



15 in '15: Races to Watch

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Kentucky Statewide Office

Kentucky is the only state this year featuring just statewide elections with its legislative races taking place in even years. Democrats currently hold a majority of Kentucky's statewide offices.



Jenean Hampton - Kentucky Lieutenant Governor

@hamptonforky

Jenean Hampton was born on Detroit's west side in 1958. After high school, Jenean worked in the automotive industry for five years to help pay for college, and earned an Industrial Engineering degree from Wayne State University in 1985. Shortly after graduation she joined the U.S. Air Force as a computer systems officer, writing computer code and testing software. After being honorably discharged as a Captain, Jenean began a 19-year career in the corrugated packaging industry. While working full time, Jenean earned an MBA from the University of Rochester.

She is a member of Eleventh Street Missionary Baptist Church, and a member of many local organizations including the American Legion, The Civil Air Patrol, and the Bowling Green Women's Club.

Jenean would serve as the first African American elected to statewide office in Kentucky history and become the second Republican lieutenant governor since 1971.

Learn more: http://www.mattbevin.com/meet_jenean

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Republicans flipped the chamber in December 2010 after many Democrats switched parties before the 2011 elections, securing the first Republican majority in this chamber since Reconstruction.

Julie Emerson - Louisiana House District 39

@julieemerson

After receiving her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Louisiana, Julie went on to earn an MBA from the University of South Carolina. From there she founded Lagniappe Communications Group, a communications and public relations firm. She has worked with the Republican Party of Louisiana and attended the 2008 national convention. In 2012, she was elected to represent Louisiana at the Republican National Convention and currently serves as an elected member of the Republican State Central Committee.



Julie is a member of First Baptist Church in Lafayette, where she has served on the Committee on Missions. In 2013, she was nominated by the Louisiana Baptist Convention and confirmed by the national Southern Baptist Convention to serve on the Board of Trustees of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Julie is challenging a single-term Democrat who won by less than 850 votes in 2011.

Learn more: <http://www.julieemerson.org/>



MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Republicans hold a 67-54 majority in the chamber, flipping the House in 2011 for the first time since Reconstruction.



Shane Aguirre – Mississippi House District 17

@shanemsrep17

A native of Tupelo and Lee County, Shane is a graduate of Mississippi State University and University of Mississippi School of Business. From there he began to work in the finance sector. He is currently a Regional Controller at Community Eldercare Services in Tupelo; a company that manages nursing facilities in Mississippi and Tennessee. In 2009, Shane was selected as the Department of Mississippi American Legion Boys State Director.

A champion of education reform, Shane hopes to create strong public schools across the state. Furthermore, Shane hopes to expand economic development through limited government.

Shane is of Mexican descent and would be the first Latino legislator in the Mississippi state House. He is running for an open Republican seat.

Learn more: <http://www.shaneaguirre.com/>

MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE

Republicans hold a 32-20 supermajority in the chamber.

Jenifer Branning – Mississippi Senate District 18

A lifelong citizen of Neshoba County, Jenifer Branning is a practicing attorney in Philadelphia, Mississippi. She received both her BA and MBA from Mississippi State University. Since graduating law school from Mississippi College School of Law in 2004, she has clerked for the Mississippi Secretary of State, as well as Hon. Cynthia L. Brewer. For the past eleven years, Jenifer has been dedicated to assisting small businesses in the establishment and expansion of entities all over central Mississippi.



Jenifer currently serves as a board member for Hope's House, Inc. a nonprofit serving foster children all over the state. Jenifer also spent several years as court-appointed Guardian ad Litem, representing the interests of abused and neglected children for Neshoba and Winston Counties.

Jenifer's extensive education, well-established business law practice and fervent desire to see her community prosper have well equipped her to provide conservative leadership and traditional values. Jenifer is running unopposed in a bid for an open Republican seat.

Learn more: <http://www.branningforsenate.com/>



VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Republicans currently hold a 67-33 supermajority in the chamber.



Sang Yi - Virginia House District 37

@sangyi

Sang emigrated to the United States from South Korea in the mid-1980s. He is a graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, the U.S. Naval War College, and the George Washington University Law School. Sang has used his extensive education in various sectors of the Federal government, beginning with the Department of Defense and moving to his current position as a staffer in the U.S. House of Representatives. Additionally, he has served our nation as a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Reserve for the past 12 years. In

2014, Sang was awarded a Fellowship at the Wilson International Center for Scholars.

He currently serves as the President of the Korean American Republican Party of Virginia, and until recently was the 2nd Vice Commander of American Legion Post 177.

