

Virginia Elections 2011

10 TO WATCH: Republicans need a net gain of two seats to win an effective majority in the state Senate. The following 10 races are key to both parties' legislative ambitions.

DISTRICT 1

Newport News city, James City County, Hampton, Williamsburg, York County, Suffolk



John C. Miller (D)



Mickey Chohany (R)

■ Mr. Miller, who narrowly won in 2007, faces Mr. Chohany, a restaurateur and first-time assembly candidate.

DISTRICT 6

Norfolk, Accomack County, Northampton County, Mathews County, Virginia Beach



Ralph S. Northam (D)



Ben Loyola Jr. (R)

■ Mr. Loyola squares off against Mr. Northam, a neurologist and freshman senator.

DISTRICT 17

Spotsylvania County, Orange County, Albemarle County, Louisa County, Fredericksburg, Culpeper County



R. Edward Houck (D)



Bryce Reeves (R)

■ Mr. Houck has long held the conservative-leaning district, but Mr. Reeves, a former detective and Army Ranger, has put the seat in play.

DISTRICT 20

Henry County, Danville, Halifax County, Patrick County, Pittsylvania County, Franklin County, Carroll County, Martinsville, Galax



Wm. Roscoe Reynolds (D)



Bill Stanley (R)

■ Mr. Stanley, a first-term senator formerly of the 19th District, moved after redistricting to face longtime incumbent Mr. Reynolds.

DISTRICT 21

Roanoke, Montgomery County, Roanoke County, Giles County



John S. Edwards (D)



David A. Nutter (R)

■ Mr. Nutter put his safe House seat on the line to challenge Mr. Edwards, a retired Marine captain and senator since 1996.

DISTRICT 29



Charles J. Colgan (D)



Tom Gordy (R)

■ Mr. Colgan, 85 and the Senate's senior member, put off retirement to defend against military nonprofit president Tom Gordy.

DISTRICT 36



Linda "Toddy" Puller (D)



Jeff Frederick (R)

■ Mr. Frederick, ousted chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia, attempts a political comeback against longtime incumbent Ms. Puller.

DISTRICT 37



David W. Marsden (D)



Jason Flanary (R)

■ Mr. Marsden faces first-time candidate Mr. Flanary for the seat once held by Attorney General Kenneth T. Cuccinelli II.

DISTRICT 38



Phillip P. Puckett (D)



Adam Light (R)

■ Mr. Puckett, who renounced his support for President Obama during the campaign, faces the well-financed Mr. Light.

DISTRICT 39



George L. Barker (D)



Miller Baker (R)

■ Mr. Barker, the architect of Senate Democrats' redistricting plan this year, finds his own seat in jeopardy.