

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

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2025 ELECTION

DOWN TO THE WIRE



TAMAS MONDOVICS

Attorney General Jason Miyares, left, Republican gubernatorial nominee Winsome Earle-Sears, lieutenant governor nominee John Reid and Gov. Glenn Youngkin applaud the large support during the “Abingdon Get out the Vote” event held at the Food City headquarters in Abingdon, Va.

Republicans say strong Southwest Virginia turnout on Election Day is key

DAVID MCGEE
Bristol Herald Courier

ABINGDON, Va. – Candidates at the top of Virginia’s Republican ticket implored voters at a Saturday rally to turn out in large numbers on Election Day in hopes of sweeping the state’s top three offices, just like in 2021.

Gubernatorial candidate Winsome Earle-Sears, lieutenant governor nominee John Reid and Attorney General Jason Miyares were joined by Gov. Glenn Youngkin and their joint message was that every vote matters.

“This election is not really about the next four years. This election is about our future,” Sears told a crowd of over 200 at the Food City corporate center. “It’s about our children and their children’s children. We’ve had four glorious years where we’ve been making jobs left and right...We’ve al-

ready had so many successes but there’s more that can happen.”

“We haven’t come this far to only go this far,” Sears said, urging voters to support the GOP ticket and return control of the House of Delegates to the Republican party.

Republican turnout across Southwest Virginia was instrumental to the 2021 Republican sweep. Statewide, Youngkin received 51% of votes cast but in the ten counties and two cities of far Southwest Virginia, he received 86% of votes cast.

“Let me be really clear, standing in the middle is not a choice,” Youngkin said. “It is clear we must head down the right path...because if we don’t, Virginia is lost.”

Youngkin touted the economic growth, new investment and job growth during his administration but said Democrat Abigail Spanberger would repeal Virginia’s right-

to-work law, and that would drive many businesses away.

Spanberger has previously said she doesn’t support a repeal of the law but that amendments might be needed.

Sears repeated her pledge to repeal Virginia’s car tax, which she said was no longer needed, and the Clean Economy Act, which would require all Virginia energy to come from carbon-free sources by 2050.

Sears said the Clean Economy Act would drive up energy prices and make electricity unreliable at a time when more and more businesses are locating in the state.

She also reiterated her support of efforts to establish modular nuclear reactors in the state to help provide electricity and said Southwest Virginia could again be an energy hub if that program is successful.

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ELECTION 2025 | THE RACE FOR GOVERNOR

Obama urges Virginians to send message by electing Spanberger

DAVE RESS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

NORFOLK — Former President Barack Obama on Saturday returned to Norfolk where 20 years ago he helped Tim Kaine win election as governor, to try the same for Abigail Spanberger.

Three days before Election Day, Obama urged some 7,000 people gathered at the Chartway Arena across Hampton Boulevard from the Old Dominion University campus to get friends, family, neighbors and colleagues to also vote for Spanberger, the Democrat who faces Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears, the Republican nominee.

“If we do that, not only will we elect Abigail Spanberger as your next governor, you won’t just put Virginia on the path to a brighter future, you will set a glorious

example for the nation,” Obama said.

On Election Day, Virginians will culminate contests for a new governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general as well as all 100 members of the House of Delegates.

Virginia and New Jersey are the only states that elect a governor the year after a presidential election. Although New Jersey has leaned to Democrats in recent years, political analysts closely watch Virginia gubernatorial elections for an early signal about how voters are reacting to a new presidential administration.

Sending a message about countering the Trump administration’s policies was a key theme of the rally. The entire statewide

Please see **OBAMA**, Page A3



MIKE KROPP, TIMES-DISPATCH

Former President Barack Obama touts Democratic gubernatorial candidate Abigail Spanberger, left, during a campaign rally Saturday at Chartway Arena in Norfolk. Some 7,000 people gathered for the campaign stop held three days before Election Day.