TIME Magazine. Nice to e-meet you! I'm reaching out because I'm covering voting in the upcoming midterms and have a few quick questions about the new Election Integrity Unit.

The 20 attorneys who will work in the office, will they focus solely on election integrity? Or will they report to other departments as well? How much funding is going towards the new office? Are they investigating events in Prince William County's registrar's office?

Feel free to call or text me: 646-629-4671.

Best,
Maddie

--



Madeleine Carlisle

Staff Writer
646-629-4671



Support our journalism.



--



Madeleine Carlisle

Staff Writer
646-629-4671



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Madeleine Carlisle

Staff Writer
646-629-4671



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Madeleine Carlisle

Staff Writer
@mccarlisle



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Barnes, Tyler B.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 4:28 PM
To: Smith, Chloe
Subject: Fw: Statement

for records

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 1:19 PM
To: Dean Mirshahi <DMirshahi@wric.com>
Subject: Statement

Hey Dean,

Sorry for the late reply here.

The below can be attributed to Miyares Spokesperson Victoria LaCivita

REGARDING THE PRESS CONFERENCE: The Attorney General's mother fled a communist regime and was not allowed to exercise her right to vote until she was 38 years old. His Uncle was jailed by the Castro regime for standing up for freedom and democracy in Cuba. Attorney General Miyares understands how precious a free society is and is passionate that every American has a voice and is guaranteed to be heard at the ballot box. Any insinuation otherwise is insulting to the hundreds of public servants who work every day in the Office of Attorney General.

On January 5th, during the transition, the Attorney General met with Virginia NAACP President Robert Barnette, to communicate, in person, that his door was always open. Mr. Barnette promised that he would always share concerns with Attorney General Miyares directly before attacking him publicly. Unfortunately, Mr. Barnette has not followed through on that promise.

It's also hypocritical that Mr. Barnette is critical of the Office of Attorney General's use of the word "purity" and "election integrity", since the Virginia NAACP did not criticize the Democrats for using that word multiple times [lis.virginia.gov] in an election bill ([HB 539](https://lis.virginia.gov) [lis.virginia.gov]) that passed the General Assembly with the vote of every single Democratic Member and was signed into law by Gov. Ralph Northam in 2020.

It is an absolute insult to the Attorney General to falsely claim that he, as the first Hispanic ever elected to statewide office in Virginia, is trying to intimidate and prevent Virginians of any color or background from exercising the rights that were denied to his own family members. The right to vote is one of the bedrock freedoms that brought the Miyares Family to the United States to begin with.

The Virginia NAACP is making groundless attacks that are offensive, ridiculous and without single shred of proof.

Due to the NAACP's inappropriate and baseless attack we expect an apology on behalf of the hundreds of men and women at the Office of the Attorney General who work every day protecting the rights and freedoms of all Virginians.

REGARDING FOIA:

Virginia FOIA law requires requesters to compensate the state government for time and resources used to fulfill their request. This is a matter of state law. We have nothing to hide, and the responsive documents will be provided in a timely manner.

ON BACKGROUND:

The fee has been in statute since at least 1994. Below are links to Virginia FOIA law and a document about FOIA fees.

<http://foiacouncil.dls.virginia.gov/ref/FOIACCharges.pdf> [foiacouncil.dls.virginia.gov]

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacodepopularnames/virginia-freedom-of-information-act/> [law.lis.virginia.gov]

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 2:24 PM
To: Smith, Chloe
Subject: Fw: Urgent response

for records

From: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 2:23 PM
To: Cloherty, Megan <mcloherty@wtopnews.com>
Subject: Re: Urgent response

Hi Megan,

You can attribute the below to Miyares Spokesperson Victoria LaCivita.

"The Attorney General firmly believes that it should be easy to vote and hard to cheat. Our Office has original jurisdiction in all matters related to election law, provides advice to the Board of Elections, and has original jurisdiction to prosecute criminal violations of election law. The Attorney General does not need the permission of Mr. Descano or Ms. Biberaj, nor are they only Commonwealth's Attorneys in Virginia. In the process of creating the unit, our office worked with prosecutors, law enforcement and members of the election community."

From: Cloherty, Megan <mcloherty@wtopnews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 1:56 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Urgent response

Hi there,

Sorry for the email as I know you responded that Mr Miyares is unavaible today. We spoke with Commonwealth's attorneys Descano and Biberaj from Fairfax and Loudoun Counties who both say they've had little to no communication from Mr Miyares' office on the Election Integrity Unit and both called his announcement political in nature, an effort grab a headline.

Can you please provide a statement in response so we have both sides of this?

Thank you very much. Deadline 2:30p
Megan

Megan Cloherty
Investigative Reporter | Podcast Co-Host
WTOP 103.5 FM | wtop.com
202-895-5336 direct | 202-770-7647 mobile/Signal
@ClohertyWTOP

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MARYLAND &
VIRGINIA

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:36 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: An 'election integrity' unit"? Really? Your should be ashamed...

From: mikerinella@aol.com <mikerinella@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 9:19 AM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: An 'election integrity' unit"? Really? Your should be ashamed...

An 'election integrity' unit"? Really? Your should be ashamed...

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:36 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

From: Attorney General of Virginia <webmaster@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 9:29 PM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Form Data:

Name

Ms. Erika Zauzig

Address

5506 Rock Creek Ln
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462

Contact Information

Preferred Phone Number: 7572873644

Email Address: ez1059966@gmail.com

Subject: Election Integrity Unit

Details:

Your perceived need for your Election Integrity Unit is based on the GOP's delusional paranoia concerning election fraud because you can't accept Biden won the 2020 election. The only election fraud committed was by Republicans-GOP voters, Trump, Gulliani, L. Graham and the GOP states that attempted to send fake electors to the electoral college. You and Gov. Youngkin were awfully quiet about potential election fraud when you were elected. Your EIU is solely for suppressing and intimidating Democratic voters. We all know your dishonest tactics and that your EIU is not needed.



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<https://www.oag.state.va.us>

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:36 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

From: Attorney General of Virginia <webmaster@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2022 9:33 PM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Form Data:

Name

r r

Address

202 North 9th Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Contact Information

Preferred Phone Number: (804) 786-2071

Email Address: r@r.com

Subject: Election Integrity Unit - comment 3 of 3

Details:

Please pass these election integrity suggestions to the governor to make our elections even more secure.

- Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of our republic. As such, disobeying election laws must be dealt with swiftly and forcefully. Make all election fraud convictions Class A felonies, regardless of the level of involvement. No more misdemeanors or low-level felonies. Minimum sentence of a \$100,000 fine, 6 months in jail, and taking away their voting privilege and ability to have anything to do with elections forever. Nobody is forced to commit election fraud. That's their choice, and they should pay a steep price for their decision.
- Create an election fraud database similar to the sexual predator database, make it public, and require anyone convicted of election fraud at any level to notify authorities if they move to another location so it can be assured they can't register to vote or have anything to do with elections ever again.
- Set up a toll free anonymous hotline to report actual, suspected, or planned election fraud. Also, for those who want to identify themselves, give a tax-free reward to anyone who provides information leading to a conviction.



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Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:36 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

From: Attorney General of Virginia <webmaster@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2022 9:29 PM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Form Data:

Name

r r

Address

202 North 9th Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Contact Information

Preferred Phone Number: (804) 786-2071

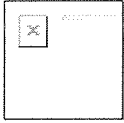
Email Address: r@r.com

Subject: Election Integrity Unit - comment 2 of 3

Details:

Please share these ideas with the governor to make elections even more secure.

- Pass a law that requires as many Republicans as Democrats count ballots at every ballot counting location. Also, Republicans and Democrats shall be equally represented in all aspects/phases of pre-counting meetings, establishing processes, counting, safe keeping, etc. Republicans involved will be selected by the local Republican party and Democrats involved will be selected by the local Democrat party.
- Pass a law that only US citizens can register to vote and vote in the state.
- Registration must be completed no later than two weeks prior to election day.
- Require ID to both register and to vote.
- Forbid anyone who is not a natural-born citizen, is a dual citizen, or an entity that is not headquartered in the US from funding any election-related person or endeavor. Let's make sure to keep foreign money/meddling (George Soros and others) out of our elections.
- Forbid drop boxes and ballot harvesting.



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Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:35 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

From: Attorney General of Virginia <webmaster@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2022 9:24 PM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Form Data:

Name

r r

Address

202 North 9th Street
Richmond, va 23219

Contact Information

Preferred Phone Number: (804) 786-2071

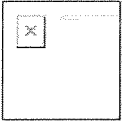
Email Address: r@r.com

Subject: Election Integrity Unit - Comment 1 of 3

Details:

Attorney General Miyares, I read an article that you recently established and Election Integrity Unit. Excellent! Ensuring uniform compliance with state election law and increasing voter confidence are laudable goals. I'd urge you though to recommend new laws or executive orders to the governor to make elections even more secure. A few ideas.

- Pass a law that says election results must be kept for two years unless extended by a judge. Any office (local, state, fed) shall be overturned any time, even after the results are certified, if fraud is found that COULD HAVE made a difference in the outcome. Or, if fraud was found only in specific districts/precincts, the votes from those locations shall be subtracted from the vote totals by candidate, and whoever has the highest total votes after that process is sworn in.
- Pass a law that counties that haven't cleaned their voter roles no later than 90 days from election day (as certified by the state, county, or a non-partisan third party organization), won't have any votes counted for any fed/state/local office or ballot initiative. Those counties also won't be eligible for any state funds.



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Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:35 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

From: Attorney General of Virginia <webmaster@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2022 3:40 PM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Form Data:

Name

Mr. Philip Low

Address

5759 Burke Towne Ct
Burke, VA 22015

Contact Information

Preferred Phone Number: 13474969214

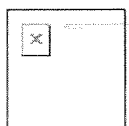
Email Address: Plow565@gmail.com

Subject: Thank you for everything you are doing for election integrity

Details:

Good Evening, I wanted to thank the AG for creating an election integrity unit. Many Virginians have lost faith in their elections and I believe this will go a long way to restoring it. Regardless of party every citizen deserves to know that his elected representation is fairly put into office, and that there are multiple layers, including the state AG, of safety and confirmation in the process.

Thanks again AG Miyares and your new team!



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Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:35 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Hi Josh,

Sending some more Election Integrity emails.

Thank you,

Alyssa

From: Attorney General of Virginia <webmaster@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2022 11:42 PM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Form Data:

Name

Mr. Cory B Warnick

Address

5001 Merlin Ln
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Contact Information

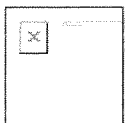
Preferred Phone Number: 8043399636

Email Address: Corywarnick@hotmail.com

Subject: Election Integrity Unit

Details:

This new Election Integrity Unit is a transparently partisan and unnecessary waste of my tax dollars. There is very little election fraud in the U.S. and almost none in Virginia. Knock it off. You're squandering scarce resources to chase red herrings for unsubstantiated claims by sore election losers on the local, state, and national scale. DON'T WASTE MY TAX DOLLARS ON THIS FOOLISHNESS. That is all.



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Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 1:13 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

From: Attorney General of Virginia <webmaster@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 12:28 PM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Form Data:

Name

Martin Waranch

Address

111 66th Street
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Contact Information

Preferred Phone Number: 75749133743
Email Address: mlwaranch@outlook.com

Subject: Election Integrity Unit

Details:

Two weeks ago, I sent the following:

For the record, I voted for you in every election.

I just received a note from an email friend commenting on your plan to WASTE your time and that of your staff creating an "Election Integrity Unit".

I have voted in every election since 1958. I NEVER heard of, nor witnessed, any discrepancies in the Norfolk or VB elections involved. I totally support ID to vote, but beyond that it begins to smell.

I would like to know why the time, money and effort you now plan to expend is justified. IMO, there are far bigger fish to fry.

thanks,
martin

Please advise the reason(s) this effort has been undertaken or if it is now ongoing.



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Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 2:26 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

From: Attorney General of Virginia <webmaster@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 1:03 PM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Form Data:

Name

Mrs. Heide Mercer

Address

10461 Chickahominy Falls Lane
Glen Allen, VA 23059

Contact Information

Preferred Phone Number: 5409034889

Email Address: heidemercer@gmail.com

Subject: Thank you for Election Integrity Unit

Details:

Thank you for creation of the Election Integrity Unit to ensure Virginia elections are fair and transparent and that every legal vote is counted!!



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Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 2:24 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Sorry to send you so many Josh, finally had the opportunity to look through after the event.

Thank you,

Alyssa

From: Attorney General of Virginia <webmaster@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 3:57 PM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Form Data:

Name

Mrs. Jean T Thurston

Address

302 Hunting Lane
none
Goode, VA 24556

Contact Information

Preferred Phone Number: 15405860418
Email Address: lathurs@aol.com

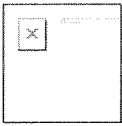
Subject: Thank you

Details:

Thank you for recognizing the importance of fair and honest elections by creating the Election Integrity Unit to help restore confidence in our democratic process in the Commonwealth.. Voting is a privilege in our country that should not be trampled upon by those who fradulently misuse it.

Thank you again for the work you are doing for us in VA!!!

Jean Thurston



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Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 2:19 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

From: Attorney General of Virginia <webmaster@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 4:51 PM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Form Data:

Name

Mrs. Nancy Eldredge

Address

100 London Downs Drive
Forest, VA 24551

Contact Information

Preferred Phone Number: 4346654519

Email Address: nceldredge@gmail.com

Subject: Thank You for your action on Voter Integrity

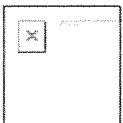
Details:

Dear Attorney General Miyares,

Thank you so much for the announcement you made on Friday, September 9th regarding the creation of the Election Integrity Unit at the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). Virginia needs safeguards in place to ensure that elections are not subjected to fraud at any level in the process. Elections must be fair to truly represent the will of the people of Virginia. This unit creation provides greatly needed security and confidence that a voters ballot is cast and kept as intended. Again thank you for taking action to protect election integrity.

