

JAY JONES

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

KEEPING VIRGINIANS SAFE



Dear Virginians,

Keeping our communities safe is the most important responsibility of any Virginia leader. My parents, who served as violent crime prosecutors and later served as state court judges, instilled this value in me from a young age. Now, as a lifelong Norfolk resident and father of two, I understand firsthand the importance of a safe, healthy environment where children can grow, businesses can thrive, and Virginians can live without fear.

That's why I've worked throughout my career to carry legislation and vote for funding that prioritizes keeping our communities safe. In the House of Delegates, I was proud to work to increase public safety funding by more than 20% — an increase of nearly a billion dollars annually to ensure our law enforcement and first responders had the tools, training, and resources needed to protect the communities they serve.¹

That included hundreds of millions in funding for our state and local police departments, our sheriff's offices, and our Commonwealth's attorneys' offices around the Commonwealth. With those resources, we provided critical pay raises, funded alternative transportation programs for mental health calls so officers could focus on their primary responsibilities, boosted resources to take on gangs,² and strengthened our ability to prosecute crime and support victims.³

I sponsored bipartisan laws to strengthen penalties for sex offenders,⁴ keep kids safe in schools,⁵ and establish a Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Grant Fund and Program to stop gangs like MS-13.⁶ And as an Assistant Attorney General in Washington, D.C., I took on the gun lobby and helped take illegal guns off the streets by securing a landmark victory putting a ghost gun manufacturer selling untraceable guns out of business.⁷

KEEPING VIRGINIANS SAFE



As Attorney General, making Virginia safer will continue to be my top priority.

Unfortunately, under the failed leadership of Jason Miyares, Virginians have not gotten safer. In fact, violent crime rose nearly 7% statewide through the first half of Miyares' term;⁸ aggravated assaults are up nearly 9% and car thefts more than 30%.⁹ At the same time, only 54% of violent crimes in Virginia resulted in a conviction, with many rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, and even murders going unsolved.¹⁰

While he talks a good game about keeping communities safe, the truth is Miyares has refused to fight for funding that supports these efforts across the Commonwealth. When Elon Musk and Donald Trump illegally froze all federal grant funding¹¹ — halting hundreds of millions of dollars in critical support for public safety programs through Virginia — Miyares did nothing, unlike other Attorneys General throughout the country who stood up and sued to restore funding.¹² Later, when nearly \$50 million in grants to keep places of worship safe, fight violent crime in rural areas, support female officers, and combat human trafficking were terminated, Miyares again did nothing, putting politics ahead of Virginians' safety.^{13,14}

Virginia deserves an Attorney General who puts people over politics, stands up for law enforcement, and delivers real results. I ask for your support to build a safer, stronger Commonwealth for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "J" and a simple "ay" following it.

MISSION: MAKE VIRGINIA THE SAFEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY

STOP VIOLENT CRIME IN THE COMMONWEALTH AND SUPPORT CRIME VICTIMS

In 2023, the most recent year in which statewide data has been released in full, there were 21,037 instances of violent crime that occurred in Virginia — the most in nearly 20 years.¹⁵ That's unacceptable.

We must prioritize stopping and convicting the most dangerous criminals to keep Virginians safe. In office, I will:

Ensure victims of crime are supported and have a firm ally in the Attorney General's Office.

Virginia leaders have a solemn responsibility to support victims of crime — one I'll take seriously as Attorney General. We'll strengthen victim advocacy services so anyone who has been harmed by crime has an ally who can help them get justice, navigate the legal process, and recover both before and after their case is heard. While many jurisdictions throughout the state have similar programs, many don't — and no Virginian should be left behind based on where they live. Victim assistant navigators can ensure crime victims have a resource who walks them through the legal process, connects them with organizations or services that can help them recover, and serves as a trusted ally available for questions and concerns to make sure no one feels they have to fight for justice on their own.



Restore a department-wide focus on targeting violent crime, drug trafficking, sexual abuse, and serious, repeat offenses.

