

## Virginia Congressional District 11

### Description:

This is the 2018 General Election for the U.S. House of Representative, VA Congressional District 11.

The **United States House of Representatives** is the [lower chamber](#) of the [United States Congress](#), the [Senate](#) being the [upper chamber](#). Together they comprise the [legislature](#) of the [United States](#).

The composition of the House is established by [Article One of the United States Constitution](#). The House is composed of Representatives who sit in [congressional districts](#) that are allocated to each of the 50 states on a basis of population as measured by the [U.S. Census](#), with each district entitled to one representative. Since its inception in 1789, all Representatives have been directly elected. The [total number of voting representatives](#) is [fixed by law](#) at 435. Each Congressional District seat is held for a 4 year term.

### Candidates (choose 1):

## Gerry Connolly



**Party:** Dem

### Biographical Info:

**Email Address:** [info@gerryconnolly.com](mailto:info@gerryconnolly.com)

**Website:** <http://gerryconnolly.com/>

**education:** B.A. in Literature from Maryknoll College M.A in Public Administration from Harvard University

**experience:** 1995-2003 Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Providence District 2004-2008 Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors 2009-Present Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Virginia's 11th District

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/congressmanconnolly>

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**Questions:**

**Q#1:** *What policies and resources do you propose to ensure election integrity and security in the United States?*

**A:** The right to vote and have your vote counted accurately is the bedrock of American democracy. Sadly, we have seen a War on Voting from the Republican Party for the past 30 years: from purging voter rolls, to voter ID laws, to closing polling locations and limiting early voting. In 2012, some voters in my district had to wait more than four hours just to cast their ballot. That's why I introduced the FAST Act to help states improve the administration of elections. The FAST act would provide grants to states to make it easier to register to vote, vote absentee, and assist those with disabilities to vote. We also must guard against foreign actors who have targeted electronic poll books and voting machines. I have supported the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 elections. I also voted to restore election security grants to prevent future hacking, and give states money to upgrade election technology and enhance security. Hopefully we will see action on these in 2019.

**Q#2:** *What policies do you propose to promote economic security for all Americans?*

**A:** I believe that sustained public investments are the key to ensuring economic security and freedom for families. I strongly support federal investment in infrastructure, and was proud to vote for the Recovery Act in 2009. Democrats and Republicans must work together to fix our crumbling roads, bridges and rail lines to avoid becoming a national crisis. By passing the Trump Tax bill, Congress has given trillions of dollars in revenue to corporations and billionaires that could have been used to invest in our children, our roads, and working families. I support raising the minimum wage, paid parental leave, and expanding Medicaid, which gives not only health care, but economic security to 400,000 Virginians. I've vigorously opposed the reckless Trump tariffs and trade wars, which threaten American jobs.

**Q#3:** *What are your proposals to improve the immigration system?*

**A:** Our immigration system is broken. In 2013, Democrats and Republicans in the Senate came together and passed comprehensive immigration reform. But Republicans in the House refused to allow a vote, even though there was a majority in the House prepared to support the bill. Instead we're left with millions of people in the shadows. I support a plan to increase legal immigration -- especially H-1B visas which are critical to our region -- but that also increases border security. I support a path to citizenship for those

who are in this country illegally, but are willing to pay a fine, learn English, and have no criminal record. I strongly support a path to citizenship for DREAMers -- young people brought to this country as children who now face deportation to a country they've never known -- and have voted for and co-sponsored DREAMer legislation. I have also been a vocal opponent of Trump's immoral border separation policy and have co-sponsored legislation to end it.

**Q#4:** *What do you propose to ensure high quality, affordable and accessible health care?*

**A:** The proudest vote of my career was my vote in 2010 for the Affordable Care Act. Thanks to the ACA, Americans will never again be denied health insurance for pre-existing conditions, face lifetime caps on their coverage, and parents can keep their kids on their plan until they're 26. I am a proud supporter of Obamacare and fully support Virginia's Medicaid expansion this year to 400,000 Virginians. I have rejected Republican healthcare proposals that would raise premiums on consumers. Like any bill, Obamacare wasn't perfect, and we expected to be able to find ways to improve it along the way. Instead, we've faced a relentless campaign of sabotage from Republicans in Congress, the courts, and governor mansions. If Democrats regain the majority in the House, I hope to work with both sides to find ways to bring down premiums, by restoring the risk corridors, introducing a public option on the federal exchange, and expanding Medicaid in the states that haven't done so.

