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Blue wave

Spanberger's victory in traditionally-Republican 7th District is one of 26 seats flipped by Democrats

Rep. Spanberger, 39, is a former CIA operative and Girl Scout leader. Photo by Erin Edgerton

By the numbers: a breakdown of key Central Va. elections

Infographic by Ryan Rich and Zach Joachim

U.S. Senate: Virginia

TIM KAINE (D)



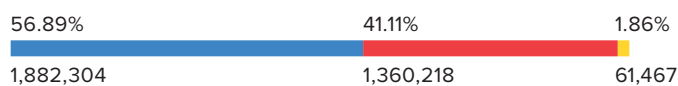
COREY STEWART (R)



MATT WATERS (L)



Incumbent Tim Kaine (D) retained his seat on the U.S. Senate, defeating challenger Corey Stewart (R) by a wide margin. Kaine was sworn in as Virginia senator in 2013.



Election results current as of Wednesday morning
Images of Kaine, Stewart, Waters, McEachin, Brat, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons
All other images courtesy of respective candidates

U.S. House of Representatives: 4th District

DONALD MCEACHIN (D)



RYAN MCADAMS (R)



PETE WELLS (L)



Incumbent Donald McEachin (D) took down contender Ryan McAdams (R) in a landslide victory. McEachin won the seat in 2016, the first Democrat to do so since 2000.



U.S. House of Representatives: 7th District

ABIGAIL SPANBERGER (D)



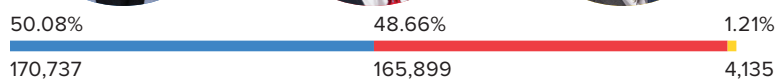
DAVE BRAT (R)



JOE WALTON (L)



In Virginia's most hotly contested congressional race, challenger Abigail Spanberger (D) defeated incumbent Dave Brat (R) by a narrow margin.



Richmond School Board: 7th District

CHERYL BURKE



GARY BRODERICK



BRYCE ROBERTSON



Former Chimborazo Elementary School Principal Cheryl Burke retained her seat on the 7th District School Board.



Stories of the week

NATIONAL: Michigan Democrat Rashida Tlaib and Minnesota Democrat Ilhan Omar became the first Muslim women elected to Congress.

INTERNATIONAL: The Chinese government granted 18 trademarks to companies associated with President Donald Trump and his daughter, Ivanka, over the last two months.

Republicans defend Senate, Democrats reclaim House

FADEL ALLASSAN
Special Projects Director

Republicans maintained control of the U.S. Senate while Democrats regained the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives — flipping three Virginia seats — for the first time in eight years in Tuesday's midterm elections.

The shift in Congress sets up a divided government until at least the 2020 elections. It will give Democrats a new platform on which to challenge President Donald Trump on a number of hot-button issues. These include the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election and whether the president was involved in it.

The GOP's poor run of results in Virginia's elections continued Tuesday night. The Republican challenger for the Senate seat was easily defeated, meaning the party will go 11 years without a statewide victory. Democrats flipped three Republican-held House seats in Virginia and will hold seven of the state's 11 total seats.

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Hillary Clinton's running-mate in 2016, cruised to re-election despite a challenge from Prince William County Board of Supervisors chairman, Republican candidate Corey Stewart. Stewart, who chaired the Trump 2016 campaign in Virginia, allied himself politically with the president during his candidacy.

Virginia will send two Democrats to the Senate for the fifth election in a row.

In one of Virginia's most hotly contested congressional races, Democrat Abigail Spanberger unseated GOP Rep. Dave Brat by a razor-thin margin of less than 5,000 votes to become the first Democrat to win the 7th District in 50 years. Brat made a

name for himself in 2014 when he unseated then-House Majority Leader Eric Cantor.

"When we launched this campaign, conventional wisdom dictated that this race was unwinnable, that it was impossible to win a seat in a district that hasn't been won by a Democrat since 1968," Spanberger said Tuesday night. "We won an unwinnable district by doing exactly what every campaign should do. We focused on the needs of the people, the voters."

Brat, who did not appear at his Short Pump watch party, is yet to concede the election as of early Wednesday morning.

In northern Virginia, Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-Va. 10th District) lost to Democratic challenger Jennifer Wexton by more than 12 percent of the vote. Comstock's effort to defend a district that voted for Hillary Clinton by a wide margin in 2016 was largely derailed by Wexton's 18-point margin of victory in the suburbs of Loudoun County.

