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Richmond Times-Dispatch

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ELECTION 2023 | CONTINUING COVERAGE AT RICHMOND.COM

WATCH AND WAIT

Youngkin trailing in his bid to flip Va. Senate to GOP

MICHAEL MARTZ AND DAVE RESS
 Richmond Times-Dispatch

Virginia voters have spoken, and could be about to deny Gov. Glenn Youngkin's high stakes — and high-dollar — bid to flip the Democratic-led state Senate he has blamed for frustrating key elements of his agenda.

Partial results, with thousands of votes still uncounted in a handful of main battlegrounds, show Democrats appearing to have fended off Youngkin's bid for a Republican majority in the Senate, with a chance for either a 50/50 House of Delegates or a Democratic majority coming down to three races in Henrico County, James City County and Virginia Beach. Tens of thousands of early votes remained to be counted.

Early results before 10:30 p.m. showed Democrats winning or leading with significant margins in 20 of 40 Senate seats, Republicans in 18, with one to two seats still up in the air, one in the Williamsburg area and one in Virginia Beach. In the House of Delegates, Democrats led in 49 of the 100 districts, Republicans in 47.

Youngkin put his influence on the line in an effort to flip the Senate to the GOP and hold control of the House. He hoped to enter the second half of his four-year term with an ambitious agenda to turn Virginia to



MIKE KROPP, TIMES-DISPATCH

Gov. Glenn Youngkin speaks to reporters outside Nuckols Farm Elementary School in Henrico County during Election Day on Tuesday. The Virginia election has attracted national attention.

the right on abortion and other hot-button social issues, while preserving his own options. Youngkin continues to say he is focused on Virginia, but has not explicitly ruled out a late run for the GOP presidential nomination next year.

The election drew national attention, in part because of Youngkin's attempt to build consensus around his proposal

Please see **YOUNGKIN**, Page A6

ELECTION 2023

INSIDE

- Strong turnout reported at some Richmond-area polls. **Page A3**
- Gregory holds lead over Ford for Henrico sheriff. **Page A4**
- Gibson, Owen in a House race in Henrico too close to call. **Page A6**

MORE ONLINE: Use your smartphone camera to scan this code to see updated election coverage from *The Times-Dispatch*, including photos and videos from Election Day. Visit us for video recaps about the casino referendum at 9 a.m. and the General Assembly makeup at noon.

NEWSVU

Casino plan goes down in defeat

8th, 9th were only districts to vote yes

EM HOLTER
 Richmond Times-Dispatch

The political action committee for the developers of a proposed \$562 million South Richmond casino said Tuesday that it accepted defeat after voters for a second time failed to support plans for the entertainment and gaming complex.

The Richmond Grand Resort and Casino was projected to bring 1,300 permanent jobs, a 250-room hotel, a 55-acre park and \$30 million in local tax revenue.

On Election Day, voters in all but the Eighth and Ninth districts rejected those plans, which fell short by about 13,185 votes even as Richmonders closest

Please see **CASINO**, Page A6

VanValkenburg claims Senate seat for Dems

CHARLOTTE RENE WOODS AND ERIC KOLENICH
 Richmond Times-Dispatch

Del. Schuyler VanValkenburg, D-Henrico, ousted Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant, R-Henrico, Tuesday night dealing a severe blow to Gov. Glenn Youngkin's push to flip Democratic control of the chamber.

In another hard-fought Henrico contest, Del. Rodney Willett, D-Henrico, won re-election, topping Republican challenger Riley Shaia.

In a closely watched Petersburg-area House race, Del. Kimberly Taylor, R-Dinwiddie, was in a tight contest with Democrat Kimberly Pope Adams that was still too close to call by print deadlines.

Please see **VANVALKENBURG**, Page A6

School board vote close in Hanover

ANNA BRYSON
 Richmond Times-Dispatch

Results from Hanover County's elected school board referendum were heading down to the wire.

The "yes" votes were at 52% and the "no" votes were at 48% as of 10 p.m. Tuesday as the county's registrar's office had only reported results from 12 of the county's 37 precincts.

If voters approve the referendum, Hanover residents would,

for the first time, elect their School Board members, instead of the current process in which each member of the Board of Supervisors appoints a School Board member for their district.

After several years of trying to get the issue to a vote, organizers in favor of an elected school board finally collected enough signatures required to put the item to a referendum this year — 10% of the number of votes cast in the county in the preced-

ing presidential election, which equaled about 8,500 votes.

Hanover is one of 13 Virginia localities that appoint their School Board members as opposed to electing them. Most Virginia school systems have switched to elected school boards since it was first allowed by the General Assembly in 1992.

The committee advocating for an elected school board, called Hanover Citizens for an Elected School Board, raised \$10,305 in

donations between July 25 and Sept. 30, according to the Virginia Public Access Project. All of the donations were relatively small and from individual donors.

Meanwhile, the opposition, Keep Hanover Students First, raised a total of \$51,577 in campaign donations between Aug. 21 and Sept. 30. The Hanover Republican Committee donated about 70% of that total.

Please see **REFERENDUM**, Page A7

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Ukrainian president rules out holding presidential vote in spring

PAGE A14

Weather
 Partly sunny, not as warm
High 69
Low 51
 FORECAST • A10

A News	Business	A12	B Sports	C Food
Lotteries	A2	Stocks	A13	Scoreboard
Opinions	A11	Obituaries	A16	B2
				Comics
				C5
				Marketplace
				B6
				Television
				C6

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NICOLAS GALINDO, TIMES-DISPATCH

Voters cast ballots at Woodland Springs Baptist Church in Richmond on Tuesday. Virginia was among four states with legislative elections this year.

Strong turnout surprises Richmond-area registrars

LUCA POWELL
Richmond Times-Dispatch

It's a tricky year for comparing turnout numbers. Voters had a number of boxes to check on Tuesday's ballot, including referendums for school boards, legislators, prosecutors and other local positions.

