



Abigail
Spanberger
GOVERNOR



HOUSING: Making where you live more affordable

No matter where Abigail travels across Virginia, the cost and supply of housing is a top concern for Virginia families, seniors, and Veterans. A shortage of available and affordable homes creates cutthroat competition and drives up prices.

Abigail wants Virginia to be a nationwide leader in addressing the housing crisis — which means working with anyone,

Democrats and Republicans, to make sure more Virginians can achieve their dream of buying a home here in the Commonwealth. But she also knows a one-size-fits-all approach won't solve Virginia's housing issues. As Governor, she will work with local communities on solutions that make sense for them to increase the availability and affordability of housing for buyers and renters across the Commonwealth.

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Give cities and counties the flexibility they need to build more housing. Ensure all localities may create an affordable housing program to increase the tools at their disposal. Encourage and incentivize the use of localities' bonding authority for building housing options that meet demand in their communities.

Respond to Virginia's unique regional housing challenges without a "one-size-fits-all" solution. Work with Virginia Housing to continue and strengthen the Planning District Commission Housing Development Program to support regional planning solutions that gather local input. Offer technical assistance from Virginia's Department of Housing and Community Development to localities that agree to rezone to increase the housing supply.

Cut red tape and reduce burdensome regulations that slow down housing construction. Streamline reviews and permitting processes for properties identified for redevelopment. Make recommendations on how to increase housing supply by identifying the policies that are driving up production costs that do not impact quality or safety.

Direct investments towards housing Virginia families can afford. Provide incentives for new construction that increases the supply of housing attainable to first-time homeowners and middle-class families, including starter homes and smaller homes on smaller lots. Leverage unused or underutilized space, including abandoned commercial buildings, by encouraging the redevelopment of these buildings for residential use. Invest in innovative housing solutions that reduce the cost of building.

Take commonsense steps to increase the housing supply and make housing more attainable. Increase the portion of the Governor of Virginia's allocation of the state private activity bond that is dedicated to housing, so that Virginia is a strong partner in tackling the housing supply crisis in communities across the Commonwealth. Increase funding for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund to increase the supply of affordable housing specifically.

Preserve and protect existing affordable housing. Provide Virginia localities and qualified entities with a transferable right of first refusal to buy tax-credit supported multifamily housing when its affordability period expires. Support community land trusts. Invest in the rehabilitation of affordable housing, including manufactured homes, to make sure all Virginians have a safe place to sleep at night.

Address the rise in homelessness and evictions. Re-establish an Interagency Council on Homelessness and Housing to drive down the rate of homelessness and evictions in Virginia. Invest in the Commonwealth's programs that prevent people from experiencing homelessness, such as the DHCD Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot (VERP) to expand its reach to protect vulnerable Virginians, including seniors, veterans, disabled individuals, families with young children, and individuals experiencing domestic violence, substance use disorder, or a mental health crisis. Improve protections for renters, including extending the timeline before a landlord can begin eviction proceedings from 5 to 14 days to allow people to get their next paycheck before being evicted.

Strengthen Virginia's fair housing protections to prevent discrimination in housing. Strengthen and prioritize the Virginia Fair Housing Office to enforce anti-discrimination laws and health & safety standards. Work with the Attorney General's Office of Civil Rights to crack down on predatory actors.