



Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

Wow! What a great Week 2 of the 2026 Session here in the General Assembly!



Senator Pekarsky with Maria Jose & other advocates from the Hamkae Center!

I have met with dozens of residents, constituents, stakeholders, advocacy groups and more each day to discuss various legislative priorities and how we can bring good policy to the people of the Commonwealth!

I truly enjoy hearing everyone's stories and experiences and want to thank you all for taking the time to come down to Richmond to meet with me!

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you in the 36th District,

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stella Pekarsky', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stella Pekarsky

Senator, District 36

Northern Virginia: Significant Snowstorm Forecast & Resources



The National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Watch for late Saturday night. The forecast currently shows accumulations between 7-11 inches of snow, in addition to sleet and freezing rain. However, the most critical hazard is the return of below-freezing temperatures.

The Virginia Department of Transportation sent out the following statement:

"For the Northern Virginia District, (Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William counties and the primary roads in Arlington County) we plan to mobilize more than 3,200 pieces of equipment. While this includes our neighborhood fleet, interstate and primary roads remain our top priority. With a storm of this magnitude, it could take a couple days for our fleet to make it into all the neighborhoods for a first pass and longer to get roads clear. In our district, we plow 16,556 neighborhood roads alone. It is possible that residents may even see trucks initially, but we may need to temporarily redirect them to interstate, primary, or high-volume secondary roads."

For additional information and resources, click the button below!

CLICK HERE

Legislative Update

Here is a brief summary of the bills I am carrying that are NOW available to view online:

SB 394: AI Pilot Program

→ **Requires the Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology and Classroom Innovation, the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, and other relevant stakeholders, to establish and post in a publicly accessible location on its website guidance for the safe, ethical, and equitable use of artificial intelligence (AI), as defined in the bill, in public elementary and secondary schools.**

SB 491: Right to Free Public Education, Students

→ **Prohibits any child in the Commonwealth from being denied a free public education through secondary school on the basis of the actual or perceived immigration or citizenship status of the child or the child's parents, in accordance with the Constitution of Virginia and consistent with the requirements of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.**

SB 492: Regulations of Geologists

→ **Adds geology to the definition of "professional services" as used in the Virginia Public Procurement Act.**

SB 493: Click-to-Cancel; Consumer Protection

→ **The bill requires sellers to provide a cancellation mechanism through, at a minimum, each method by which a consumer can initiate an automatic renewal or continuous service offer and includes additional provisions related to providing such cancellation mechanism. Under the bill, several organizations and businesses are no longer exempt from disclosure and cancellation requirements for automatic renewal or continuous service offers.**

To see *all* of my filed legislation this session, check out the LIS website!

My Bills

Bill Updates

Several of my bills have advanced to full committee this week, and two of my bills have passed the Senate!

SB 107: Jury Exemptions

THE SENATE OF VIRGINIA

S.B. 107. (Pekarsky) Pg. 6

Jury service; exemptions upon request, certain caretakers of persons with serious hea...

YEAS: 30
NAYS: 10
R36: 0

YE A Aird	YE A Ebbin	YE A McDougle	YE A Rouse
YE A Bagby	YE A Favola	YE A McPike	YE A Salim
YE A Boysko	NAY French	YE A Mulchi	YE A Srinivasan
YE A Carroll Foy	NAY Hackworth	NAY Obenshain	NAY Stanley
YE A Cifers	NAY Head	YE A Peake	YE A Stuart
YE A Craig	YE A Jones	YE A Pekarsky	NAY Sturtevant
YE A Deeds	NAY Jordan	YE A Perry	NAY Suetterlein
NAY DeSteph	YE A Locke	YE A Pillion	YE A Surovell
YE A Diggs	YE A Lucas	NAY Reeves	YE A VanValkenburg
YE A Durant	YE A Marsden	YE A Roem	YE A Williams Graves

→ **This bill will allow individuals to be exempt from jury service if they are the caretaker or have legal**

custody of a child 18 years or younger who has a serious health condition.

SB 137: Healthcare Facilities Access

THE SENATE OF VIRGINIA

S.B. 137. (Pekarsky) **Pg. 7**

Obstructing health care facility access; penalties.

YEAS: 20 **NAYS: 19** **R36: 0**

YEA Aird	YEA Ebbin	NAY McDougle	YEA Rouse
YEA Bagby	YEA Favola	YEA McPike	YEA Salim
NAY Boysko	NAY French	NAY Mulchi	YEA Srinivasan
YEA Carroll Foy	NAY Hackworth	NAY Obenshain	NAY Stanley
NAY Cifers	NAY Head	NAY Peake	NAY Stuart
NAY Craig	YEA Jones	YEA Pekarsky	NAY Sturtevant
YEA Deeds	NAY Jordan	YEA Perry	NAY Suetterlein
NAY DeSteph	YEA Locke	NAY Pillion	YEA Surovell
NAY Diggs	YEA Lucas	NAY Reeves	YEA VanValkenburg
NAY Durant	YEA Marsden	YEA Roem	YEA Williams Graves

→ **This bill states that any person that is not authorized by the health care facility who knowingly obstructs, detains, hinders, impedes, blocks, or delays another person's entry to or exit from a health care facility will receive a Class 1 misdemeanor. This bill also states that a Class 3 misdemeanor will be given to any person who knowingly approaches another person to protest them going into a health care facility within 8 feet of the person and 40 feet from the facility door, unless the person consents.**

Welcome to my Interns!



