



VOTE SMART
Facts for All

Political Courage Test: 2023 Virginia Edition

Candidates are strongly encouraged to complete the Political Courage Test online at:
secure.votesmart.org

Please indicate your thoughts on the following fifteen issues. Vote Smart has identified these ten issues as top on voters' minds. Your responses will be posted on [our website](#) where millions of voters will be able to access them and you can link to your posted responses for your own campaign materials.

If you would like to provide a more detailed response, please do so in the "Other or expanded principles" section (all responses must be under 500 words). **Should you choose not to respond, Vote Smart may research your public record to determine your likely positions on these issues.**

The Political Courage Test must be signed and returned to our office by 11:59 pm CT the day of the deadline. We can be reached at 515-989-6359 or by email at **politicalcourage@votesmart.org**.

I, _____, am willing to tell citizens where I stand on the issues I may face if elected. I have demonstrated my Political Courage by indicating my position on the following issues.

Signed: _____

State: _____ District: _____ Date: _____

Abortion and Reproductive Health:

- a) Do you generally support pro-choice or pro-life legislation? Pro-choice ____ Pro-life ____
- b) Do you support legalizing abortion when the pregnancy resulted from incest or rapes? Yes ____ No ____
- c) Do you support the prohibition of public funds (e.g. Medicaid) for organizations that perform abortions? Yes ____ No ____

Other or expanded principles:

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Budget, Spending, & Taxes:

a) In order to balance the budget, do you support reducing state employee salaries AND/OR pensions? Yes ___ No ___

b) Do you support a decrease in income taxes in order to balance the budget in your state? Yes ___ No ___

c) Do you support a wealth tax in order to pay for public programs in your state? Yes ___ No ___

Other or expanded principles:

Crime & Public Safety:

a) Do you support capital punishment for violent crimes? Yes ___ No ___

b) Should an individual under 18 accused of a violent crime be prosecuted as an adult? Yes ___ No ___

c) Do you support the enforcement of federal immigration laws by state and local police? Yes ___ No ___

d) Do you support the use of private prisons? Yes ___ No ___

e) Do you support mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug offenders? Yes ___ No ___

Other or expanded principles:

Economy:

a) Do you support state government spending as a means of promoting economic growth (e.g. grants, tax incentives)? Yes ___ No ___

b) Do you support reducing state government regulations on the private sector? Yes ___ No ___

c) Do you support an increase of the minimum wage of Virginia? Yes ___ No ___

d) Do you support government spending on affordable housing projects in Virginia? Yes ___ No ___

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Education:

- a) Do you support adopting federal education standards (e.g. Common Core) in Virginia? Yes ___ No ___
- b) Do you support state funding for charter schools? Yes ___ No ___
- c) Do you support increasing teacher salaries AND/OR benefits in Virginia? Yes ___ No ___
- d) Should immigrants in the United States who graduate from Virginia high schools be eligible for in-state tuition at public universities, regardless of immigration status? Yes ___ No ___

Other or expanded principles:

Energy & Environment:

- a) Do you support state funding for the development of renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, geo-thermal)? Yes ___ No ___
- b) Do you support state governments allowing permits for drilling on public lands? Yes ___ No ___
- c) Do you support increasing state funding for clean drinking water initiatives? Yes ___ No ___
- d) Do you support repealing the State Air Pollution Control Board's authority to implement low-emissions and zero-emissions vehicle standards for vehicles with a model year of 2025 and later? Yes ___ No ___

Other or expanded principles:

Government Reform:

- a) Do you support the regulation of campaign contributions from corporations, unions, and individuals? Yes ___ No ___
- b) Do you support the use of an independent or bipartisan commission for redistricting? Yes ___ No ___
- c) Do you support requiring a government-issued photo identification in order to vote at the polls? Yes ___ No ___
- d) Do you support automatic voter registration? Yes ___ No ___
- e) Do you support the implementation of ranked choice voting in Virginia? Yes ___ No ___

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Other or expanded principles:

Guns:

- a) Do you generally support gun-control legislation (e.g. red flag laws, boyfriend loophole)? Yes ____ No ____
- b) Should background checks be required on gun sales between private citizens at gun shows? Yes ____ No ____
- c) Do you support the right to concealed carry in Virginia? Yes ____ No ____

Other or expanded principles:

Health Care:

- a) Should the state government increase funding for treatment facilities to combat opioid abuse? Yes ____ No ____
- b) Do you support a government-run (e.g. single-payer) healthcare program such as Medicare-for-All? Yes ____ No ____
- c) Should an individual have the right to choose to die (e.g. those with a terminal illness) through euthanasia? Yes ____ No ____
- d) Do you support eliminating religious exemptions for vaccinations? Yes ____ No ____
- e) Do you support expanding paid family AND/OR medical leave benefits (e.g. maternity leave)? Yes ____ No ____
- f) Should the government be able to regulate the cost of prescription drugs? Yes ____ No ____

Other or expanded principles:

Social Policy:

- a) Do you support inclusion of sexual orientation in Virginia anti-discrimination laws? Yes ____ No ____
- b) Do you support the inclusion of gender identity in Virginia anti-discrimination laws? Yes ____ No ____
- c) Do you support greater efforts by Virginia state government in closing gender, racial and other wage gaps? Yes ____ No ____
- d) Do you support requiring transgender athletes to compete in intramural and interscholastic sports that match their assigned sex at birth in Virginia? Yes ____ No ____

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