As Attorney General, I will conduct a thorough review of the staffing and budget of the Attorney General's Office with the goal of shifting greater resources to fighting violent crime and holding bad actors accountable. That means designating a liaison to work directly with law enforcement agencies and facilitate collaboration on training needs, legal guidance, and more. It also means providing technical assistance, detailing prosecutors to local Commonwealth's attorneys' offices who need support, and leveraging federal grant funds to equip our local partners with the resources they need to do their jobs most effectively. Our resources must match our priorities, and I will ensure those resources are spent where they can be most effective.

Create a dedicated Drug Trafficking Unit that can coordinate and share information and resources with local law enforcement to stop fentanyl and drug trafficking throughout the Commonwealth.

We must get illegal drugs like fentanyl out of Virginia, and the Attorney General's Office has a critical role to play in that effort. As a multi-jurisdictional crime, drug trafficking can be challenging for local law enforcement to combat, placing a premium on inter-organizational cooperation and information sharing. As Attorney General, I will create a dedicated Drug Trafficking Unit within the office that will be tasked with improving regional partnerships, communication, and the exchange of information across departments. It also includes formalizing an agreement with our neighboring states to fight trafficking across state lines.

Work with local law enforcement to improve clearance rates so more crimes are solved and violent offenders are brought to justice.

It's unfathomable that, in the year 2025, we are only able to solve just half of violent crimes in the Commonwealth of Virginia.¹⁶ We must work hand in hand with local law enforcement to improve clearance rates so that when people commit violent crimes, they are held accountable and victims can obtain justice. First, I will dedicate personnel within the Office of the Attorney General to work with local law enforcement to identify roadblocks to case clearance and connect them with resources to help solve crimes. That includes building and strengthening community partnerships so witnesses feel safe coming forward. I will also strengthen the Cold Case Unit to re-examine old cases with new evidence unlocked by the latest technology or the newest developments. We will also support efforts to build strong community partnerships with law enforcement so communities and law enforcement are working hand in hand to solve crime.

Leverage best practices for re-entry programs and deliver technical assistance to support high-quality local programs.

The vast majority of individuals who become incarcerated will eventually return home to our communities, and preventing violent crime means equipping returning citizens with the tools to succeed upon their release. Many of Virginia's local jails and our state correctional facilities are operating innovative programs to provide mental health and substance use disorder treatment as well as effective re-entry programs, and as Attorney General I will empower my re-entry coordinator to collaborate with local departments and stakeholders to collect and share best practices, identify funding to replicate successful programs, and ensure coordination among state and local agencies.

Support community-based treatment and crisis response programs so law enforcement can focus on keeping our communities safe.

Too often, Virginians experiencing mental health or substance use crises end up in the criminal justice system simply because there aren't enough community resources to respond. This is a disservice to our communities and individuals in crisis, and it strains our local law enforcement agencies, whose officers may spend hours handling temporary detention orders instead of focusing on violent crime. As Attorney General, I will champion an expansion of programs like the Marcus Alert to put more trained

KEEPING VIRGINIANS SAFE



mental health professionals in the field, working alongside law enforcement to de-escalate situations safely. I will also look to expand alternative transportation programs that allow crisis care teams to accompany individuals in crisis while they await treatment.

Help support recruitment and retention efforts so law enforcement agencies can do their jobs as safely and effectively as possible.

Virginia's state and local law enforcement agencies play an essential role in keeping our communities safe, but recruitment and retention challenges are hampering their ability to hire and keep the best and brightest officers on our streets and in our jails and correctional facilities. That's why as a Delegate I repeatedly voted to raise officer pay and strengthen retirement benefits — so law enforcement was compensated in a way they deserved, leading to the strongest force possible. But we must do more. As Attorney General, I will support local efforts to get new recruits in the door and ensure agencies have access to the resources they need, whether that is training and technical support or funding for equipment and technologies. I will also work with the Department of Criminal Justice Services and provide counsel as they work to review and update regulations that govern training efforts.

Serve as a hub for new and emerging public safety threats.

Virginia's law enforcement officers and Commonwealth's attorneys work tirelessly to keep our communities safe, but they are often working with constrained budgets and diminishing resources. When new threats arise, it is essential that our public safety agencies have access to the most up-to-date information and resources to combat emerging public safety threats like cyber scams, organized crime rings, and more. As Attorney General, I will ensure my team interfaces with state and local agencies, and when new threats arise, we will dedicate resources to supporting enforcement efforts at all levels of government.