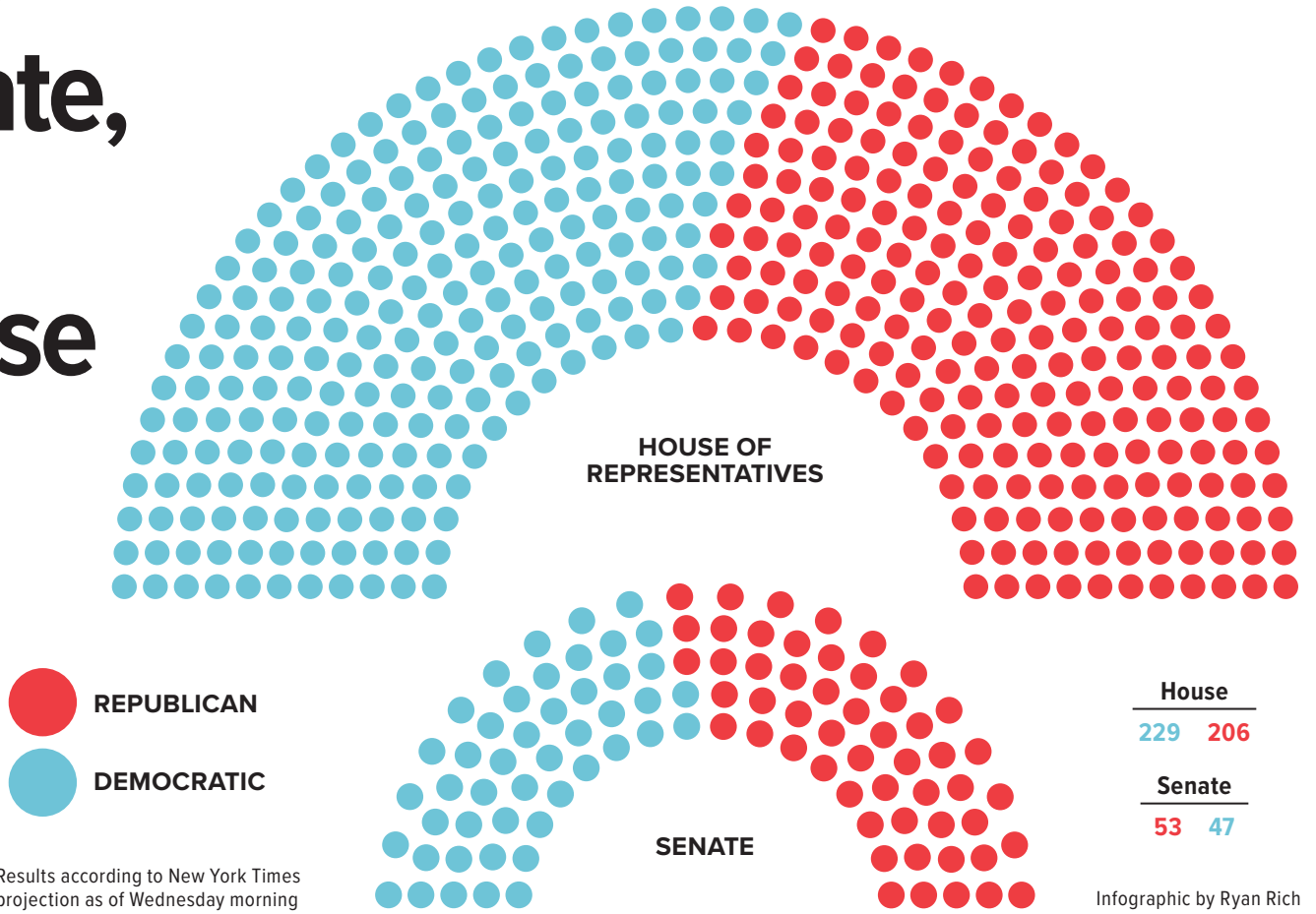
"I've been saying since the beginning of this campaign that change is coming to America and change is coming to Virginia 10 — and that change came tonight," Wexton said at her victory party, according to the Loudoun Times-Mirror. "But that kind of change doesn't just happen. It happened because of all of you and many others like you."

In Virginia's 2nd District, Democrat Elaine Luria edged past GOP Rep. Scott Taylor, whose former district encompassed Virginia Beach. In her victory speech, Luria said her win was a victory for those who reject partisanship in Washington.