Regards,

Nancy Eldredge



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Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 2:18 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

From: Attorney General of Virginia <webmaster@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 7:55 PM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Form Data:

Name

Mr. Richard H Howell

Address

132 Siege Lane
Yorktown, Virginia 23692

Contact Information

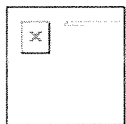
Preferred Phone Number: 7576609434

Email Address: fish5900@aol.com

Subject: Thank You

Details:

Thank you for creating the election integrity unit. Disregard detractors.



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Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:56 AM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

From: Attorney General of Virginia <webmaster@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 10:35 AM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Form Data:

Name

John C Haines

Address

1922 Hull Rd
Vienna, Virginia 22182

Contact Information

Preferred Phone Number: 7037725845
Email Address: john.haines1@verizon.net

Subject: Election integrity unit

Details:

As the governor continually mentions inflation that's putting a burden on the citizens of the commonwealth, it is very disturbing to hear you are planning to waste \$70+ million dollars on this wasteful program to root out voter fraud that does not exist in Virginia. Money would be much better spent on voter education or our children's educational resources.

Myself and others understand you are pursuing this only to get yourself in the news. Most likely preparing to run for Lt governor or governor in a short few years and promoting the myths that propelled the lies that resulted in the violent insurrection at our capitol, your job is to promote the rule of law and honesty in government, election fraud to any impactful level did not and does not exist. Do not waste the hard earned money I pay in taxes for something you know in your heart does not exist



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Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 2:09 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Attorney General of Virginia <webmaster@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 2:06 PM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Constituent Questions/Comments Submission

Form Data:

Name

Katherine Ross

Address

1506 Ranger Loop
Apt 403
Woodbridge, Virginia 22191

Contact Information

Preferred Phone Number: 703-362-6374
Email Address: kathy.ross96@gmail.com

Subject: Election Integrity Unit

Details:

I would like to let the attorney general know that I absolutely oppose state funds being used in a frivolous manner to "solve" a non-existent voter fraud problem. There is no significant voter fraud in Virginia and I know the attorney general knows this. There are roads and bridges crumbling all over this state and yet this is what this administration chooses to focus on? It's disgraceful and goes against everything Virginia and this country stand for. Disband the unit and use the funds to actually help people in this state rather than fueling lies and your re-election campaign.



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Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 9:23 AM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT (EIU)

Good morning Josh,

I hope you had a great weekend. This is the first of the day - thank you for your help!

Best,

Alyssa

From: Clark Taber <squad35lt@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 17, 2022 2:33 PM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT (EIU)

To Whom It May Concern,

This unit, in my opinion, is totally not warranted - just like Governor Younkin's decree about no teaching Critical Race Theory (CRT) in public schools; there has not been any widespread voter fraud and CRT has never been or is being considered in any school curriculum! Enough for the latter, I just hope this EIU is fair - meaning that only if a Democrat or Independent wins an election, this unit goes to that election district, decertifies the ballots, removes the legitimate poll workers/election board, and replaces those personnel with a single party affiliation! The system is working fine right now! If an integrity unit is required, it should be made up of members from the public, including all political parties, not lawyers, paralegals, etc from inside the office of an elected official - this definitely speaks of conflict of interest, at the very least! I am an Independent, by the way, and I don't say much usually about either party, because no one in office really cares about the average citizen; I will do whatever I can to discredit your office, if this EIU is used in a prejudicial manner!

Remember your oath to The Constitution! Not to a dictator-wanna-be or any far left or right wing group!

Respectfully Submitted,

Clark Taber

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: mailoag
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 12:24 PM
To: Lief, Joshua N.
Subject: Fw: Virginia Beach City Council
Attachments: 15.2 Law & 2013 AG Opinion.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Bill Dillon <bill@abbeyroadpub.com>
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2022 4:33 PM
To: mailoag <mailoag@oag.state.va.us>
Cc: William Dillon <bill@abbeyroadpub.com>
Subject: Virginia Beach City Council

October 10, 2022

Jason Miyares
Attorney General
Commonwealth of Virginia

Attorney General Miyares,

I applaud your efforts in forming the Election Integrity Unit for the Commonwealth of Virginia. However, election integrity in Virginia Beach has been missing for quite sometime and Virginia Beach would be a good place to examine.

And it appears, with all due respect, you have unwittingly endorsed a candidate for the Virginia Beach City Council who is ineligible to run for office. According to Virginia's Constitution (see attached), Article VII. Local Government, Section 6. Multiple offices, and the section referenced in Code of Virginia;

§ 15.2-1535. Members of governing body not to be elected or appointed by governing body to certain offices.

A. Pursuant to Article VII, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, no member of a governing body of a locality shall be eligible, during the term of office for which he was elected or appointed, to hold any office filled by the governing body by election or appointment, except that a member of a governing body may be named a member of such other boards, commissions, and bodies as may be permitted by general law and except

that a member of a governing body may be named to fill a vacancy in the office of mayor or board chairman if permitted by general or special law.

This is very specific as any person elected or appointed may not run for office. The general law referenced above allows a candidate to run for reelection for the office for which they were elected. Note that a candidate that runs for another position, such as mayor, must resign their position to seek that office 30 days before filing with the voter registrar, which has been done in the past.

There are currently other appointed candidates running for council, and there are three currently sitting on the Virginia Beach City Council that have been appointed that are not eligible to run for election. Note that I did not say re-election. Two more council members that were appointed have illegally run for office and those elections should have been voided. In the current race, if these candidates continue to run for office and are elected, the Constitution also calls for this election to be voided. The taxpayers should not be forced to pay for another special election. Please see the legal precedent issued by former Attorney General Cuccinelli in April of 2013 (attached).

These codes were clearly written to prevent current appointees to have an unfair advantage of being an incumbent. The violation of the Constitution and the Code of Virginia threatens the very basis of election integrity.

I urge you to immediately issue a legal opinion that removes these candidates from the ballot. Just as candidates are excluded from running for office if they do not reside in the geographic area where they want to run, they should also be immediately disqualified, BY THE VOTER REGISTRAR, if they have been appointed to a governing body by the city council.

It is time to restore faith in our democracy and in our elections

William G. Dillon, Jr.
2257 Wild Oak Crescent
Va. Beach, Va. 23456
757 427-5761

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 12:05 PM
To: Smith, Chloe
Subject: Fwd: Media inquiry re: complaints to Election Integrity Unit

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From: Stone, Gavin <gavin.stone@virginiamedia.com>
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 9:26:49 AM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Cc: press@jasonmiyares.com <press@jasonmiyares.com>
Subject: Media inquiry re: complaints to Election Integrity Unit

Hi Victoria,

Can you tell me how many complaints the Election Integrity Unit has received to this point? I'm specifically interested in complaints related to matters in the Hampton Roads area (Williamsburg to Virginia Beach).

How much would you be able to share about the nature of the complaints and the investigations into them?

Thank you,
Gavin

--

Gavin Stone
Breaking News Reporter, The Virginian-Pilot
Cell: 757-712-4806
gavin.stone@virginiamedia.com

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 6:18 PM
To: Smith, Chloe
Subject: Fwd: NBC12 Inquiry

For records

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From: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 6:17:28 PM
To: Ashley L. Hendricks <Ashley.Hendricks@nbc12.com>
Subject: Re: NBC12 Inquiry

Hi Ashley,

You can attribute the following to Miyares Spokesperson Victoria LaCivita.

Regarding the unit's purpose, I would refer you to the press release.

The announcement came because voting in this year's election starts in two weeks.

The Attorney General has said countless times that Joe Biden won the 2020 election. Republicans and Democrats nationwide have raised concerns about election integrity. The Attorney General believes it should be easy to vote and hard to cheat. I'd also like to flag for you this recent Wall Street Journal piece https://www.wsj.com/articles/democrats-invented-election-denial-2005-bush-kerry-clyburn-jan-6-voting-machines-maga-republicans-biden-speech-11662581117?mod=opinion_major_pos5

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From: Ashley L. Hendricks <Ashley.Hendricks@nbc12.com>
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 3:59:06 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Re: NBC12 Inquiry

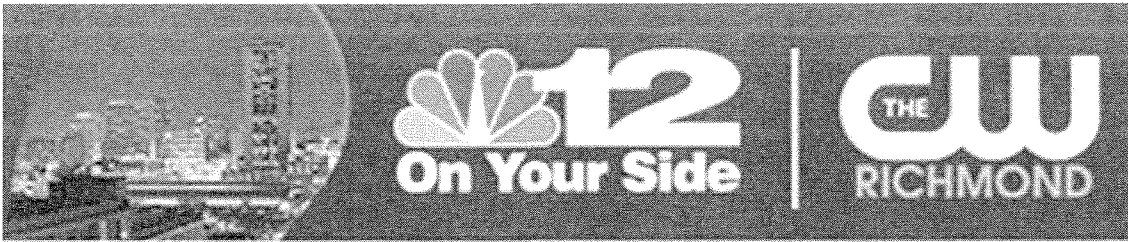
Victoria,

Can you share with me the motive behind this unit launch? Is this action based on the election fraud claims in 2020?

Ashley Hendricks

Weekend Morning Anchor/Reporter

C: (804) 439-2454 | O: (804) 230-1212 ext. 2635

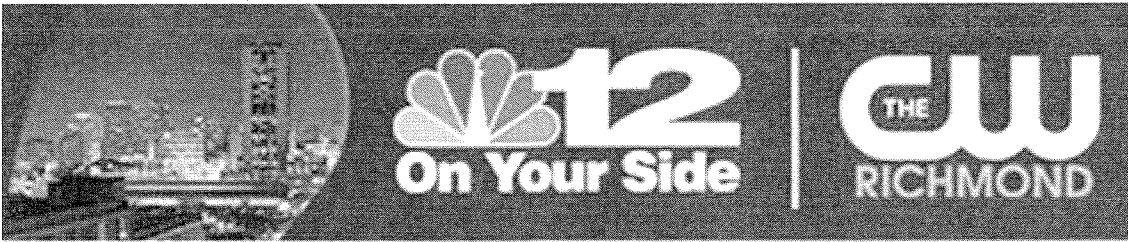


WWBT | WUPV 5710 Midlothian Tnpk Richmond, VA 23225

From: Ashley L. Hendricks <Ashley.Hendricks@nbc12.com>
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 1:16 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Re: NBC12 Inquiry

Alright, thanks.

Ashley Hendricks
Weekend Morning Anchor/Reporter
C: (804) 439-2454 | O: (804) 230-1212 ext. 2635



WWBT | WUPV 5710 Midlothian Tnpk Richmond, VA 23225

From: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 1:11 PM
To: Ashley L. Hendricks <Ashley.Hendricks@nbc12.com>
Subject: Re: NBC12 Inquiry

No, I cannot today.

From: Ashley L. Hendricks <Ashley.Hendricks@nbc12.com>
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 1:08 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLacivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Re: NBC12 Inquiry

Would you be able to speak with me via Zoom?

Ashley Hendricks
Weekend Morning Anchor/Reporter
C: (804) 439-2454 | O: (804) 230-1212 ext. 2635



From: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 12:42 PM
To: Ashley L. Hendricks <Ashley.Hendricks@nbc12.com>
Subject: Re: NBC12 Inquiry

Hi Ashley,

The AG is unavailable today but if you have any questions I am happy to help.

Thanks,
Victoria

From: Ashley L. Hendricks <Ashley.Hendricks@nbc12.com>
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 12:22 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: NBC12 Inquiry

Good Afternoon,

I hope you're well. I'm reaching out to see if AG Miyares was free for a quick Zoom interview on rolling out the New Election Integrity Unit.

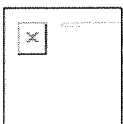
Please let me know if this is something we can work out today.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sent from my iPhone

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Victoria W. LaCivita | Director of Communication
Office of the Attorney General
202 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
O: (804) 786-1022 | M: (804) 588-2021 | F:
VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us
<https://www.oag.state.va.us>



Barnes, Tyler B.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 2:44 PM
To: Smith, Chloe
Subject: Fwd: WRIC Inquiry

For records

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From: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 2:43:37 PM
To: Dean Mirshahi <DMirshahi@wric.com>
Subject: WRIC Inquiry

Dean,

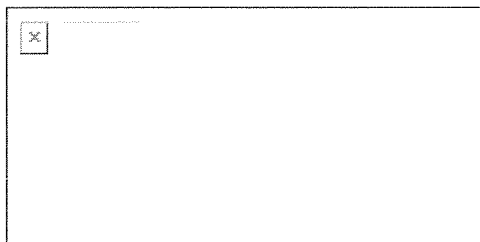
You can attribute the below to Miyares Spokesperson Victoria LaCivita.

The unit is designed to be a comprehensive, cooperative effort to provide advice, support, and resources to ensure that Virginia election law continues to be applied in a uniform manner, and increase confidence in our state elections.

The Financial Law and Government Support Section within the Government Operations and Transactions Division will be the lead on giving advice to the State Board and Department of Elections. With regard to election crimes and litigation, that is cross-divisional effort spearheaded by Attorney General Miyares to bring the diverse resources and experiences of the Office's attorneys and staff to work together on these issues.

Yes, we have been in touch with registrars.

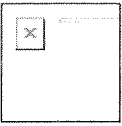
Republicans and Democrats nationwide have raised concerns about election integrity. The Attorney General believes it should be easy to vote and hard to cheat. I'd also like to flag for you this recent Wall Street Journal piece https://www.wsj.com/articles/democrats-invented-election-denial-2005-bush-kerry-clyburn-jan-6-voting-machines-maga-republicans-biden-speech-11662581117?mod=opinion_major_pos5



Opinion | Democrats Were the First Election Deniers

In 2005, 31 members of the House objected to certifying Ohio's Republican electors.

www.wsj.com



Victoria W. LaCivita | Director of Communication
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202 North 9th Street
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O: (804) 786-1022 | M: (804) 588-2021 | F:
VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us
<https://www.oag.state.va.us>

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 5:26 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W.
Subject: Fwd: Please Advise on Press Release Concerning AG Office Election Integrity Unit

FYI I called him. No response needed. Thanks!

