



TO: **Interested Parties**
FROM: **Heather Williams, DLCC President**
DATE: **April 7, 2025**
RE: **Memo: Roadmap to Victory in Virginia**

There are no off years in state legislative politics—all eyes are on Virginia in 2025.

As we gear up for November, legislative Democrats in Virginia have been on the frontlines of responding to Trump’s chaos and havoc while advancing Democratic policies that support working families. That stands in stark contrast to Republicans like Governor Glenn Youngkin, who has blocked much of the agenda passed by the Democratic legislature to [uplift families](#) while [expressing support for DOGE cuts](#) that resulted in [Virginians losing their jobs](#). State Republicans have mirrored this regressive agenda—unanimously voting against a constitutional amendment to protect abortion access and voting nearly entirely in lockstep against a ban on assault weapons. To end this era of extremism and rubber-stamping for Project 2025, Democrats now have the opportunity to elect a Democratic governor bolstered by strong candidate performances at the state legislative level.

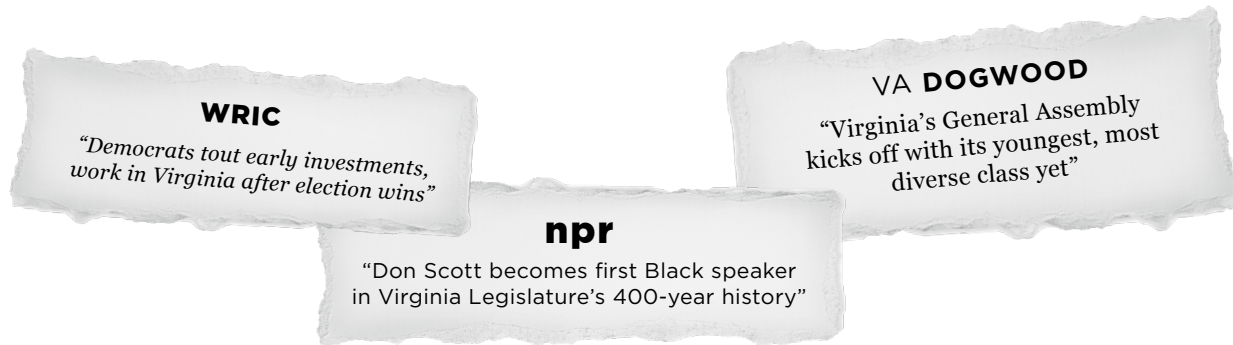
To ensure we meet this moment, the DLCC is announcing an ongoing seven-figure investment to maintain the Democratic majority in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Carrying our winning strategy of early investment into 2025, the DLCC has been the first national organization on the ground supporting Virginia’s legislative races. **Our committee has already delivered \$350,000 to caucuses while supporting campaign staff and strategies to recruit strong candidates, build effective fundraising strategies, and empower candidates to have real conversations with voters.** That support has already led to early wins, including two of the first special elections of the year in majority-making races for both the House of Delegates and Senate. We’re also seeing mounting enthusiasm ahead of November’s House elections—Democrats are seeing impressive candidate recruitment and have launched campaigns in a whopping 97 of 100 districts. By contrast, Republicans have recruited candidates for just 63 districts.

In February, the DLCC also announced the Virginia House of Delegates as a battleground chamber on the [2025-2026 Target Map](#), underscoring the mission-critical need to **maintain and grow the chamber’s one-seat Democratic majority.**

The DLCC has invested in Virginia for decades to create the infrastructure for Democratic wins. Ten years ago, Republicans had full control of the legislature, including a 17-seat majority in the House of Delegates. Year after year, we have provided expert data and support to caucuses, as well as **early investments that have served as multipliers.** We’ve helped caucuses reach key milestones, like **breaking their own fundraising records.**

Our work paved the path for watershed victories in 2023—where we flipped the House and defended the Senate. These crucial wins delivered new leadership and unlocked progress for the commonwealth over the last year and a half. Virginia is the competitive battleground it is today because of the DLCC’s concerted effort to win power for Democrats seat-by-seat, cycle-over-cycle.



Expanding The Target Map: Virginia Lieutenant Governor

While the Virginia Senate isn’t on the ballot this year, the DLCC is now unveiling **an addition to the Target Map: the Lieutenant Governor’s race**. This race will be highly competitive, and the victor will serve an important role in the state legislature as the tie-breaking vote in the Virginia Senate. Given Democrats’ slim one-seat majority in the Senate, a Democratic Lieutenant Governor is an essential backstop to protect progress if unexpected vacancies arise or a tie emerges.

