

# THE NEWS VIRGINIAN

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REDISTRICTING

## 'TIME GROWS SHORT'



MARGO WAGNER, TIMES-DISPATCH

Virginia Senate Democrats, including Senate Majority Leader Scott Surovell, D-Fairfax, and Sen. Louise Lucas, D-Portsmouth, speak to the press in the Capitol after supporting a constitutional amendment that would let legislators redraw the state's congressional districts, Friday, Oct. 31, 2025, in Richmond.

### US Supreme Court denies stay of Virginia redistricting ruling

**MICHAEL MARTZ**  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected an attempt by Virginia Democratic leaders to revive a constitutional amendment on redistricting that the Virginia Supreme Court had invalidated a week earlier.

Without comment early Friday evening, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the request by Virginia House Speaker Don Scott, D-Portsmouth, and other Democratic leaders for an emergency stay of the state court order.

The state court ruling prevents the use of new congressional maps that Democrats had drawn for midterm elections in November to counter legislative actions by Republican-controlled states to adopt new political maps to help President Donald Trump preserve the slim GOP majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The final decision comes just over three weeks after Virginia voters approved the state constitutional amendment by a

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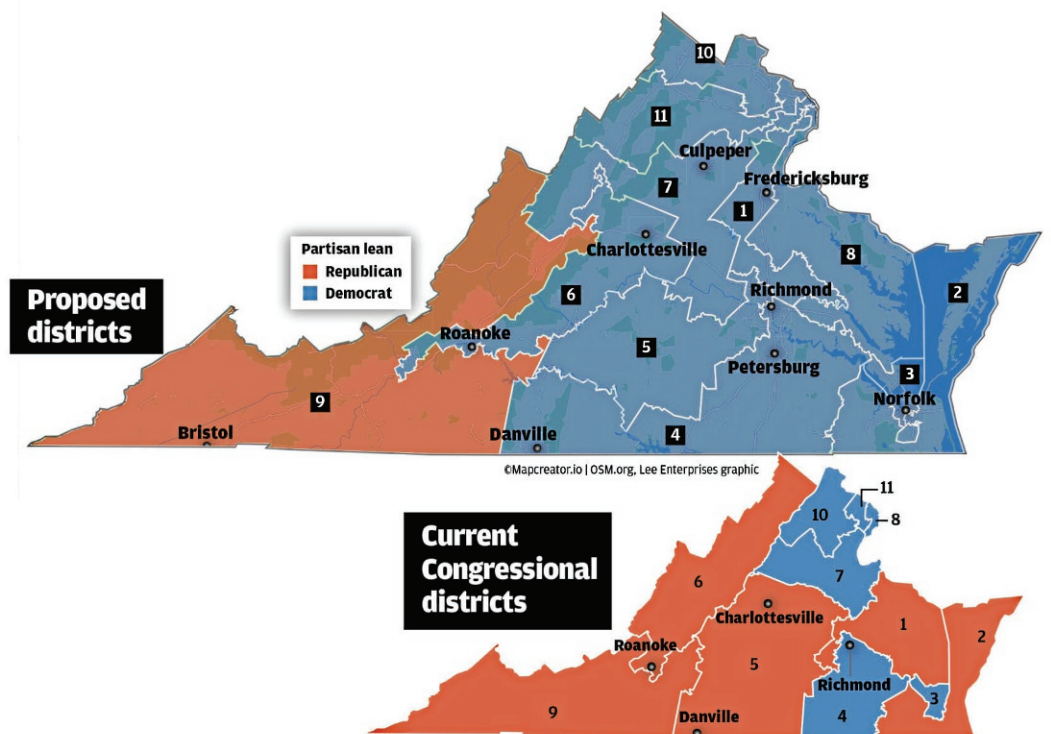


ILLUSTRATION BY RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF

### WEATHER

## Drought conditions across state

All Virginia under drought watch or warning, threatening crops, cattle

**KRISTI K. HIGGINS**  
The Progress-Index

The entire state of Virginia is under drought watch or warning advisories as of Thursday. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, along with the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force, expanded the drought warning advisory to 94 counties and 33 cities. In one county and five cities, drought watch advisories continue.

According to the National Weather Service in Wakefield, if the drought

forecast as of April 24 remains, "It will take several inches of rain to alleviate the drought, which unfortunately is not in the forecast for the foreseeable future. It appears likely that at least some degree of drought will persist into the late spring."

The agricultural impacts are widespread and there is increased danger of wildfires, according to the Department of Environmental Quality's update on Thursday. The expansion of the drought declarations is consistent with the designations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and farmers may be eligible for Farm Service Agency emergency loans.

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A map shows drought conditions across Virginia as of Thursday, May 14, 2026.