



**January 15, 2026**

### **General Assembly Preview**

No matter what else happens during this year's "long" session of the Virginia General Assembly, history will be made on Saturday when Abigail Spanberger becomes Virginia's 75th and first female governor. To date, many of the governor-elect's appointments have been classified as moderates, and we hope that they remain so once in office. The Democrats have taken what used to be a 52-48 House and transformed into at least a 64-36 majority. The Senate remains its slim 21-19 Democratic majority, but with Ghazala Hashmi replacing Republican Winsome Earle Sears, the Senate is not as close as it has been the last two years.

Much of the early action will be focused on issues featured during last year's campaigns: restoration of rights for those convicted of a felony, increasing the minimum wage, mandating employer paid sick leave, and congressional redistricting.

With regard to industry specific issues, we are sure to see reintroduction of last year's transportation electrification bill and are hopeful it will resemble last year's final bill which provided protection from utility competition for all industry participants, not just a select few. We have already raised opposition to two bills that would provide for electrification of low-income Virginia homes, but only if those homes are currently served by a fuel "delivered to the premises and stored on site."

There have been some discussions of increasing the gas tax, but we will be opposing those bills and reminding legislators that gas taxes have increased 41% since 2020 and our tax is now substantially above the border states.

We have compiled a preliminary list of bills that we are reviewing for their impact on the industry. As always, our ability to impact the process is directly related to members' willingness to participate in the process by contacting your elected officials. To see who your state senator and delegate are, [click here](#).

### **Preliminary List of Bills We are Monitoring**

Sincerely,

**Mike O'Connor**

1/22/26, 9:53 AM

Email from VPCMA

President, VPCMA



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