**Q#5:** *What changes, if any, do you support to our campaign finance laws?*

**A:** The American system of funding elections is a travesty. Candidates for office spend too much time raising money and not enough time talking to average voters. That is why I co-sponsored legislation to provide matching funds for small dollar donations to federal candidates. I want to promote more transparency and get rid of the secret spending, which is why I believe in overturning Citizens United. That wretched Supreme Court decision has opened the floodgates to billions of dollars in anonymous outside spending, including by foreign governments. Citizens United gives corporations more of a political influence than citizens and is a threat to our democracy.

**Q#6:** *What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence?*

**A:** We sadly live in a time where a new mass shooting is in the headlines every few months. The Republicans refuse to take action due to fear of the NRA and the extreme elements in their party. The NRA is headquartered in my district and I am proud of my F rating from them. Earlier this year I laid out an ABC approach to this gun violence epidemic. This plan includes an Assault weapons ban, universal Background checks, and Closing the gun show loophole. I am a co-sponsor of the Gun Show Loophole Closing Act of 2017, a co-sponsor of Gun Violence Restraining Order Act of 2017, and Assault Weapons Ban of 2018. All of these would make sure only law-abiding citizens can purchase weapons, protect the safety of our most vulnerable, and make sure mass shootings never happen again. The public overwhelmingly supports all of this legislation but Republicans refuse to consider them.

**Q#7:** *What are your legislative priorities?*

**A:** My first and greatest objective is fighting for the people of Northern Virginia. Helping constituents solve their problems will continue to be my top priority. I will continue being a leader in protecting federal workers, protecting women's reproductive rights, ensuring environmental protections, pushing through common-sense gun safety legislation, and making sure more Americans stay insured and covered with affordable and accessible healthcare. I will fight for immigration reform, infrastructure investment, voting rights protection, and government efficiency reforms. I look forward to continue working for these causes if I am re-elected in 2018.

## **Jeff Dove Jr**



**Party:** Rep

### **Biographical Info:**

**Email Address:** [info@doveforcongress.com](mailto:info@doveforcongress.com)

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**education:** B.S. Information Systems--Database Administration

**experience:** Honorably served in the U.S. Army 3 years 2004-2007--Awarded the Combat Action Badge Worked in IT as a Database Admin/IT Manager since 2010. Have IT experience across platforms and emerging technologies like the cloud.

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/JeffDoveforCongress/>

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**Questions:**

**Q#1:** *What policies and resources do you propose to ensure election integrity and security in the United States?*

**A:** As it relates to election security a lot of the task falls on each state. The first order of business would be to verify voter rolls in each locality and make sure they are 100% accurate. For digital election security I would like to see more public/private partnerships so that the Federal government can see some of the new methodology and technologies that various companies are using to protect their systems. We have seen in the past that even systems that are closed from a network still have flaws like physical hacking on-site. I believe that instead of each state somewhat "free-wheeling" their election infrastructure there should be uniform standards in place especially when it comes to protecting elections at the Federal level.

**Q#2:** *What policies do you propose to promote economic security for all Americans?*

**A:** As a country we need to address the solvency of Social Security. There are a few different lines of thought that we would all have to closely consider as it relates to this problem. One course of action could be to raise the age at which you can draw from SS that could lead to other hardships for many Americans that have made plans based on the current age requirements. There is a group of people that would like to see the amount that each working individual pays be increased. I am not for increasing this because that is ultimately another tax. What I will say is we could address spending levels in other areas to hopefully be able to get to where we need to be as a collective. I am willing to listen to people as this is an issue that will not only affect us but generations to come. Politicians have tried to avoid this issue for years now but because it is coming to a head we need to ask fast and address it so no one is left holding the bag.