This year is the first double-off year election — meaning no presidential or gubernatorial names were on the ticket — where early voting is in play.

Nearly 800,000 voters did vote early, taking advantage of a 45-day window for early voting either in-person or by mail. That's around 75% of the group that did so in 2021.

This year, Gov. Glenn Youngkin urged Republicans to vote early, seeking to counter a narrative since mail-in and early voting were questioned by former President Donald Trump in 2020.

Hanover County Registrar Teresa Smithson said her short-staffed precincts had to handle an unusually high number of same-day registrations. "It has been very, very busy," Smithson said. "A really good turnout."

Voters in Hanover decided whether the county's School Board members should be elected or appointed. Currently, School Board members are designated by the Board of Supervisors. Seats on the county Board of Supervisors

were also up for grabs, with four being contested.

In Richmond, General Registrar Keith Balmer said turnout was "certainly higher than my projections."

Balmer cited high turnouts in Richmond's West End, the Forest Hills neighborhood on the South Side and Church Hill in the East End. The big-ticket item on most Richmonders' ballots was whether to approve the \$562 million Richmond Grand Resort and Casino.

At one point Tuesday, Balmer sent a precautionary batch of back-up ballots to the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church precinct after more than 680 voters turned out in-person by 11 a.m.

Voters who spoke to the Richmond Times-Dispatch at the precinct said they were either anti-casino or ambivalent. Allen Chamberlain, a former librarian and teacher, said she voted no after thinking about Rosie's gaming emporium on Midlothian Turnpike, which she said did not change the neighborhood very much despite being "still very much a casino."

In Richmond's Museum District, voter Carl Gattuso said: "I'm for a casino, as long as it's well-managed."

Mark Kambourian, a local rug dealer, said he came out to vote against the casino. "It's a pet project of someone I don't like: the mayor," Kambourian said.

In Henrico County, Dep-

uty Registrar Anne-Marie Woodward said turnout in Henrico varied widely. Numbers in the Varina District were as low as 6%. The Board of Supervisors seat there is uncontested. The seat is currently held by Tyrone Nelson.

But precincts in Tuckahoe and Three Chopt bustled. Those precincts had legislative races on the ballot, including the hotly contested matchup between Democrat challenger Del. Schuyler VanValkenburg, D-Henrico, and Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant, R-Henrico. By 12:30 p.m., Woodward clocked a 26% turnout at the Moreland precinct in the Tuckahoe District, and 24% at Knuckle's Farm in Three Chopt.

Chesterfield County Registrar Missy Vera said turnout was more regular, but underscored the difficulty of making any comparisons with the numbers at hand.

"I have nothing to base anything off of," said Vera, referencing the differences in early voting and ballot makeup.

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SEE: a video of voter Terrence Rice talking about his Election Day experience in Richmond. Aim your smartphone camera at the code and tap the link. **NEWSVU**

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Public Notices

THE HENRICO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN THE GOVERNMENT CENTER AT PARHAM AND HUNGARY SPRING ROADS, 7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

BROOKLAND:

REZ2023-00011 Christine McGuirt: Request to conditionally rezone from B-2 Business District and R-5 General Residence District to UMU-PD Urban Mixed-Use Planned Development District Parcels 773-736-2198 and 773-736-6272 containing 37.247 acres located at the southeast corner of W. Broad Street and Willow Lawn Drive. The applicant proposes a mixed-use development with residential uses. The uses will be controlled by zoning ordinance regulations and proffered conditions. The 2026 Comprehensive Plan recommends Commercial Concentration, Office, and Environmental Protection Area. This site is located in the Enterprise Zone.

FAIRFIELD:

REZ2023-00029 Christopher & Marlene Otto: Request to rezone from B-1C Business District (Conditional) to R-4 One-Family Residence District Parcel 782-745-3120 containing 0.17 acres located at the northwest intersection of Dumbarton Road and Bloomingdale Avenue. The applicant proposes to convert an existing structure from an office to a single-family home. The use will be controlled by zoning ordinance regulations. The 2026 Comprehensive Plan recommends Suburban Residential 2, density should not exceed 3.4 units per acre.

VARINA:

REZ2023-00030 Carlson Environmental Consultants, PC: Request to amend proffers accepted with C-051C-01 on Parcel 813-711-8407 located on the north line of Charles City Road approximately 340' northwest of its intersection with Glen Alden Drive. The applicant proposes to amend proffers regarding concept plan, building materials, access, and outdoor storage. The existing zoning is M-1C Light Industrial District (Conditional). The 2026 Comprehensive Plan recommends Planned Industry. The site is located in the Airport Safety Overlay District.

The meeting will be livestreamed at <https://henrico.us/supervisors/next-meeting/>, and the public will be able to participate in person or remotely. Individuals who would like to speak can sign up at <https://henrico.us/services/citizen-participation-registration/>. After registering, individuals will receive a confirmation email with instructions. Registration is not required to participate. The meeting is open to the public.

A copy of the zoning staff reports and associated information are available for examination in the Planning Department, County Administration Building at Parham and Hungary Spring Roads between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. each business day, and online at <http://www.henrico.us/planning/>.

Given under my hand this 26th day of October 2023.

Tanya N. Brackett, Clerk

Cooper wins, Schmitt leads in Henrico races

SEAN JONES
Richmond Times-Dispatch

A look at the Henrico County Board of Supervisors seats:

Brookland District

Supervisor Dan J. Schmitt faced challenger Stephen Allen Rast II.

With 14 of 16 precincts reporting Tuesday, Schmitt held a 25-point lead. He had 62% of the vote.

Schmitt was elected during a 2018 special election. He has a background in event logistics, having founded his company RMC Events Inc. in 1999. It now has over 2,000 employees serving 11,000 events per year.



