2026-2027 General Assembly Candidate Questionnaire

Clean Virginia is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization with an associated Political Action Committee (Clean Virginia Fund). We want the Virginia government to prioritize the public interest over corporate profits and for the Commonwealth to be powered by clean, affordable energy.

Along with past voting records (for incumbents) and public statements, Clean Virginia uses the information provided here to inform our 2026 and 2027 funding and endorsement process for candidates for Virginia's General Assembly. This questionnaire also helps highlight our organization's priority issues to candidates.

Clean Virginia's Policy Goals:

> **Reduce corporate influence in Virginia politics**. We support meaningful campaign finance reforms, including prohibiting direct corporate political contributions, establishing reasonable contribution limits on all other spenders, and strengthening transparency and disclosure requirements. We believe public policy should be driven by the interests of Virginians — not by powerful monopolies or wealthy special interests.
>
> **Protect Virginia families and businesses from energy policies that put profits ahead of customers.** That means preventing unjustified rate increases, tying utility profits to performance, ensuring that families and small businesses are not forced to subsidize large corporate energy users, such as data centers, and ensuring that data centers pay their fair share in state taxes.

We ask that all candidates seeking Clean Virginia's endorsement complete the entire questionnaire. Candidates who do not finish the questionnaire will not be eligible for funding. Responses and/or questions about this form should be emailed to endorsements@cleanvirginia.org. More information about Clean Virginia, our core issues, and our mission can be found on our website: www.cleanvirginia.org.

If you need additional space to complete a question, please attach your responses as a PDF document. Please be advised that we consider your answers to this questionnaire public record.

SECTION I - Candidate Information

Candidate Name:____

Office Sought:____

District: Party: ____

Name of Campaign Committee: __________________________________

Address: ____

City/State/Zip: ____

Website: ____

Candidate Contact Information

Phone: ____

Email: ____

Campaign Manager's Contact Information (if applicable)

Name: ____

Phone: ____

Email: ____

SECTION II - Regulated Utility Monopolies and Campaign Contributions

Virginia's investor-owned electric utilities, including Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power Company, are unique from other corporations in that they are granted monopolies by the state to provide a public service. In exchange for their protected monopoly status, these utilities are regulated by laws developed by the Virginia legislature and implemented by the State Corporation Commission (SCC). Together, the legislature and the SCC are responsible for setting fair profit levels for the utilities and protecting captive customers from price gouging and monopolistic overreach.

Because of this structure, it is an inherent conflict of interest for Virginia's elected officials to accept campaign contributions from the utility monopolies they are responsible for regulating. Accepting utilities' contributions also creates an appearance of bias that undermines public trust in the democratic process. Recognizing this, federal law prohibited utilities from making direct political contributions to local, state, and federal political parties and candidates until 2005, when Congress repealed the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 (PUHCA).[1] Today, 23 states prohibit direct contributions from corporations and utility monopolies, and another 23 states have passed laws placing limits on those contributions.[2] After PUHCA's repeal, states allowing unrestricted utility contributions saw an average increase of $58,000 per year in utility political spending and authorized higher returns on equity for utilities, resulting in each utility being allowed to charge their customers for $4 million more in profits each year.[3]

Clean Virginia believes banning contributions from public utility monopolies to legislators accomplishes the following:

- Limits utility monopolies' attempts to shape legislation that prioritizes utility shareholders' profits over the public interest;
- Prevents utilities from using ratepayers' money to influence election outcomes;
- Restores public trust in Virginia's elected officials by eliminating a conflict of interest. Clean Virginia believes that removing utility money from Virginia politics allows utility companies, lawmakers, and regulators to exchange necessary information without bias.

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[1] Mark Van Orden, "Why States Should Prohibit Utility Political Contributions | Utility Dive," December 19, 2023, https://www.utilitydive.com/news/why-states-should-prohibit-utility-political-contributions/702835/.

