**Why Virginia Matters - 2019**

Why ***Democrats everywhere*** should support flipping the Virginia legislature in 2019.  Virginia is one of only 4 states electing a legislature in 2019 and the only one that is flippable.  We have a great opportunity because we only need to pick up two seats in both the House and Senate to flip both of them blue.  Here’s why flipping the VA legislature matters:

* **Prove President Trump Wrong.** [Our president has targeted winning Virginia](https://www.politico.com/story/2019/03/29/trump-virginia-elections-1243100) to demonstrate his popularity and justify his egregious authoritarian behavior. We can prove him wrong and stop him in his tracks.
* **Combat Gerrymandering in the US House**.  The 2020 Census will give rise to redistricting. We need to end Republican-engineered gerrymandering that has given Republicans unfair over-representation in Virginia.
* **Pass ERA Ratification.** With a Democratic majority legislature, Virginia will ratify the ERA, potentially now close to successful nationwide ratification.
* **Avert Right Wing-Engineered Constitutional Convention.** Right wing extremists have gotten perilously close to getting approval from the 34 states needed to call such a convention. So far Virginia has resisted approval but we need to protect against that danger.
* **Direct Benefit for the People of Virginia**. We need enlightened, progressive legislation like sensible gun safety, quality public education, protecting the environment and quality healthcare.
* **Build the Bench for Future Decades**. The right wing has work assiduously for many years to undermine our democracy, including concerted efforts to win state and local offices. Democratic ranks at state and local levels, and in the Democratic party structure were particularly decimated beginning around 2010. We need to build a strong infrastructure and pool of strong diverse candidates to become progressive leaders for the coming decades.
* **Keep the Blue Wave Rolling**. In 2017 with a major shift in the legislature, Virginia was a beacon of hope for the rest of the country.   A new spirit was underway that could change course for the better. That spirit grew even stronger in 2018 with the decisive win in the US House which included flipping 3 seats in VA. Once again in 2019, Virginia can inspire Democrats and other fair-minded people across the country that when we come together, we can overcome our perilous situation and move on to victory in 2020.

**Great Opportunity with High Leverage.** Republicans are well mobilized and well-funded. Yet we have many really good Democratic candidates where a modest amount of money, especially provided early, can provide the life blood to bring them across the finish line first.

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