Schmitt



Rast

Fairfield District

Three candidates threw their hat into the ring to take over following the retirement of 28-year veteran Frank J. Thornton.

Fairfield's School Board member Roscoe Cooper has won the area's supervisor seat. With 22 of 23 precincts reporting, he held 67% of the vote. The next closest candidate, Delta Bowers, had 17% of the vote.

Cooper has served as the district's School Board representative for the past eight years, having graduated from Henrico High School. He has also been the pastor of Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church in the district for two



Cooper



Bowers

decades.

Three Chopt District

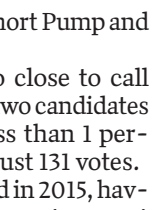
Incumbent Thomas M. Branin took on challenger Misty D. Whitehead in the district that includes Short Pump and Innsbrook.

The race was too close to call Tuesday night. The two candidates are separated by less than 1 percentage point — or just 131 votes. Branin was elected in 2015, having grown up in the western part of the county. He served as the district's planning commissioner before winning his race for School Board.

Branin voted for several tax relief programs during his first term. He also helped es-



Branin



Whitehead

establish a program to give tax exemptions to low-income seniors.

Whitehead is a sole practitioner for her own law firm that specializes in family law, criminal defense, juvenile law and social justice advocacy.

She graduated from high school at 16 and enlisted in the military before later working two jobs while attending college and raising a family.

Tuckahoe District

The district will have a new supervisor for the first time since 1995, after the retirement of Pat O'Bannon. She endorsed planning commissioner Gregory R. "Greg" Baka to replace her.

Baka and Jody Rogish were neck-and-neck with all but one precinct reporting Tuesday night. They are separated by 160 votes out of



Baka

18,625 total cast.

Baka said he has advocated for business growth while working with neighborhood groups, homeowners associations and engaged citizens on land issues.

Rogish challenged for the district seat. He has a background in government information technology and government policy. He is currently a consultant for Impact Makers, where he serves the Virginia Department of Corrections as an IT project manager.

His major campaign issues were full funding of schools, maintaining vibrant parks and green spaces, retaining a top-tier workforce for the county and prioritizing public safety.

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Rogish

Incumbent Gregory holds lead for Henrico sheriff

SEAN JONES
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Three incumbents hold leads over their challengers in Henrico County's constitutional office races. Two are in strong positions, while the third has just a slender lead.

Henrico Sheriff Alisa Gregory holds a strong lead over challenger Harold L. Ford. The two faced off in the 2019 Democratic primary when Gregory won. She has a 29-point lead with 64% of the vote with 88 of 91 precincts reporting, according to the Virginia Department of

Elections.

Gregory rose through the ranks in the Henrico Sheriff's Office starting as a deputy over 20 years ago. She led the office through the COVID-19 pandemic when jails and courts were challenged with social distancing and electronic legal processes.

She also presided over deputies who pinned 28-year-old Irvo Otieno to the ground at Central State Hospital in March, leading to his death. That legal situation is ongoing. Henrico Commonwealth's Attorney Shannon L. Taylor is reporting a 20-point lead over her

Republican challenger Shannon L. Dillon. Taylor has 59.8% of the total vote with 87 of 91 precincts reporting.

Taylor has served as the county's commonwealth's attorney since 2012 and oversees the office with a staff of 40 attorneys and 82 total employees.

Her platform included priorities to keep Henrico safe from violent crimes, prosecuting hate crimes, stopping domestic violence, protecting the vulnerable and directing addicted people to recovery rather than jails.

Henrico Clerk of Courts Heidi Barshinger holds a

slender lead over challenger Gray Montrose. She had 51% of the vote with 88 of 91 precincts reporting. Barshinger has led the clerk's office since 2016.

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Former city official, wife sentenced for fraud

SAMUEL B. PARKER
Richmond Times-Dispatch

A former senior manager at the Richmond Department of Public Works was sentenced Tuesday for defrauding the city by steering governmental contracts toward himself and his wife, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia announced Tuesday. Officials said Michael Evins, 67, and his wife, Samaria Evins, 52, were sentenced to 27 months in prison and 8 months of home incarceration, respectively, after the two pleaded guilty to fraud charges in July.

Between 2016 and 2021, Michael Evins used his position as a senior manager in the department to direct at least \$603,701 in funds to straw companies set up and operated by Samaria Evins and other co-conspirators, according to officials. The DPW lost approximately \$226,762 as a result, officials said.

One example of fraud cited by officials was an incident wherein Michael Evins approved a requisition order for a company owned by Samaria Evins to mow overgrown foliage at Parker Field 16 times in four days, at a total cost of \$4,800.

Officials said the Evinses also fabricated projects and tampered with bidding processes to ensure that straw companies held by Samaria Evins were awarded contracts.

A co-conspirator, Shaun Lindsey, who was a senior administrative technician at DPW, pleaded guilty in the same scheme on May 9 and will be sentenced on Nov. 14, officials said.

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Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR ELECTRIC POWER STORAGE BATTERIES AND FOR CERTIFICATION OF A PROPOSED BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM CASE NO. PUR-2023-00162

On September 18, 2023, Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia ("Dominion" or "Company") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") an application ("Application") to participate in the pilot program for electric power storage batteries ("Pilot Program") pursuant to § 56-585.1:6 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), the Commission's Guidelines Regarding Electric Power Storage Battery Pilot Programs and Rule 80 A of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"). Through the Application, the Company presents three battery energy storage systems ("BESS") projects (designated BESS-4: Evaluation of Two Co-Located Nonlithium-Ion Technologies; BESS-5: Outage Mitigation and Grid Support Through a Microgrid Capable BESS; and BESS-6: Long Duration Energy Storage in a Behind-the-Meter Application) for deployment as part of the Pilot Program. Dominion requests the Commission issue an order granting permission to participate in the Pilot Program by March 31, 2024.