(Left) Senator Pekarsky with Ashlie Nelson from VCU, and Senator Pekarsky with Andrea Mariscal-Guzman (JMU Alum)

I would like to extend a warm welcome to my interns for this session! These future leaders are incredibly passionate, dedicated, and a great help in my office! We are looking forward to an exciting session!

Richmond Updates



Senator Pekarsky with advocates and constituents from T1D, the Virginia Nursing Association, and the IAFF Local 2068 Firefighters Union!



Senator Pekarsky with advocates from Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action! Thank you all for your staunch advocacy in ending gun violence.



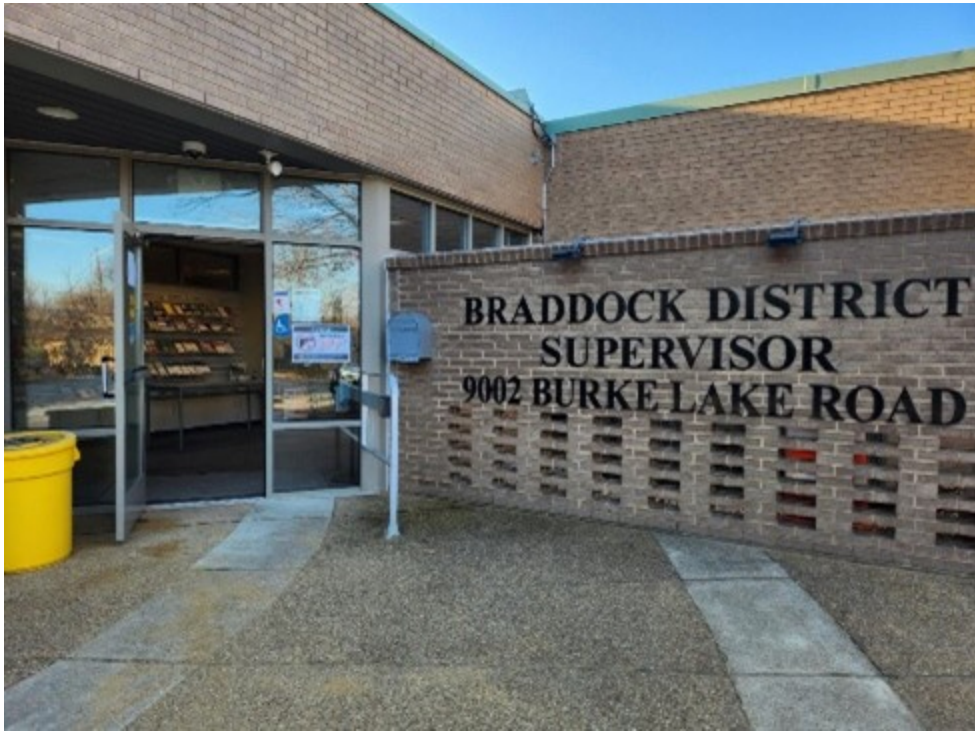
Senator Pekarsky with advocates from Businesses for Muslim Advocacy!



Senator Pekarsky with students and advocates from the Fairfax County Council PTA!

District Events

Join the Braddock District Staff for an Open House!



WHEN: Wednesday, February 4, 2026

4:30 – 6:30 PM

WHERE: 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015

Meet Supervisor Rachna Sizemore Heizer and her amazing staff, learn what's happening in your community, and share your ideas and questions!

RSVP HERE

Submit Issues to VDOT

VDOT has an online form that you can complete for a list of issues, including needing a road repaired, something removed from the road, a stop sign installation, and other requests. You can find that form [HERE](#).

Contact my Office

If you would like to schedule a meeting during the 2026
Legislative Session, contact our office directly
at: senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov

I would love to hear directly from you!

Commending & Memorial Resolutions

Continue to submit your Commending & Memorial
Resolution nominations by reaching out to my office directly
at: senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov

Subscribe to my Newsletter

Stay informed on what's happening in Richmond & the 36th
District!

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As always, it is a pleasure to serve you in the 36th District

Cheers,



Stella Pekarsky
Senator, District 36

Email: senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov

Phone: (804) 698-7536

Richmond Office

201 North 9th Street Room, 621
Richmond, VA 23219

Richmond Direct Mail

P.O. Box 396
Richmond, VA 23218

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***Friends of Stella G Pekarsky
PO BOX 231191 CENTREVILLE, VA 20120***

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Friends of Stella Pekarsky
PO BOX 231191
CENTREVILLE, VA 20120
United States

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