[2] " National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL), "State limits on contributions to candidates 2025-2026 election cycle," accessed June 23, 2026, https://documents.ncsl.org/wwwncsl/Elections/State-Limits-on-Contributions-to-Candidates-2025-2026.pdf.

[3] Mark Van Orden, "Power Play: Political Contributions and Regulatory Capture in the Electric Utility Industry," *The Center for Growth and Opportunity*, November 30, 2025, https://www.thecgo.org/research/power-play/.

SECTION II - Regulated Utility Monopolies and Campaign Contributions (continued)

1. Do you accept campaign contributions from Virginia's electric utility monopolies Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power Company, or more than $1,000 per year from one of their employed lobbyists or C-Suite executives?[4]

   Yes No

   Comments:

2. Do you accept campaign contributions from NextEra, the energy utility that is attempting to purchase Dominion, or any of its subsidiaries (Florida Power & Light Company, NextEra Energy Capital Holdings Inc., NextEra Energy Resources LLC)?

   Yes No

   Comments:

3. Do you own any personal stocks, bonds, or investments in Dominion Energy, NextEra Energy, NextEra Energy Partners, or American Electric Power?

   Yes No

   Comments:

[4] *Clean Virginia's capped standard for individual contributions recognizes that identifying and refunding small donations from dozens of lobbyists and C-Suite executives, some of whom are constituents, creates an undue burden on campaigns.

SECTION III - Campaign Finance and Ethics Reform

The Commonwealth lags behind the rest of the country in regulating campaign contributions. Virginia is one of only four states without any laws preventing unlimited corporate donations. As a result, Virginia scored 45th out of 50 states in the Coalition for Integrity's 2020 S.W.A.M.P. Index, which measures anti-corruption measures across the nation.[5]

Virginia's electric utility monopolies take advantage of lax campaign finance laws to pour millions of dollars into Virginia elections each year, including from lobbyists and political action committees (PACs).[6] Contributions to lawmakers in charge of regulating utilities are an inherent conflict of interest, drowning out the voices of everyday Virginians and opening the door for the utilities to regulate themselves at the expense of families and businesses.

1. Do you support legislative efforts to ban campaign contributions from public utility monopolies to members and candidates of the General Assembly and Executive Branch? Why or why not?

   Yes No

   Comments:

2. Do you support legislative efforts to ban campaign contributions from corporations to members and candidates of the General Assembly and Executive Branch? Why or why not?

   Yes No

   Comments:

[5] https://www.coalitionforintegrity.org/swamp2020/
[6] https://www.vpap.org/donors/120206-dominion-energy/

SECTION III - Campaign Finance and Ethics Reform (continued)

3. Do you support legislation to establish campaign contribution limits for members and candidates of the Virginia General Assembly and Executive Branch? Why or why not?

   Yes No

   Comments:

4. What are some specific ways you think Virginia could promote more ethical governance?

SECTION IV - Utility Regulation

Virginia's current regulatory structure for electric utility monopolies keeps energy bills high and incentivizes utilities to invest in costly new infrastructure regardless of whether it benefits customers. Over the past few years, a broad bipartisan coalition of legislators, consumer advocates, business interests, and environmental groups has pursued legislation to protect Virginia's utility customers from overcharges and ensure the transition to clean energy is cost-effective and affordable for all. This coalition has seen several successes, including:

- **2023:** The General Assembly passed the bipartisan **Affordable Energy Act** (SB 1321 / HB 1604), along with major utility rate reform legislation (SB 1265 / HB 1770). These laws restored important oversight authority to the State Corporation Commission and are expected to save Virginia utility customers approximately **$4 billion over 10 years**.
- **2024:** The General Assembly passed bipartisan legislation (SJR 47 / HJR 30), directing the State Corporation Commission and the Virginia Department of Energy to study **performance-based regulation (PBR)** for investor-owned electric utilities. Performance-based regulation is designed to better align utility incentives with customer interests by rewarding utilities for achieving policy and service objectives rather than simply for increasing spending.
- **2026**: The General Assembly passed bipartisan legislation (SB 251 / HB 903), directing the State Corporation Commission to study how elements of a PBR framework could improve electric utility performance and cost control incentives in the Commonwealth, to determine whether such a framework is in the public interest. The Commission must submit its findings and related legislative recommendations in a report by July 1, 2027.