The Application states that the Grid Transformation and Security Act of 2018 ("GTSA"), among other things, directed the Commission to establish the Pilot Program, a program under which the Company must submit proposals to deploy electric power storage batteries. The GTSA established permissible objectives of the Pilot Program; established a five-year duration for the Pilot Program; set the size of the Pilot Program; and provided for recovery of the Company's reasonable and prudent costs incurred under the Pilot Program through base rates.

Through BESS-4, the Company proposes to install an 8.94 megawatt ("MW") BESS-4 pilot facility comprised of two nonlithium-ion technologies. The Company states that BESS-4 seeks to accomplish the following statutory objectives: (ii) improve integration of renewable resources; and (iv) reduce the need for additional generation during times of peak demand. The projected cost for BESS-4 is approximately \$70.6 million.

Through BESS-5, the Company proposes to install a 1.9 MW / 3.8 megawatt-hours ("MWh") alternating current ("AC")-coupled BESS. The Company states that BESS-5 seeks to accomplish the following statutory objectives: (i) improved reliability of electrical transmission or distribution systems; (ii) improved integration of different types of renewable resources; (iii) deferred investment in generation, transmission, or distribution of electricity; and (iv) reduced need for additional generation of electricity during times of peak demand. The projected cost for BESS-5 is approximately \$6 million.

Through BESS-6, the Company proposes to install a 1.5 MW / 15 MWh AC-coupled BESS. The Company states that BESS-6 seeks to accomplish the following statutory objectives: (i) improved reliability of electrical transmission or distribution systems; (iv) reduced need for additional generation of electricity during times of peak demand; and (v) connection to the facilities of a customer receiving distribution service from the utility. The projected cost for BESS-6 is approximately \$14.4 million.

To the extent required by the Commission, the Company also requests a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate BESS-4 as a generation asset at the Company's Darbytown Power Station, pursuant to Code § 56-580 D and the Commission's Filing Requirements in Support of Applications for Authority to Construct and Operate an Electric Generating Facility. The Company states it is installing BESS-5 and BESS-6 to address ordinary distribution grid operational issues and considers these improvements to be "ordinary . . . improvements in the usual course of business" under Code § 56-265.2 A 1.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Application and supporting documents for the details of these and other proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on the Company's Application. On January 24, 2024, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner assigned to this case will hold a telephonic hearing, for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before January 17, 2024, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on January 24, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On January 24, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Application from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission's Staff.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the public version of the Company's Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Jontille D. Ray, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or jray@mcguirewoods.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the public version of the Application and other documents filed in this case from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before January 17, 2024, any interested person may submit comments on the Application by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00162.

On or before December 7, 2023, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00162. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before December 21, 2023, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00162.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Rules of Practice.

The public version of the Company's Application, the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

Youngkin

From A1

to bar most abortions after 15 weeks with exceptions for rape, incest and the life of the mother. Virginia is the only state in the South that has not imposed additional abortion restrictions since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. A year ahead of elections for president and Congress, politicians watched to see how the issue played in Virginia's swing districts.

Suburban districts in western Henrico County, the Fredericksburg area, Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia were the key to the battle for control of the legislature. There, Democrats said they'd defend abortion access while Republicans said they'd focus on crime and parents' rights.

Votes from the unofficial election night tallies came in later than usual because of heavy early voting. Some results could be modified as outstanding mail-in ballots are counted in the days to come and won't become official until city and county officials complete their canvass. That is a double- and triple-checking of election night counts and review of provisional ballots, which are due on Monday.

"These are gonna be really tight races," Youngkin said at a Henrico County elementary school about an hour before polls closed. "I think these races are gonna be decided by hundreds of votes."

Election day started with the Democrats running in 18 apparently safe Senate seats and Republicans in 16, leaving six hotly contested swing districts. In the House, Democrats appeared

to begin with 45 safe seats and Republicans with 44, leaving 11 competitive seats in the balance.

In the Richmond area, Youngkin lost the crucial seat of Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant, R-Henrico, who was defeated by Del. Schuyler VanValkenburg, D-Henrico. Del. Kim Taylor, R-Dinwiddie, was in a close contest with Democratic challenger Kimberly Pope Adams in a Petersburg-area contest.

Redistricting

The final outcome will define a legislature already transformed by a new political redistricting process that prompted an unprecedented number of senior legislators of both parties to retire, including 10 in the 40-member Senate.

The governor's Spirit of Virginia political action committee raised \$28.3 million through Friday and through October it gave \$15.1 million to Republican candidates and GOP groups backing the party's candidates. The Democratic caucuses in the House and Senate gave candidates \$23.3 million.

The GOP aimed to flip a state Senate where a 22-18 Democratic edge had frustrated Republican hopes to limit access to abortion and overturn red flag laws aimed at keeping guns out of the hands of people who had threatened others or themselves.

Democrats hoped to take back control of the House of Delegates, where Youngkin's 2021 election also overturned the 55-45 Democratic majority of the 2020 and 2021 session, giving the GOP a 52-48 edge in 2022 and 2023.

In the state Senate, the election started with 21 newly drawn dis-

tricts from the 2021 redistricting composed mainly or entirely of areas that had been represented by Democrats and 17 mainly made up of areas that had been represented by Republicans. Two were drawn from districts that had been represented by senators from the two different parties.

In the House of Delegates, 51 newly drawn districts were made up mainly or entirely from districts that Republicans had represented, compared with 48 made up of Democratic districts.

Key races

Dunnivant, a two-term Republican senator, trailed VanValkenburg 52.7% to 47.1%. VanValkenburg's lead was about 3,000 votes with 26,452 early votes still to be counted, unofficial election night tallies showed.

In a Williamsburg-to-Newport News district that Youngkin pushed hard to flip to the GOP, retired York-Poquoson Sheriff Danny Diggs, the Republican, had a 51-vote lead over state Sen. Monty Mason, D-Williamsburg, with more than 2,400 early votes still to be counted.