2025 Roadmap

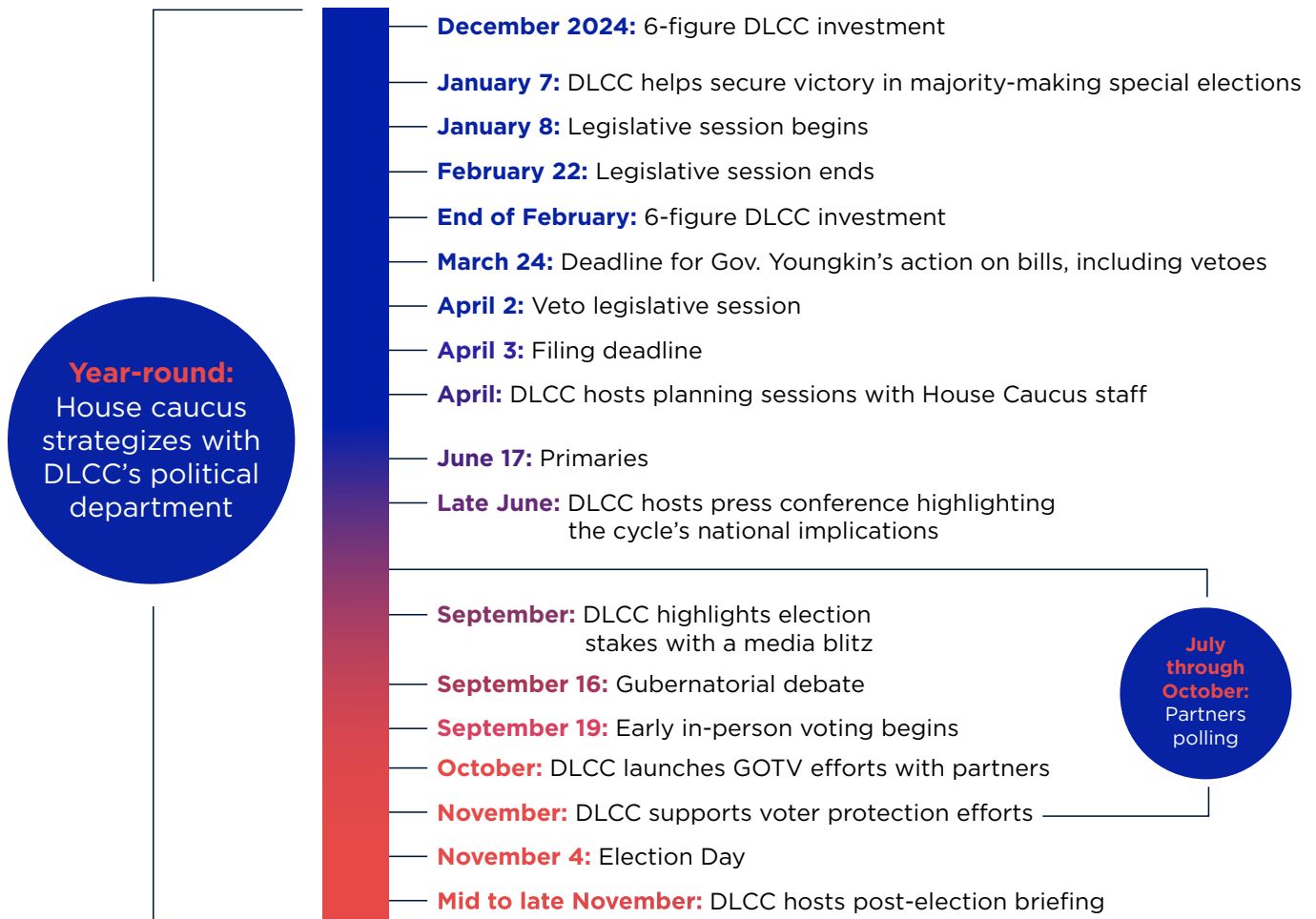
Looking to November, the DLCC anticipates some of the toughest battlegrounds to emerge in the northern Virginia exurbs, the Capital region, and southeast Virginia. We are already seeing our early investments pay dividends in preparation for these tough races. Last month, the House caucus launched its earliest-ever campaign: a **five-figure ad buy** targeting vulnerable opponents for supporting Trump’s policies that have raised costs and sacrificed jobs.

With more announcements of Spotlight candidates planned for after the primaries in June, the DLCC is unveiling our first batch of target races for 2025—including must-win districts with strong incumbents:

- ▶ Del. Josh Thomas in HD-21
- ▶ Del. Joshua Cole in HD-65
- ▶ Del. Nadarius Clark in HD-84
- ▶ Del. Michael Feggans in HD-97

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With legislative sessions adjourned and campaign season heating up, here are some key dates to keep in mind:



The Bottom Line

All eyes are on Virginia in 2025. Opportunities to move policy and build power aren't happening in Washington—they're happening in the statehouses.

State legislative races are the most immediate opportunity for Democrats to defend and build sustainable power, and Virginia will be the highest profile, most data-rich election of 2025. Key messaging and strategies tested in Virginia's legislative elections will provide important clues about the electorate. The DLCC's long-term strategy around state and local races in Virginia has made the commonwealth the powerhouse it is today. Our decades-long work has fostered an electoral environment for a Democratic trifecta to finally emerge, which would shield the commonwealth from the chaos of the Trump administration and protect hard-fought progress.