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From: Ferguson, Donald <DFerguson@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:56 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>; Lief, Joshua N. <JLief@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: RE: Please Advise on Press Release Concerning AG Office Election Integrity Unit

Yes, I got it. BTW, do we have an Election Integrity Unit? I did not see it on the Org Chart.

From: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:55 PM
To: Ferguson, Donald <DFerguson@oag.state.va.us>; Lief, Joshua N. <JLief@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Re: Please Advise on Press Release Concerning AG Office Election Integrity Unit

Hey Don,

Not sure if Josh told you, but he's handling this. Thanks!

From: Ferguson, Donald <DFerguson@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 12:15 PM
To: LaCivita, Victoria W. <VLaCivita@oag.state.va.us>
Cc: Lief, Joshua N. <JLief@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: FW: Please Advise on Press Release Concerning AG Office Election Integrity Unit

Please see the inquiry below regarding the election integrity unit at the OAG.

Although it is not worded as a FOIA request, I think we may treat it as such. Please let me know if you have anything responsive.

Thanks.

Don

From: Director VA <director@va.foramericafirst.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 8:24 AM
To: Ferguson, Donald <DFerguson@oag.state.va.us>
Subject: Re: Please Advise on Press Release Concerning AG Office Election Integrity Unit

Mr. Ferguson,

My original email to Joshua Lief is pasted below.

Mr. Lief,

An email of yours was shared with me wherein you stated the following on August 24th, "The Office of Attorney General is conducting several investigations into election irregularities and election official misconduct. We cannot share the details of these investigations, but the results will be public in due time. Attorney General Miyares has created an election integrity unit composed of attorneys and investigators that will work closely with law enforcement to ensure that future elections are conducted pursuant to law and at the highest level of integrity."

When I read the above it seemed to me, based on my presence at the June 6th meeting when you and Susan Beals met with Virginians for America First (VFAF), that the AG's Office has created a new unit for election integrity. After that meeting, according to my recollection, you said you only had one or two investigators with the office total and I seem to recall that you said you were the only attorney working on elections.

If my recollection is correct it appears that since that meeting the AG's Office has created an Election Integrity Unit and more investigators and attorneys are working with that unit. I can find no press release that the AG's Office announced this. As result, if this is true, I would like to make our own press release stating these facts. It would be good for those of us working so hard on election integrity to know that the AG's Office has heard us and has responded positively by creating such a unit.

If your office is planning on announcing this soon, we will hold off on our own press release.

Please advise.

Sincerely,
Psalm 26:11

Bill Hawkins
State Director
Virginians for America First
Operation Eagle Wings
The America Project
(304) 890-9093

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From: Ferguson, Donald <DFerguson@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2022 6:12 PM
To: Director VA <director@va.foramericafirst.com>
Subject: RE: Please Advise on Press Release Concerning AG Office Election Integrity Unit

Your original email was not attached. Please re-send and I will take a look at it tomorrow afternoon when I get to the office.

From: Director VA <director@va.foramericafirst.com>
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2022 4:50 PM
To: dferguson@oag.va.us
Subject: Fw: Please Advise on Press Release Concerning AG Office Election Integrity Unit

Mr. Ferguson,

I sent the email below to Joshua Lief this afternoon and his auto-reply said he'd be out of the office all week and directed us to contact you if we need immediate assistance. Since news is an immediate issue, I am forwarding you the email and seeking a response to advise us if our inference is correct.

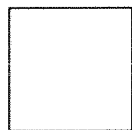
Sincerely,
Psalm 26:11

Bill Hawkins
State Director
Virginians for America First
Operation Eagle Wings
The America Project
(304) 890-9093

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From: Lief, Joshua N. <JLief@oag.state.va.us>
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2022 3:21 PM
To: Director VA <director@va.foramericafirst.com>
Subject: Automatic reply: Please Advise on Press Release Concerning AG Office Election Integrity Unit

I will be out of the office the week of 8/29-9/2/22. but will check email periodically. If you need immediate assistance, please contact Don Ferguson at dferguson@oag.state.va.us. Thank you.



Joshua N. Lief | Senior Assistant Attorney General/Chief
Office of the Attorney General
202 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
O: (804) 786-0067 | M: (804) 801-9143 | F:
JLief@oag.state.va.us
<https://www.oag.state.va.us>

Barnes, Tyler B.

From: Lief, Joshua N.
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 11:38 AM
To: Haley, Leslie A.T.
Cc: Slemp, Charles H. "Chuck"; Kilgore, Klarke W.; Jordan Jr Darrell H.; LaCivita, Victoria W.
Subject: Positive Emails on Election Integrity

Wanted to pass along that we have started to receive many emails thanking the AG for the election integrity unit. We got maybe 5 negative emails right after the announcement. We have received probably 20 positive emails this week.

Thanks,
Josh

HOT BUTTON ISSUES:	Y	N	
<i>2/7-2/18</i>			
MASKS IN SCHOOLS	1	84	
MASKS IN WORKPLACE		4	
MASKS IN PUBLIC AREAS		3	
MANDATORY VACCINATIONS		34	
2020 ELECTION LEGITIMACY INVESTIGATION			18
AG ERA STANCE		12	
JUSTICE FOR TERENCE RICHARDSON + FERRONE CLAIBORNE			112
CURRICULUM BIAS			5
GOFUNDME INVESTIGATION			4
 <i>2/20-2/26</i>			
MASKS IN SCHOOLS		22	4
MASKS IN WORKPLACE		3	
MASKS IN PUBLIC AREAS			
MANDATORY VACCINATIONS		10	1
2020 ELECTION LEGITIMACY INVESTIGATION			2
JUSTICE FOR TERENCE RICHARDSON + FERRONE CLAIBORNE			25
CURRICULUM BIAS			
GOFUNDME INVESTIGATION			
AG ERA STANCE		8	
COVID SCREENING			1
 <i>2/27-3/5</i>			
MASKS IN SCHOOLS		4	1
MASKS IN WORKPLACE			1
MANDATORY VACCINATIONS		6	2
HEALTH CARD/DIGITAL PASSPORT			1
2020 ELECTION LEGITIMACY INVESTIGATION			2
JUSTICE FOR TERENCE RICHARDSON + FERRONE CLAIBORNE			7
AG ERA STANCE		20	
 <i>3/13-3/19</i>			
MASKS		5	
MANDATORY VACCINES		6	
YOUTH GENDER TRANSITIONING		1	
2020 ELECTION LEGITIMACY INVESTIGATION			

AG ERA STANCE	1
3/20-3/26	
MASKS IN SCHOOLS	3
MASKS IN WORKPLACE	1
MANDATORY VACCINES	40

LOCAL OPINIONS

Opinion Jason Miyares: Why I created an Election Integrity Unit in Virginia

By Jason Miyares

October 19, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. EDT

Jason Miyares, a Republican, is the Virginia attorney general.

As a first-generation American and child of a parent who escaped an oppressive regime, I have a deep appreciation for our innate rights and liberties. That appreciation might not be understood by individuals whose families have never experienced anything other than the liberties America offers.

When I was growing up, my mother told me stories about her childhood and early life in communist Cuba. She told me the horror of the secret police coming to their house and kidnapping my uncle in the middle of the night. She told me the pain of seeing Havana's thriving metropolis before Fidel Castro and communism turned her world upside down. She shared how painful it was to live in a country where the vulnerable have no voice, where there was no consent of the governed — the opposite of the American republic we all call home.

Gratitude is one of life's most underrated of human traits. I'm so grateful for the life, freedom and opportunities we have here as compared with so many areas of the world where people don't have a voice.

The most sacred of these freedoms is the right to vote. The ability to participate in a democracy through choosing our elected officials is an incredible right that is a cornerstone of our American miracle. One of my strongest beliefs is the simple concept that it should be easy to vote but hard to cheat.

Every Virginian, regardless of political affiliation, should have full faith and confidence in our election system. There is no reason any Virginian should have any doubt walking into a voting booth or mailing in a ballot. Wanting every Virginian to freely vote and to have absolute confidence in our democracy should not be controversial.

That's why I created an Election Integrity Unit within the Virginia Office of the Attorney General. As the son of an immigrant who fled an oppressive country, I want every Virginian to be confident in our American experiment.

The media has enjoyed making a panic over the unit's existence, claiming that I'm somehow aiming to discourage voting or spreading disinformation about our elections.

Let's be clear: Joe Biden won the 2020 presidential election, and there was no widespread voter fraud in Virginia or elsewhere in the country.

But that has nothing to do with my Election Integrity Unit.

For decades, the Office of the Attorney General has had broad and original jurisdiction over election law. The power of my office to prosecute any violation of Virginia election law, bring and defend civil actions involving elections and give legal advice to the Department of Elections well pre-dates my time as attorney general. For years, the Office of the Attorney General has had a dedicated group of election law lawyers who work every day to protect the sanctity of our election system.

The Election Integrity Unit is simply a restructuring of lawyers, paralegals and investigators already employed by my office and working on election matters. The goal is to more efficiently work with the election community by creating a more cooperative and collaborative approach from our office. This unit will also work to protect voting rights and crack down on voter intimidation.

No new tax dollars are used, and no individual is taken away from other responsibilities.

My Election Integrity Unit is designed to make my office work better for Virginians. That shouldn't be controversial. It should be expected. Government should work for its people.

It's a shame others doubt and villainize my intentions because of our party affiliations. I pray our country and our commonwealth outgrow this season of hyper-partisanship that makes even common-sense policies somehow controversial.

Virginians can understand what happened and ensure that it never happens again," McKay's letter said. ... Last month, Miyares unveiled the creation of an Election Integrity Unit, which aims to "administer legal advice to the Department of Elections, investigate and prosecute infractions of Virginia election law, work with the election community during the whole year to establish regularity and legality in the operation of election laws and work with law enforcement to secure legality and purity in elections."

DC News Now: After tough year, Alexandria schools discuss safety efforts

On Wednesday night, Alexandria City Public Schools held a safety forum to inform families of how it, along with city and police leaders, are efforting safety improvements in schools. The forum came at a critical time, as a recent survey found students, staff, and parents all felt they (or their children) were safer in Alexandria schools last year, as opposed to this year. A survey initiated by ACPS of nearly 7,000 students, parents, and teachers highlighted an alarming trend. A lower percentage of each of those groups felt safer in school this year, as opposed to last. In last year's survey, 75% of students said they either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement that they feel safe in schools. This year, just 57% responded that way... Between January and June of 2022, 26 ACPS students were arrested — 16 for fights/assaults. That doesn't include a brawl and fatal stabbing that happened at the Bradlee Shopping Center in May, an incident that prompted a return to virtual learning and raised concerns over mental health and physical safety... Community members also heard from a school resource officer, even as the roles of SROs are being weighed by a committee that could recommend their removal. "Kids come over and hug me," said Richard Sandoval. "Just know that we're committed to your children and look forward to a continued relationship." DC News Now has previously reported on back-and-forth letters between the city and school leadership in Alexandria and Republican Attorney General Jason Miyares, who has criticized the district for considering removing SROs.

Radio/TV:

MENTIONS

WJLA – Washington, D.C. – Evening Report @ 5PM

5:02:48pm: "After months of being accused by the Virginia Attorney General's Office of being soft on criminals, the Fairfax commonwealth's attorney's office is getting more transparent online. It is [launching] a database that spells out how they handle bond review suspects. Here's 7News Scott Taylor."

Reporter: "Fairfax County commonwealth attorney Steve Descano is giving 7News a frontrow seat with his new interactive database that the public can [use to] follow how his office advises judges on what type of bond violent and non-violent offenders receive during court hearings."

Descano: "What you can see from the data is that we are really trying to focus those resources on identifying the individuals who represent immediate harm to the community."

Reporter: "Go online and you will see that the bond information Descano's staff has rolled out shows two things: number one, that his prosecutors are requesting most suspects of violent and sexual crimes be detained pre-trial, but judges are releasing more at a higher rate; number two, the commonwealth's attorney's office is asking for the majority of non-violent defendants be released and the court is locking more of them up. Descano says he supports no-cash bail for non-violent offenders, even though those arrested will always face the possibility of a cash bail in front of a magistrate before his office gets involved."

Reporter: "What do you say to people who have to say, 'listen, if we don't put these non-violent offenders behind bars and punish them to the fullest degree of the law, give them a bond, keep them locked up, then it's kinda a get-out-of-jail-free card and some of those escalate to violent offenders down the line?'"

Descano: "Well, I would say that, um, first of all, the data that we're showing is only bond data. So, whether or not somebody is held or released is completely different from whether or not they are convicted. Second of all, what we see is when people are held pretrial unnecessarily, it actually creates more crime."

Reporter: "The new database isn't a first for the commonwealth attorney's office. Steve Descano had the idea when he was campaigning for the office two years ago."

WAHU (FOX) – Charlottesville, VA – News at 10

10:04:01pm: "The man accused of killing a Big Stone Gap police officer last year is facing federal charges related to that officer's death. Michael White was named as one of 19 suspects charged in a federal drug conspiracy that prosecutors say "flooded southwest Virginia with drugs." Court documents say the 19 people distributed drugs like fentanyl, heroin, and methamphetamine beginning last August. Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares and U.S. Attorney Christopher Kavanaugh were at Tuesday's press conference in Abingdon."

Miyares: "The murder of Officer Chandler shook all of Virginia and is a painful reminder of the risks our law heroes take everyday."

Reporter: "Miyares says the murder charges against White are expected to move forward in court."

WRLH (FOX) – Richmond, VA – News at Ten

10:16:07pm: "Every locality in the state will soon be seeing a big chunk of that money, and experts tell me the payout is mainly measured by opioid-related harm. Documents from the Attorney General's Office show Henrico County at the top of that list, Richmond coming in second."