GET ILLEGAL GUNS OFF VIRGINIA STREETS

Gun violence takes a devastating toll on Virginia communities each year, costing more than 1,300 lives and \$14.3 billion from our economy annually.¹⁷ Guns are the leading cause of death for Virginia kids, and as Attorney General, I will not stand for it.¹⁸ As a Delegate, I was proud to expand background checks,¹⁹ pass a law to hold people accountable who allow children to access loaded guns, and pass a red flag law to get guns out of the hands of domestic abusers²⁰ — all measures that Jason Miyares voted against. And as an Assistant Attorney General, I fought to hold ghost gun manufacturers accountable for putting untraceable weapons on the street, winning a landmark judgment against a rogue gunmaker that was illegally selling unserialized firearms and forcing them to shut down sales in the community I served.²¹

I'll continue this fight to save lives as Attorney General, where I will:

Advocate for commonsense gun violence prevention laws and support their implementation.

Getting illegal guns off our streets is going to be a top priority when I am Attorney General, but I will also be laser-focused on advocating for laws and policies that aim to keep guns out of dangerous hands. I will fight for stronger background checks, enhanced domestic violence protections, safe storage requirements, and laws that keep guns away from individuals who commit hate crimes. Upon their passage, I will work with local law enforcement, prosecutors, and stakeholders to ensure full implementation. I will provide legal guidance and ensure local agencies are able to leverage every tool at their disposal to keep communities safe.

Work closely with local law enforcement and Commonwealth's attorneys' offices to target illegal guns — and increase interagency cooperation with regional partners.

Virginia has long been a source of crime guns trafficked from our state into our neighboring states, and it is shameful. As Attorney General, my office will crack down on gun crimes and help to prosecute gun traffickers. We will issue guidance to gun dealers on how to identify straw purchasers and prevent trafficking before guns are sold. We will also work with state and local public safety agencies to identify these individuals, effectively share information, and build regional capacity, especially along key trafficking corridors, to spot these dangerous individuals and get them off the streets. And we will ensure local agencies have access to the most up-to-date technologies to trace gun crimes and prosecute



bad actors. Strengthening these partnerships at the local and inter-state levels can mean that cases involving illegal guns are thoroughly investigated, aggressively prosecuted, and resolved swiftly, making our communities safer.

Crack down on unscrupulous gun dealers who are not following the law.

Nationwide, 90% of guns used each year in crimes come from 5% of gun dealers.²² The vast majority of gun sellers follow the law and conduct business responsibly. The small minority that do not — and choose instead to profit while spreading violence in our communities — will not receive a free pass. Jason Miyares has spent his administration catering to the gun lobby and refusing to hold bad gun dealers accountable. He even opposed a measure to better track gun purchases that could identify unscrupulous dealers and cut off their ability to pump illegal guns onto the streets.²³ As Attorney General, I'll investigate and prosecute gun dealers who refuse to follow the law, and put them out of business to keep illegal guns out of our communities.

Expand violence interruption programs to more communities to target the root causes of gun violence.

While we work to take illegal guns off the streets, we also must continue to target the conflicts that can lead to violence. Violence interruption programs — in which trusted coordinators embedded in local communities work with youth to defuse and de-escalate conflicts before they can erupt — have been proven to reduce shootings, with one program leading to a 75% reduction in killings in Charlotte, a 63% reduction in shootings in New York City, and a more than 22% reduction in Baltimore.²⁴ My office will work to expand the use of violence interruption programs in Virginia by placing more anti-violence coordinators on the ground. As Attorney General I will ensure my office leverages all resources available to support the expansion of these programs, while also serving as a resource hub for best practices, training, and technical assistance for local communities and programs.

Fight to hold gun manufacturers accountable for the damage their weapons cause.