Sang is the only Korean American running in an emerging Korean district. He is challenging a 10-year Democratic incumbent.

Learn more: <http://sangyifordelegate.com/>

Anna Urman - Virginia House District 43

@annaurman

Anna Urman is the Director of the Procurement Technical Assistance Program. Prior to joining PTAP, Anna was the Director of the South Fairfax Small Business Development Center, where she was responsible for training and counseling businesses on all aspects of planning and management, from start-up to successful growth. She is the current President of Tactical Insight, LLC, a boutique consulting practice specializing in procurement policy analysis for select national and international corporations.



Anna has a BA from Hofstra University and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center, and has performed post-graduate work in Government Contracts Law and Intellectual Property Law at George Washington University Law School. Anna is a member of the Leadership Fairfax (LFI) Class of 2014.

Anna is a Jewish immigrant from Belarus challenging Democratic incumbent Mark Sickles, his first main party challenger since 2009.

Learn more: <http://www.annaurman.com/>





Jason Miyares - Virginia House District 82

@jsrmiyares

A native of Virginia Beach, Jason is the son of a Cuban exile and a graduate of James Madison University and William & Mary Law School. After law school he became a corporate real estate attorney before moving on to serve as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, where he had a 95 percent conviction rate. In 2009, Jason served as campaign manager for Congressional Candidate Scott Rigell, who won with one of the largest margins of victories of any challenger in the entire 2010 cycle.

He currently serves as a Partner at Madison Strategies, which provides strategic consulting to small businesses.

Jason wants to bring conservative leadership and accountability to Richmond while fighting for fiscal discipline and government transparency.

He is attempting to hold onto this open Republican seat and become the first Cuban-American to serve in the chamber. This seat is being targeted by Democrats who lost it by over 19 points in 2013.

Learn more: <http://jasonmiyares.com/>



Danny Vargas - Virginia House District 86

@dvargas

Danny Vargas is a noted business and community leader, accomplished media commentator, and national political analyst. A Puerto Rican raised by a single mother in New York, he is the Founder and President of VARCom Solutions, a nationally-recognized, award-winning marketing communications, technology and management consulting firm. He has appeared on Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, Univision, Telemundo, PBS and others. A veteran of the Air Force, Danny has been dispatched by the U.S. State Department to various countries to appear

in the media and in forums discussing the U.S. political process.

He was appointed by Virginia's Governor to chair the Virginia Board of Workforce Development, and was appointed by Congress to a commission studying the creation of an American Latino Museum within the Smithsonian Institution. Danny served as Chairman of the Board of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce.

He is running for an open Republican seat and would be the first Latino to hold it. Democrats are heavily targeting this district, having only lost it by 54 votes in 2013.

Learn more: <http://vargasforvirginia.com/>





Chuong Nguyen - Virginia House District 87

@chuong4delegate

A native of Vietnam, Chuong received his Bachelor's Degree from Harvard University. Upon graduating from Harvard, Chuong taught Greek and Latin to high school students. He also coached lacrosse, led kayaking and rock climbing adventures and other outdoor programs. Chuong then attended law school at the University of Richmond and was chosen by Justice Carrico to serve as law clerk in the chambers of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Clerking for Justice Carrico affirmed his

legal education and provided the insight to demand equity, uphold propriety and assert justice.

In Loudoun County, Chuong served as Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney where he worked to keep our families safe by prosecuting drug dealers and other violent criminals. Chuong now works in a private lawpractice and enjoys living in Loudoun County.

He would be the first Vietnamese American to hold this seat, which is being heavily targeted by Democrats.

Learn more: <http://www.chuongfordelegate.com/>

Lara Overy - Virginia House District 93

@lara4va

Lara earned her Bachelor's Degree from The College of William and Mary as a mother of three children. After graduating she became a Lead Annual Giving Officer at W&M. For two years, she served as Executive Director of the Educational Foundation and Director of Development at Tidewater Community College before going to Thomas Nelson Community College as Director of Development.



Lara is currently President of the Virginia Symphony Society of Greater Williamsburg. Additionally, she is a member of the 2015 Lead Peninsula class, Daughters of the American Revolution, a graduate of the James City County Citizen Leadership Academy, served as a Citizen Representative on the Regional Issues Committee appointed by the James City County Board of Supervisors and served many years on the board of Inclusion Inc., a Williamsburg non-profit benefiting children.

Lara is challenging a one-term Democrat incumbent who won by less than 1,100 votes in 2013.

Learn more: <http://www.lara4va.com/>



VIRGINIA STATE SENATE

Republicans currently hold a slim one-seat, 21-19 majority in the chamber. It is the most heavily targeted chamber by Democrats for pickup this year.



