

**VOTE411.org Voter Guide: League of Women Voters
Virginia Congressional District 1**

Description:

Elected to a two-year term each U. S. Representative serves the people of a specific Congressional district by introducing bills, serving on committees, and providing constituent services among other duties. The annual salary of each Representative is \$174,000. Virginia has eleven Congressional Districts.

See the Virginia Department of Elections website for all the races and candidates. <https://www.vote.virginia.gov>
Also see www.vpap.org for more candidate information.

Candidates (choose 1):

Vangie A. Williams



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Email Address: vangie@vangieforcongress.com

Website: <http://www.vangieforcongress.com/>

education: A.A.S. in Construction Management (Montgomery College) B.B.A. in Federal Acquisitions and Contract Management (Strayer University) B.S. in History

(Ashford University) M.B.A in Project Management (Ashford University) D.BA in Project Management

experience: Strategic Planner/Senior Project Control Principal with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC); career in high-level project management in aerospace, construction, defense contracting, government operations, IT and national security; licensed realtor; member of several organizations.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/vangieforcongress/>

Twitter: twitter.com/Vangie4Congress

Questions:

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

A: For us to have a democracy that's truly representative of the people, we must ensure citizens are able to exercise their right to vote. Democracy suffers when citizens cannot and do not participate. We must: 1. Fully restore the protections of the Voting Rights Act, end racial gerrymandering as well as discriminatory laws that prevent low-income families, people of color, young voters, seniors and people with disabilities from voting. 2. Expand early voting and implement automatic voter registration. 3. Make the voting process efficient and accessible to all Americans, including seniors, those with disabilities and citizens with limited English proficiency. 4. Restore voting rights for those who served their time. 5. Fight for real campaign finance reform and support legislation such as the DISCLOSE (Democracy Is Strengthened by Casting Light On Spending in Elections) Act to overturn Citizens United.

Q#2: *What policies such as tariffs, taxes, tax cuts, etc. do you propose to promote economic security for all Americans?*

A: I'm proposing the Income Now for Veterans, Enlisted military families, Safety officers and Teachers (INVEST) tax initiative that will exempt the first \$50,000 of earnings of federal income tax. This will give these groups an immediate boost of up to \$6,000 a year in income, a first step in establishing long-term solutions. The plan will be paid by closing loopholes from the alternative minimum tax, not costing local taxpayers an extra cent. Additionally, we should: • increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour; • close tax loopholes and have corporations pay their fair share in taxes, • promote green technologies for energy generation and a new revenue source; • undo the harm caused by Citizens United by supporting legislation that makes spending in elections transparent; • recommit to our education systems and create flexible paths for students to take on high-skilled, high-paying vocational jobs after high school graduation; and • invest in women so they have equal pay for equal work.

Q#3: *What is your position on using a citizenship question in the 2020 Census Survey?*

A: I do not support the use of a citizenship question on the census survey. It's another tactic to discriminate against people. A reduction in participation can impact accurate

census counts that are needed for federal and state funding used for healthcare, education and public programs.

Q#4: *What are your proposals for an immigration policy?*

A: While it is easy for some politicians to scapegoat undocumented immigrants to the cheers of crowds and rallies, there is a human and economic toll that is never discussed. It is unrealistic to think that we are going to deport 11 million undocumented immigrants. We must find pathways for citizenship, starting with the resident alien (green card) process. Working with members of both parties, I will bring about common sense immigration reform. Such reform first starts with preserving the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. For non-DACA recipients, we need to establish a clear set of guidelines, based on fairness to taxpayers and legal immigrants, that would take into account the amount of time a person or family has spent in the U.S., whether they have paid taxes and their involvement in the community. Comprehensive immigration must honor our fundamental values of treating people who come to the U.S. with dignity and respect, and being true to the rule of law.

Q#5: *What do you propose to ensure high quality, affordable and accessible health care for all Americans?*

A: Through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), millions of Americans gained access to health insurance. It was a monumental achievement, but the ACA is not perfect. We have done a lot of things right with Medicare, and I believe a Medicare-for-all system – with dental and vision coverage – can also be a commitment we make to every citizen. We must also find ways for pharmaceutical companies to lower drug costs. Multibillion-dollar health care corporations should not profit based on whether you receive treatment, or live or die. When it comes to our veterans, those who have served our country should not struggle to get timely care because of inefficiencies at the VA. My plan is to greatly increase the role of private hospitals for routine care, where a public-private compromise can best serve our veterans. Healthcare is a right and every American should have access to affordable healthcare. Every American should have access to healthcare regardless of income.

Q#6: *What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence in the United States?*

A: Promoting responsible firearm ownership and the purchase of gun safes through tax incentives is key to reducing gun violence. Responsible firearm storage will help prevent thousands of deaths and protect children from accidental discharge. Increased use of gun safes will also slow the proliferation of stolen firearms. I support closing loopholes in private sales, universal background checks, the ban on bump stocks, raising the age for gun ownership and the exploration of a buyback program. Training, special licenses and re-certifications should also be requirements. We cannot allow people like Rob Wittman to co-sponsor bills like the SHARE (Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement) Act which removes restrictions on the use of silencers and flash suppressors and puts cop-killer bullets on the street. We must also give the Centers for

Disease Control the funding to perform meaningful research on how we can be safer without curtailing the rights of law-abiding Americans.

