

Virginia (VA-02) 2024

US House of Representatives

THE ISSUES

MISSY
COTTER SMASAL
DEMOCRAT



JENNIFER
KIGGANS
REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT

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[missy4congress.com](#)

[jenforcongress.com](#)

ABORTION
Ban or legal?

Legal. Is “[pro-choice](#).” [Supports](#) federal protection of abortion rights, birth control, and “an [innate](#) right to control your own body.” [Called](#) overturning of Roe v. Wade “an attack on your rights and freedoms.”

Mostly ban. [Applauded](#) overturning of Roe v. Wade. “It’s a [state’s](#) rights issue.” Is [pro-life](#). [Supports](#) a 15-week ban with exceptions. [Opposed funding](#) abortion for military members, calling it “[elective surgery](#).”

CLIMATE CHANGE
Should climate change be a top priority?

Yes. “We [need](#) urgent action” to address “the climate crisis,” which “affects our economy, schools, transportation, and... national security.” [Supports](#) “clean energy production [and] science-based solutions.” “We see the very real [impact](#) of climate change in our neighborhoods every day.”

No. [Supported cutting](#) funds to the EPA for enforcing Clean Air Act. [Voted](#) to [repeal](#) the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. [Voted](#) to [reverse](#) Biden climate [policies](#). [Voted to prohibit](#) federal bans on fracking. [Co-chairs](#) the Conservative Climate [Caucus](#): “[fossil fuels](#) can and should be a major part of the global solution.”

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?

[Will](#) “fund initiatives to keep illegal guns and drugs off our streets” and [increase](#) “federal support for the police and first responders.” “By [addressing](#) crime at its source and equipping those on the front lines, we can create safer communities.”

First responders “[deserve](#) our respect and support.” [Will](#) “never support legislation that weakens law enforcement” and [backs](#) giving them “the best possible technology.” Voted to [recruit more](#) officers, [condemn defunding](#) the police, and [repeal](#) a DC [ban](#) on neck restraints.

ECONOMY
Decrease or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?

Increase. “We [need to](#) stop the price gouging... and stop massive corporations from buying up houses and raising rent.” “[Crack down](#) on oil and gas companies, massive food conglomerates, and multinational retailers and hold them accountable.” [Would](#) incentivize first-time home buyers.

Mostly decrease. [Supports](#) reducing spending and the government’s “[regulatory](#) burden.” [Voted for](#) a [\\$4.5 trillion](#) spending [cut](#). [Sponsored](#) a bill to increase microchip production by “[cutting](#) red tape.” [Supports](#) funding for southeast Virginia infrastructure projects.

EDUCATION
Limit teaching about racism and gender identity?

Likely no. “We [celebrate](#) the generations of Black leaders that have shaped... our country.” [Supports](#) a “great to-go kit for families to learn about Black History” made available by a local library.

Likely yes. [Opposes](#) “policies that divide our children—like Critical Race Theory.” [Introduced](#) a bill to ban the teaching of “inherently divisive concepts.” All history, the good and the bad, should be taught, but not “anything that’s [dividing](#).”

ELECTIONS
Did Joe Biden legitimately win the 2020 Presidential election?

Yes. [Opposes](#) a 2022 VA Senate bill calling for an audit of the 2020 election. [Criticizes](#) “extremists who backed the domestic terror attack on our Capitol on January 6th.”

Unclear. In 2022 [was](#) one of four VA senators to [vote for](#) a \$70 million audit of the [2020](#) election. In 2021 [said](#) Biden’s win was legitimate; in 2022 [wouldn’t](#) respond to the same yes-or-no question.

ENVIRONMENT
Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?

Likely tighten. [Supports](#) restoring the Chesapeake Bay “in a bi-partisan way.” Is “[committed](#) to protecting our local environment.” “I believe in [strong stewardship](#) for our environment.... I want Virginia Beach to be sustainable and healthy for the future.”

Mixed. [Supports](#) “conservation”; [opposes](#) “costly regulations.” [Sponsored](#) a [bill](#) that expands coastal areas where federal funds can’t be used to develop ecologically sensitive areas. [Voted against](#) allowing the EPA to [regulate](#) emissions for new motor vehicles.

ISSUES	COTTER SMASAL (D)	KIGGANS (R)
GUN RULES Loosen or tighten gun regulation?	Tighten. “I’m committed to gun violence prevention, safer communities, and preventing veteran suicide.” Supports “commonsense measures” like “ red flag ” laws, safe storage of guns, and universal background checks .	Loosen. Calls herself “a staunch defender of the Second Amendment.” In VA Senate voted against a “ red flag ” law, against requiring background checks for gun sales, and against allowing localities to ban guns in certain public spaces.
HEALTH CARE Increase or decrease government support for health care?	Increase. Supports Obamacare, capping insulin costs at \$35, and letting Medicare negotiate lower drug prices. Would hold drug companies “accountable for price gouging .” Calls for “a public option that can lower insurance costs... by increasing choice and competition.”	Increase. Sponsored bills expanding Medicare to cover nutrition therapy and telehealth services . Sponsored a bill providing tax credits to family caregivers. Sponsored a bill allowing nurses to provide some Medicare and Medicaid services.
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	“A secure border is fundamental to our national security.” Wants better technology, more funding for Border Patrol, and greater capacity in immigration courts. We should know “who’s coming across the border.” We “can do that in a humane way.”	Voted to resume building the Trump border wall, increase the number of patrol agents, and strip funding from nonprofits that aid migrants. Voted against using federal lands to house migrants.
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	Easier. Will “fight for stronger labor protections” and “good-paying union jobs.” “From fair wages to safer working conditions, unions have paved the way for a strong middle class.” “I will always stand with the union members in our district.”	Harder. “It’s very important that we keep Virginia a right to work state,” in which employees at a unionized workplace are allowed to not pay union dues. Sponsored a National Right to Work Act.
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Likely expand. Is “ proud to earn the endorsement” of the Human Rights Campaign, an LGBTQ advocate.	Mixed. Voted to deny coverage of transgender care for military personnel. Opposed allowing transgender athletes in women’s sports. As a VA senator, voted to protect LGBTQ people in housing, employment, and credit transactions.
MARIJUANA Ban or legal?	No position found.	Ban. Opposed setting up retail licenses , legalizing simple possession , expunging some marijuana -related crimes. Sponsored a bill allowing nursing homes to dispense cannabis.
MINIMUM WAGE Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	No position found. About the dockworkers’ strike, workers should “have the fair wages , benefits, and working conditions they deserve.”	Likely no. In 2020 as a VA senator, voted against raising Virginia’s minimum wage gradually to \$15 by 2026.
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID Support lowering interest on student loans and/or forgiving them?	No position found.	No. The “ student debt bailout” is “ offensive ” to people who couldn’t afford college or didn’t take out loans and will “drive up tuition costs.” Voted to block a student loan payment pause and forgiveness rule.
TAXES Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	Raise. “The wealthy should pay their fair share in taxes by lifting the Social Security tax cap for high income earners to keep the program funded.”	Lower. Voted to retract IRS funding for increased tax enforcement on high earners. Sponsored bill extending 2017 Trump tax cuts, which included the largest one-time cut in the corporate tax rate, tax breaks for the wealthy.
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	Easier. “I am running to protect voting rights.” Is “ committed to... uplifting the voices and concerns of voters of color who are too often ignored.”	Harder. Supports requiring photo IDs to vote and prohibiting people from delivering the ballots of other people. Voted to require proof of citizenship for voter registration.

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