Miyares: "This money is coming back to Virginia, not to benefit my office, but to benefit you."

Reporter: "Attorney General Jason Miyares says it's the first payment towards helping Virginians battling addiction."

Miyares: "What you had was a lot of those pharmaceutical companies that pushed these opioids out to doctors and medical prescribers saying that, 'listen these aren't addicting,' when in reality they are some of the most addicting chemicals known to man."

Reporter: "Of that 67 million dollars, 16 million will be distributed among cities and counties. Henrico County, the City of Richmond and Chesterfield County are getting the most money in our area. The payout, Tony McDowell says, couldn't be more timely."

McDowell: "We're losing more than 7 people per day in Virginia to overdose and 80% of those are fentanyl overdoses, and, so, we have to take steps immediately to get in front of that."

Reporter: "McDowell, the executive director of the Virginia Opioid Abatement says illicit drugs like fentanyl are driving up overdoses. With this big settlement, he hopes to save lives."

McDowell: "And what we're all about, our mission is to ensure that every dollar possible of these settlement funds gets to the people who need it."

Reporter: "Each locality will ultimately decide how the money will be spent. But the VOAA is prepared to connect localities to the best programs to advance treatment and recovery efforts in our communities."

McDowell: "What we all want to do is connect people with help. Whether it's treatment, support with recovery, we want to save lives."

Reporter: "Virginia is set to receive a total 99.3 million dollars from the J&J settlement. That money will be distributed over the next 9 years."

WJLA – Washington, D.C. – Evening Report @ 6PM

6:03:51pm: Anchor: "Fairfax county leaders are calling an investigation into an error that directed thousands of people to the wrong polling place. A response tonight from Virginia's Attorney General."

Reporter: "It is definitely crunch time for election officials out the DMV. Here in Fairfax County, we can tell you that 13 more early voting sites will open tomorrow, in addition to the three that are already open. Meanwhile, we've got an update on an inaccurate mailer sent out by the Virginia Department of

Elections that directed more than 30,000 voters in Fairfax and Prince William Counties to the wrong polling location. The Board of Supervisors in Fairfax County just sent a letter to state lawmakers asking for a full investigation into how this happened at the state level.”

Jeff McKay: “I think these voters deserve an answer, I think the Fairfax County office of elections deserves an answer about how something like this could happen and that [we] put in work to make sure that nothing like this ever happens again.”

Reporter: “For now, the Virginia Department of Elections is blaming all of this on a printing issue and says they will no longer use that printing vendor. New at 6:00, we’ve learned that the Virginia Attorney General is now involved and exploring “all legal remedies” against that vendor.”

APPEARANCES

Jeff Katz & AG Miyares (10.26.22)

Other Relevant News:

POLITICS

NBCNews: A slew of Latina candidates for Congress are looking to make history as ‘firsts’

Republican and Democratic Latinas running for Congress in more than five states could make history in the midterm elections next month. At the same time, Latina lawmakers who have already made history are looking to defend their seats. The races are being run at a time when Latina political underrepresentation persists at all levels of public office, according to a new report from the Center for American Women and Politics and Latinas Represent released Wednesday. Despite making up about 9.3% of the U.S. population, Latinas make up less than 3% of officials elected to statewide executive offices, state legislatures and Congress. . . . Republican Yesli Vega could be the first Latina to represent Virginia in Congress, according to the Center for American Women and Politics.

Cardinal News: FEMA denies financial help to Buchanan County property owners after July flood

Homeowners in Buchanan County who suffered property losses in a July flash flood that decimated areas around Whitewood will not be eligible to receive aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Gov. Glenn Youngkin said Wednesday. The news was a disappointment but not a surprise to many in Southwest Virginia; just a year ago, FEMA made the same ruling after a similar flood hit the Buchanan County community of Hurley. In that case, the state appealed the decision and the federal agency denied the request a second time, saying that the damage wasn’t significant enough to warrant aid.

Washington Post: Inspector general probes \$268K state contract with Youngkin’s ad-maker

The state’s inspector general is investigating how Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s political ad-maker landed a \$268,000 state contract to make a tourism video featuring the Republican. Poolhouse, a Richmond-based Republican media firm that made \$1.5 million in campaign ads for Youngkin last year, was the only vendor to bid on the contract with the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC), a taxpayer-funded public authority.

Richmond Times-Dispatch: Chief’s resignation brings calls for changes in Richmond police focus

Nobody’s saying much about why police Chief Gerald Smith is leaving, but around City Hall, many indicate it’s time for change at the top of Richmond Police Department. While the city administration hasn’t released his resignation letter, or had an immediate response to repeated questions about whether Smith was asked to leave, Mayor Levar Stoney said the chief’s departure is a chance for the city’s law enforcement efforts to pivot.

CRIME/LEGAL

Washington Post: Va. prosecutor often sought violent suspects' detention and didn't get it, data shows

Fairfax County's top prosecutor, who has faced criticism for practices some view as too lenient, released data Wednesday showing that his office recommended people accused of violent crimes be denied bail at 76 percent of hearings but that judges did so only about half the time. Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano (D) said Wednesday that his office released the bond data dashboard to increase transparency and identify disparities in local criminal justice. "You can't fix what you don't measure," Descano said Wednesday.

Richmond Times-Dispatch: Special prosecutor ends investigation of former Colonial Heights police chief with no charges

A special prosecutor will not pursue charges against former Colonial Heights police Chief Jeffrey Faries after conducting an investigation into allegations that Faries engaged in inappropriate behavior with underage girls he coached on the city high school's softball team. Lynchburg Commonwealth's Attorney Bethany Harrison, who was appointed in May to determine whether charges were warranted following a state police investigation, said she determined there was insufficient evidence to bring charges at this time.



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Slemp, Charles H. "Chuck"

From: Smith, Chloe
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 7:37 AM
Subject: PRESS CLIPS 10.26.22

Categories: Election Integrity

Attorney General Jason S. Miyares Press Clips: Wednesday, October 26th, 2022

Print Attorney General Mentions:

STATE

WCYB: US Attorney: Man who killed Big Stone Gap officer was part of drug trafficking group

The man who is accused of murdering Big Stone Gap Police Officer Michael Chandler was part of a widespread drug trafficking organization in Southwest Virginia, U.S. Attorney Christopher Kavanaugh announced Tuesday. Michael Donovan White is accused of killing Officer Chandler in November 2021. Following his arrest, Kavanaugh said that authorities discovered White was part of a widespread drug organization in Southwest Virginia. White is one of 19 people facing federal charges in connection with the organization... "Today's arrests broke up a large-scale drug operation that brought huge quantities of lethal narcotics and, subsequently, violence and tragedy, into Southwest Virginia," Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares said. "The murder of Officer Chandler shook all of Virginia and is a painful reminder of the risk law enforcement willingly embrace every day. As my office supports the prosecution in that case, we are proud of all our partners, particularly the U.S. Attorney's office and the lead law enforcement agencies, the Virginia State Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and their unwavering commitment to justice" ... court documents stated the 19 defendants participated in a conspiracy to distribute more than 100 pounds of methamphetamine, as well as heroin and fentanyl.

WSET: 'We support you:' AG Miyares talks crime solutions with officers at luncheon Tuesday

The Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares stopped by the Hill City Tuesday to speak to officers from across the Commonwealth. The AG spoke at Liberty University's School of Law building, thanking officers at the Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon. Miyares said a big goal of his to keep communities safe, is to have a constant open dialogue with officers. This luncheon was an opportunity for Miyares to listen to officers' needs moving forward. He spoke at length thanking the officers for what they do every day and the sacrifices they make for the public's safety. Altavista Chief of Police Tommy Merricks was one of the dozens of police departments invited to today's luncheon. He said the support isn't something he's used to seeing. "It's very refreshing to have an Attorney General that wants to work with law enforcement," Merricks said. He said that support is something that Miyares' office has always put a focus on. "Since day one, he has had one of his staff members reaching out to all of the law enforcement agencies around," Merricks said. Attorney General Miyares said that support and communication with each department are key to fixing the crime problem in the state. "Today is a day for me to show appreciation," Miyares said. "But it's also to listen and talk with law enforcement about what they're seeing on the streets." According to Virginia's official crime report figures from 2021, violent crime is on the rise. There were almost 16,823 violent crimes reported in 2021, compared to 15,713 in 2020 -- a 7% increase. That includes a 6% increase in homicides, from 528 to 562. Miyares said policy changes are a key first step to fixing the problem.

"Nothing frustrates an officer more than seeing a catch-and-release program," Miyares said. "When they see people getting revolving door -- getting back on the street. We want to give law enforcement the tools they need to do their jobs." Miyares said his office is focusing on prosecuting violent offenders to the fullest extent of the law, especially repeat offenders. "It also means having the prosecutors in place to prosecute repeat violent offenders as well," Miyares said. "I think that's a critical component. We work closely with law enforcement. We've gone around every corner of the state meeting in law enforcement roundtables." He said with fewer criminals on the street, communities will be safer.

Merricks said he's confident if they keep working together, crime will come down. "If they can keep the lines of communication open like they've done a great job with, I think we'll move forward," Merricks said. The AG finished his speech by thanking the officers for their bravery in keeping our communities safe every day. He said that they're hiring new prosecutors as a part of their new Cease Fire initiative to help ensure that violent criminals stay off the streets.

WJHL: Man accused of killing Big Stone Gap officer among 19 charged in conspiracy that 'flooded' Southwest Virginia with drugs

U.S. Attorney Christopher Kavanaugh, Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares and representatives from the ATF and local law enforcement agencies spoke outside of the U.S. District Courthouse in Abingdon...According to Kavanaugh, the group of offenders "flooded Southwest Virginia" with more than 100 pounds of methamphetamine, as well as other drugs like heroin and fentanyl. Over the last year, Kavanaugh said a team made up of local, state and federal investigators built a case...The investigation is still ongoing as of Tuesday, and Kavanaugh believes more charges could be brought against other people and the 19 already arrested. Miyares said the investigation broke up a large-scale drug operation, which was bringing "large quantities" of lethal narcotics and ultimately violent crime to Southwest Virginia. "The murder of Officer Chandler shook all of Virginia," Miyares said. "And is a painful reminder of the risks our law enforcement heroes take every day." According to Miyares, the murder charges against White are moving forward in court. He also thanked the participating law enforcement agencies, including those from East Tennessee that contributed to the investigation.

WDBJ: Attorney General Jason Miyares plans to curb violent crime in Virginia

Attorney General Jason Miyares spoke at Liberty University's 2nd annual law enforcement appreciation lunch. He aims to reduce violence, lower gang activity, and protect those who are willing to testify against violent repeat-offenders. Miyares states "Operation ceasefire is, we viewed kind of the three-step process. This is coming from our office in connection with the governor's office. One of it is intervention, we are going to push for different intervention programs for young people, so they know not to join gang activity. It's also prosecution, if you are a repeat violent offender using a gun to commission a felony, we are going to be prosecuting you to the fullest extent of the law. The last is protection, and this has set up a victim witness protection fund. Whether its traveling or lodging so that they can feel comfortable coming forward." Lynchburg is one of 13 cities listed under Operation Ceasefire. Miyares says it's because of increased crime and drugs. He states "Unfortunately, you are seeing an influx of both meth and fentanyl. A lot of it is crossing our southern border. We are seeing it come to our communities and what is so tragic, what I am seeing all over the commonwealth are people who think they are taking something else. It could be so much as a Percocet they get a party that they pass away from. Everybody has to be careful, one pill can kill" We reached out to the Lynchburg Police Department on how Operation Ceasefire will impact their jobs, and they told us they plan to meet with the Attorney General's office about how to implement the program in the future.

Augusta Free Press: Big Stone Gap man arrested, charged in 2021 murder of police officer

Michael Donovan White, 34, was arrested Tuesday and federally charged in relation to the 2021 murder of Big Stone Gap police officer Michael Chandler. Eighteen others were also charged today on related, wide-ranging federal drug conspiracy and firearm charges... "Today's arrests broke up a

large-scale drug operation that brought huge quantities of lethal narcotics and, subsequently, violence and tragedy, into Southwest Virginia,” said Attorney General Jason S. Miyares. “The murder of Officer Chandler shook all of Virginia and is a painful reminder of the risk law enforcement willingly embrace every day. As my office supports the prosecution in that case, we are proud of all our partners, particularly the U.S. Attorney’s office and the lead law enforcement agencies, the Virginia State Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and their unwavering commitment to justice.”

News & Advance: Miyares speaks at Liberty University event honoring law enforcement

Attorney General Jason Miyares was a special guest Tuesday afternoon at Liberty University’s second annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Lunch. “For the men and women that wear the uniform, we have such incredible appreciation for the work you do. I go to work in the morning and put on a tie, you go to work in the morning and put on a bulletproof vest,” Miyares said to the audience gathered. “It’s unlike any job in America today. I call it the hardest job.” Law enforcement members from Lynchburg and surrounding areas, including Altavista, Bedford, South Boston and Martinsville, attended the event.

In early September, Miyares’ office announced the Election Integrity Unit, a team of existing attorneys, investigators and paralegals from across various divisions in the attorney general’s office that will provide legal advice to the state Department of Elections as well as investigate and prosecute violations of Virginia election law. The announcement came after reports of law enforcement investigations into alleged misconduct in the Nottoway County election office and disputes between an electoral board member and registrar, according to the Richmond Times-Dispatch. At Tuesday’s event, Miyares, a Republican, told The News & Advance he believes ensuring a fair election is a bipartisan issue and he thinks, broadly, most Virginians agree. “What I want is everybody to know what the law is, have confidence in our election system, so we can have free, fair elections,” Miyares said. Some Republicans around the country have used election integrity as a rallying cry after President Donald Trump lost to Joe Biden in 2020 and false claims of widespread election fraud spread. Miyares’ announcement last month about the Election Integrity Unit’s creation was met with some criticism that those resources could be better allocated elsewhere. In an op-ed published last week in The Washington Post, Miyares noted “there was no widespread voter fraud in Virginia or elsewhere in the country” in the 2020 election but said the Election Integrity Unit had nothing to do with that — rather, it’s intended to help his office more efficiently work on election matters and protect voting rights.

