

THE NEWS VIRGINIAN

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WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

NewsVirginian.com

REDISTRICTING

MALIGN MAILERS



ANNA BRYSON PHOTOS, TIMES-DISPATCH

The Rev. Cozy Bailey, president of the NAACP Virginia State Conference, left, and Gaylene Kanoyton, political action chair of the state conference, right, speak at a news conference in downtown Richmond on Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

NAACP warns of ‘misleading’ mailers linked to conservative tech billionaire Peter Thiel

ANNA BRYSON
Richmond Times-Dispatch

New campaign finance filings show millions of dollars flowing into Virginia’s redistricting referendum fight from out-of-state groups as civil rights leaders and top Democrats on Wednesday tied that money to what they described as a broader disinformation campaign targeting Black voters.

Records filed with the Virginia Department of Elections show the political action committee Justice for Democracy, which opposes the April 21 referendum, received a \$2.5 million contribution on March 26 from Per Aspera Policy Incorporated, a Massachusetts-based entity linked to conservative tech billionaire Peter Thiel.

The PAC also reported a \$425,000 contribution earlier this month from the American Future Fund, an Iowa-based group that backs free-market causes and Republican candidates.

The filings provide new details about the financial backing behind some of the advertisements Virginians are seeing on their televisions and in their mailboxes.

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A flyer some Virginians have received in the mail, seen Wednesday, April 1, 2026, appears to suggest that former President Barack Obama opposes the upcoming redistricting referendum. Obama has encouraged Virginians to vote yes on the measure.

COURT

Illegal contact by defense?

Prosecutor tries, fails to jail UVa football player charged with rape ahead of trial

HAWES SPENCER
The Daily Progress

In what had been planned as a motions hearing, the criminal case against former University of Virginia football wide receiver Jahmal Edrine bent briefly toward social media Friday as a judge rejected a prosecutor’s request to revoke Edrine’s bail and rejoin him.

“If you wish to refile with more evidence, the court will consider it,” Judge Claude Worrell told the prosecutor as he announced his ruling.

One day earlier, Albemarle County Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Susan Baumgartner had filed a motion to revoke Edrine’s bail, arguing he violated a no-contact order by attempting to follow his accuser’s private account on the social media platform X.

“What we have is the victim’s phone saying Mr. Edrine was trying to follow her,” Baumgartner said. “It’s contact that literally pops up on her phone.”

Edrine, 22, was indicted Feb. 2 on charges of rape and abduction stemming from an Aug. 24 encounter at his Albemarle apartment with a woman he knew from high school.

Edrine surrendered three days later

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KARL DEBLAKER, ASSOCIATED PRESS

University of Virginia Virginia wide receiver Jahmal Edrine is seen during a game against North Carolina State University during the second half of an NCAA college football game in Raleigh, North Carolina, on Sept. 6, 2025.