In Northern Virginia's Loudoun County, where Youngkin's "parents' rights" campaign mantra took fire in the 2021 gubernatorial race, Democrat Russet Perry led Republican Juan Pablo Segura, 52.7% to 47.1% with more than 90% of early votes counted and 96% of precincts reporting.

In a three-way race in a Stafford County-area district, Del. Tara Durant, R-Stafford, was leading Democrat Joel Griffin and independent Monica Gary, 51.3% to 43.2% to \$4.7%, but Durant's margin of roughly 3,600 votes was a fraction of the 23,600 early

votes yet to be counted.

In the newly drawn western Tidewater and Southside Senate district mashing together areas that had been represented by legislators from both parties, Del. Emily Brewer, R-Suffolk, was leading Del. Clinton Jenkins, D-Suffolk, 52.8% to 47.2%, with a 3,700 vote margin but with 9,200 early votes uncoun-

ted. House of Delegates battlegrounds included the Petersburg-area district where Democrat Kimberly Pope Adams, a financial compliance officer at Virginia State University, was leading Del. Kim Taylor, R-Dinwiddie, by a margin of 800 votes, or 51.6% to 48.4%, with 84% of precincts reporting and 2,875 early votes still to count.

In Henrico County, Democrats focused on defending two new districts mainly composed of areas Democrats represented.

Democrat Susanna Gibson was running just 24 votes ahead of Republican David Owen, with 84% of precincts reporting and 12,000 early votes still to count, Gibson ran a low-profile campaign after a GOP operative disclosed that she and her husband had live-streamed sex acts on the internet. Gibson called disclosure of the videos an effort to distract voters from key issues, including access to abortion.

Del. Rodney Willett, D-Henrico, was leading Republican Riley Shaia 53.1% to 46.8%, a 1,400 vote margin with all precincts reporting but with 10,400 early votes still to be counted.

Other battlegrounds included the Virginia Beach neighborhoods that gave first-term Republican Del. Karen Greenhalgh a 115-vote victory margin in 2021.

She was leading Democrat Michael Feggans 51.7% to 48.3%, or by about 500 votes, with more than 8,700 early votes still not counted.

Around Fredericksburg, Democrat Josh Cole, a former delegate, won back a district that included much of the one he represented in the 2020 and 2021 legislative sessions. After raising more than \$3.8 million for his campaign Cole defeated Republican Lee Peters, who raised \$2.2 million, with 15,064 votes, or 52.6% of votes cast to 13,479 votes or 47.7% with all precincts reporting and all early votes counted.

Redistricting left a new House district — the Hampton Roads district split between Suffolk and Chesapeake — formed in almost equal numbers of areas that had been represented by delegates from the two different parties.

Republican Baxter Ennis was leading Democrat Karen Jenkins, a Suffolk school board member, 50.7% to 49%, a less than 400 vote margin, with more than 5,700 early votes still to be counted.

Northern Virginia's Prince William County was another battleground. There Democrats hoped to defend two House districts, each largely comprising older areas represented by Democrats.

Republican Ian Lovejoy flipped one seat, defeating Democrat Travis Nembhard 15,810 votes, or 52.6% to 14,179, or 47.2%.

Democrat Josh Thomas defeated Republican John Stirrup, 13,561 votes, or 51.5% to 12,571, or 48.3%.

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Casino

From A1

to the planned site voted overwhelmingly for it.

With all precincts reporting, 58% of voters cast no ballots and 41% cast yes, according to unofficial results from the state Board of Elections. Voter turnout was 43%.

Developers Urban One and Churchill Downs Inc. spent a record \$10 million with a door-to-door campaign aimed at boosting voter turnout.

"We are proud to have run a community-centered campaign to create more opportunities for residents of this great city to rise into the middle class," said Richmond Wins, Vote Yes, the pro-casino political action committee, in a release issued just after 9 p.m. Tuesday.

The project planned at 2001 Walmsley Blvd. and 4700 Trenton Ave. had the support of Mayor Levar Stoney, the Richmond NAACP, local and national unions, several local church officials and all but one City Council member.

Those in support highlighted the potential job creation, increase in tax revenue and opportunity as a major development for the city and the economically depressed South Side. An agree-

ment with the city would have provided an upfront payment of \$25.5 million and an additional \$1 million once financing had closed.

City officials said revenue would be put toward child care services. At a news conference this year, Stoney outlined the child care plan that would have put forward an initial \$26.5 million to build two new child care centers and then \$19 million yearly investment into a child care trust fund.

"The alternative is us trying to find ways through raising taxes, using the revenues that we currently have," Stoney said in September in response to the city's child care plans if the project failed.

Following the project's defeat, Stoney said he "will work for more accessible and affordable child care, for good paying jobs and for an abundance of opportunities for all Richmonders — no matter their ZIP code."

Voters rejected plans for a similar project two years ago by a smaller margin.

The view at polling locations

At Hickory Hill Community Center on Tuesday, greeters in "Richmond Grand" purple shirts welcomed voters.

Corey Gills, a longtime South

Side resident, said he voted against the first referendum. This time, he said, he voted for it because of the promise of good-paying jobs with benefits.

This year, he said, "it's the right time."

Those in opposition, composed primarily of grassroots community organizations, said the developers would exploit the surrounding area, which is predominantly poor and Black.

Matt Wild, also a Hickory Hill voter, said he did not support the project because it felt "predatory" and "gross." He cast his ballot against the casino as he said there is a lot of potential in South Richmond for more locally based developments like "mom-and-pop shops" and restaurants.

While Walmsley Boulevard was lined with Richmond Grand Resort and Casino signs, across the James River in the city's Museum District, it was a different sight. Outside of the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, anti-casino signs outnumbered those in support of the development.

In the first referendum vote, precincts in the Fan, Museum District and West End carried the no vote. This year, all but two districts were opposed.