Miyares on Tuesday also discussed Operation Ceasefire, as Lynchburg is an area selected by the attorney general’s office for the effort, which is intended to be a comprehensive strategy to combat violent crime. The attorney general told reporters he and his office looked at the different cities that were impacted by violent crime around the commonwealth. Miyares said Operation Ceasefire is as a three-step process: intervention programs for youths so they know not to join gang activity; prosecution for repeat violent offenders; and protection for witnesses of violent crimes, so they can feel comfortable coming forward. Miyares told reporters, “What we have found is the best way to lower violence is to go after these repeat violent offenders and prosecute them and get them off our streets.”

Miyares said there has been an influx of methamphetamine and fentanyl in the commonwealth as well. He said he believes a person selling someone fentanyl knowingly is committing murder, comparing it to giving someone rat poison. “What I’m seeing all over the commonwealth are people that think they are taking something else,” Miyares said. Martinsville Police Chief Eddie Cassady said the opioid pandemic hit his city “really hard.” “There were a few years ago that we were number one in the state for opioid cases,” Cassady told The News and Advance. Altavista Police Chief Tommy Merricks praised having an attorney general who wants to work with the police. “We have not always had that in Virginia. It’s good that he is about law and order, and he’s about reaching out and helping and working with local departments to make sure all of the citizens are safe,” Merricks said.

Lynchburg Police Chief Ryan Zuidema said it was great to be invited to the event and said it's always a good time when "brave men and women of our departments can be recognized for the great work they do in the community." Zuidema mentioned the last few years have been challenging. "We've seen both the worst of society and at the same time, the best of society," Zuidema said. "So it's been challenging on the one front and it required us to really assess a lot of what we did and how we did it."

VPM: AG's office wanted to limit in-person comments on Youngkin's proposed transgender policies

Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares' office pushed the State Board of Education to ban in-person public comments related to proposed policies concerning the treatment of transgender students. In an Oct. 18 email obtained by VPM News, Senior Assistant Attorney General Deborah Love told Daniel Gecker, chair of the board of education, that the board had no authority over the policies. Allowing the public to comment on them in that venue, Love wrote in the email, would violate the board's bylaws and result in comments that could not formally be considered by the body actually in charge of the policies: the Virginia Department of Education. "There is significant potential for confusion should the Board receive comments from the public on the proposed Model Policies," Love wrote. She urged Gecker to refer people who wanted to comment on the policies to the official channel, a state website called Town Hall.

Gecker, who was first appointed to the board by former Gov. Terry McAuliffe, rejected what he described in an email as "unsolicited advice" that would have "limited our accessibility to the public and would be bad policy." At the Oct. 20 meeting, Gecker reiterated that the board had no authority over the proposed policies and that the comments would not be considered as part of the policies' review. But he allowed the commenters to proceed. For more than three hours, parents, activists and students lined up to give their thoughts. The majority spoke out against the policies... Youngkin has championed the proposal as part of a push for "parent's rights" in education, though many of the comments the board received in person and online have come from self-described parents who oppose the policies. Youngkin's spokesperson did not respond to requests for comment on the AG office's email. Miyares' spokesperson, Victoria LaCivita, encouraged people to submit feedback online, where it would be recorded into the public record. "The Attorney General believes transparency is crucial in government, and that it is his responsibility to call balls and strikes," LaCivita said. "The Attorney General wants to ensure that not only is every Virginian heard, but that they are heard by the correct entity." Gecker said the board "routinely hears public comment on any matter related to public education and said it "places great importance on hearing from parents, students, educators and other members of the public."

The attorney general office's legal argument hinges on a line in the board's bylaws stating that the public "may address the Board during the public comment portion of the meeting on any matter related to public education which includes the action of the Board." "Which includes actions of the Board' modifies the scope of permitted public comment to matters falling within the Board's jurisdiction (which the Model Policies do not)," Love wrote. She cc'd Jillian Balow, the superintendent of public instruction, asking her to share the advice with other members of the board. Eden Heilman, legal director at the ACLU of Virginia, said Love's interpretation was incorrect, pointing to a state law that says "'includes' means includes, but not limited to." "Certainly, something that affects this many people — that has garnered 60,000-plus comments, that's resulted in thousands of students walking out of their classrooms across the state — the board has every right to hear testimony on this issue," Heilman said in an interview.

The deadline for submitting comments online regarding the proposed policies is 11:59 p.m. Wednesday. State officials must then respond to any claims the policies might violate existing law — and post those responses for at least 30 days. In an interview Monday, Balow said her team would spend time "really parsing out what the key themes are" in the comments before considering possible edits to the draft policies. She declined to discuss the effort of Miyares' office to limit comment during board meetings. The proposed policies don't carry any weight on their own. Instead, they must be

passed or modified by local school boards. Leaders in some localities, including Richmond, Fairfax County and Alexandria, have already said they won't implement them.

Kingsport Times-News: 19 arrested in connection with Big Stone Gap policeman's death

Kavanaugh was flanked by federal, state and local law enforcement officers, Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares, Wise County Commonwealth's Attorney Steven Davis and assistant prosecutors during the announcement outside the Abingdon Federal District Courthouse... White, who was charged today with shooting Chandler and for being part of a criminal conspiracy, could be the subject of a capital charge and death penalty trial, Kavanaugh said. "This is just the first day," Kavanaugh said, adding that the cases will be brought before a federal grand jury. "The murder of Chandler shook all of Virginia," Miyares said. "(Kavanaugh) said it best, it's a partnership." The investigation leading to Tuesday's arrests included work by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; U.S. Marshal's Service; Virginia State Police; Wise County Sheriff's Office; and the Norton and Big Stone Gap police departments.

WDBJ: Suspect arrested for shooting in Big Stone Gap that left officer dead

The United States Department of Justice announced Tuesday that they have charged 19 suspects within a large-scale drug-trafficking ring, including the alleged killer who shot a Big Stone Gap Officer dead in November 2021. "Today's arrests broke up a large-scale drug operation that brought huge quantities of lethal narcotics and, subsequently, violence and tragedy, into Southwest Virginia," Attorney General Jason S. Miyares added. "The murder of Officer Chandler shook all of Virginia and is a painful reminder of the risk law enforcement willingly embrace every day."

WYMT: Alleged murderer and 18 others charged in federal drug roundup in SWVA

19 people, including a man accused of murdering Big Stone Gap, Va. police officer Michael Chandler in November 2021, were arrested on federal charges Tuesday in connection with a wide-ranging federal drug and gun conspiracy... 18 other people from around Southwest Virginia and Southeast Kentucky were also arrested and charged with various drug and gun offenses that are related to the murder of Officer Chandler, according to federal documents... "Today's arrests broke up a large-scale drug operation that brought huge quantities of lethal narcotics and, subsequently, violence and tragedy, into Southwest Virginia," said Attorney General Jason S. Miyares. "The murder of Officer Chandler shook all of Virginia and is a painful reminder of the risk law enforcement willingly embrace every day. As my office supports the prosecution in that case, we are proud of all our partners, particularly the U.S. Attorney's office and the lead law enforcement agencies, the Virginia State Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and their unwavering commitment to justice."

Bluefield Daily Telegraph: Justice continues quest to defeat Amendment 2

Justice also expressed his opposition to a CDC (Centers for Disease Control) recommendation to require kids to get the COVID vaccine before attending public schools. It is only a recommendation, but Justice said the reason he is talking about it is to reassure any parent who may be concerned that it won't happen under his watch since "too many rumors are floating around and people get scared." "West Virginia will not mandate the vaccine for kids," he said, but he does urge parents to get their children vaccinated and the final decision on the vaccine should be left to parents. Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares issued a legal opinion on the CDC recommendation Monday, saying it is not a decision the CDC can make for states. "The recent action by the CDC does not change Virginia law on required immunizations for schools and childcare facilities," Miyares said. "The CDC cannot force vaccine requirements on Virginia families as a condition of school attendance. Required immunizations for school and childcare attendance statewide are determined by the General Assembly and the Virginia Department of Health." The legal opinion was requested by Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

Martinsville Bulletin: Patrick County weighs insurance costs

In other matters, the Board: heard an update from Hazelwood regarding the possibility of the county receiving opioid settlement money through the Virginia Attorney General's Office. A meeting was held on Monday, and Hazelwood said she expected to receive further guidance on the matter in January.

Townhall: Meet the 6 Latina GOP candidates that are driving Democrats nuts

Running in Virginia's 7th congressional district is Yesli Vega, a military wife, and law enforcement officer who is up against Democratic incumbent Rep. Abigail Spanberger. Townhall reported how Spanberger pulled out of a debate against Vega this month because our own Larry O'Connor was selected as the moderator... "I got into law enforcement as a result of a family tragedy that almost took the life of my younger brother. He was viciously gunned down and nearly killed by MS-13. So when I hear career politicians like Nancy Pelosi defending these criminals, I take it personal. These are not stories that I've read in the paper or something that somebody's shared with me, these are the shoes that I've walked and I wish that I could tell you that my family had quite a happy ending but unfortunately that is not the truth," Vega told me in our interview. "And, we've seen what this dangerous 'defund the police' movement has caused for our communities where crime has gone up and continues to go up" ... A recent report from The Washington Post described Vega's race as "highly competitive," given that Virginia elected Republican Gov. Glen Youngkin last year. He recently endorsed Vega. And, Vega's congressional race "follows a broader trend of the GOP running with more diverse candidates, such as Attorney General Jason S. Miyares and Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears. And, in 2018, Vega ran for the Prince William County Board of Supervisors and won a seat in the general election in a Democrat-leading region during a "blue wave."

WSET: Man federally charged in connection to the 2021 murder of a Big Stone Gap police officer

"Today's arrests broke up a large-scale drug operation that brought huge quantities of lethal narcotics and, subsequently, violence and tragedy, into Southwest Virginia," said Attorney General Jason S. Miyares. "The murder of Officer Chandler shook all of Virginia and is a painful reminder of the risk law enforcement willingly embrace every day. As my office supports the prosecution in that case, we are proud of all our partners, particularly the U.S. Attorney's office and the lead law enforcement agencies, the Virginia State Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and their unwavering commitment to justice" ... Assistant U.S. Attorney Lena L. Busscher is prosecuting the case. A criminal complaint is merely an allegation, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia: Williamsburg wellness center owner sentenced for \$2M health care fraud

A Williamsburg wellness center owner was sentenced today to 7 years in prison for defrauding Virginia Medicaid and other health care programs out of over \$2 million. According to court documents, Maria Kokolis, 48, of Williamsburg, owned and operated Pamisage, Inc., a center for integrative behavioral health and medicine, with a focus on weight management issues. Beginning in or about 2018, and continuing through February 2020, Kokolis executed a scheme to defraud and overbill various health care benefit programs and the Virginia Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid) ... Kokolis used the names, Medicaid ID numbers, and other identifying information of her clients in submitting these false claims to the health care benefit programs. Kokolis received a total of at least \$2,202,627.77 in fraudulent health care benefit program reimbursements, a portion of which came from the U.S. government... Jessica D. Aber, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Brian Dugan, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Norfolk Field Office; and Jason S. Miyares, Attorney General of Virginia, made the announcement after sentencing by U.S. District Judge Arenda L. Wright-Allen.

Radio/TV:

MENTIONS

WFXR (FOX) – Roanoke, VA – News First at Ten

10:02:26pm: "As for here in the Commonwealth, lawmakers are assuring Virginia voters that this year's election should be smooth sailing. Attorney General Jason Miyares says his Election Integrity Team is ready to go."

Miyares: "We're going to properly advise every single registrar about what the law is and advise them to follow the law among those Virginia races"

WSET (ABC) – Roanoke, VA – News @ 7

7:15:59pm: "Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares stopped in the hill city today to speak at a law enforcement luncheon at Liberty University. ABC13's Jacob Hunziker has the breakdown of the event."

Reporter: "The Attorney General spoke right here behind me at Liberty University's School of Law building early this afternoon. The event was a law enforcement appreciation luncheon where he had the chance to speak with officers from all across the Commonwealth. Miyares says a big goal of his is to keep communities safe is to have a constant open dialogue with officers. This luncheon was an opportunity for Miyares to listen to officers' needs moving forward. He spoke at length thanking the officers for what they do every day and the sacrifices they make for public safety. Miyares said that keeping communities safe starts with good policies. He spoke out against catch and release policies in other states and says that Virginia is on the right path to ensure public safety."

Miyares: "But that also means having the prosecutors in place to prosecute repeat violent offenders as well. I think that's a critical component. We work closely with law enforcement, having gone around every corner of the state meeting with law enforcement roundtables."

Reporter: "Violent crime in the Commonwealth has been on a steady rise over the past few years, a 7% increase from 2020 to 2021. Miyares says that having that constant communication with officers across the state is a key first step to clean it up. Several of the officers that we spoke with today say that it's nice to have an administration that is working with them instead of against them. They say that the AG's office is making sure their needs are being met, and they're confident crime will start to come down as a result. The officers that I spoke with say that in today's heated political climate where they feel targeted, it's refreshing to see support from the Attorney General. They say that it's nice to be appreciated and thanked for what they do to keep our community safe each and every day. Reporting from Liberty University, Jacob Hunziker, ABC13 news."

WHSV (ABC) – Harrisonburg, VA – Daybreak

6:33:36am: "And speaking of gun-violence, Virginia's Attorney General Jason Miyares is taking action to try and curb violence in the Commonwealth. He spoke yesterday at Liberty University, detailing a statewide program aimed at decreasing gun violence. He says the three-step process is called Operation Ceasefire."