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

A: My common sense agenda for our future looks like this: • An economy that works for everyone. Bring good jobs to the 1st District through improvements and new investments in education, transportation and innovation. • Healthy families with access to world-class healthcare. We must have a Medicare-for-all healthcare system that puts people over profits. I believe healthcare is a right and profit-driven armies of lobbyists are standing in the way of real healthcare reform. • Investing in our communities and our hometown heroes. My INVEST Initiative will address core issues like education, public safety, military families and veteran dignity while revitalizing communities – big and small – across our great nation. In order to make any of this happen, we have to remove greed and excessive corporate profits from the system. It's time to close tax loopholes by having large corporations pay their fair share in taxes and take steps to undo the harm from Citizens United with legislation.

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Robert J. Wittman



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Website: <http://robwittman.com>

education: Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University, Master of Public Health degree in Health Policy and Administration from the University of North Carolina, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Virginia Tech.

experience: Currently: U.S. Representative to Congress for the 1st Congressional District.

Questions:

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

A: Election integrity is critical to preserving confidence in our leaders and our representative democracy. While I support most election policy staying at the state level as is current practice, there are several infrastructure-related policies that involve the

federal government. I support funding for grant programs for cybersecurity upgrades to state voting machines. Also, I support federal agencies investigating and, when necessary, prosecuting to the full extent of the law any deliberate attempt to commit federal voter fraud.

Q#2: *What policies such as tariffs, taxes, tax cuts, etc. do you propose to promote economic security for all Americans?*

A: I was pleased to support the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that prioritized providing tax relief for working-class families and small businesses, help to create jobs in the Commonwealth, and ensured people could keep more of their hard-earned paycheck. I believe tariffs and retaliatory trade practices are harmful to Virginians, particularly the many farmers in my district, and are not helpful in promoting free and fair trade. Strong, new trade agreements are the best means to expand access for our small businesses and farmers to sell their products worldwide. College debt is a major barrier to economic advancement for many Americans, but a four-year degree is no longer necessary for every in-demand job in the 21st century. I've worked to bring companies, teachers, local officials, and non-profits together in the First District through regional workforce development forums to discuss how schools can better align their curriculums with the skills needed by the job market.

Q#3: *What is your position on using a citizenship question in the 2020 Census Survey?*

A: I support a citizenship question in the 2020 Census Survey. The Department of Justice has indicated that this information will be helpful in enforcing the Voting Rights Act. The makeup of Congress, and therefore the policies we create, is only representative of the data collected through the Census.

Q#4: *What are your proposals for an immigration policy?*

A: Our current immigration system is broken. To keep America strong and prosperous, we need an immigration system that works for the American people. I have consistently stated that any legislation considered by the House must secure our border, enforce the rule of law, and address DACA recipients. The First District economy is also significantly impacted by temporary and seasonal visa programs, and future immigration policy must balance timely processing for these visas while also ensuring effective visa enforcement. We are a compassionate nation made up of immigrants and a prosperous nation due to the rule of law. I believe we don't have to choose one or the other.

Q#5: *What do you propose to ensure high quality, affordable and accessible health care for all Americans?*

A: I am focused on providing a healthcare system that lowers costs, increases transparency, and ensures all Virginians can access coverage. I believe The Affordable Care Act showed that government-run healthcare does not sufficiently address the core challenges facing our healthcare system; in many cases, physician choice disappeared,

and premium costs skyrocketed. We need a health care system that expands choice and empowers individuals and families to make decisions based on what fits their needs and budget. We must continue to provide coverage to those with pre-existing conditions, allow young people to stay on a parent's plan, and eliminate lifetime caps for insurance coverage. I also believe Medicare and Social Security have served our nation well. We need to honor our commitment to current program beneficiaries and those who are nearing eligibility. We must ensure the long-term substantiality of these programs so future generations can access the same benefits and financial security.

Q#6: *What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence in the United States?*

A: As a gun owner and strong supporter of 2nd Amendment rights, I believe the constitutional right to keep and bear arms must be diligently protected. However, like many of you, I'm concerned about violence in our nation. My wife is a public school teacher and I have 2 grandchildren in school. We have made steps in the right direction, but we need to do more. I supported increased funding for school security grants and mental health programs and will continue to do so. With my support, Congress passed the STOP School Violence Act to help schools and law enforcement prevent and respond to warning signs of violence. The Fix NICS Act, now law, ensures that the NICS operations meet demand and improve NICS system availability, determination rates, and E-Check services. I support increased training and funding for collaboration among local, state and federal law enforcement and technology platforms so that warning signs pointing towards violence can be caught and addressed much more quickly.

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

A: To provide for a strong national defense that protects our troops and preserve Virginia defense jobs, and keeps Americans secure while continuing to improve veteran care. Support rural communities with rural broadband expansion, improved infrastructure and accessible healthcare. Ensure our nation's economy leads the world and that small businesses are able to thrive by lowering taxes, reducing burdensome regulations, and reforming the education system to provide low debt career and technical education options to prepare students for the jobs of the 21st century. Stop crisis budgeting in Washington through a timely and transparent budget process and holding Congress accountable when it does not do so.