At Thomas Jefferson High School, voter Samantha Barnett said she "came out explicitly to vote against the casino." Barnett

said her family grew up in Atlantic City, New Jersey, where they had a firsthand look at how casinos affect communities.

"We literally watched this happen," Barnett said. "I know there are messages about economic development, but they are putting this casino in one of the poorest neighborhoods in the city."

A rush to the finish line

The defeat comes the week after the casino developers had to apologize to Paul Goldman, a longtime political analyst and No Means No Casino political action committee chair, after a radio show host on a station owned by Urban One used antisemitic remarks about him.

"This is a victory won by the people," Goldman said Tuesday night. "The public, the good people of Richmond said enough is enough, we don't want or need this in our city, and we are moving in a new positive direction."

Stoney, who denounced the host's comments, also weighed in on whether remarks by Cathy Hughes, founder of Urban One, might impact the election.

"Obviously, they were inflammatory and we hope that whether you're on the pro-side or the anti-side, that we never get to a point where there's negative comments going back and forth," Stoney said.

In mid-June, the City Council resurrected the project, voting 8-1 to bring it back on the ballot. The vote also established Urban One and Churchill Downs as the chosen developers — a decision that later sparked controversy as opponents of the project took it to the courts to contest the no-bid process.

The courts delayed the addition of the referendum to the ballot before, ultimately ruling that the city did not violate Virginia state codes.

Council member Katherine Jordan, who represents the city's 2nd District, where most of the opposition vote came from both cycles, was the only member to vote against it.

Virginia lawmakers approved legislation in 2020 for five casinos to be constructed. Casinos have opened in Bristol, Portsmouth and Danville, and one is planned in Norfolk.

Urban One CEO Alfred Liggins told the Richmond Times-Dispatch editorial board last month that if the Richmond project failed, he believed it would be up to the state to determine where the next proposed casino would be decided on.

"I think that this project will go somewhere else," Liggins said.

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VanValkenburg

From A1

"Senator Dunnivant and I disagreed about many issues, but we both want to make Virginia a better place to live, work, and raise a family," VanValkenburg said in a statement Tuesday night. "She has represented this community in the State Senate for eight years, and I applaud her for her dedicated public service.

"Voters have chosen a new path forward with a bold vision for the future of Virginia."

Three Henrico-anchored contests — the Senate race in District 16 and House contests in District 57, where Republican David Owen was in a tight contest with Democrat Susanna Gibson, and the Willett-Shaia race in District 58 were among the handful of competitive contests around the state that offered each party the chance at a majority in both chambers.

Dunnivant vs. VanValkenburg

Senate District 16 was crucial to both parties this year. With Republicans having hoped to flip the Senate to GOP control, Dunnivant's seat was vulnerable. Redistricting had removed from the district a portion of conservative Hanover County. As a result, the district leans more Democratic.

The contest, like others in suburban swing districts, was a test of Democrats' push to protect Virginia's current abortion law — which allows the procedure through the end of the second trimester — and Youngkin's push to prohibit most abortions after 15 weeks. The proposal has exceptions for rape, incest or when the pregnant person's life is at risk from a pregnancy, but it does not include an exception for fetal anomalies, which are most often fully diagnosed after 15 weeks of gestation.

Though Dunnivant, an OBGYN, has expressed support for Youngkin's proposed 15-week limit, she said she would seek to add an exception for fetal anomalies.

Tom Casey, who cast votes for Owen and Dunnivant, felt Democratic candidates didn't speak to a wide variety of issues. Too often, he said, their messages focused on abortion and nothing else. He wanted to know their positions on law enforcement, immigration and inflation.

"I hate to vote party," he said Tuesday evening outside Deep Run High School in western Henrico. "I like to vote issues."

Casey, 83, said he considers himself an independent conservative and mostly votes for Republicans these days, even though he was raised a Democrat.

But the topic of abortion did

drive votes. Dhruv Thakkar said he voted for Democrats, with abortion and education issues driving his decision making.

Another voter at Deep Run, who declined to give his name, said he cast votes for Democrats VanValkenburg and Gibson in large part because he supports abortion rights.

"There are less crazy people on the left than the right," he added.

Two others at Deep Run said they didn't care for VanValkenburg's negative ads toward Dunnivant or the fact that Gibson had appeared in pornographic videos online.

Adams vs. Taylor

In House District 82, which includes the city of Petersburg and Dinwiddie, Prince George and Surry counties, Adams raised about \$2.7 million and Taylor raised \$2.5 million.

The district is one of the most competitive in the state. It backed Youngkin by 2 percentage points in his 2021 bid for governor, and then-Rep. Donald McEachin, D-4th, by about 1 point last year.

Taylor, who was first elected in 2021, ran a campaign focused on economic development. She cited her efforts to tear down the blighted Ramada Inn near Interstate 95 in Petersburg and Youngkin's Partnership for Petersburg — a wide-ranging effort to improve the city's health outcomes,

education, crime and more. She also called for maintaining gun rights, keeping law enforcement well funded, imposing harsher punishments on opioid dealers and supporting parents' rights to make decisions on how their children are educated.

Youngkin campaigned with Taylor in the district and made a number of other trips to the city, working on his public-private Partnership for Petersburg.

During Adams' campaign, she repeated her position on abortion; she supports the current state law. She also cited the need for affordable housing. In a radio ad, she described herself as a proud gun owner but called for expanded background checks.

She frequently mentioned her local background. Her father worked at the Hercules chemical plant in Hopewell — now Ashland Inc. Adams lives in Dinwiddie and works at Virginia State University as an auditor and accountant.

She said there aren't many single moms in the General Assembly, and she ran because she didn't see many people who looked like her in elected office.

Willett vs. Shaia

Willett, D-Henrico, warded off Republican challenger Shaia, a fitness instructor and small business owner.

