



THE INDEPENDENT PRESS OF VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

ELECTION 2025

2025 ACP NEWSPAPER PACEMAKER WINNER

# SPANBERGER WINS

## Virginia's first female governor elected in clean blue sweep



**SAL ORLANDO**  
Staff Writer

**MOLLY MANNING**  
News Editor

Abigail Spanberger defeated Winsome Earle-Sears by an overwhelming margin on Tuesday to make history as Virginia's first ever female governor.

Spanberger — a former CIA agent and Representative for Virginia's 7th Congressional District — ran a hyperforced campaign addressing citizens' concerns on the cost of living, health care access and threats to democracy under the Trump administration.

Four years after Gov. Glenn Youngkin's claim to power, Democrats dramatically flipped control of the Governor's Mansion and expanded their grip on both chambers of the General Assembly.

"Tonight we turned a page. We turned that page by listening to our neighbors, focusing on practical results, laying out a clear agenda, and leading with decency and determination," Spanberger said at her rally.

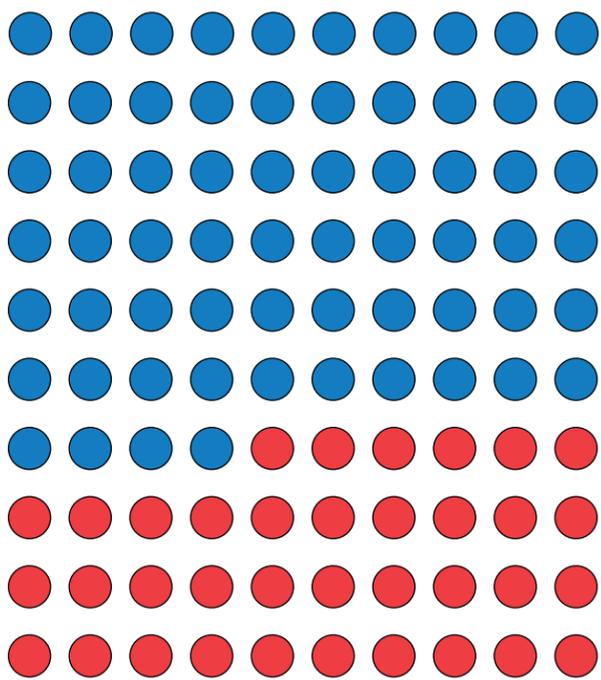
**SPANBERGER**  
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Democratic gubernatorial nominee Abigail Spanberger meets VCU students in Monroe Park on Nov. 3. Photo by Burke Loftus.

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DEMOCRATS

REPUBLICANS



## VA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Graphic by Milena Paul.

## Democrats dramatically expand control over General Assembly

**MOLLY MANNING**  
News Editor

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Managing Editor

Democrats flipped 13 House of Delegates seats through the statewide election on Nov. 4. The party came out of the night with an impending trifecta — only several seats shy of a supermajority.

Before Election Day, Democrats held 51 seats in the House compared to Republicans' 49, a slim margin. Democrats now hold 64 seats compared to Republicans' 36 — the best position the party has held in decades.

The General Assembly, the legislative branch of Virginia's government, is made up of 100 members in the House of Delegates and 40 members in the Senate. With a slim 21 seats in the Senate, Democrats have expanded their control over the centuries-old legislature.

Last year, Del. Don Scott, D-Portsmouth, was chosen as the first Black Speaker of the House in Virginia. The 2024 session also included other historic markers of diversity, including the highest number of female members in the Senate, according to Virginia Mercury.

**BLUE WAVE**

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**OPINIONS**

**STAFF EDITORIAL**



Illustration by Yenni Jimenez Acosta.

## We must protect student media, because student media protects us

**THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES STAFF**

The Commonwealth Times, despite being a newspaper run by and for the VCU community, has few ties to actual university administration outside of our funding.

The CT — like other outlets hosted by VCU's Student Media Center — runs on a percentage of the student activity fee all Rams pay. But VCU cannot censor The CT, and it cannot cut The CT's funding because of the content we publish.

**STUDENT MEDIA**

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### Black and gold turn Seahawks black and blue

see SPORTS page 4

### Hardcore bands raise money for Gaza

see FEATURES page 8



### 'Gabriel's Rebellion,' the Musical

see SPECTRUM page 6