Miyares: "One [part] of it is intervention, we are going to push for different intervention programs for young people, so they know not to join gang activity. It's also prosecution, if you are a repeat violent offender using a gun to commit a felony, we are going to be prosecuting you to the fullest extent of the law. The last is protection, and this has set up a victim witness protection fund, whether it's traveling or lodging, so that they can feel comfortable coming forward."

Reporter: "Right now, 13 cities in the state are listed under Operation Ceasefire, Miyares saying those were selected based on an increase in crime and drugs."

Miyares: "Unfortunately, you are seeing an influx of both meth and fentanyl. A lot of it is crossing our southern border. We are seeing it come to our communities and what is so tragic, what I am seeing

all over the Commonwealth are people who think they are taking something else. It could be so much as a percocet they get at a party that they pass away from.”

Reporter: “Miyares says he plans to meet with those 13 cities soon on how exactly to implement Operation Ceasefire in the near future.”

WTVR (CBS) – Richmond, VA – Early Morning News

5:15:48am: “A man accused of killing Big Stone Gap police officer Michael Chandler last year is facing federal charges. Michael White was named as one of 19 suspects charged in a federal drug conspiracy that prosecutors say flooded southwest Virginia with drugs. Court documents say the 19 people distributed drugs like fentanyl, heroin, and methamphetamine beginning last August. Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares and U.S. Attorney Christopher Kavanaugh was at the press conference in Abingdon yesterday. Miyares [said] the long investigation broke up a large-scale drug operation which brought large quantities of lethal drugs and violent crime to southwest Virginia.”

Miyares: “The murder of Officer Chandler shook all of Virginia and is a painful reminder of the risks that our law enforcement heroes take every day.”

Reporter: “Miyares went onto say that the murder charges against White are moving forward in court and more charges are expected.”

WJHL (CBS) – Tri Cities, TN – 6:00pm News

6:01:30pm: “Everyone who spoke reiterated the fact that Officer Chandler gave the ultimate sacrifice to keep his community safe. In Abingdon, News Channel 11.”

Reporter: “Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares said the murder charges against Michael White are moving forward in court. You can read more about today's announcement on WJHL.com”

Other Relevant News:

POLITICS

Bristol Herald Courier: Council takes steps toward restricting abortion clinics

With an overflow crowd looking on, the Bristol Virginia City Council unanimously approved a resolution designed to ultimately restrict abortion clinics by modifying city zoning. The vote followed comments by 25 people — nearly all of whom supported the measure – and a lengthy debate about timing. . . . “I have been on this council for six years and this is, by far, the most important issue that has come before this council,” Councilman Kevin Wingard said in making the motion to approve. “I believe this council has the full authority to stop other abortion clinics from coming here. We already have one that moved across the state line and it is my opinion one is too many and I don’t want to see a second or a third.”

FFXNow: Fairfax County Board calls for full inquiry into botched state elections mailing

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay is calling on a full investigation into an incorrect elections mailing that was sent to 25,000 voters in the towns of Herndon, Clifton and Vienna. At a board meeting earlier Tuesday, the board unanimously agreed to a move by McKay to call on the county’s General Assembly delegation for an inquiry into the botched mailing. Residents were directed to an incorrect polling location in the City of Fairfax.

Loudoun Now: Public input translations at Loudoun Board to continue

After deliberating new limits to the translation of public input by non-English speakers during county Board of Supervisors meeting, the board voted to make only technical changes. Supervisors had stirred concern earlier in the year by considering not allowing additional time for interpretation of non-English-speakers’ remarks to the board. Instead, the change to their Rules of Order is largely technical—rather than allowing double the normal time to speak to account for the time spent

translating, the new rules indicate the time required for translation will not count against the speaker's allotted time to speak.

Richmond Times-Dispatch: Richmond police Chief Gerald Smith resigns

Richmond police Chief Gerald Smith has resigned from his position. Smith will be on paid administrative leave until Dec. 31, the city said in a statement on Tuesday. He had been chief since July 2020. He previously was chief of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in North Carolina. . . . Smith has been under scrutiny since a July 6 press conference and national media interviews he conducted in which he provided false information about what detectives found regarding a July 1 tip to police about weapons and a threat of a shooting.

CRIME/LEGAL

WRIC: Opioid epidemic cost Virginia \$3.5 billion in 2020, VDH opioid cost calculator shows

The Virginia Department of Health has developed an online calculator to show how much the opioid epidemic has impacted Virginians in lost labor, healthcare, crime and other costs. According to the calculator, the overall cost of the epidemic in 2020 was \$3.5 billion. In 2020, an average of more than four people died of an opioid drug overdose every day in Virginia. The calculator also shows that, in 2020, the epidemic cost the City of Richmond \$216 million in total — or an estimated \$954 per person.

WAVY: Youngkin says drug dealers should face murder charges for overdose deaths

Drug dealers could be charged with murder in fatal overdose cases if Governor Glenn Youngkin gets his way, but critics have concerns about criminalizing those dealing with substance abuse disorders. Youngkin is calling on state lawmakers to revive a bill that was vetoed by Governor Ralph Northam in 2019. At an event earlier this month, Youngkin pledged to sign it into law if it lands on his desk during the 2023 session.

Roanoke Times: Jackson's Roanoke council campaign faces fine

Roanoke's director of elections is fining the campaign of city council candidate Jamaal Jackson \$3,100 over finance reporting issues. Andrew Cochran said the Jackson campaign submitted four of five periodic reports due so far after the deadline and that one of them was nearly two months late. Given the relevant fine policy in Virginia law, which assesses a \$100 for the first late report and \$1,000 for each successive late report, Jackson's campaign owes \$3,100, according to a letter dated Tuesday.



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Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 7:31 AM
Subject: PRESS CLIPS 10.25.22

Categories: Election Integrity

Attorney General Jason S. Miyares
Press Clips: Tuesday, October 25th, 2022

Print Attorney General Mentions:

STATE

Emporia Independent-Messenger: Emporia PD, city manager meet with governor for round table discussion on violent crime reduction

Emporia Police Chief Rick Pinksaw was on hand Monday as Gov. Glenn Youngkin unveiled his Bold Blue Line initiative to reduce violent crime. "City Manager William E. Johnson, III, MBA, Captain Jerry Wright, Lieutenant Detective Troy Hawkins, and I had the pleasure to attend and participate in a round table discussion with Gov. Youngkin, Lt. Gov. (Winsome) Sears, Attorney General (Jason) Miyares, and Secretary of Public Safety Bob Mosier, as well as other law enforcement officials from across the Commonwealth," Pinksaw said. "Gov. Youngkin and his team released details about the Ceasefire Initiative and Operation Bold Blue Line. Both will assist with making communities safer throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia" ... Pinksaw was pleased with what he heard from Virginia's leaders at the roundtable. He believes Operation Bold Blue Line and the Ceasefire Initiative will help law enforcement. "We are blessed to have Glenn Youngkin, Winsome Sears, Jason Miyares and Bob Mosier leading the way in the Commonwealth of Virginia," Pinksaw said. "Thank you all, for your commitment to law enforcement and public safety in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is truly a breath of fresh air!"

More help for Emporia is on the way as part of Miyares' Operation Ceasefire initiative. It was unveiled Monday along with Operation Bold Blue Line. Emporia is one of 12 cities partnering in the Operation Ceasefire initiative to address violent criminal activity among repeat offenders. According to an OAG press release, Operation Ceasefire will reduce violent crime by investing in gang prevention. Other aspects of the initiative include supporting victim protection funding, community policing in high-crime neighborhoods, and getting the most violent and repeat offenders off the streets. The other cities in the Operation Ceasefire partnership are Chesapeake, Danville, Hampton, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Richmond, and Roanoke. The General Assembly approved \$5 million for Operation Ceasefire. Miyares expects the initiative to get fully funded by the winter.

Brunswick Times-Gazette: Governor unveils Operation Bold Blue Line

On Oct. 17, 2022 Governor Glenn Youngkin stood with Attorney General Jason Miyares, Lt. Governor Winsome Earle-Sears, and mayors, police chiefs, and sheriffs from across Virginia to announce Operation Bold Blue Line, a series of concrete actions to reduce homicides, shootings, and violent crime... Under the joint leadership of the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Criminal Justice Services, and the Department of Juvenile Justice, Operation Bold Blue Line will support community partners who support at-risk youth and focus on gang prevention and group violence intervention as well. Operation Bold Blue Line will work with the General Assembly to fund a Victim/Witness Assistance Program to help police and prosecutors put violent criminals behind bars.

The program would provide funds for reasonable lodging and relocation expenses, transportation, and the installation of systems and devices necessary to fulfill protective services.

CBS19: UVA Center for Politics weighs in on Vega vs. Spanberger

CBS19 spoke to J. Miles Coleman at the UVA Center for Politics to get expert analysis of what may happen on November 8th...For Vega, Coleman has noticed Governor Youngkin's PAC has gotten more involved in the race -- something Vega is taking advantage of. Just last week Vega was campaigning in Orange County with Attorney General Jason Miyares. Coleman says the district remains a leans Democrat race, but says Republicans have a chance...He says Spanberger has always tried to be seen as bi-partisan but is a team of one, meaning she hasn't relied too much on other national figures for her campaign.

The Center Square: Miyares: COVID-19 vaccines not required for public school attendance in Virginia

Virginia students are not legally required to receive a COVID-19 vaccine to attend public schools, Attorney General Jason Miyares said following an announcement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention...Miyares issued a formal legal opinion, which clarified that COVID-19 immunization is not required for students in the commonwealth. Those decisions would be made by the General Assembly and the Virginia Department of Health, who have not imposed a mandate. "The recent action by the CDC does not change Virginia law on required immunizations for schools and child care facilities," the attorney general said in a statement. "The CDC cannot force vaccine requirements on Virginia families as a condition of school attendance. Required immunizations for school and child care attendance statewide are determined by the General Assembly and the Virginia Department of Health."

The Free Lance-Star: Editorial – Beware politicians peddling integrity

Attorney General Jason Miyares recently took to the pages of the Washington Post to defend the creation of his Election Integrity Unit...No doubt, the stories that Miyares heard from his parents while growing up gave him an appreciation for our nation's "rights and liberties." But to suggest that there are many in the United States who don't understand or appreciate these liberties because they "have never experienced" anything but liberty is to fundamentally misunderstand America's past and present. Black Americans have their own history to tell. And the stories that their families pass down include lynchings, redlining, and the horrors of "separate but equal." All of these events have happened within our nation's past 100 years. And lest we believe things are better, Black people in Virginia and across the nation are still victimized by overt and covert racism. Blacks are disproportionately pulled over and searched by police officers in Virginia, according to...the Community Policing Act Data Collection. Black people are also far more likely to spend time in jail than white people, according to research from the Vera Institute of Justice.

Those in America's LGBTQ+ community also have stories to tell. The fight for marriage equality, after all, was only settled in 2015. And Gov. Glenn Youngkin's recently launched assault on transgender students suggests that for the next few years anyway, yet another marginalized group will face overt discrimination. America's women have stories to tell, too. Only since the 1970s have women had the opportunity to compete on an even playing field in interscholastic athletics, medical schools, law schools, and dental schools...Miyares, if he has learned anything from his experience in this country, should know that liberty is not equally distributed.

Rather than lecturing Virginians on liberty, Miyares would do better to reexamine his motivation for establishing the Election Integrity Unit. After all, he admits openly what far too few Republicans—including all eight Republicans running for the U.S Congress in Virginia—will admit. There was no election fraud in 2020, and there is no evidence such fraud ever occurred in Virginia...Bravo to Miyares for saying this. But if there is no fraud, then why the Election Integrity Unit? According to Miyares, it's because "[t]here is no reason any Virginian should have any doubt walking into a voting

booth or mailing in a ballot. Wanting every Virginian to freely vote and to have absolute confidence in our democracy should not be controversial.” Right now, that “lack of confidence” is mostly felt by Republicans who continue to perpetuate the lie of voter fraud. If Miyares’ unit would make them feel better, let him have it.

But the unit is being created while Gov. Glenn Youngkin bounces around the nation stumping for some of the most rabid election deniers (Paul LePage in Maine and Kari Lake in Arizona to name just two) seeking office. By doing so, Youngkin continues to give oxygen to election-denying fire-breathers. Rather than ramping up units to search for fraud that doesn’t exist, let Miyares assure Virginians, loudly and often, that our elections are secure. That leads to election integrity. To do any less is to raise the possibility that more losing Republicans in two weeks will scream “voter fraud” if elections don’t go their way.

Royal Examiner: Gun safety, gun rights advocates disagree on effectiveness of new merchant code

Gun rights advocates fear a new merchant code for firearm purchases is an unnecessary attack on their civil liberties, while gun safety advocates say the code just levels the playing field. The International Standards Organization approved a petition from New York-based Amalgamated Bank last month for a new merchant code. According to its website, the ISO is a Geneva-based nonprofit with global members who establish best practices across a range of subjects...The new code allows for the separate categorization of firearm purchases...Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares joined 23 other attorneys general from across the country in a letter against the new merchant category. Miyares is against collecting and tracking private data by “big government and big businesses,” his office stated in an email comment. “This new policy will do little more than put Virginians’ privacy at risk,” Miyares stated, “and discourage law-abiding citizens from exercising their constitutional right to purchase a firearm.” The purchase of firearms should be “no one’s business but their own,” Miyares stated. “To reduce gun violence, we need to get violent, repeat offenders off our streets instead of tracking lawful purchases at Bass Pro Shop,” Miyares stated.

NATIONAL

EI American: The Hispanic vote will make history in this year’s elections

And we are already seeing the results. The Hispanic vote was crucial in Glen Youngkin’s victory for governor of Virginia, the state where Jason Miyares was elected as the first Cuban American Attorney General. Mayra Flores painted red the 34th district of Texas, traditionally Democrat, Javier Villalobos was elected as the first Republican in many years to become Mayor of McAllen, also in Texas, where John Lujan managed to flip the 118th district.