While most GOP candidates campaigned on "parents' rights"

to give parents more authority in public education curriculum and student policy, abortion was one of the most discussed issues this election cycle. Unlike most of her GOP counterparts, who supported Youngkin's proposed a 15-week limit, or never took a public stance on the matter, Shaia sided with Democrats on supporting current law.

Willett, who shared campaign offices with VanValkenburg, focused the closing days of his campaign on the Democratic push for laws aimed at helping to reduce gun violence and noted the work his party made in the issue in previous years. Willett also has considered himself to be a moderate Democrat that is able to work with Republicans on issues.

"The people of Henrico made it clear tonight that they want a Delegate in Richmond that is pragmatic and works across the aisle to get things done," he said in a statement Tuesday night. "That was what our campaign was about and that is what I look forward to continuing to do in the House of Delegates."

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Gibson, Owen House race too close to call

CHARLOTTE RENE WOODS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Democrat Susanna Gibson and Republican David Owen were in a close contest Tuesday night in a Henrico County-based House district that made international news after disclosures that Gibson and her husband streamed sex acts online.

House District 57, which includes a part of Goochland County, was always going to be a competitive race between Gibson, a nurse practitioner, and Owen, a long-time homebuilder and former part owner of Boone Homes. The Henrico-anchored district was among perhaps 12 to 15 tight races around the state that will determine partisan control of each chamber.

As of 9 p.m., Owen and Gibson had fought to nearly a standstill in the Henrico part of the district, with two Henrico precincts out. But none of the four precincts in the more conservative Goochland part of the district had reported. In addition, more than 12,000 early votes had yet to be tallied.

Gibson made few public appearances following disclosure of the videos on Sept. 11. She continued to campaign, asserting on social media that her candidacy was key to protecting abortion rights. The closeness of the contest could be an indication that the abortion rights issue resonated in the district. Owen supports Gov. Glenn Youngkin's proposal to bar most abortions at 15 weeks, with exceptions for rape, incest and the life of the pregnant person.

Gibson and Owen were both first-time candidates. The open seat was a chance for Owen to fortify GOP control of the House of Delegates or for Gibson to bolster the Democratic ranks. During this year's legislative session, Republicans held a four-seat edge in the House of Delegates.

Following the news of the videos, Gibson continued to knock on doors, but attended significantly fewer events and her fellow Henrico-area Democrats stopped campaigning with her. The Democratic Party of Virginia declined to com-

ment on Gibson for the remainder of the campaign, but it continued to donate to her effort.

Republicans were banking on voters seeing the news of the videos as a disqualifier for Gibson. The state GOP sent mailers to voters in late October that included screenshots and quotes from the videos.

An Owen win could signal that the sex scandal hurt her with some Democratic and independent voters. A Gibson victory could be a sign that the abortion issue trumped the scandal for a majority of voters.

Though he's new to running for office, Owen has been involved with the Home Builders Association of Virginia, which has lobbied the state legislature. In line with his party, he supports parents having more authority in public education policies and curriculum as well as support for law enforcement.

In a March recording, made surreptitiously by an abortion-rights activist at a campaign event, Owen discussed how the structure of the legislature would have to change if anything further than 15 weeks



MARGO WAGNER, TIMES-DISPATCH

Angel Perkins and her daughter, Leah Perkins, vote at the Fire Engine House polling location on First Avenue on Tuesday.

were to be feasible. Owen said that he was going to have "conversations" with Sen. Siobhan Dunnavant, R-Henrico, about "what we can do when it comes to changing the laws we have."

In September, a GOP operative leaked news of the Gibson videos to The Washington Post. Though the content wasn't widely known

prior to the leak, it had been posted online and its audience grew as the story went international.

Owen remained silent on the matter and focused on his own campaign.

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Davenport, Hughes lead in Chesterfield races

THAD GREEN
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Chesterfield Commonwealth's Attorney Stacey Davenport is sporting a 52.5% to 46.9% lead over challenger Erin Barr as of 8:50 p.m. Tuesday, according to Virginia Department of Elections tallies. With 73 of 87 precincts reporting, Davenport, a Republican who has served as the county's lead prosecutor since 2019, is looking to win a second term in the wake of receiving public reprimands earlier this year.

This February, a Chesterfield judge reprimanded Davenport and Chesterfield Police Chief Jeffrey Katz for engaging in a public disagreement stemming from Davenport declining to prosecute Virginia Beach pastor John Blanchard for solicitation.

Blanchard was arrested in Chesterfield County during a police sting in October 2021.

In April, Davenport was publicly admonished by the Virginia State Bar for violating trial publicity rules after issuing a news

release about murder suspect John H. Howard before his trial began.

Davenport edged out Tom McKenna in the June Republican primary with 51% of the vote.

Barr, an independent, is a senior commonwealth's attorney in Colonial Heights who previously worked as assistant commonwealth's attorney and deputy commonwealth's attorney in Chesterfield.

"I started this campaign with a deep commitment to our com-

munity, public service, and the justice system," Barr said. "I am proud of the campaign we have run, and I have been so honored to have the support of so many in the community. Regardless of the outcome, I will continue to serve the community as I am called and always dedicate my career to public service."

Commissioner of the Revenue

Democrat Jenefer Hughes,

Chesterfield's current Commissioner of the Revenue, leads her Republican opponent Rick Ferrell 55.7% to 44.1%.

Hughes won a special election in 2017 to become commissioner and was reelected in 2019.

Ferrell retired from his position as assistant fire chief for Defense Supply Center Richmond earlier this year to run for commissioner.

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Hanover, Ashland council races are too close to call

SAMUEL B. PARKER
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Hanover County voters went to the polls Tuesday to elect the next members of a Board of Supervisors that already was shaken up by two incumbent defeats in primary races and one incumbent resignation.

