

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

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VIRGINIA ELECTIONS

Republicans sweep SWVA House of Delegates seats

DAVID MCGEE
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Southwest Virginia will again send all-Republican delegation to Richmond when the House of Delegates convenes in January, but this time they won't be the party in power.

Democrats captured decisive wins statewide Tuesday, recapturing the governor's mansion, the lieutenant governor's post and ousting incumbent Attorney General Jason Miyares while also winning a majority of House races statewide.

In District 44, incumbent Del. Israel

O'Quinn, R-Bristol, received 77% of the vote, 24,148 votes cast compared to challenger Cindy Green's 22.8% or 7,165.

"I am grateful for the vote of confidence and the opportunity to continue serving the 44th House district," O'Quinn said. "Thank you to all who exercised your right to vote in this election. I am honored to represent you and look forward to continuing to move Southwest Virginia forward. I take this job very seriously and I promise to keep working hard on your behalf."

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EMILY BALL, BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Voters register their votes on Election Day at Abingdon Elementary School in the West Abingdon Precinct.

THE RACE FOR GOVERNOR

SPANBERGER ELECTED VIRGINIA GOVERNOR



STEVE HELBER, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Virginia Democratic gubernatorial candidate Abigail Spanberger speaks during a campaign event with former President Barack Obama, Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025, in Norfolk, Va.

Former U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger has won Virginia's election for governor

BY OLIVIA DIAZ AND BILL BARROW
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Democrat Abigail Spanberger won the Virginia governor's race Tuesday, defeating Republican Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears to give Democrats a key victory heading into the 2026 midterm elections and make history as the first woman ever to lead the commonwealth.

Spanberger's win was the first in a big night for Democrats in Virginia and around the country, casting new doubts about President Donald Trump's political strength less than a year into his second White House term.

"We sent a message to every corner

of the commonwealth, a message to our neighbors and our fellow Americans across the country," Spanberger told supporters Tuesday night in Richmond. "We sent a message to the whole word that in 2025, Virginia chose pragmatism over partisanship. We chose our commonwealth over chaos."

Also Tuesday, Democrat Ghazala F. Hashmi won the lieutenant governor's race and will succeed Earle-Sears. Hashmi is the first Muslim woman to win a statewide office in the U.S. And in a night of firsts, Democratic challenger Jay Jones defeated Republican Jason Miyares to become the state's first Black attorney general and complete a Democratic sweep

of the commonwealth's statewide posts. Democrats also retained control of the state legislature.

Spanberger, a former congresswoman and CIA case officer, won by emphasizing economic issues, a strategy that may serve as a model for other Democrats in next year's elections as they try to break Republicans' hold on power in Washington and gain ground in statehouses.

Campaigning, Spanberger often side-stepped the historic potential of her candidacy. In victory, she embraced it.

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