

Virginia US Senate 2024

THE ISSUES

HUNG CAO
REPUBLICAN



TIM KAINE
DEMOCRAT • INCUMBENT

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| ABORTION Ban or legal? | Ban. "I am pro-life ." "Life begins at conception ." " Thrilled " by overturning of Roe v. Wade, for "sending this matter back to the people of Virginia.... In Congress, I will always support life." "I will not vote for any federal ban on abortion." It's not a federal issue; the states should decide. | Legal. " Is fighting... for women" to "make their own health care decisions." Supports restoring abortion rights and protecting contraception and IVF. Personally follows his "[Catholic] church's teachings," but opposes mandating such views on others. |
| CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority? | No. Needs "a lot more data about climate change" to be convinced . It's a " bogeyman ." US should produce oil, natural gas, nuclear power, and wind and solar, but "what happens when the sun doesn't come out or the wind doesn't blow?" Opposes the \$369 billion climate and clean energy bill. | Yes. " Climate change is an existential threat." Supported streamlining federal response to climate hazards like "sea level rise, flooding, and extreme heat." Supported the \$369 billion climate and clean energy bill and the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. |
| CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement? | "Will support our police officers in every way I can." Ensure "benefits and care" like "mental health resources... for law enforcement officials." Only "a small percentage of [police] don't follow the rules." | Secured \$45 million to train police in de-escalation. Sponsored a bill expanding disability benefits to police with PTSD. Supports reforming qualified immunity, which protects police officers from liability. |
| ECONOMY Decrease or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy? | Mostly decrease. " Our economy is hurting because of reckless spending." " Burdensome regulations... cripple small businesses." Wants to create 2,500 jobs in rural VA to make 25% of US latex gloves. Opposes outsourcing of jobs to other countries. | Increase. Secured \$200 million for affordable housing, high-speed internet access, scientific research, and transportation in VA; bill supports economic growth for underserved communities. Supported the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill . |
| EDUCATION Limit teaching of issues around racism and gender identity? | Mixed. "Get the political agenda out of the classroom." "Let's teach the whole history," including "the beauty about this country." | No. Opposes banning books to "whitewash our country's history." Ban harassment based on gender identity at schools. |
| ELECTIONS Did Joe Biden win the 2020 Presidential election? | Mostly no. Asks how Biden could get more votes, after not campaigning during the pandemic, than Obama got earlier. About those arrested for the January 6 insurrection: "Set them free "; wants to know "what [is] the due process?" | Yes. On January 6, 2021, said not certifying Biden's Electoral College win would lead to "massive disenfranchisement " for millions of voters. Drafted a resolution to hold Trump accountable for fomenting "this violent attack on the Capitol." |
| ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulations? | Loosen. Opposes regulating oil and gas companies. "[Biden's] climate polices" and " regulations... have cost Americans thousands of jobs." Biden forces US dependence on unclean foreign energy. | Tighten. Secured funding for restoration and resiliency projects for coastal VA and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Opposes fast-track approval for Mountain Valley gas pipeline project, citing "environmental violations." Opposes drilling off VA coastline. |

| ISSUES | CAO (R) | KAINE (D) |
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| GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun regulation? | Loosen. “ Gun control has never stopped anyone.” “We’re not going to stop [evil] with gun control.” “The places [with] the most gun violence ... have the strictest gun control laws.” “Will always protect the right to self-defense .” | Tighten. Supports “ commonsense steps to reduce gun violence,” improving background checks, temporarily removing firearms from people posing a danger to themselves and others, and banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. |
| HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for healthcare? | Likely decrease. Opposes the Inflation Reduction Act, which has provisions for lowering drug costs for people on Medicare and reducing federal government drug spending. “ No one in the United States is like “oh my gosh, I will die if I don’t have health care.” His main healthcare issue is “ rationing ” of drugs, in short supply because ingredients are from China and India. | Increase. Highlighted lower drug prices and Medicare insulin capped at \$35 as a reason for his support of the Inflation Reduction Act. Supported expanding telehealth, rural health, and mental health care for burnt-out healthcare workers. Opposes cuts to Medicare or Medicaid. Led an effort in the Senate to tackle substance use disorder. |
| IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration? Support a path to citizenship for “DACA” participants brought to the US as children? | Secure the border. It’s “a humanitarian crisis .” “ Finish that border wall.” “ Illegal immigrants” are “a smack in the face for all of us who waited patiently.” Calls for “high walls, but wide gates.” The bipartisan border bill is “ garbage .” No position found on DACA. | Opposes “mass deportation.” Supported funding for border patrol agents and migrant processing. Address “the root causes of migration.” Supports a DACA path to citizenship. Voted for bipartisan bill to secure the border and fight the fentanyl crisis. |
| LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize? | Likely harder. “All it [the bipartisan infrastructure bill] has done is allow for unions to get priority.... We want the right to work .” | Easier. “ I know just how important unions are.” Sponsored a bill to expand workers’ rights to organize and collectively bargain. |
| LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights? | Limit. Opposes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training in the military. It’s “ wrong ” for his “daughters to have to compete against a man” in sports; will “not allow a man to go to my daughters’ bathrooms.” | Expand. Supported bills protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination and recognizing same-sex marriages. Led a resolution offering an apology to discriminated-against LGBTQ government workers. |
| MARIJUANA Ban or legal? | Mostly ban. “This is a states’ rights issue.... At the federal level, it needs to be illegal .” | Legal. “ It’s time to decriminalize it.” Supported expanding research and protecting banks serving cannabis businesses. |
| MINIMUM WAGE Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour? | No position found. | Yes. Supported a 2021 bill gradually raising it to \$15 by 2025. Sponsored a 2023 bill to raise it to \$17 by 2028. |
| STUDENT FINANCIAL AID Support lowering interest on student loans and/or forgiving them? | No. Biden’s student loan forgiveness is “ unfair ,” “a free ride,” “ buying votes by selling out America’s future,” and money “that could be used to secure our border or help our homeless veterans.” | Yes. Supports Biden’s student loan forgiveness. Will “ keep fighting for more” “relief” for borrowers. Supported student loan forgiveness for public servants. Supports funding to increase Pell Grant amounts. |
| TAXES Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals? | Lower. Criticizes Biden for not supporting the 2017 Trump tax cuts, which included the major corporate cuts and major tax cuts for the wealthy. | Raise. Opposed the 2017 Trump tax cuts : “The help is all towards people at the top end, and the biggest corporations that don’t really need it.” |
| VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier? | Harder. Demands “election integrity.” Supports requiring voter ID. Opposes “early voting for weeks.” | Easier. “The right to vote is not a ‘maybe,’ not a privilege.” Supported bills to “protect the fundamental right to vote” and expand voting access. “Make it easier ... to participate.” |

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