

Just the Facts

2026 Referendum Bill (passed) in the General Assembly and can be found here: <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB1384>

Related Proposed Legislative Action re Referendum Ballot Transparency and Readability (Failed): <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB1419>

On January 16, 2026, the General Assembly passed HJ4, proposing an amendment to Article XII, Section 1 of the Virginia Constitution to permit early voting. Under Article XII, Section 1 itself, a constitutional amendment does not take effect until the people vote on it — and the Governor's proclamation sets that vote for April 21, 2026.

The Virginia General Assembly has scheduled early voting to begin on March 6, 2026. This is 46 days before the Virginia Constitution's 90-day waiting period allows, which does not expire until April 16, 2026, just five days before Election Day. [Article XII, Section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia provides that no proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters sooner than ninety days after final passage by the General Assembly].

This is not a partisan issue. It is a rule-of-law issue. No government should enforce a law before that law exists. As such, several Virginia localities have scheduled for the consideration of a resolution that, if passed, will not allow for early voting on the proposed constitutional amendment referendum.

Virginians Draw the Future.

Fair districts protect every voice across the Commonwealth. Learn what gerrymandering is, why it undermines fair representation, and how Virginia voters can stand together for maps that serve the people.

Why This Matters

Every election in Virginia should reflect the will of the people. The way voting districts are drawn determines how communities are represented in Richmond and in the U.S. Congress. When district lines are manipulated for political advantage, voters lose their power and elected officials gain it.

Fair representation is not a partisan issue. It is a constitutional principle. Whether you live in Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads, the Shenandoah Valley, or Southwest Virginia, your vote should carry equal weight and your community should not be divided for political gain.

Virginia voters deserve transparent, fair, and constitutional district maps that reflect real communities, not political strategies.

What Is Gerrymandering

Gerrymandering happens when voting district boundaries are drawn in a way that gives unfair advantage to a political party, group, or incumbent. Instead of voters choosing their representatives, representatives effectively choose their voters.

This can happen in several ways:

- Communities are split apart to weaken their voting power
- Unrelated areas are grouped together to create predictable outcomes
- Districts are drawn to protect incumbents rather than represent citizens

The result is the same regardless of which party is responsible. Elections become less competitive, voter voices are diluted, and public trust in the system declines.

Constitutional Principles

The Constitution and the foundational principles of representative government are built on equal protection and fair representation. District maps should never be engineered to predetermine outcomes or favor one group of voters over another.

Fair districts support:

- Equal representation under the law
- Transparent and accountable government
- Competitive and meaningful elections
- Public trust in democratic institutions

Regardless of political affiliation, most Virginians agree on a simple standard: voters should choose their elected officials, not the other way around.

What's at Stake on **Apr 21, 2026**

Proposed changes to Virginia's constitution and redistricting process could shape how district maps are drawn for years to come. These decisions will affect representation at every level of government and will influence how fairly communities across the Commonwealth are represented.

This is not about political parties. It is about protecting the integrity of the process and ensuring that **district maps serve the public, not political interests.**

Understanding how redistricting works and how it affects your vote is the first step toward protecting fair representation. Sharing this information and then voting NO is the next step.

United by the Vote, Not Divided by the Map.

From rural counties to growing cities, Virginians share a common interest in fair elections and accountable leadership. Fair maps help ensure that every region, every community, and every voter has a meaningful voice.

When voters lead, Virginia wins.

When maps are fair, representation is fair.

When we stand together, every vote counts.