



## Senate Email Addresses:

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[Sen. John Bell](#): District 13  
[Sen. Jennifer Boysko](#): District 33  
[Sen. Amanda Chase](#): District 11  
[Sen. John Cosgrove](#): District 14  
[Sen. Bill DeSteph](#): District 08  
[Sen. Creigh Deeds](#): District 25  
[Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant](#): District 12  
[Sen. Adam Ebbin](#): District 30  
[Sen. John Edwards](#): District 21  
[Sen. Barbara Favola](#): District 31  
[Sen. Emmett Hanger](#): District 24  
[Sen. Ghazala Hashmi](#): District 10  
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[Sen. Jen Kiggins](#): District 07  
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[Sen. Mamie Locke](#): District 02  
[Sen. Louise Lucas](#): District 18  
[Sen. David Marsden](#): District 37  
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[Sen. Jennifer McClellan](#): District 09  
[Sen. Ryan McDougle](#): District 04  
[Sen. Jeremy McPike](#): District 29  
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[Sen. Lionell Spruill, Patron](#): District 05  
[Sen. Bill Stanley](#): District 20  
[Sen. Richard Stuart](#): District 28  
[Sen. David Suetterlein](#): District 19  
[Sen. Scott Surovell](#): District 36  
[Sen. Jill Holtzman Vogel](#): District 27

[Staff for District 38](#)

## VML Contact:

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# Oppose Mandatory Shift from May to November Elections for Virginia Localities

## Issue Brief

Across Virginia, 44 percent of cities and 57 percent of towns hold their local elections in May, rather than November. These localities choose to separate their elections from those for state and federal offices for a variety of reasons – doing so keeps the focus of local elections on local issues and keeps the cost of campaigning more accessible for new candidates. The option to hold elections in May gives localities the flexibility they need to best meet the needs of their communities.

[SB1157 \(Spruill\)](#) proposes to mandate that all localities hold their elections in November.

## Concerns

The coincidence of local elections with those at the state and federal level inherently raises the level of partisanship of all elections, regardless of whether candidates are running without any party affiliation. By the same token, it introduces partisan politics to nonpartisan local issues; political parties make little difference when it comes to community projects like paving roads and keeping the streetlights on.

To that end, running local, state, and federal elections simultaneously makes it more difficult to keep voters informed. Media attention leading up to November becomes more focused on statewide and national issues, leaving less time and space for discussion of local candidates and issues. This also raises the cost of campaigning for local candidates – especially for candidates new to the field – who have to compete for name recognition from the bottom of an even longer ballot.

## Contact senators to join VML in opposing SB1157.

Tell senators that forcing localities to combine local, state, and federal elections...

- Inserts partisanship into the discussion of nonpartisan local issues;
- Draws attention away from local issues in favor of state and federal campaign positions;
- Makes it harder for voters to stay informed; and
- Increases the barriers to both running for office and winning a campaign for new candidates.