

VOTE NO ON HB2242

Governor Youngkin has made **transparency** of information an important objective for his administration.

Virginia has a common-sense **Freedom of Information** law that is one of the pillars supporting transparency and accountability in government agencies at the state, city and county levels.

HB2242 will blacken Virginia's hard-earned reputation for transparency.

DAMAGES PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN ELECTIONS: HB2242 drastically reduces transparency and accountability for information about elections, banning access by the media, citizens, and all voters, at the very time that public confidence in elections is **just starting to be restored** by the Youngkin administration.

BANS VOTERS' INFORMATION RIGHTS FOR 1/3 to 1/2 OF THE YEAR: HB2242 forces Virginia electoral boards and registrars to ban and suppress citizens' rights to public election information for over a third of the year (over four months), and in some cases over half of the year (over 6 months).

BANS INFORMATION ABOUT ALL TYPES OF ELECTIONS: HB2242 bans information about primaries, general elections and special elections.

HERE ARE THE BANNING PERIODS IN 2023:

In 2023, HB2242 would ban citizens' rights to public election information for over four months - from 5/06/2023 through 7/7/2023, and from 9/22/2023 through 11/24/2023.

If a locality holds a special election, the media and citizens' rights to public information are suppressed even more, for a total of three elections or **186 days out of 365 total days - over 50% of the year.**

NO TRANSPARENCY AND NO THOUGHT TO CONSEQUENCES FOR ELECTION OFFICES: Because the FOIA law requires a response within 12 working days (that includes the 7-day extension), election office staff will THEN have to respond to all the accumulated FOIA requests within less than three weeks - for all the requests - after each banning and suppression period.

HB2242 will make Virginia one of the least transparent states in the U.S. for media, citizens and especially voters seeking information about elections.

HB2242 TEXT:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 24.2-119.2 as follows:

§ 24.2-119.2. Freedom of Information Act; deferment of response.

The local electoral boards and general registrars shall respond to requests made pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.) in accordance with law, except that the period for responding to any request that is (i) received on or after the first day on which absentee voting in person is available for an election pursuant to § 24.2-701.1 and before the tenth day following the certification of such election pursuant to § 24.2-671 and (ii) related to a previously conducted election, shall be tolled until the deadline to request a recount under Chapter 8 (§ 24.2-800 et seq.) has passed and, if any recount is pending in the locality thereafter, until it has been concluded.