The passage of these bills marked watershed moments in the mission to reform Virginia's energy system. As outlined by the 2025 SCC study on PBR, several flaws in the regulatory system remain, including an overreliance on riders– additional charges on top of the rate base – and a weak competitive procurement process to select utility resources.[7] It is imperative that the General Assembly update Virginia's regulatory system to one that incentivizes utilities to advance customer affordability and cleaner, cost-competitive solutions.

[7] Opportunities for Performance-Based and Alternative Regulatory Tools in Virginia (HJR 30, 2024). https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/Published/2025/HD5

SECTION IV - Utility Regulation (continued)

1. Do you support changing Virginia's current laws to reduce the outsized profit and regulatory advantages currently provided to investor-owned utility monopolies? Why or why not?

   Yes No

   Comments:

2. Do you support efforts to improve energy planning processes in Virginia to increase transparency, accountability, and meaningful stakeholder participation? Why or why not?

   Yes No

   Comments:

SECTION V - Minimizing Unfair Burden from Energy Infrastructure & Costs

Historically, power plants and other energy infrastructure have been built primarily in poorer neighborhoods - often places that lack the political influence or connections to push back. Projects like the Chesterfield Gas Plant and the Union Hill compressor station are recent reminders in Virginia that lower-income and historically overlooked communities tend to bear the brunt of pollution and other burdens associated with the energy industry.[8]

The expansion of the data center industry in Virginia has exacerbated these challenges. Data centers are expected to double or even triple Virginia's electric demand by 2040[9] and are prompting a massive expansion of energy infrastructure, including fossil fuel-fired power plants and transmission lines. This infrastructure buildout to serve a single industry presents significant profit opportunities for electric utility monopolies. Meanwhile, residents are at risk of paying for many of the costs of this expanding industry, including data center-driven generation, transmission, PJM market, financing, and health costs. Virginia's current systems are not equipped to protect residents from these risks, and urgent and wide-ranging reform is needed.

It is imperative that Virginia's General Assembly and regulators advance policies that ensure data centers pay their fair share, and that the growth of the energy industry does not sacrifice the health of our communities or the land, air, and water of our Commonwealth.

1. Do you support energy and regulatory policies that ensure all people are provided protection from harmful health, social, and economic effects of our energy system? Why or why not?

   Yes No

   Comments:

[8] Bryce Ancell, Dominion's Chesterfield gas plant proposal in the spotlight, September 22, 2025. https://www.selc.org/news/dominions-chesterfield-gas-plant-proposal-in-the-spotlight/

[9] Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, *Data Centers in Virginia* (JLARC, 2024), https://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt598-2.pdf, iii.

SECTION V - Minimizing Unfair Burden from Energy Infrastructure & Costs (continued)

2. Do you believe data centers should be required to cover the full cost of their energy use and the infrastructure needed to support it, and that ratepayers should be protected from any electric bill increases resulting from data center demand? Why or why not?

   Yes No

   Comments:

3. Virginia exempts data centers from paying sales tax, a tax break that amounted to $1.9B in 2025[10] and continues to grow every year. Do you support efforts to reform Virginia's tax code to eliminate the Sales and Use Tax Exemption and therefore generate nearly $2B annually for Virginia to invest in teacher pay, schools, transportation, health care, and to grow a stable and diversified economy?

   Yes No

   Comments:

[10] Pg. 3, Department of Taxation, 2026: https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/Published/2026/RD40/PDF

Acknowledgment

This signature attests that the above information accurately represents the views of the candidate.

Candidate name: ______________________________

Candidate signature: ______________________________

Date: ______________________________