For years, Virginia had some of the most restrictive laws in the nation protecting gun manufacturers from the consequences of the weapons they sell — allowing them to profit while too many Virginians pay the price with their lives. But in 2020, this began to change when we passed a law — which I was proud to vote for, while Jason Miyares voted against it — rolling back these restrictions.²⁵ While impediments still exist from federal law, I'll use the full force of my position as Attorney General to ensure the gun companies that created the gun violence epidemic are held accountable for stopping it. We'll explore all options for taking on gun manufacturers, including through using civil statutes on consumer protection grounds where possible — just like I did as an Assistant Attorney General in Washington, D.C. Through these legal actions, we will seek to cut off the flow of illegal guns into Virginia and use the proceeds from any settlements with gun manufacturers to fund violence interruption and gun safety programs that can reduce shootings and gun deaths, especially programs that keep youth engaged in healthy activities.

KEEPING VIRGINIANS SAFE



Stop the Trump administration from rolling back commonsense gun safety measures that could lead to a flood of dangerous weapons into Virginia.

Virginia has made progress in recent years in the fight to end gun violence, passing commonsense measures that keep illegal guns off the streets. However, the Trump administration is working to roll back important national-level protections that could make our state less safe. A network of Attorneys General across the country has fought to preserve background check requirements at gun shows to prevent guns from falling into the hands of convicted felons, and to maintain a ban on forced reset triggers — devices that give weapons otherwise-banned machine gun-like capabilities.²⁶ Miyares has refused to join these efforts, instead falling in line with his party boss. As Attorney General, I will join the multi-state effort to protect these critical gun safety measures and sue the Trump administration whenever it is needed to stop gun violence.

PROTECT VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN

My North Star as Attorney General will always be fighting for the safety and opportunity of Virginia's children. As the father of two young boys, I deeply understand the excitement, hopes, and fears that come from being a parent — and know that it takes a village to protect our state's children. That's why as a Delegate I worked to pass a bipartisan law strengthening penalties on sex offenders to keep dangerous individuals off the streets,²⁷ and another law boosting school safety.²⁸ We'll lead the way in the Attorney General's Office to both target the threats facing our kids and give parents the resources they need to be prepared and vigilant so that, working together, all Virginia children have the opportunity to thrive.

Create a Child Safety Unit within the Attorney General's Office.

To keep Virginia's children safe, we need highly trained officers and prosecutors who can identify predators and bring them to justice. As Attorney General, I will create a Child Safety Unit dedicated to that mission. This multidisciplinary unit will incorporate representatives from our public safety, education, and health care divisions with the singular goal of keeping our children safe. The unit will equip local law enforcement with the training and tools they need to investigate and prosecute child predators; lead education campaigns with parents, schools, and community organizations to prevent abuse; and provide child victim advocates to guide survivors through the legal process with compassion and support. Above all, it will ensure a relentless, statewide focus on protecting children in every community.

Boost resources to fight domestic violence and child abuse.

Tragically, more than 50,000 kids are reported as potential victims of child abuse or neglect in Virginia each year.²⁹ That's 50,000 too many. We must make ending domestic violence and child abuse a top priority of the Attorney General's Office. With the Child Safety Unit leading the way, we'll shift prosecutorial resources to ensure we work closely with local law enforcement and prosecutors to target these cases. We'll develop and expand better tools to help local law enforcement conduct effective risk assessments and identify domestic violence and child abuse as early as possible. I'll advocate for increased grant funding for nonprofits that are critical local partners in the fight to stop child abuse, and make sure there is close coordination among the Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services,



KEEPING VIRGINIANS SAFE



other local child safety advocates, law enforcement, and prosecutors, so we can get the best results possible for Virginia's children.

Step up efforts to fight trafficking.

Human trafficking is a dangerous threat to Virginia that devastates victims and threatens the safety of our communities. As Attorney General, I will strengthen efforts to stop traffickers and protect children by working closely with local law enforcement, prosecutors, and other stakeholders to identify, disrupt, and prosecute trafficking operations. We will partner with nonprofits and lead public awareness campaigns so communities can recognize and report trafficking. I will also advocate for grants to expand victim services, ensuring survivors receive trauma-informed care and a path to recovery. Through stronger collaboration, community engagement, and support for survivors, we can dismantle trafficking networks and hold traffickers fully accountable.

Crack down on social media companies and other digital entities violating privacy laws and taking advantage of Virginia kids to increase their profits.