In the Ashland District, incumbent Faye Prichard — first elected to the board in 2015 and the board's only current Democrat — looked to stave off a challenge from Republican Yael Levin. As of press time, the contest was too close to call; Prichard led Levin by less than 2%, with one precinct still left to report.

The Ashland Town Council race also was too close to call.

As of press time, Steve Trivett (18.18%), Pamela Sopall (17.10%), Anita Barnhart (16.69%), Kathy Abbot (15.04%) and Darry Edwards (11.65%) led a crowded field of contenders for seats on the five-person council.

Elsewhere across Hanover, contests for the Board of Supervisors were also too close to call by press time. But several of the races were uncontested, making them tantamount to election.

Republican Jeff Stoneman was running unopposed in the Beaverdam District.

Stoneman initially lost to Robert Monolo in a November 2022 primary election to replace long-time board member Bucky Stanley, who died while in office in December 2021. Stoneman returned for another primary bid in June and bested Monolo by a narrow margin of 52 votes.

Incumbent Republican Michael Herzberg had no challenger for the Cold Harbor District. Herzberg was first elected to the board in 2019.

Incumbent Republican Sean Davis also faced no challenger for the Henry District seat. Davis was first elected to the board in 2011.

The Chickahominy District seat is guaranteed to feature a new face after Angela Kelly-Wicek, who was first elected to the board in 2011, in September announced she would resign from her post to serve in Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration.

Republican Danielle Grieshaber Floyd and independent Hope Prince were both looking to replace Brent Hemlick, who was appointed to replace Kelly-Wicek through the end of her term. Hemlick was not running.

Results for the contests for all seven seats on the Board of Supervisors were not available by press time.

Chesterfield County school board elects newcomers

THAD GREEN
Richmond Times-Dispatch

In the Chesterfield school district, all five school board seats were contested in the general election, with at least three districts set to welcome new members.

As of 9:45 p.m. Tuesday, no races had been officially decided, according to the Virginia Department of Elections.

Bermuda

Incumbent and current school board chair Ann Coker leads challenger Antonia Saunders 55% to 44.5% with 14 of 15 precincts reporting.

Clover Hill

Dot Heffron, the only other incumbent running for reelection, holds a 58.9% to 40.6% edge over Millie Corsoro with 14 of 20 precincts reporting.

Dale

Dominique Chatters is up 57.5% to 42% over opponent Charletta Barringer-Brown in the Dale District with 14 of 18 precincts reporting.

"I am proud of the race we ran.

We ran on my record of service to the Dale District and the community," Chatters said. "I wanted Dale to have a choice on the ballot. I am grateful for the countless parents, teachers, educators, family and friends that believed and supported me throughout this process."

"I am passionate about providing every child with an opportunity for an exceptional education," Barringer-Brown said. "I believe that we must work together to create the best possible future for our children. I thank all who entrusted confidence to cast their vote for me as a candidate for the school board for the Dale District."

Matoaca

With 14 of 18 precincts reporting in Matoaca, the school division's only three-way race shows Steven Paranto leading Traci Franssen and Calvin Richardson with 51.8% of the vote.

"Our parents matter and so do our special education students," Paranto said. "I will advocate and work tirelessly to bring forth the changes needed for all our students, teachers and parents."

Franssen checks in at 36.1%, while Richardson stands at 11.7%.

"Our campaign was focused from day one on common sense policies so that every student can access their individual path to success," Franssen said. "That work doesn't stop regardless of the results tonight."

"No matter what happens in the race, I am proud of taking the step to run," Richardson added. "I am thankful for all the support I received and I enjoyed meeting and talking to constituents in the Matoaca District."

Midlothian

The closest Chesterfield school board race has Lisa Martin Hudgins holding a 52.7% to 47% advantage against Laurant Lee in Midlothian with 17 of 20 precincts reporting.

"We are eagerly awaiting the election results, and at this time, things are looking promising," Hudgins said. "I look forward to serving the people of Chesterfield County."

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Clover Hill candidates locked in tight race for supervisor

THAD GREEN
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Chesterfield County's Clover Hill District is engaged in a competitive race for a Board of Supervisors seat.

With 14 of 20 precincts reporting within the district, Republican incumbent Chris Winslow is entangled in a three-person battle that sees Democrat Jessica Schneider leading the pack with 45.4% of the vote.

Winslow trails with 41%, with independent Greg Allen carrying 13.2% of the tally, according to the Virginia Department of Elections, as of 10:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Bermuda District

Republican Board of Supervi-

sors Vice Chair Jim Ingle leads Democrat Lindsey Dougherty 52.1% to 47.6% with 14 of 15 precincts reporting.

Matoaca District

Republican and current board Chair Kevin Carroll is ahead of independent Chip Carbiener 62.1% to 36.5% with 14 of 18 precincts reporting.

Midlothian District

Democrat and current Midlothian Supervisor Mark S. Miller is leading Republican Jim Williams III and independent Erin Phelan with 49.5% of the vote.

"I'm cautiously optimistic," Miller said. "The numbers look good, but we're going to wait for

the official results."

Williams holds 41.4% of the vote and Phelan has 8.8% with 17 of 20 precincts reporting.

"Running for the Board of Supervisors has been an amazing experience, and one like no other. I wouldn't trade it for anything," Phelan said. "This is democracy in action, and your involvement is essential, so please stay involved and continue making your voice heard."

The other Democrat on the board, Jim Holland, will return as Dale District supervisor after running unopposed in Tuesday's election.

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Referendum

From A1

Supporters of an elected school board in Hanover say that the ability to elect members to the board promotes democracy by giving voters the chance to choose who they want to represent them. The group contends that an elected school board provides more transparency around candidates and promotes discussing decisions made by the board.

The opposition says opening an election process would allow money from outside interests to begin affecting school policies because running an election



SEAN JONES, TIMES-DISPATCH

Grassroots group Hanover Citizens for an Elected School Board is campaigning to have the county school board changed from appointed to elected.

campaign requires money.

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