"For a while now, we've had leaders in Washington who don't share the values of coastal Virginia, values of decency, community and service the country over all else," Luria said, according to The Virginian-Pilot.

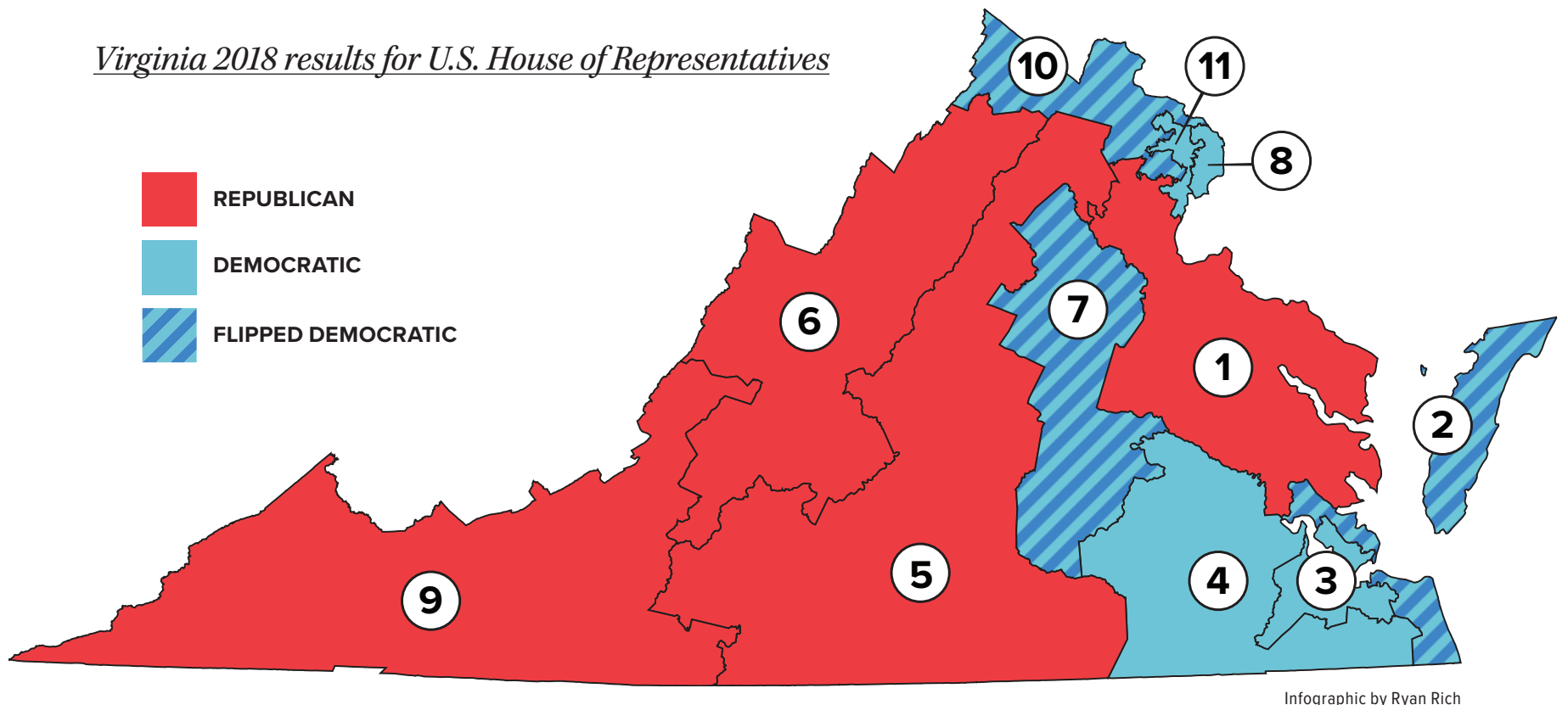
A victory by Republican Denver Riggleman in the 5th District — which encompasses Charlottesville as well as some central and southern parts of the state — means the area will remain red after Rep. Tom Garrett chose to not seek re-election.

House and Senate breakdown by party following 2018 midterms



Spanberger was joined by her family and members of her Girl Scout Troop at the campaign watch party Tuesday night. Photo by Erin Edgerton

Virginia 2018 results for U.S. House of Representatives



Infographic by Ryan Rich

Students vote on identity, future in Trump era

HANNAH EASON
Contributing Writer

VCU students shared their political opinions and reasons for leaning left in Tuesday's election as Virginia flipped in favor of Democrats in the House and remained blue in the Senate.