Amanda Chase – Virginia Senate District 11

@chaseforsenate

Amanda Freeman Chase grew up in Bon Air, Virginia. In 1992, she graduated from Virginia Tech in the top 10 percent of her class, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business, double majoring in Corporate Finance and Business Management. She is a small business owner and has served in numerous management positions in both the private and public sectors in the banking, credit and finance industry.

After her first child was born, Amanda took a professional break to raise and homeschool her children. She served on a neighborhood steering committee that led efforts to protect the community.

She has experience working for Congressman Randy Forbes, Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, Governor Bob McDonnell and former Majority Leader Congressman Eric Cantor.

Amanda is a first-time candidate running for an open Republican seat.

Learn more: <http://www.chase4senate.com/>

Siobhan Dunnivant – Virginia Senate District 12

@Dunnivant4VA

The daughter of a military veteran, Virginia native Dr. Siobhan Dunnivant was raised in Hampton Roads. She earned undergraduate degrees from both Randolph-Macon Woman's College and the University of Virginia and her medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School.



A small business owner, she helped start her OB/GYN practice 15 years ago and has spent her career finding innovative and creative solutions to advance her field. Siobhan has served on the legislative committee of the Medical Society of Virginia, Board of Directors for the Medical Society of Virginia, Governor's Board for Maternal and Fetal Medicine, Virginians Improving Patient Care and Safety, Little Sisters of the Poor and the Parish Council at St. Bridget Catholic Church.

She is running for an open Republican seat.

Learn more: <http://www.dunnivantdelivers.gop/>





Nancy Dye - Virginia Senate District 21

@nancydyeva

Dr. Nancy Dye is a retired surgeon who, along with her husband Kevin, cofounded a medical device manufacturing company which brought several products to market. As a dedicated civic leader, she has been active with countless charitable organizations and schools in the area – including the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors and serving as Chairwoman of Roanoke’s Mill Mountain Advisory Board. She also serves on the Hargrave Military Academy Board of Trustees and volunteers at the Northwest Child Development Center. In the past

she served on the boards of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Ferrum College and the Military Family Support Center.

She has served the Boy Scouts of America, Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and Mill Mountain Zoo in many capacities. An active member of Crystal Spring Baptist Church, Nancy is the volunteer Outreach Director.

Nancy is challenging a Democrat incumbent for this heavily competitive seat.

Learn more: <http://www.nancydye.com>

WASHINGTON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

While Republicans now control the Washington Senate, they are one seat away from a split chamber in the House. The Washington House Republicans have made net gains of seats in the last five election years.

Teri Hickel - Washington House District 30B

@hickel4staterep

Teri recently completed 15 years as the Executive Director of Advancing Leadership, an organization that transforms people into community leaders. She spent a dozen years with the Federal Way Chamber of Commerce, serving as an interim CEO for one and a half years. Furthermore, Teri is a 20-year member of Citizens for Federal Way Schools in a diverse district where students speak over 120 languages.



She believes all students deserve the best learning environments and tools to ensure future success. Her community awards include the “Key to the City,” school district outstanding volunteer of the year (four times), Seahawks Community Quarterback award, and the Federal Way Community Garden Golden Shovel for outstanding board work.

Carrying 51.74 percent of the vote in Washington’s unique primary system in August provided a preview of November’s special election. First-time candidate Teri represents the Republicans’ chance of reducing the Democratic majority to a split chamber in the state House.

Learn more: <http://terihickel.com/>



WISCONSIN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Despite being targeted by Democrats for pickup, the Wisconsin House Republicans expanded their majority to 63-36 in 2014. The 63 seats were the most won by Republicans in the chamber since 1957.



Cindi Duchow - Wisconsin House District 99

@Duchow4assembly

Cindi is a lifelong resident of her community and a dedicated public servant. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin, and worked in management for several large national retailers and running a small business with her husband on Lake Michigan. Cindi ran for office and was elected twice to the Town of Delafield Board of Supervisors.

Cindi is a lifelong member of St. Anthony's Church, Leadership Circle Member - Republican Party of Waukesha County, Past Chairman's Circle Member - Republican Party of Waukesha County, Member and past President of the Volunteer Service Club of Pewaukee Lake and former board member of Waukesha Youth Hockey Association.

Cindi's commitment to making the district a better place has led her to run to fill a vacancy in the State Assembly.

She is running in a special election to be held September 29, 2015.

Learn more: <http://www.cindiduchow.org/>





Paid for by the Republican State Leadership Committee. Learn more at www.rslc.gov

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