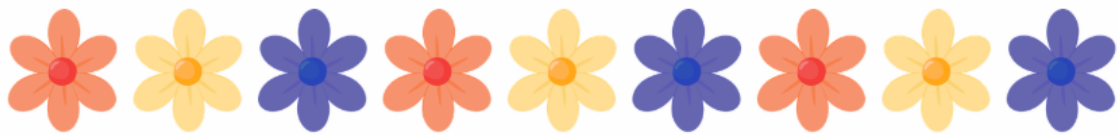




May 2026 Newsletter

Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

Happy May and Happy AAPI Heritage Month!



Senator Pekarisky at the Collective Bargaining Rally with VEA representatives and members of SEIU (April 22, 2026)

As we welcome the month of May, I'm grateful to stay connected with you and to continue serving our community in the Senate.

May is also a time to recognize and celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. Across Virginia and our nation, AAPI communities have made profound contributions to our economy, culture, public service, and civic life. This month offers an important opportunity to honor those contributions, reflect on the diverse histories that shape our Commonwealth, and reaffirm our commitment to inclusion and respect for all.

Continue reading for more important reminders, updates, upcoming events and other District news.

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

Cheers,



Stella Pekarsky

Senator, District 36

Reminders

**2026 Internship Opportunity
with Senator Stella Pekarsky**

About the Senator

Senator Stella Pekarsky represents Virginia's 36th District in the State Senate. This district is located in Western Fairfax and includes Centreville, Clifton, Fair

Oaks, Fair Lakes, and Chantilly. She has been in office since 2024 and will be up for reelection in 2027. In the Senate, she serves on the Agriculture, Conservations, and Natural Resources Committee, the Education and Health Committee, the General Laws and Technology Committee, and the Local Government Committee.

[Learn more about Stella by visiting her website.](#)

About the Role

The office of Virginia State Senator Stella Pekarsky is looking for interns to join our team in the Summer and Fall of 2026. Interns will be tasked with assisting the office on both official and campaign matters including, but not limited to:

- **Canvassing the district to talk directly to voters**
- **Fundraising research**
- **Social media**
- **Legislative research**
- **Constituent services**
- **Inbox management**
- **Event staffing and management**

and more!

We are looking for interns who are fast learners, flexible, and interested in engaging with both campaign work and the legislative process.

Qualifications

While there is no experience necessary to apply, we are particularly interested in candidates who: Are studying political science, public policy, law, or a different related field, have experience working on campaigns, can work flexible hours and have reliable access to transportation.

Candidates should be prepared to have a flexible work schedule and be available to work on weekends when necessary.

To apply, send a brief cover letter and resume to:

akellum@senate.virginia.gov

***Applications will be reviewed and considered on a rolling basis. Internship dates are flexible.**

Richmond Updates

Highlights from Reconvened Session



Senator Pekarsky speaking on the Senate Floor during Reconvene Session 2026

During the Reconvened Session, the General Assembly returned to Richmond to review legislation on which Governor Spanberger has taken action. This includes considering any amendments, whether technical

adjustments or more substantive changes, which must be voted on before the bill can move forward and become law.

Out of the 18 bills I passed this year, only 4 of them were offered amendments on behalf of the Governor's office. Three of which were only technical changes (SB107, SB137, and SB126). These amendments were accepted by the Senate.

The fourth (SB258) was offered a more substantive amendment - turning the bill into a study rather than passing what the original bill intention was. This amendment was gladly rejected by the Senate. Now, Governor Spanberger can either sign the original bill that was passed by the General Assembly, or veto the bill in its entirety.

Upcoming Events

Park and Bark at E.C. Lawrence Park: May 9

Bring your best friend for a lazy dog afternoon at ECLP!

Ellanor C. Lawrence
Park Friends

Lazy DOG
EAT. DRINK.

SATURDAY
MAY 9, 2026
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Walney Visitor Center

Live music!
Mobile dog grooming!
Kaziville hot dog truck!

PARK AND BARK

LOVEBITES DOG TREATS | LAURA'S CUSTOM CAKES |
SCENTHOUND | A FOREVER HOME ADOPTION |
FAMILY OF NUTS | FAHRENHEIT 99 | RED DOG RUN
BASKETS BY AVA | NAPTIME DOG BEDS | FAMILY FUN
and more!