**Q#3:** *What are your proposals to improve the immigration system?*

**A:** Comprehensive immigration reform is something that is paramount for our country to accomplish. For well over 3 decades there have been issues with making sure the people in this country are citizens. For years both sides have thrown out various ideas without really moving us forward and it seems as though we are stuck in this situation forever. I am proposing that we use a plan that was first discussed by both sides in 2004 and then again in 2013 and that is to fine people who come into the country illegally for the amount of time they have been in the country. By doing so a new revenue stream is created based on the estimated 8 million illegal immigrant workers. This way those people are paying their "fair share" During that time as long as they are law abiding citizens they do not have to live under the fear of being deported. Once they have completed their payments then we can address their legal status.

**Q#4:** *What do you propose to ensure high quality, affordable and accessible health care?*

**A:** I would like to see more power given to the states to address the health care system. Block grants and making sure that we do not penalize people with pre-existing conditions. It would be beneficial to most families to be able to have more providers in

their area than they currently do. Making sure that there are high risk pools that keep people that really need care due to their pre-existing conditions in a group where their premiums and yearly deductibles are more manageable. Right now there is also a somewhat predatory nature that exists in our health care system that needs to be addressed around drug prices/ hospital visits/ testing etc. There is no magic wand to do this but there are small steps that we can take to start addressing each one of these individually.

**Q#5:** *What changes, if any, do you support to our campaign finance laws?*

**A:** Two things that I would look to address is to deal with the campaign coordination component and how money is moved around between entities. There seems to be a lot of "hush-hush" agreements with PACs and campaigns where they technically aren't coordinating but one knows what the other is doing. There really needs to be more attention paid to that and maybe stiffer financial penalties. The way a person in office can use their office budget to pay for mailings that are marked as "official use" but really look like a piece of campaign literature is something else that really needs to be cracked down on. That is one of the biggest advantages that incumbents use in these federal races.

**Q#6:** *What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence?*

**A:** Gun violence is something that affects pretty much every community in the United States some more than other. Some with really strict firearms laws and some with more lax laws. One policy that I would push for is definite prosecution for people who try to purchase a firearm and they are not allowed to possess a firearm. There are thousands of people a year that go to try and purchase weapons and have a previous conviction or something of that nature and they are not arrested for trying to purchase a gun. Those individuals may then go out and obtain one illegally and commit a crime. I would like to see policies at schools that treat them like the large facilities they are by having more security to actually protect the entire facility and not just a small portion of the school. As Americans we also need to address the elephant in every room and that is mental health. People see flags but don't speak up enough we need to get people to step up.

**Q#7:** *What are your legislative priorities?*

**A:** \*Physical and Digital Security--My revamped SSN security policy, Election security proposal, Promote a Cyber-Security Public/Private working group \*Transportation--Infrastructure legislation, Metro Legislation, Telework Legislation \*Economic Development--Making the middle class tax cuts permanent, Promoting trade specific training opportunities \*Health Care-- Pre-Existing Condition Protections, Lowering prescription drug costs \*Immigration-- Illegal Immigration Fine System, Border security continuation \*Veterans Affairs-- Accountability Legislation, Promote a change in the customer service environment with the VA

## Stevan Porter



**Party:** L

### **Biographical Info:**

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**education:** B.A. in Social Sciences, Washington State University Additional studies in philosophy and theology at Gonzaga University and the Catholic University of America  
Nationally Certified Paramedic and Nationally Certified EMS Educator

**experience:** IT Professional - Oracle Corporation (18 years) Volunteer Paramedic and Company Officer (Currently Assistant Chief) - Loudoun County Volunteer Rescue Squad (16 years) Part Time Instructor - Loudoun County Fire and Rescue (10 years) Active in Knights of Columbus, Rotary, and St. Joseph Church

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### **Questions:**

**Q#1:** *What policies and resources do you propose to ensure election integrity and security in the United States?*

**A:** We must acknowledge that BOTH voter suppression AND voter fraud are valid concerns. Too many people focus on only one aspect. Voter ID requirements are reasonable but we need to make sure mechanisms are in place to help those who might have difficulty getting the ID. We deliver library services, DMV services, etc. to people

in remote locations – we can figure out how to help citizens get a voter ID. Secondly, eliminate the use of electronic only voting machines. The risk of hacking – while difficult – is simply too great to ignore. There must be hard copies of ballots that we can audit. Virginia’s system seems to work well in this regard. Third, we need better integration between federal and state resources to deal with issues like confirming citizenship, validating identities, reporting deceased voters, and the like. Finally, cyber warfare is a real and increasing threat. We must have resources at all levels of government to monitor and combat it.