Radio/TV:

APPEARANCES

WCHV (Charlottesville) & AG Miyares [10.21.22]

WLNI (Lynchburg) & AG Miyares [10.21.22]

WAXM (Norton) & AG Miyares [10.21.22]

MENTIONS

WCAV (CBS) – Charlottesville, VA – News at 6

6:11:24pm: "...noticed Governor Youngkin's PAC has gotten more involved in the race, something Vega is taking advantage of. It's not just spending, you'll remember just last week Vega was campaigning in Orange County with Attorney General Jason Miyares. Coleman says the district [continues to] lean Democratic but says Republicans have a chance."

1510 Radio – Boston, MA – Revolution Boston

6:02:17pm: HOST: "I have a very special guest, Rickman Castle, who actually spent years going after the Sackler family and Purdue Pharma and he's going to tell us his story. Welcome Rick.

Rick: "I thank you Tony. It's good to be here. Thank you for inviting me. And because of a lawyer I've got some legal fine print that I need to say here at the beginning. So far, if you'll bear with me. I just wanted to make it clear that my statement and any statements and comments I make during this interview are my personal views and opinions and are in no way related to my current position with the Virginia Attorney General's office so that's the legal stuff that's out of the way and let's rock and roll."

6:28:19pm: "I had to cobble together an investigative team and, so, we had two agents from the Virginia Attorney General's Office's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. I had an agent from Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, I had defense criminal investigative services, so I had a couple of FDA agents, some of these guys were coming from Washington, like the FDA, so they weren't there full time you know. The HHS guy was coming from Roanoke down to Abingdon two hours away. I had, you know, the Department of Labor involved. Virginia State Police and West Virginia State Police so, I had several – I'm going to say, if I could get everybody in the same room – oh and the IRS – if I could get everybody in the same room at the same time which was rare you might, I might say the team was probably 10 [to] 12 people. The reality was, uh, everybody was part time except for the two Virginia Attorney General's Office Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigators. So, you know, you take 12 – I probably had had probably 5 people part time or 10 people part time – satisfy so, an equivalent of 7 investigators, myself as an attorney, and I started working full time on the case in [2006] and Randy was part-time."

Other Relevant News:

POLITICS

Richmond Times-Dispatch: Virginia Department of Elections awards contract for new voting information system

Following registration and mailing issues this month, along with letters from a concerned state senator, the Virginia Department of Elections announced the award of a contract in a years-long plan to replace its current voting technology. The Canton Group, a Baltimore-based software development company, was announced Monday afternoon and the new system is expected to go live in early 2025. The announcement comes after the department experienced a few issues this month.

WSET: VDH and Virginia Commonwealth University partner to launch an 'Opioid Cost Calculator'

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Center on Society and Health collaborated on the development of an opioid cost calculator. The calculator presents cost estimates of how much the opioid epidemic impacts Virginians in multiple categories: lost labor, healthcare, crime, household costs, state costs, and federal costs, according to VDH. The data from the calculator paints a more complete picture of the devastating impact of the opioid epidemic in Virginia, VDH said.

Cardinal News: Roanoke council election tests voter feelings on Democratic leadership

The email blast from a Roanoke political action committee made the historic case for the city's Republicans. "This is a generational opportunity for a new day in our beloved city," the email stated

near the end, after urging voters to cast ballots for four Republicans running for city council. The closing statement wasn't just the typical campaign hyperbole. Roanoke voters have not elected a Republican to city council in a generation . . . This year, Republicans are running a full slate of candidates for four seats in two separate races that include a special election to fill an unexpired term of a Democratic council member who was convicted of fraud and sentenced to prison.

CRIME/LEGAL

The Free Lance-Star: Spotsylvania School Board member files lawsuit against state Board of Education

Spotsylvania School Board member Nicole Cole filed a lawsuit seeking to void the superintendent's license issued to Mark Taylor, who is under contract to begin as the school division's new leader Nov. 1. Leesburg attorney Charles King, who is representing Cole and fellow plaintiff Aubrey Litchfield, the parent of a student enrolled in Spotsylvania County Public Schools, filed the petition in Richmond Circuit Court on Friday.

Virginian-Pilot: More than half a dozen bomb threats received at Hampton Roads schools; students sent home early

More than half a dozen high schools across Hampton Roads received bomb threats Monday, including four in Chesapeake. Deep Creek High School in Chesapeake received a bomb threat at 8:10 a.m., according to police. The building was evacuated and students were sent home for the day. Police, fire marshals and the Virginia State Police explosives detection K9s searched the building and grounds. Police say no explosives were found in or around the school.

Virginia Lawyers Weekly: No public right to access civil court records online

The public does not have a First Amendment right to remotely access civil court records, even though attorneys can access the records and they are publicly available at the courthouse, the Eastern District of Virginia has ruled in a case of first impression. The plaintiff challenged two state statutes: one which denies attorneys not admitted in Virginia from accessing court records online, and another which prevents the dissemination of records obtained online to third parties.

Free Lance-Star: Court date scheduled for parents requesting judicial review of School Board

Two Spotsylvania residents will be in court Thursday to request judicial review of the School Board's actions in hiring incoming Superintendent Mark Taylor. Jeffrey Glazer and Christina Ramos, who are the parents and legal guardians of children enrolled in Spotsylvania County Public Schools, are requesting "a temporary and permanent injunction against the hiring of Taylor." Taylor's contract with the Spotsylvania School Board takes effect Nov. 1.



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Subject: PRESS CLIPS 10.21.22

Categories: Election Integrity

Attorney General Jason S. Miyares
Press Clips: Friday, October 21st, 2022

Print Attorney General Mentions:

STATE

13 News Now: Virginia continues to receive payments for opioid epidemic settlements

Across the seven cities, Portsmouth had the highest death rate from opioid use in 2020... Here in the commonwealth, the first payment of \$67.4 million was received on Wednesday. This includes \$11.3 million for the state, \$16.3 million for Virginia localities and \$39.8 million for the Opioid Abatement Authority. According to Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares, the settlement also prevents Johnson & Johnson from selling opioids, lobbying for legislation that would benefit their company and promoting any third-parties. So far, Virginia has received payments from the other responsible parties as well. This means that the state has received more than \$100 million, and more is expected to come. "I'm thrilled that the money from these record-breaking settlements is on its way. My consumer protection section worked tirelessly to ensure that Virginians received the most funding possible and received it as quickly as possible," Miyares said in a statement. "This helps the Commonwealth and individual localities fight back against the opioid epidemic and reduce, prevent, and treat addiction."

WDBJ: Virginia invests \$5M to fight violent crimes in cities like Roanoke

Operation Ceasefire is an initiative from Attorney General Jason Miyares to combat violent crimes across Virginia. Roanoke is one of the cities taking part, and as many of you know is no stranger to shootings. Roanoke City Police Chief Samuel Roman is appreciative of the new funding and says it will help law enforcement be more successful. According to the AG, 5 million dollars were allocated for Ceasefire in the budget this year. The money will be invested in three different areas. One of those is hiring up to 6 violent crime prosecutors.

"With a specific emphasis on conspiracy cases, enterprise cases, and RICO cases. It would be great to have a prosecutor who can dedicate most of their time to these very long-term intricate but very impactful and powerful investigations," said Chief Roman. RICO cases are generally used to combat organized crime, with multiple people arrested at once for conspiring together. Chief Roman says most of the violence in Roanoke City is perpetuated by a small group of people. "And the message here is if you continue to do wrong or if you continue to involve yourself in criminal activity specific emphasis on violent criminal activity. We're coming after you," added Chief Roman. "We're coming after you with everything we have." Funds will also help start a program to protect victims and witnesses. "It's tough for them to come testify, be re-traumatized by what they endured, or either witness," explained Chief Roman. "So, any support monetarily that can be diverted into physical attributes of support for victims and witnesses. We're all for that."

The last strategy for the Office of the Attorney General is hiring 2 to 3 Group Violence Intervention Coordinators. Adding to some of the programs the department already has.

"Making sure that we are interjecting ourselves as role models, mentors for the young people as well," said Chief Roman. "Our prevention work is as important as our prosecution work as well." The ultimate measure of success for the operation is reducing gun violence in the city. But Chief Roman says it will take time. "A truly measure approach would be to look at it the long term and see if all of the things that we have put in place has led to the reduction in crime," said Chief Roman.

WJLA: Umstattd concerned about how Biberaj allegedly treats domestic abuse victims

In Loudoun County, Democratic Commonwealth's Attorney Buta Biberaj is losing support from some members of her own party. 7News WJLA-TV was the first to report Loudoun County Supervisor Kristen Umstattd's remarks at a Board of Supervisors meeting this week. At Tuesday's Loudoun County Board of Supervisors meeting, Umstattd (D) criticized how Biberaj handled a recent high-profile case that involved releasing an accused killer from jail. "I have to fact-check everything she says," Loudoun County Supervisor Kristen Umstattd told 7News WJLA-TV. "Before we start talking about fact-checking, please bring the evidence to the table," Biberaj told 7News. In a 7News interview, Umstattd, who represents Leesburg on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, raised several concerns about her fellow Democrat. Those concerns are now being shared publicly for the first time.

"Members of the board, myself included, have had concerns since January of 2021 about a year into Ms. Biberaj's term in office," Umstattd told 7News Reporter Nick Minock. "We have a domestic abuse response team in Loudoun County that includes members of the sheriff's office, nonprofits who work with victims of domestic abuse, and the Commonwealth's Attorney's office, as well as judges. Concerns were raised by a number of members of that response team that the Commonwealth's Attorney was not fully prosecuting domestic abuse cases and was not protecting the victims and did not seem to understand her obligation to protect the victims." Umstattd told 7News that the Board of Supervisors raised these concerns to Biberaj last year. "We raised these issues with her during our budget session in 2021," Umstattd told 7News. "After that, things did not get better. She [Biberaj] continued, she let go a man who had attempted to murder his wife. She let him go and he went back and he did murder his wife. She did not hold in custody a young man who raped a girl in one of our high schools. She released him he went back and sexually assaulted another girl in another high school." "There was a case with a serial burglar where she [Biberaj] was pulled off the case for lack of professionalism, and the judge stated he felt he could not trust her," said Umstattd.

"There was another case involving another sexual assault in which she was pulled off the case by another judge who made similar statements about lack of professionalism in the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and lack of integrity." "So it's been one thing after another straight for almost three years now," said Umstattd. "It's not getting better. We've had two discussions as a board with her about our concerns. We had hoped she would take those seriously. She [Biberaj] has paid lip service to victim protection but if you talk to her privately, what she says about victims is they can be very untrustworthy and she needs to get them back - she needs to get the abuser back into the home so the victim doesn't lose any family income. That is considered the worst possible approach to victim protection by people who work with victims all the time." "So I have just found over the years that I have to fact-check everything she says and most of the time if she is being defensive, she is not telling the full truth, and that has just played out time and time again," said Umstattd.

In an on camera interview, 7News Reporter Nick Minock presented Biberaj what Umstattd said before airing and publishing this story. "I will try to hit the 75 points that you [Umstattd] put out in that one statement," Biberaj said during a 7News interview. "So let's talk about a couple of things. For starters, anyone who has ever been involved in the criminal justice system understands that it is a complex process. For starters, let's talk about how the process starts. And that is done with an investigation by law enforcement. As prosecutors, we are limited by the evidence that we have as to what we can be able to show in court. We have no control over that." "The comments indicated that the board has on two occasions raised it to our attention that there is something that they wish to see differently," said Biberaj. "I will suggest this: I think in the course of a year, there's 365 days. We've

been in office for almost 1,000 days. For there to be two conversations with us is a missed opportunity for community leaders to make this a genuine issue. So I invite them, pick up the phone. Come, join me for lunch, I'll even pay for it. I'll be glad to have a conversation where you think that I am missing an opportunity to better serve our community." "I will stand on this: the quote by Ms. Umstatt indicating that I have ever made that statement about our victims is an outright lie," said Biberaj. "So, we want to call a spade a spade - we will do that. I have never had that as my statement because of this reason: under my leadership in this office, all we have done is focus on the rights of victims. You know why? Because they are the soul of our community. We are here for that very purpose."

"In domestic violence cases, it is a nationwide, a countrywide, it is a statewide problem as well as a Loudoun County-wide problem that less than 80% of those cases result in a conviction," said Biberaj. "And you know why? That's because the system is not set up to support victims in a way that we want to do that. That's what we've been trying to do is to focus on the front end, what services we can provide to the victims so that if they aren't able to use our system, that they can contribute more fully to the prosecution." "We received a grant in 2020 for that very sole purpose, so we could educate that community," said Biberaj. "So if anyone were to suggest to you that I am not victim-centric or I don't support our victim, I would suggest what you do is you come and you spend time with our office. We literally spent days, hours, weeks working with our victims. We have seven victim witness case managers, that was increased from four." "When I came to this office, our attorneys are up to six when it used to be two and that is the resources that I have invested in this very issue because on day one, that was my commitment to this community," said Biberaj. "We were not going to treat victims as a process. We're going to treat them as human beings."

"So I reject everything that she has indicated as to how we have not succeeded in this community," said Biberaj. "Because I will tell you this. I don't know anybody in that office, who has sat down with a victim and worked with them like my team has. I don't know anybody in that office who has sat down with a victim and cried with them when something has happened in court, that they did not expect to happen even if the person went to jail or didn't go to jail, because it tears lives up, and we are here with them." "So I welcome any member of the board of supervisors or any member of our community, who stands and wishes to suggest that we are not serving the best interests of our community," said Biberaj. "Please come by. Do not listen to these bits of rhetoric or these one liners. And these are all conclusory statements." "So we start talking about fact-checking, please bring the evidence to the table. We're all lawyers," said Biberaj. "Come to the table. Bring me your evidence. Otherwise, what it is, it's an unfortunate statement based on misinformation. Or maybe just intentional misinformation, I don't know but I welcome the opportunity to have that conversation. I'm going to continue to do the best doggone job I can for Loudoun County. You know what, I chose to take this job to do the job and I'll continue to serve our people because you know what: the people understand what we're doing." Biberaj has also defended herself from criticism from Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares. On Friday, Biberaj pointed to data she said was reported to the Virginia Attorney General's office on domestic and sexual violence in Virginia: 2021 Virginia Attorney General Domestic and Sexual Violence in Virginia 2021 Annual Report 1.

