

In the last election, Hillary won this district by 5% (49.2% to 44.3%). Republican David Yancey won this district in 2015 by 2,138 votes. In 2013, he won by only 543 votes! Democrats are going to win this election in 2017 with Shelly Simonds!

How We'll Win in 2017: Democrat Shelly Simonds



Shelly is a small businesswoman and understands balancing a budget and prioritizing spending decisions. She has a master's degree in communication from Stanford University and a bachelor's degree, with honors, in international relations, from Bucknell University. Her husband is an engineer at NASA.

They have two school-age daughters. Fluent in Spanish, having spent several years in Spanish-speaking countries, she has taught Spanish for five years at Hilton Elementary school. She has served on the School Board since 2012. Shelly is running because she believes in Newport News and wants to make sure that government invests in our students, our environment and our workers. With its multiethnic citizenship and mixed economy, Newport News needs a Delegate in Richmond who has the experience and insights to address its most important problems. Democratic candidate, Shelly Simonds, will be that Delegate.

Education and Jobs: Shelly will fight to raise salaries to attract teachers qualified for an increasingly demanding future. Under Republican control in Richmond, Virginia school teachers' pay is currently \$7,800 below the national average. She supports merit pay for Board Certified teachers while underperforming teachers should be offered additional training or mentoring options. She supports standardized tests as just one metric of student achievement. She urges their primary use in the evaluation of teachers' effectiveness.

In coming years, the Virginia Peninsula, which already has a thriving high technology economy, will gain thousands of good jobs in shipbuilding, manufacturing and other fields. These jobs will all call for proficiency in science or technology. Shelly will work to get young people ready for these opportunities by promoting STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) teaching in Virginia's schools. She also supports apprenticeship programs in fields like plumbing, electrical work and cosmetology, recognizing that not all students are destined for college. These educational improvements will attract advanced manufacturing companies to Virginia.

Healthcare: For years, the Republicans in the General Assembly have refused to expand Medicaid. They are turning away billions in Medicaid dollars that would help our hospitals and low income Virginians. Thousands of uninsured Virginians delay preventative care until they face a life-threatening emergency. For these patients, hospitals are the healthcare providers of last resort, making our hospitals less competitive and healthcare more expensive for everyone. Expanding Medicaid can keep healthcare costs lower and make healthcare more affordable for all Virginians.

<https://www.simondsfordelegate.com//>

<https://www.facebook.com/simondsfordelegate>

About the Republican Incumbent: David Yancey

David Yancey is a Republican member, representing District 94, Newport News, since 2012. He won his 2015 race against Shelly Simonds easily, taking over 57% of the vote (less than 28% of eligible voters voted.) Del. Yancey sponsors little legislation, but votes reliably with the Republican majority: pro-gun, anti-abortion, pro-voter restriction, pro-death penalty, and anti-minimum wage increases. 44-year-old Yancey is self-employed in the real estate and commercial fishing industries.

Yancey was born and raised in Newport News — his grandfather worked in the Newport News shipyard. He graduated from Peninsula Catholic High School in 1990 and went on to major in political science and history at the University of Georgia, graduating in 1995. He joined his father's business of real estate and investments in 2001, then started his own business in 2003, doing both real estate development and property management. Most recently, in 2009, he started a commercial fishing business. He is a member of multiple Chambers of Commerce and two local business alliances. He is also a lifelong member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the granddaddy of southern civil rights organizations but does little to support minorities or people of color. In the House, he is a member of the House Commerce and Labor Committee.

Republican Issues

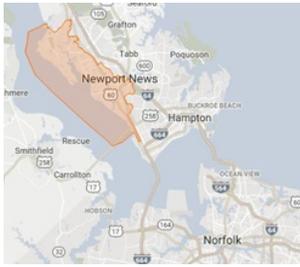
Yancey has an easygoing demeanor — in a recent Daily Press article about his work, a powerful Republican said, "Everybody likes David." But the nice guy has been less than nice on abortion and immigration: in 2012 he voted for the now-rescinded measure requiring a woman seeking an abortion to have an intra-vaginal ultrasound first. That year, he supported legislation requiring voters show photo ID and legislation requiring law enforcement officers ask about immigration status during an arrest. In 2012, he also voted in favor of an antigay measure allowing adoption agencies to refuse adoptions "for religious reasons."

In 2016 he voted along right-wing ALEC-approved lines with preemptive state legislation to prevent cities from raising the minimum wage. In 2017, a bipartisan bill to set up a state-run student loan refinancing authority, similar to those in Connecticut and Minnesota, died when it was sent to Yancey's Commerce and Labor Committee. Perhaps in an effort to hold onto his seat in the face of changing demographics in the district, Yancey did oppose a 2016 bill allowing antigay discrimination and in 2014 was one of very few Republicans who opposed a bill to authorize religious expression in public schools. In 2017 he also sponsored a failed measure requiring employers to accommodate women who need to express breast milk.