ELLANOR C. LAWRENCE PARK
5040 WALNEY ROAD - CHANTILLY, VA
WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/PARKS/ECLAWRENCE

A Fairfax County Publication - 3/23

For ADA and Inclusion support, call 703-324-8727 - TTY Va. Relay 711

Bring your pup and join the fun at this free, family-friendly event that invites the community to enjoy an afternoon of hot dogs, Lazy Dog, adoptable dogs, music, and plenty of family-friendly tail-wagging fun — all in support of the park.

Small Business Week: May 3 - 9

Fairfax County is honoring its more than 30,000 small businesses with a week of advocacy and education to highlight their vital role in job creation and community character. Through partnerships with the FCEDA and the Fairfax CORE platform, the county provides local entrepreneurs with essential resources, workshops, and networking opportunities to help their businesses thrive and grow. There will be events held throughout the week:

→ **Monday, May 4: Made in Fairfax CORE – Webinar (6 - 7 pm)**

→ **Tuesday, May 5: Entrepreneurship 101 and Small Business Resource Expo (8:30 am - 3:30 pm)**

→ **Wednesday May 6: Virtual Entrepreneur Help Desk “Unlocking the Power of Fairfax CORE” (6 - 7 pm)**

→ **Tuesday, May 5 & Wednesday, May 6: National Small Business Week 2-day virtual summit**

Celebrate Sully District's 35th Birthday - May 2



Please join Supervisor Kathy Smith to celebrate the Sully District's 35th Birthday on Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 11 am to 2 pm at the Sully District Governmental Center. Gather with friends and family to celebrate this milestone, enjoy cake, a flashback of Sully District history, and take advantage of onsite County services.

Free Parking and Shuttle Service provided at the Stone Road Park and Ride Lot located at Route 29 and Stone Road. Parking will not be available at the Sully Governmental Center.

Some things that will be available:

- **Meet and snuggle adoptable pets**
- **Obtain an Ident-a-Kid card for your child**
- **Visit the Wonder Wagon to sign up for Park Authority classes, and explore park opportunities**
- **Connect with County resources and partners, including SYA, WFCM, etc.**
- **Free blood pressure checks and screening**
- **Free notary services**

- **Face painting and games available for all ages**
 - **A food truck with refreshments**
 - **Drop off glass and textiles for recycling, and medications and flags for proper disposal.**
- and more!**

Bike to Work Day: May 15



Bike to Work Day 2026 will be held on Friday, May 15, 2025, from 6:30 - 9:30 am. Fairfax County has more than two dozen pit stops for bicyclists. Commuter Connections, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) and other local governments will host more throughout the National Capital Region. The first 16,000 who register and check into a pit stop by bike will receive a free T-shirt. Additionally, snacks, beverages, and giveaways will be provided at select pit stops while supplies last.

Out & About

Collective Bargaining Rally



Senator Pekarsky and Delegate Elizabeth Guzman joined by workers and advocates at the Collective Bargaining Rally!

Other News



PBS News: Virginia Voters Approve Redistricting Referendum

The Virginia redistricting referendum marked a setback for President Donald Trump, who kicked off a national redistricting battle last year by urging Republican officials in Texas to redraw districts. The goal was to help Republicans win more seats in the November elections and hold on to a narrow House majority in the face of political headwinds that typically favor the party out of power during midterm elections.



FFX Now: Fairfax County board agrees to reduce tax rate, restore some proposed cuts in budget

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors informally adopted a \$5.9 billion fiscal year 2027 budget on April 28th that includes a small reduction in the real estate tax rate, more reserve funding and changes to proposed cuts.



FFX Now: Fairfax school board encourages delaying smartphone use until eighth grade

At its meeting last week (April 23), the Fairfax County School Board approved a “Wait Until 8th” resolution that expresses support for “developmentally appropriate smartphone use as a community norm,” encouraging parents to hold off on giving their kids a smartphone until they finish eighth grade.

Passed 10-0 with school board chair Sandy Anderson (Springfield District) abstaining, the resolution introduced by at-large member Ryan McElveen also includes a caveat supporting necessary smartphone use for students with disabilities or others who might need one for an education-related purpose.

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 need any assistance with a state agency or other concerns, contact our office directly at: senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov

I would love to hear directly from you!

Subscribe to my Newsletter

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

SUBSCRIBE

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

Cheers,



Stella Pekarsky
Senator, District 36

For more information, checkout my [website!](#)



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