**Q#2:** *What policies do you propose to promote economic security for all Americans?*

**A:** The best paths to economic security involve a strong economy and a vibrant job market. This creates more opportunities both for initial jobs and for upward mobility in the job market. Reducing government interference – which often benefits only targeted corporations or industries – and allowing the free market to function is the best way to promote those opportunities. I also believe it is critical to reduce the amount that Americans (especially on the individual level) are paying in taxes. Money that is going to the government is money that is not going to meet needs, pay down credit, obtain job skills, or build savings/retirement accounts.

**Q#3:** *What are your proposals to improve the immigration system?*

**A:** I strongly believe that the criteria for legal immigration should be whether someone poses a threat and whether the person can contribute to our country. If a person meets those criteria, then we should welcome them. The current quota systems, visa systems, and other elements of our system are a mess and need to be overhauled including a better worker visa program. Once overhauled, we need to enforce those policies in a fair, consistent, and timely manner. It is unfair to allow a person to remain here illegally for years only to then – in some cases decades later – deport them without substantial cause. If someone has been here for an extended period and has been contributing to their communities, there should be at the very least a defined path to legalization. We also need to streamline residency and citizenship processes. It is ridiculous that legal immigrants who have met all requirements are still years -- if not decades -- away from naturalization.

**Q#4:** *What do you propose to ensure high quality, affordable and accessible health care?*

**A:** We need to focus on making health care itself – not health insurance / coverage – affordable. This would benefit everyone regardless of what coverage they have. Excessive government regulation – often benefiting big medical, big pharma, and the insurance industries – remains one of the biggest factors driving up healthcare costs and driving independent and smaller practices out business. As with most industries, less competition results in higher prices and less choice for consumers. It also tends to stifle innovation, which is critical in health care. Some of the more immediate actions that should be taken include relaxing (not eliminating) restrictions on drug imports, promoting

full transparency in medical care pricing, updating FDA drug approval processes, and exploring alternate medical service models especially in underserved communities.

**Q#5:** *What changes, if any, do you support to our campaign finance laws?*

**A:** Not surprisingly, campaign finance laws tend to benefit the two major parties and especially incumbents. I would support increasing individual contribution limits while reducing – or even eliminating – PAC contributions. PACs would still be able to encourage people to support candidates and educate on issues, but the funds should come from people directly. I would also target a number of the loopholes that allow incumbents far more latitude in how they campaign and who is paying for it. Taxpayer or corporate supported meetings, franked mailings, etc. Finally, we must continue to promote full transparency on where campaign funds and other political messaging are coming from and how they are spent. Although I am fine with higher limits, voters deserve to know exactly who is behind the money or message.

**Q#6:** *What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence?*

**A:** Our concern should be with reducing “violence” rather than limiting it to “gun violence”. We are too focused on this one aspect of a much larger cultural problem. This leads to proposed “soundbite solutions” to a complex set of issues. The bigger issues – and the ones that do not have simple solutions – are how to handle mental health issues, racism, unemployment, violence in popular media, and the myriad of other factors that contribute to increased violence in our society. Gun specific, I would drastically reduce federally mandated gun free zones. These laws do nothing to improve security (criminals ignore them) and simply create areas where there is likely to be no resistance. I would also promote improvements in the national background check systems. The current system has significant problems both in people not being on the list and in people being wrongfully on the list. Finally, I would support increased penalties for VIOLENT crimes.

**Q#7:** *What are your legislative priorities?*

**A:** Criminal Justice Reform – End the practice of civil asset forfeiture, reform sentencing guidelines especially for non-violent crimes, decrease the number of federal felonies, restore voting rights, and target racially motivated discrepancies in policing and sentencing. Military Mission – I support a strong, well trained, and well-equipped military capable of fulfilling its mission. I do challenge what that mission should be, however. I would work to end the non-stop deployments and bring more of our troops home soon. Returning More Control to States – The federal government was not intended to be in charge of every aspect of governance. We need to end the overreach and return more control to states and localities. Debt – We MUST do something about the national debt and that requires us to take a close look at federal spending (something neither party has been willing to do).