Recent Elections: In 2015, Yancey defeated Shelly Simonds 8,140 (57%) vs 6,002 (44%) with very low turnout (28%). His 2013 margin against Farinholt was much smaller, only 543 votes (51% vs 49%) with a 45% turnout. Democrats need to show up to vote.

davidyanceyfordelegate.com

VA HD-94: Better Know the District



VA HD-94: Facts & Stats

Nearby Population Centers

(includes population outside district)

- Newport News: 182,965 (as of 2013, a majority-minority city), ~half in HD 94

2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 16,478 (49.21%)
- Trump: 14,830 (44.29%)
- Johnson: 1,435 (4.29%)
- McMullin: 487 (1.45%)
- Stein: 254 (0.76%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 14,173 (27.9%)

2015 House of Delegate Results

- Yancey (R) 8,140 (57.56%)
- Simonds (D) 6,002 (44.42%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 32,288 (69.5%)

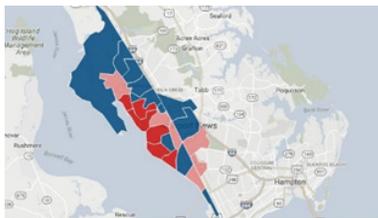
2014 US Senator Results

- Warner (D): 9,726 (49.81%)
- Gillespie (R): 9,317 (47.72%)
- Sarvis (L): 469 (2.40%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 28,300 (59.2%)

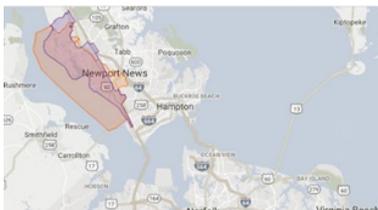
2013 House of Delegates Results

- Yancey (R): 11,001 (51.2%)
- Farinholt (D): 10,458 (48.60%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 25,915 (54.7%)

2016 Presidential Precinct Election Results



2011 Redistricting Map (Orange is the new district.)



Geography & Environment

District 94 is a heavily urban, middle-class community in Newport News with neighborhoods starkly separated by incomes and race. It is centered along the lower James River on the peninsula at the base of Chesapeake Bay. The central organizing force of the area of southeast Virginia is the naval base in Norfolk and the huge Newport News shipbuilding facility. More than 11 percent of district residents in their early 20's to early 30s work for the military. Newport News is alive with history; one museum houses a Civil War submarine. Another looks at Virginia's wars. Most local veterans served during the two recent wars in the Gulf. Southside Virginia is the larger region containing District 94. It is known as the "seven cities" area, with Newport News, Norfolk, Hampton, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, Portsmouth and Suffolk. Newport News and Norfolk have significant problems with crime and drug dealing. Traffic jams can overwhelm the region, just as they do in the D.C. area.

Citizenry

Of District 94's population of 78,000, 62% (50,000 people) are White and 22.5% (18,000) are Black; the numbers of Hispanics (5,576) and Asians (2,795) are growing rapidly. The district is relatively poorer than the rest of the state; the median income for Black families, \$48,800, compared with \$67,900 for White families and \$72,700 for Asians. About 2,200 households (7.3%) get food stamps. HD94 has about half the population of Newport News (median age 33). Three census tracts along the James River in the southern corner of the district house families in Beverly Hills and James Landing with median incomes from \$80,000 to \$90,000. This is the Republican core; northerly neighborhoods vote heavily Democratic.

Jobs and Economy

People work primarily in the military, shipbuilding and health and hospitality industries. The Daily Press called Newport News Shipbuilding, just south of the district line, the "largest private employer, with more than 21,000 workers, many of whom are third and fourth generation shipbuilders. It is the nation's sole maker of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and one of two submarine builders." After the Navy and the shipbuilder, an auto parts maker, Continental, has a workforce of 500 that may double when it retools to make car turbochargers.

Education

Of district residents older than 25, almost 40% have completed some higher education, while 52% have a high school diploma, and 9% are high school drop-outs. Christopher Newport University is the major college. It has active outreach to refugee communities through the city's Commonwealth Catholic Charities. Educational disparity is common. Hilton Elementary, near the southern end of the district, ranks 44th of 1095 elementary schools. A few blocks north, Hildenwood Elementary has nearly twice as many students and ranks 1069th. High schools include Warwick High School, where controversial Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick once played and Denbigh High. Both have around 50% African-American student body and large Hispanic population with 54% of the students getting free or reduced-price lunch. The schools rank 201st and 240th of 320 Virginia high schools respectively. Menchville High is rated 126th; the student body is 49% White and 38% African-American.

Culture and Religion

One of the best-known congregations in the district is St. John's Church of God in Christ. Its charismatic African-American bishop Samuel L. Green, Jr., who worked with local politicians on social programs, died a year ago. Sperling's "Best Places" website says that 38 percent of Newport News residents are religious. Baptists comprise 12 percent of the 38 percent; Catholics five percent. The city, the birthplace of Ella Fitzgerald and Pearl Bailey, has deep roots in Black musical culture. It has a vibrant music scene, and is a hub of hip-hop.

Health Status

The Commonwealth Institute reported that 2,000 new people in District 94 would be enrolled in Medicaid if Virginia had expanded the program. In the larger city of Newport News, 10 percent of the population has diabetes; 34 percent is obese. A fifth of the people smoke and 25 percent of deaths in car accidents are related to alcohol.

Issues

Southside Virginia is on the front lines of climate change, with increasing numbers of floods and a predicted sea level rise of as much as three feet by 2100. Old Dominion University, just to the south in Norfolk, has a center on sea-level rise.

Sources

<http://statisticalatlas.com/>
www.vpap.org/offices/house-of-delegates-94/redistricting/