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THE ROANOKE TIMES

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WASHINGTON

TRUMP: ARCH WILL BE MILITARY COMPLEX



EVELYN HOCKSTEIN, REUTERS

A model of a proposed arch is displayed June 4 ahead of a public comment period during a National Capitol Planning Commission meeting in Washington.

President said it would house drones and snipers, store ammunition

NATHAN LAYNE AND ANUSHA SHAH
Reuters

President Donald Trump said Sunday the triumphal arch he plans to build near Washington would double as a “military complex” housing drones and snipers, the second major construction project he sought to justify on national security grounds.

The president cited national security concerns for the move, though he did not identify specific threats. It echoes the rationale he offered for the estimated \$400 million ballroom complex

under construction on the site of the White House’s former East Wing.

The arch and ballroom are part of Trump’s broader effort to remake the nation’s capital, including the renovation of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, the redevelopment of a golf course in East Potomac Park and a push to add his name to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The initiatives drew criticism from preservationists and others who argue they would alter some of Washington’s most prominent

historic landmarks.

Trump said in a social media post that, at the “strong request” of the military, he agreed to turn the 250-foot arch “into a top grade Military Complex/Triumphal Arch, to house, store, and have the rapid ability to use large numbers of drones, plus Snipers, on both the roof and plaza areas, and additionally have and hold large quantities of sniper ammunition in storage.”

A U.S. military official told Reuters that the Defense

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2026 VOTER GUIDE

Salem City Council

Learn more about five candidates running for two seats

ALEXIA PARTOUCHE
The Roanoke Times

Salem voters will select two city council members this fall from five candidates, listed below in ballot order.

There’s only one incumbent in the race, Hunter Holliday. Twenty-year council member Randy Foley announced in May he would not be seeking reelection. Two candidates are running with political party affiliation, and three are running as independents.

Early voting started Friday and continues until Oct. 31. Election Day is Nov. 3.

For more information about how to register to vote, or to check your polling place, visit the Virginia Department of Elections website, vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation

Hunter Holliday

Age: 66

Family: Wife, two children

Job: Retired

Party affiliation: Republican

Prior elected office: Salem city councilman (2023-26)



Holliday

Other public service: Has represented the city of Salem on the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC), Transportation Planning Organization, Greater Workforce Development Board, Blue Ridge Continuum of Care Governing

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VDOE SALARIES

High-paid jobs nearly quintuple since 2021

ANNA BRYSON
Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND — The Virginia Department of Education has retained and slightly expanded its upper-management agency structure built under former Gov. Glenn Youngkin. At the same time, the number of high-salaried employees has continued to grow.

In December 2021, the month before former Gov. Glenn Youngkin was inaugurated, the state education department had 12 employees earning at least \$130,000 annually. In 2023, under Youngkin and his second

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Spanberger ends Youngkin’s regulation-cut mandate



RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, FILE MAY

Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger, pictured here in the Executive Mansion in May, ended former Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s mandate to cut state regulations by 25%, replacing it with a streamlined review process.

DAVE RESS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND — Former Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s directives mandating a 25% cut in state regulations are no more, under a new streamlined regulatory review process ordered by Gov. Abigail Spanberger.

Spanberger’s order, in addition to ending Youngkin’s mandate for across-the-board cuts, returns the authority to make recommendations to the governor on regulations to cabinet secretaries.

Youngkin had given this

recommendation authority to a new section of his office.

Spanberger’s order eliminates this Office of Regulatory Management and its economic analysis requirement, because the analysis duplicates cost-benefit analyses that state law already requires of the Department of Planning and Budget.

Separately, state agencies already complete economic impact statements when proposing new regulations, revising regulations or repealing

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