"I think everyone wants to rush to the presidential elections, but we have to start small," said sophomore Tevin Davis. "I voted for everything blue ... because Donald Trump said that a vote for a Republican was a vote for him."

Incumbent Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) will remain in the Senate after defeating chairman of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors Corey Stewart (R-Va.). Incumbent Donald McEachin (D-Va., 4th District) also secured another term in the House after a victory over Republican Ryan McAdams of Charles City County.

In the hotly contested 7th District race, Democrat and former CIA officer Abigail Spanberger beat incumbent Republican Dave Brat by a narrow margin.

VCU political science professor John Aughenbaugh linked Spanberger's victory to the national stage.

"With a Spanberger win, you see a huge shift in the representation of a congressio-

nal district that most political observers thought would remain conservative for a long, long time," Aughenbaugh said. "It's a district that was gerrymandered by the Republicans in the Virginia legislature to be a safe Republican seat."

Tyra Hedgepeth, VCU senior, said she voted to "exercise her rights." Gun laws were of particular importance to her and, as a health science major, affordable health care was also a key topic.

"I'll be working in [career] fields where I see how expensive it is," Hedgepeth said.

"Making sure everyone is able to be covered is important to me."

Sophomore Jennifer Carranza said she connected her vote to her race and family.

"As a Latino woman, it was really important to get my voice heard," Carranza said, describing the current political climate as placing a target on her back. "I'm voting with my brother in mind — I vote so that [my family] can have a better future. I knew I needed to come out here and vote democratic and make sure we shift things in the right direction."

Student Government Association President Vivek Kuruvilla also expressed his concern regarding minority representation in Congress.

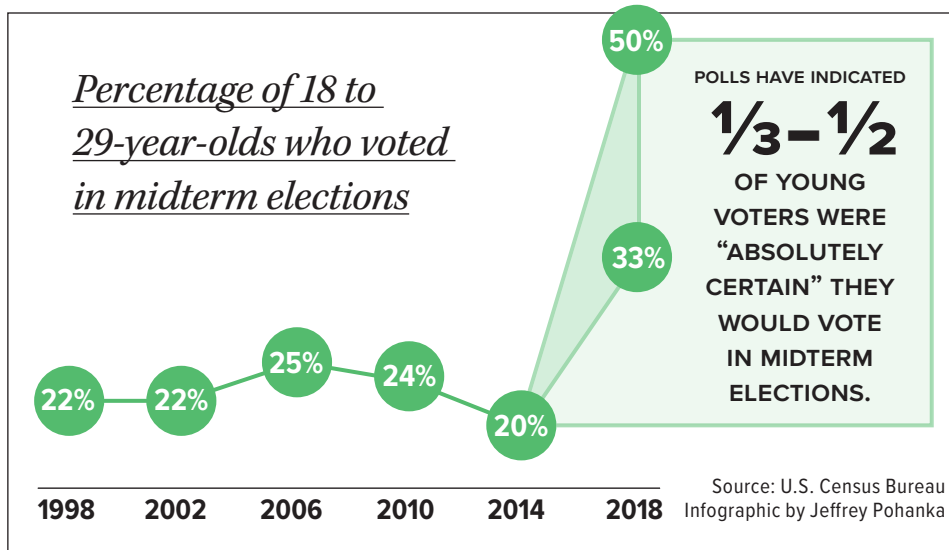
"I [want to have] legislatures that care about my demographic as someone that's a minority and a young voter," Kuruvilla said.

NextGen America is a political action committee that endorsed Kaine for the Senate and canvassed extensively on campus for voter registration. Stationed between the Compass and the University Student Commons on Tuesday, the group provided voting information to passersby.

"We are by far the most progressive and most diverse generation yet," said Isabella Dickens-Bowman, VCU campus organizer for NextGen. "It's so exciting to see us coming out to vote in big numbers so we can elect progressive, diverse and younger candidates [who] represent us."

Dickens-Bowman said the involvement of youth in politics is inherent.

"Are you paying too much for school? Do you want access to affordable health care for yourself and your family in the future? Do you want an environment that's going to be clean?" Dickens-Bowman asked. "All of these things impact us, but folks don't always see them as political."



Former Rep. Dave Brat has not conceded the race as of Wednesday morning. Photo by Caitlin Barbieri