

An Analysis of Trends in the 2013 Virginia House of Delegates Elections

After digging a little deeper into the 2013 Election results (courtesy of VPAP and the State Board of Elections), some interesting numbers emerged in the House of Delegates races. Obviously, the first visible result is that Republicans lost two incumbents, but picked up the open Joe Johnson (D) seat and the open Lacey Putney (I) seat, keeping their numbers at 67 in the House; and that Democrats had a net gain of +1 (defeating 2 R incumbents, losing the Johnson seat unopposed), bringing their numbers to 33 in the House.

However, what was interesting were the results in the House races that were contested by a candidate of the opposite party or an independent candidate:

- On the D side, of the remaining 31 D pre-election held seats, *only 15 of those were contested*. In those 15 contests, only in one race did the D candidate receive *less than 60% of the vote* (and that was 57%).
- On the R side, in addition to the two incumbents who were defeated, of the remaining 65 R pre-election held seats, *37 of those were contested*. In those 37 contests, 8 victorious R's held their seats with *less than 53% of the vote*. If the threshold is moved to 55% or less of the vote (the upper levels of competitiveness), that number increases to 13. Conversely, there were 14 R's in contested races who won 60% or more of the vote, *the same number as D's in similar circumstances as noted above*. If the race for Putney's open seat is added, that number increases to 15.

So what are the takeaways from this?

1. Democrats obviously are now situated in *very heavily concentrated and seemingly uncompetitive districts* (other than the two new seats they just picked up). Only 15 of their seats were contested, with 16 being uncontested, and only *one contested D received less than 60% of the vote*. Therefore, at this point it seems that D's are at their core minimum strength and really *do not have to play defense* with any of the seats they have (other than the two new seats).
2. On the other hand, Republicans are probably at their maximum possible strength and as a result have more territory to defend, *including 13 seats that could be considered at least loosely competitive* (winning with 55% or less of the vote) based on the 2013 results. But still, of their now currently elected 67 seats, 29 were uncontested on Election Day, while 38 seats (including the Putney pickup) were contested.

Here's another way to look at it, based on the 2013 results:

Democrats (33 total)

- 16 were elected uncontested
- 15 were elected uncompetitively (greater than 55%)
- 2 were elected competitively (both new seats)

Republicans (67 total)

- 29 were elected uncontested
- 25 were elected uncompetitively (greater than 55%)
- 13 were elected competitively (less than 55%)

While each election is its own separate event and caution should be taken not to carry over too much of a trend from one to another, in looking at these numbers, it would appear that *Democrats have 31 "safe" seats* (either uncontested or uncompetitive in 2013), while *Republicans have 54 "safe" seats*. In the middle are 15 seats that are potentially "in play" every two years, currently held by 2 Democrats and 13 Republicans. Again, the Republicans have more ground to defend, and can possibly expect to lose some of these seats in the next few elections (especially in northern Virginia), but even if **ALL** 15 of these seats were in the D column, *Republicans would still control the House 54-46*.

Analysis of Results in Contested House of Delegates Seats by Party

(Sources: Virginia Public Access Project, Virginia State Board of Elections)

Contested Seats Held by Democrats Before the 2013 Elections

	<u>Dem</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>Oth</u>
HD35 : Keam*/Luse	66.0%	34.0%	-
HD37 : Bulova*/Winter	61.1%	38.9%	-
HD38 : Kory*/Leslie	75.2%	0.0%	24.8%
HD41 : Filler-Corn*/Burgos/DeCarlo	57.0%	39.4%	3.6%
HD43 : Sickles*/Parker	74.4%	0.0%	25.6%
HD44 : Surovell*/Glean	71.7%	0.0%	28.3%
HD45 : Krupicka*/Engle	74.5%	0.0%	25.5%
HD47 : Hope*/Delhomme	77.6%	0.0%	22.4%
HD49 : Lopez*/Modglin	78.8%	0.0%	21.2%
HD53 : Simon/Tidwell/Tellez	66.8%	29.0%	4.2%
HD69 : Carr*/Barnett	87.4%	0.0%	12.6%
HD71 : McClellan*/Fitch	88.1%	11.9%	-
HD75 : Tyler*/Peschke	62.5%	37.5%	-
HD95 : BaCote*/Bloom	76.7%	23.3%	-
HD100 : Lewis*/Smith	71.2%	0.0%	28.8%

Contested Seats Held by Republicans Before the 2013 Elections

	Dem	GOP	Oth	
HD02: Dudenhefer*/Futrell	50.7%	49.3%	-	
HD03: Morefield*/O'Quinn	29.7%	70.3%	-	
HD06: Campbell/McGrady/Hall	36.6%	57.1%	6.3%	
HD07: Rush*/Abraham	34.9%	65.1%	-	
HD10: Minchew*/Johnson	43.1%	56.9%	-	
HD12: Yost*/Harder	47.5%	52.5%	-	+892
HD13: Marshall*/Qarni	48.6%	51.4%	-	+498
HD14: Marshall*/Miller/Martin	38.0%	58.7%	3.2%	
HD16: Adams/Jones	36.8%	63.2%	-	
HD17: Head*/Cathcart	37.9%	62.1%	-	
HD18: Webert*/Harris	36.6%	63.4%	-	
HD21: Villanueva*/Hippen	45.4%	54.6%	-	
HD22: Byron*/Cyphert	33.8%	66.2%	-	
HD23: Garrett*/Parrish	0.0%	77.1%	22.9%	
HD29: Berg/Yates	0.0%	65.5%	34.5%	
HD30: Scott*/Dippert	36.6%	63.4%	-	
HD31: Lingamfelter*/McPike	49.5%	50.5%	-	+234
HD32: Greason*/Miller	48.6%	51.4%	-	+634
HD33: LaRock/Daniel/Hagerty	42.9%	53.7%	3.4%	
HD34: Comstock*/Murphy	49.3%	50.7%	-	+431
HD40: Hugo*/Foltz	39.9%	60.1%	-	
HD42: Albo*/Deitsch	40.1%	59.9%	-	
HD50: Miller*/Cabellos	45.0%	55.0%	-	
HD51: Anderson*/Heddleston	46.4%	53.6%	-	
HD55: Fowler/Radler/Sullivan	37.5%	56.9%	5.6%	
HD60: Edmunds*/Hendricks	35.7%	64.3%	-	
HD65: Ware*/Quarles	32.2%	67.8%	-	
HD67: LeMunyon*/Nguyen	45.4%	54.6%	-	
HD68: Loupassi*/Grogan	0.0%	62.6%	37.1%	
HD78: Leftwich/Bryant/Foster	39.1%	57.2%	3.7%	
HD82: DeSteph/Fleming	40.1%	59.9%	-	
HD84: Davis/McKenzie	42.6%	57.4%	-	
HD85: Taylor/Dale	43.6%	56.4%	-	
HD86: Rust*/Boysko	49.9%	50.1%	-	+56
HD87: Ramadan*/Bell	49.3%	50.3%	-	+195
HD88: Cole*/O'Halloran	38.5%	61.5%	-	
HD93: Watson*/Mason	52.2%	47.8%	-	
HD94: Yancey*/Farinholt	48.7%	51.3%	-	+537
HD98: Hodges*/Putt	0.0%	76.0%	24.0%	