

Virginia Attorney General 2025

THE ISSUES

JAY
JONES

DEMOCRAT



JASON
MIYARES

REPUBLICAN



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| ABORTION Ban or legal? | Legal. "I've always supported a woman's right to choose." In the Virginia Assembly, voted to repeal abortion restrictions. Would join a multi-state coalition of attorneys general fighting attempts to restrict abortion rights. | Ban. Urged the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade. Supports a ban at 15 weeks. In the Virginia Assembly, voted against repealing abortion restrictions. Has opposed prosecuting mothers for seeking abortions. |
| CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority? | Yes. Wrote that he would "reform our energy sector." Voted to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative , promote distributed renewable energy. Voted for the Virginia Clean Economy Act, to get to 100% renewable electricity by 2050. | Mostly no. Challenged Biden-era EPA emission restrictions and Virginia EV standards . Voted against the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and against the Virginia Clean Economy Act, to get to 100% renewable electricity by 2050. Voted to promote distributed renewable energy. |
| CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement? | Would "create" an expanded network of Attorney's General satellite offices" throughout Virginia. Would "invest" in community-based services," and establish "a Child Safety Unit" and "a dedicated Drug Trafficking Unit." | Developed Ceasefire Virginia , to address violent crime. Defends the use of military troops in Los Angeles. Supports victims' rights. Tried to expand the power of the attorney general's office to address violent crime. |
| CRIMINAL JUSTICE Related votes in the Virginia General Assembly. | Voted to repeal the death penalty , prohibit no-knock search warrants, prohibit chokeholds, prohibit bias-based profiling , and repeal qualified immunity , which protects officers against lawsuits. | Voted to prohibit chokeholds and prohibit bias-based profiling . Voted against repealing the death penalty , prohibiting no-knock search warrants, and repealing qualified immunity , which protects officers against lawsuits. |
| ECONOMY Decrease or increase government regulation of the economy? | Increase. "We should be going after the price gougers, the big pharmaceutical companies, the corporate polluters, the corporate landlords." In DC, "fought" to block the Kroger-Albertsons merger to prevent higher grocery prices." Would expand the Consumer Protection Section. | Increase. "We've secured over \$1.3 billion from opioid manufacturers and distributors." With other attorneys general, demanded that "Big Tech companies strengthen protections for minors exposed to artificial intelligence (A.I.) chatbots." |
| GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun regulation? | Tighten. Would "advocate" for commonsense gun violence prevention laws," and work with local law enforcement to "target illegal guns." In DC, "sued" Polymer 80, the largest ghost gun manufacturer in the country." | Loosen. "Will" continue to defend our Second Amendment rights." Sued the federal ATF for putting restrictions on pistol braces. Criticized a "gun stores" merchant category code for processing credit and debit card transactions, saying it would discourage legal gun ownership. |
| GUN LAWS Related votes in the Virginia General Assembly. | Voted to allow school gun-free zones , increase safety requirements for unsecured gun storage, require people to report lost or stolen firearms to the police, authorize the removal of firearms from persons posing substantial risk, and limit individual gun purchases to one per month. Voted for an assault weapons ban. | Voted against school gun-free zones , increasing safety requirements for unsecured gun storage, requiring people to report lost or stolen firearms to the police, authorizing the removal of firearms from persons posing substantial risk, and limiting individual gun purchases to one per month. Voted against an assault weapons ban. |

| ISSUES | JONES (D) | MIYARES (R) |
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| HEALTH CARE Support Medicaid expansion? | Yes. Voted to expand Medicaid. “I voted to expand Medicaid back in 2018.” | Likely no. Voted against expanding Medicaid in Virginia in 2018. Also in 2018 introduced a bill to establish work requirements for Medicaid. |
| IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration? | “Our immigration system is broken ,” but immigration enforcement should be the job of the federal government , not local law enforcement, which “has been stretched thin.” | Joined a lawsuit to stop an “unlawful attempt to extend ObamaCare benefits to illegal immigrants” (DACA recipients). State and local law enforcement should cooperate with federal immigration enforcement. |
| IMMIGRATION Related votes in the Virginia General Assembly. | Voted to expand financial aid for eligible students regardless of their immigration status. Voted to issue driver privilege cards without regard to legal immigration status. Voted against prohibiting immigration sanctuary cities . | Voted to prohibit immigration sanctuary cities . Voted against expanding financial aid for eligible students regardless of their immigration status. Voted against issuing driver privilege cards without regard to legal immigration status. |
| LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize? | Easier. “ Organizing for fair pay, worker protections, and job stability is something that every worker should be able to do.” Voted to allow local governments to recognize and bargain with unions. | Harder. “Will fight to preserve Virginia’s Right to Work status,” in which employees at a unionized workplace are allowed to not pay union dues. Voted against allowing local governments to recognize and bargain with unions. |
| LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights? | Expand. Voted to repeal the Virginia same-sex marriage ban , to associate gender-related crimes with hate crimes , and repeal the “gay panic” murder defense , in which criminal defendants argue that their violent behavior was a rational response to discovering the victim was LGBTQ. | Limit. Voted against repealing the VA same-sex marriage ban , associating gender-related crimes with hate crimes , and repealing the “gay panic” murder defense , in which criminal defendants argue that their violent behavior was a rational response to discovering the victim was LGBTQ. Opposed withdrawing school nutrition assistance from schools that refuse to protect LGBTQ students from discrimination. |
| MARIJUANA Ban or legal? | Legal. Voted to decriminalize simple possession, then voted to legalize . “I support legalizing retail sales of cannabis... done responsibly.” | Ban. Voted against decriminalizing , then against legalization . Legalization of personal possession is “misguided legislation that was passed without thinking through the ramifications.” |
| MINIMUM WAGE Raise the Virginia minimum? | Yes. In 2020 voted to raise the minimum wage to \$12 per hour by January 2023. “We did amazing things... increased the minimum wage.” | Likely no. In 2020 voted against raising the minimum wage to \$12 per hour by January 2023. |
| VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier? | Easier. Would create a “Voter Protection Unit” and maintain a “Voting Rights Hotline,” and would “crack down on voter intimidation.” | Harder. Supports requiring a photo ID to vote. “Voter ID is not controversial .” Created an Election Integrity Unit to prosecute election law violations. |
| VOTING RULES Related votes in the Virginia General Assembly. | Voted to allow a sworn statement in lieu of photo ID. Voted to establish absentee ballot drop-off locations, make absentee voting more accessible , allow no-excuse absentee voting, and allow same-day voter registration. | Voted against allowing a sworn statement in lieu of photo ID, and against establishing absentee ballot drop-off locations, making absentee voting more accessible , allowing no-excuse absentee voting, and allowing same-day voter registration. |

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