

# CULPEPER STAR★EXPONENT

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LIVELY

Saturday, March 28, 2026

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## Nearly 2,700 in Culpeper have voted already

Close to 7% cast ballots locally in referendum

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION  
Culpeper Star-Exponent

Nearly 7% of Culpeper County registered voters have participated in early voting in the April 21 referendum for a state constitutional amendment on the congressional redistricting question as of Thursday, according to figures from General Registrar and Director of

Elections Melissa Hart. Early voting for the referendum has been steady, she said, with a consistent flow of voters taking advantage of the opportunity to cast their ballots ahead of the Special Election on April 21.

As of Thursday, 2,693 voters have cast early ballots, according to the registrar. Culpeper County has 39,640 registered voters, according to the Virginia Department of Elections' February statistics.

"Our office remains committed

to providing a smooth and efficient process for all voters," she said.

Early in-person voting is ongoing during regular office hours in registrars' offices across the state. The Culpeper office will also be open for early voting 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays, April 11 and April 18.

The local elections director provided a state link about the Constitutional Amendment from the Virginia Department of Elections.

For those planning to vote on Election Day, polls will be open

from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters should ensure they go to their correct polling location and bring an acceptable form of identification, as required by Virginia law.

There is no voting at the Registrar's Office on Election Day, according to Hart. See elections.virginia.gov and web.culpeper-county.gov/registrar/

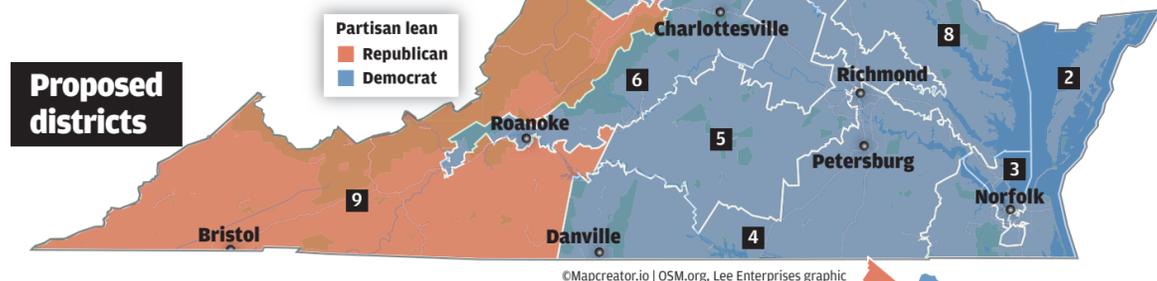
"We appreciate the community's continued engagement in the

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ELECTION 2026 | REDISTRICTING REFERENDUM

# MAPPING VIRGINIA'S FUTURE

What voters need to know before April 21



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MICHAEL MARTZ  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Virginia voters face a constitutional choice in a political saga that began last summer deep in the heart of Texas.

A group of Democratic legislators fled the Lone Star State in a vain attempt to block state Republicans there from approving a plan to redraw the state's congressional map to pick up five seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and protect the political agenda of President Donald Trump in the second half of his term.

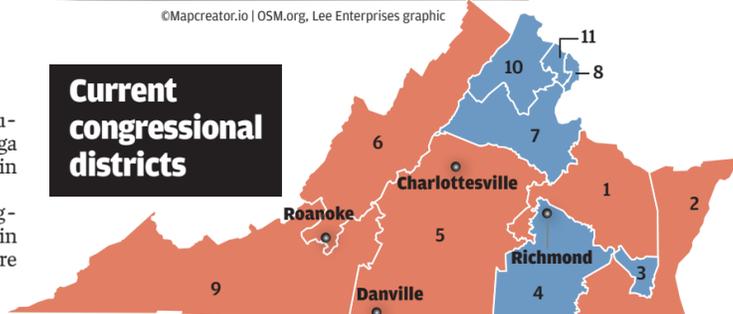
Some of those Texas Democrats traveled to Boston, where two influential Virginia Democratic leaders were attending an August meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures: Senate President Pro Tempore Louise Lucas, D-Portsmouth, and Senate Democratic Caucus Chair Mamie Locke, D-Hampton.

And so the seed was planted for Virginia's surprising push — launched publicly just over a week before Halloween — to adopt a political redistricting plan that would give Democrats the opportunity to pick up four congressional seats in midterm elections in November in an escalating political arms race between Republican- and Democratic-controlled states.

A few weeks after the Texans arrived in Boston, Lucas urged Democratic states to "follow suit," as California Gov. Gavin Newsom threw the first counterpunch in the political brawl over Trump's bid to

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**Current congressional districts**



### Redistricting at a glance

**What are we voting for?** Virginia Democrats want to redraw congressional districts to make it likely that the commonwealth elects 10 Democrats and one Republican to the House of Representatives in November. Currently, six Democrats and five Republicans represent Virginia in the House.

**Why do Democrats want to redistrict?** They say it's in response to other states redrawing their districts at the behest of President Donald Trump to send more Republicans to Congress.

**How long will the changes be in effect?** The General Assembly would retain the power to redraw districts until after the 2030 U.S. Census. Congressional elections happen every two years.

### Key dates

**March 6:** Early voting began 45 days before the referendum. Check with your local registrar for locations and hours.



**April 21:** Voting for the statewide referendum.

**April 23:** Last day for briefs to be filed in the redistricting case before the Virginia Supreme Court.

**Aug. 4:** If the referendum passes, party primaries will take place for the 11 congressional races.

**Nov. 3:** Election Day

## Data center project activity hastens

Data Bank frame visible on Route 3; town advances reclaimed water tower

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION  
Culpeper Star-Exponent

Culpeper's new data center projects are getting more noticeable.

Last fall, Dallas-based DataBank started site work on a pair of "hyper-scale ready" data centers at the corner of Virginia 3 and James Madison Highway. The multi-story frame of building one is now materializing, visible along Virginia 3. The two-building project will span 1.4 million square feet of computer servers.

DataBank is among the first of six projects approved in the last several years to begin construction in the county's Culpeper Technology Zone.

Data Bank corporate said last fall construction on the first data center, IAD5, is underway and will be completed by early second quarter of 2027. Data Bank said to expect 350 to 770 construction workers on the campus at the peak of construction. Nearby, CloudHQ is now moving a lot of dirt along McDevitt Drive, next to the town's wastewater treatment plant and the CTEC school.

Another nine-building project across the street is advancing a multi-million-dollar plan to use the town's sewer water to cool servers on their large project on the near horizon.

Equinix in the area has operated as a data center in Culpeper since 2008, and SWIFT has been operating as an international communications hub for longer than that, tapping established fiber networks laid in the 1960s for the former Federal Reserve on Mount Pony, today a Library of Congress site.

The DataBank site at 14601 Germanna Highway, overlooking the former Civil War signal location at Mount Pony, sits on 85 acres that the company acquired two years ago for \$41.3 million.

Away from the technology zone, about eight miles down Virginia 3 in Stevensburg on a former horse farm, Amazon has completed one of its two data buildings at a reported government site that the international IT company has kept hush-hush.

### Gray water tower coming to tech zone

The town of Culpeper is moving forward with installing developer-funded infrastructure to use gray water for cooling at rapidly emerging data centers in the McDevitt Drive technology zone.

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Check out more stories about the Virginia referendum on congressional redistricting [PAGE A4-5](#)

**Weather**  
Cooler; breezy in the a.m.  
**High 54 • Low 28**  
**Forecast • A8**

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