As a parent, I dread the day when my kids join social media. But it is also a fact of life for today's youth, and sadly, that's not going away. It's all of our jobs to keep them safe. I will lead that fight as Attorney General, and that starts with holding social media companies and other online digital entities accountable if they attempt to illegally profit off our kids' data or use predatory algorithms or marketing strategies to trap children in addictive content that puts them at risk. In 2023, 41 states, including Virginia, and Washington D.C., sued Meta for allegedly breaking federal law by collecting data on kids under 13, while manipulating child users to increase engagement in ways that harm their mental health — an action that I fully applaud.³⁰ I will continue and expand this effort to hold bad actors accountable. We will rigorously enforce state privacy laws, targeting companies that improperly collect or misuse minors' data or fail to shield young users from harmful content. And we will demand comprehensive and strict safeguards from digital platforms, while pursuing legal action when they prioritize profit over children's safety and well-being.

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CITATIONS

1. [Vote to Pass HB 5001, Virginia House of Delegates, 5/30/18; Vote to Pass HB 1700, Virginia House of Delegates, 4/3/19; Vote to Pass HB 29, Virginia House of Delegates, 4/22/20; Vote to Pass HB 1800, Virginia House of Delegates, 4/7/21](#)
2. [Budget Bill - HB 1700 \(Chapter 854\), Compensation Board, Item 70, 5/2/2019](#)
3. [Budget Bill - HB 5001 \(Chapter 1\), Compensation Board, Item 69, 6/7/2018; Budget Bill - HB 1700 \(Chapter 854\), Compensation Board, Item 66, 5/2/2019; Budget Bill - HB 1800 \(Chapter 552\), Compensation Board, Item 68, 4/7/2021](#)
4. [HB 752, 2020 Session, Virginia House of Delegates](#)
5. [HB 2609, 2019 Session, Virginia House of Delegates; HB 1419, 2020 Session, Virginia House of Delegates](#)
6. [HB 422, 2020 Session, Virginia House of Delegates](#)
7. ["AG Racine Wins Judgment Against Ghost Gun Manufacturer Polymer80 & Secures \\$4 million In Penalties." Office of the D.C. Attorney General, 8/11/22](#)
8. [Crime Data Explorer – Virginia, FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program](#)
9. [Crime Data Explorer – Virginia, FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program](#)
10. [Trends in Violent Crime and Accountability, Council of State Governments Justice Center](#)
11. ["White House Budget Office Orders Pause in All Federal Loans and Grants." New York Times, 1/27/25](#)
12. ["A second federal judge has ruled to block the Trump administration's spending freeze." NPR, 3/6/25](#)
13. ["DOJ Funding Update: A Deeper Look at the Cuts." Council on Criminal Justice, May 2025](#)
14. ["DOJ Funding Update: A Deeper Look at the Cuts." Council on Criminal Justice, May 2025](#)
15. [Crime Data Explorer – Virginia, FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program](#)
16. [Trends in Violent Crime and Accountability, Council of State Governments Justice Center](#)
17. [Virginia – Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions](#)
18. [Virginia – Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions](#)
19. [HB 2, 2020 Session, Virginia House of Delegates](#)
20. [SB 240, 2020 Session, Virginia House of Delegates](#)
21. ["AG Racine Wins Judgment Against Ghost Gun Manufacturer Polymer80 & Secures \\$4 million In Penalties." Office of the D.C. Attorney General, 8/11/22](#)
22. ["Combatting crime guns initiative." Brady Campaign Against Gun Violence](#)
23. ["Miyares joins AGs in letter criticizing credit card tracking of gun purchases." Virginia Mercury, 9/27/22](#)
24. ["The Evidence of Effectiveness." Cure Violence, August 2022, <https://mayor.baltimorecity.gov/news/press-releases/2025-07-01-mayor-brandon-m-scott-announces-continued-homicide-and-nonfatal>](#)
25. [HB 421, 2020 Session, Virginia House of Delegates](#)
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27. [HB 752, 2020 Session, Virginia House of Delegates](#)
28. [HB 2609, 2020 Session, Virginia House of Delegates](#)
29. ["CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN VIRGINIA – SFY 2024." Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services](#)
30. ["Virginia joins Meta suit claiming social platform harms children's mental health." VPM, 10/24/23](#)