WSET: AG Miyares joins 19 state coalition launching investigations into 6 major banks

Attorney General Jason Miyares announced Wednesday that members of a multistate coalition including 19 attorneys general have served six major American banks with civil investigative demands, which act as a subpoena, asking for documents relating to the companies' involvement with the United Nations' (UN) Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA). The banks under investigation include Bank of America, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, and Wells Fargo. NZBA-member banks must set emissions reduction targets in their lending and investment portfolios to reach net zero by 2050. Missouri is leading the investigation, with Arizona, Kentucky, and Texas also serving as leadership states on this investigation. "The U.N.'s Net-Zero Banking Alliance, which includes American companies, punishes Virginia farmers and Virginia companies that deal with

fossil fuel-related activities. Virginians are not subject to UN business standards. That's why I've joined a coalition of attorney generals investigating six major American banks for ceding authority to a foreign body," said Miyares. In addition to Virginia, Arizona, Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas have joined the Missouri-led investigation into the six banks. Five other states have joined but can't be named due to state laws or regulations regarding confidentiality.

Virginia Mercury: Potential class-action suit seeks overtime pay for Virginia General Assembly aides

A former aide to Virginia Del. Marie March, R-Floyd, has filed a civil lawsuit against her onetime boss, claiming March asked her to do private work in a taxpayer-funded job and raising the prospect of class-action litigation on overtime pay for hundreds of legislative staffers. Tandra Lynn Blankenship, a Giles County resident who briefly worked for March over the summer, filed the suit last week in Richmond City Circuit Court. She's seeking a judgment of at least \$70,000 and court approval to initiate a class action that could involve 500 to 1,000 legislative aides whom Blankenship's lawyers argue may have been improperly denied overtime pay by the General Assembly. "State law requires that [legislative aides] be provided compensation for every hour worked," the complaint says. A woman who answered the phone at March's district office Thursday said the delegate had decided not to comment...The House of Delegates clerk's office, which handles some of the body's administrative functions but leaves individual delegates largely free to run their own offices, said it was looking into the matter and could not immediately comment. The office of Attorney General Jason Miyares also said it was looking into the issue. Neither the state nor March have filed a formal response in court.

WMAL: VA AG Miyares joins 19 state coalition in launching investigation into six major banks over ESG investing

"The U.N's Net-Zero Banking Alliance, which includes American companies, punishes Virginia farmers and Virginia companies that deal with fossil fuel-related activities. Virginians are not subject to UN business standards. That's why I've joined a coalition of attorney generals investigating six major American banks for ceding authority to a foreign body," said Attorney General Miyares.

WOAY: Virginia receives initial payment of \$67.4 million from Johnson & Johnson settlement

Attorney General Miyares announces the Virginia Commonwealth has received its first initial payment from the opioid manufacturer Janssen Pharmaceuticals, a Johnson & Johnson subsidiary. The initial payment of \$67.4 million includes approximately \$11.3 million for the state, \$16.3 million for Virginia's localities, and \$39.8 million for the Opioid Abatement Authority. The settlement also requires Johnson & Johnson to stop selling opioids in the United States, preventing them from lobbying on legislation, regulations, or activities related to opioids. Virginia has also received payments from a separate settlement with opioid distributors Cardinal Health, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen.

Virginia Mercury: Virginia joins multistate investigation into major banks' net-zero commitments

Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares is joining 18 other states in an investigation of six major American banks over their environmental, social and governance, or ESG, investing, citing harms to Virginia farmers and companies...In a news release from Miyares' office Wednesday, the first-term Republican attorney general said Virginia joined 18 other states in serving six major American banks with a civil investigative demand, which acts as a subpoena, for the institutions to produce documents related to their involvement with the United Nations Net-Zero Banking Alliance...Miyares in his release said the alliance includes American companies and punishes Virginia farmers and Virginia companies that deal with fossil fuel-related activities...The pushback against ESG investments has been spurred by Republican-led states including Florida, where Gov. Ron DeSantis has cast himself

as fighting the imposition of a “woke” mentality on businesses, and Texas, which has passed legislation requiring state pension funds to divest from companies that “boycott” energy companies. Lawyers told CNBC earlier this month that the independence of the banks likely protects them from charges of violating antitrust law, unless a coordinated effort among the members can be demonstrated... This August, Miyares announced Virginia would also join a Missouri-led investigation into ESG investing ratings companies Morningstar, Inc. and Sustainalytics for alleged violations of state consumer protection laws. In a release by the Office of the Attorney General, Miyares said there had been “credible allegations” that the companies “allow(ed) anti-Israel bias to infect the ESG ratings they provided to investors.”

Prince William Times: Indicted former Prince William County election chief launches fundraising effort to pay her legal fees

Former Prince William County elections chief Michele White is scheduled to appear in court again Friday morning on criminal charges related to her duties during the 2020 presidential election. But this time, White says, she'll have an attorney to defend her against what she now suspects are politically charged allegations against her. White was indicted by a grand jury Sept. 7 on charges of corruption, lying on a state form and neglect of duty in connection with her official duties. White, 51, of Occoquan, launched a GoFundMe account earlier this week to raise money for attorney fees, which she says she cannot afford to pay alone. As of Thursday morning, the fund had raised \$1,880 toward its \$40,000 goal... White last appeared in court on Sept. 23. During that hearing, she told Judge Carroll Weimer Jr. that she had not yet hired an attorney and asked to extend her trial to December or January. Weimer declined to extend the case that long and set another court date for Friday, Oct. 21. After the hearing, Virginia Assistant Attorney General Josh Lief, who is prosecuting the case for the commonwealth, declined to comment on the allegations behind White's indictment.

Richmond Free Press: Operation Bold Blue Line

What's the solution to the spate of shootings and violence that appears to be on the upswing in Richmond and across the state? Gov. Glenn A. Youngkin believes beefing up currently beleaguered and undermanned law enforcement agencies and investing in witness protection and local crime prevention initiatives is the best way to go. On Monday, the governor came to Norfolk to roll out Operation Bold Blue Line as he dubbed his action plan to address the apparent surge in violence that has increased local cries for help and support. His plan would mostly pour funding into police pay, recruiting and equipment in a bid to attract more people to carry a badge, though much of his proposal will need to wait for funding approval... His plan, though, does not include support for commonwealth's attorneys, the lawyers who prosecute crime, so they can fill their vacancies. That's the reason Norfolk Commonwealth's Attorney Ramin Fatehi participated in another event and was among many prosecutors who stayed away. He said he watched the press conference but felt the plan did little to address the problems prosecutors are facing, a shortage of staff.

“If the governor and attorney general wanted to help local prosecutors, they would support the full funding of local prosecutor's offices,” he said. Mr. Fatehi was disappointed that instead, the governor blamed him and others for contributing to the current conditions through what the governor described as a failure to prosecute to “keep violent offenders behind bars.” Such statements do nothing to address crime, Mr. Fatehi said, but instead just “widen the gap between the prosecutors who are doing this job every day and a non-lawyer like Glenn Youngkin or a man who spent two years mostly prosecuting misdemeanors like Jason Miyares.”

Royal Examiner: Attorney General Miyares joins bipartisan coalition to regulate abusive practices of pharmacy benefit managers

On October 18, 2022, Attorney General Jason Miyares joined a bipartisan coalition of 34 attorneys general from across the country in an amicus brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit supporting Oklahoma's laws regulating pharmacy benefit managers' abusive behavior (PBMs).

Oklahoma's laws regulating PBMs are similar to Virginia's and are being challenged in the latest of a string of lawsuits by the PBM industry's national lobbying association, the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA). Attorney General Miyares and the bipartisan coalition seek to protect Virginia consumers by assuring that Virginia and all states can regulate PBMs.

Radio/TV:

MENTIONS

WCAV (CBS 19) – Charlottesville, VA – News at 11

11:0043PM: "Tonight 7th district republican candidate Yesli Vega called on the state's top cop to help her campaign. Vega also responding to an audio recording when she purportedly said women who are raped can't get pregnant. CBS 19's Garrett Whitton was at the event and talked one-on-one with Vega."

Reporter: "Jason Miyares along with several local sheriffs came out in support of Vega at a 'back the blue' rally. Tonight's event focused on building community support for local police officers. Miyares and law enforcement appeared with Vega at the Madison at the Mill in Orange County to encourage supporters to vote early. I spoke with Vega about a number of her agenda priorities. I also pressed her about prior comments her opponent democrat Representative Abigail Spanberger has been highlighting in a recent ad. I asked Vega if she believes woman can't get pregnant from being raped, here's what she had to say."

Vega: "That is absolutely ridiculous. Those were never my comments. I think that it is despicable that she would use something as traumatic as that to score cheap political points. I am a law enforcement officer, I've worked those type of cases and I am pro-life, but i also believe in the three exceptions, the life of the mother and the horrible crimes of rape and incest."

Reporter: "Right now, UVA's Center for Politics says this race leans democrat, but republicans have been putting a lot of energy into winning the seat. Election Day is November 8th."

WAHU (FOX 27) – Charlottesville, VA – News at 10

10:01:57PM: "Candidate Yesli Vega calling in the Republican big names to help her on her campaign trail. FOX Virginia's Garrett Whitton was at the event and joins us in the studio – Garret."

Reporter: "Commonwealth's attorney Jason Miyares, as well as sheriffs from neighboring counties, joined Vega tonight at the Back the Blue rally. Tonight's event focused on building community support for local police officers. Miyares and law enforcement appeared with Vega at the Madison at the Mill in Orange County to encourage supporters to vote early. Their message: to remind people they have a say in the future of the country."

Vega: "You know, it's about reminding folks what's at stake, if they are happy about what's happened over the last two years, then perhaps I'm not their candidate. But based on the conversations that we are having tonight and just up and down the 7th district people want change. People are tired of my opponent's double standard, her lip service, and when we win on the 8th of November we are going to bring the change that we both desperately need and want."

Reporter: "Right now, UVA's Center for Politics says this race leans democrat, but republicans have been putting a lot of energy into winning the seat. Election Day is November 8th. You can cast an early ballot until november 15th. Live in the studio, Garrett Whitton, FOX Virginia News."

WCAV (CBS 19) – Charlottesville, VA – News at 5:30

5:34:21pm: "Keeping an eye on the Commonwealth now, Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares taking to the Washington Post to defend his decision to create an Election Integrity Unit, which he says aims to quote 'ensure legality and purity in election.' The unit's existence, announced back in September, has been criticized by media who say that it investigates a quote "fantasy offense" of widespread election fraud that conspiracists began to push after the 2020 election – an election that Miyares himself says was fair. Miyares argues the election integrity unit was not at all inspired by the

2020 election. In his op-ed, he says quote ‘the goal is to more efficiently work with the election community by creating a more cooperative and collaborative approach from our office’, and adds that the unit is a restructuring of lawyers and investigators already employed by the office and working on election matters. He claims no new tax dollars are used and no employee is taken away from other responsibilities. Back in September the Virginia NAACP called on Miyares to disband the unit and replace it with a task force focused on reducing voter suppression and intimidation, and increasing voter participation.”

Other Relevant News:

POLITICS

WVTF: To battle misinformation, more elections offices are hiring PR pros

In less than a month voters head to the polls for the Congressional midterms and municipal elections. Talk to local officials running those elections and they’ll tell you their job has become busier in the past few years – complicated by the fight against misinformation. Now local registrars are turning to communication pros to help wage that battle. A few weeks ago, notices went out to voters in Richmond who had been drawn into new districts. But some of those notices had a mistake. Keith Balmer, Richmond’s general registrar, notified the state department of elections, got the information fixed, and let the impacted voters know. But then, there was the backlash. . . . This is exactly why Balmer recently hired a full-time communication specialist, Katherin Cardozo-Robledo.

Culpeper Times: Culpeper chief violates personnel policy with Spanberger endorsement

Culpeper Town Police Chief Chris Jenkins seemingly violated the town’s personnel policy manual by appearing in uniform on town property in a new television political advertisement, endorsing Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger for reelection. The ad, called “Shocked,” shows Jenkins, a Republican, endorsing Spanberger for reelection in Virginia’s 7th District in his chief uniform at the Culpeper Town Police Station.

WTOP: Gov. Youngkin on new transgender policies: ‘It’s the law’

The public has only a few days left to comment on Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s proposed policy changes for transgender students in schools, and Youngkin is making it clear that he expects school systems to follow the changes once they are finalized. “It’s the law,” Youngkin said in an interview with WTOP. “We can’t be in a moment where people can just pick the laws they want to abide by and the ones they don’t.”

The DCist: Early voter turnout in Virginia is ‘relatively strong’ so far

With less than three weeks until Election Day, early voter turnout in Virginia for the November midterms appears to be on pace to surpass the last midterm election in 2018, itself a comparatively high turnout year. Early turnout is lagging a bit behind last year’s highly competitive gubernatorial race, though returned mail-in ballots are tracking similarly to 2021, per the Virginia Public Access Project. . . . This is the first midterm election in Virginia since a historic expansion of early voting access in 2020, which gave voters the opportunity to cast a ballot early without an excuse and also opened up 45 days of early voting.

WTOP: Voters in Northern Virginia towns receive notices with incorrect voting locations

Voters in several towns in Northern Virginia got notices that had incorrect voting location information. The towns are Clifton, Dumfries, Herndon, Occoquan, Quantico and Vienna. “Following the redistricting process, the Department of Elections mailed over 6 million voter notices to all registered voters in the Commonwealth. A second mailing of 176,000 notices was sent to voters whose original notice did not include their town district number or who had a P.O. Box,” the Virginia Department of Elections said in a statement, pinning the error to a “printing issue.”