

Voters need to see on the go and hear that there is a special election on Tuesday December 20 and they need to support pro-choice champion Jennifer McClellan and oppose the anti-choice candidate in this race.

- Senator McClellan is the pro-choice woman candidate in this race, and she has written and supported laws to protect abortion rights in Virginia.
 - Senator McClellan wrote the [Reproductive Health Protection Act](#), which overturned onerous Republican laws that blocked abortion access.
- The anti-choice candidate in the race has a dangerous record of voting with Republicans in support of [abortion restrictions](#). He also supported [new efforts](#) to pass an abortion ban for Virginians. Virginians cannot afford to have an abortion ban supporter in Congress.
- Jennifer McClellan has served 17 years in the General Assembly as a leader the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, fighting for opportunity for all and passing landmark laws that help people – protecting voting rights, safeguarding abortion access and combating climate change.
 - McClellan also led passage of the [Virginia Clean Economy Act](#), which moves Virginia to 100% clean energy and prioritizes environmental justice. And she was chief sponsor of the [Voting Rights Act of Virginia](#) to protect all Virginians' voting rights and stop voter intimidation.

Additional Notes:

- Given the dynamics of a multi candidate primary, voters should only hear the name of one candidate in this race: Jennifer McClellan the only pro-choice woman in the race.

VA-04 Redbox Backup	
Statement	Backup
Voters need to see on the go and hear that there is a special election on Tuesday December 20 and they need to support pro-choice champion Jennifer McClellan and oppose the anti-choice candidate in this race.	<p>McClellan Received Planned Parenthood Virginia's Legislative Leadership And Courage Award. "Humbled to receive @PPSATVA's Legislative Leadership & Courage Award for my work on the 2020 Reproductive Health Protection Act. In 2010, as the first member of the VA House to be pregnant while in office, I stood & condemned restrictions on access to reproductive services." [Jennifer McClellan Twitter, 1/26/21]</p> <p>Joe Morrissey Said He Was Personally Opposed To Abortion And Was Described As A Pro-Life Democrat. "From his south Richmond office, State Sen. Joe Morrissey shared his views on abortion. 'As a Catholic, I am personally opposed to abortion but I don't</p>

	<p>think Catholicism should be telling, ever be allowed to tell, other people what they can do,' said Morrissey, D-16th District. Morrissey is a Catholic and a pro-life Democrat." [NBC 12, 5/24/22]</p>
<p>Senator McClellan is the pro-choice woman candidate in this race, and she has written and passed laws to protect abortion rights in Virginia.</p>	<p>McClellan Was The Only Pro-Choice Woman Candidate To Enter The Race. "Endorsed by Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney, Delegate Lamont Bagby has entered the race, announcing his candidacy at a community center in the Essex Village neighborhood where he grew up. Senator Jennifer McClellan, who lost the governor's race last year, filed for candidacy Friday. Attorney Joseph Preston and civil rights activist Tavorise Marks also announced runs." [WRIC, 12/13/22]</p> <p>McClellan Introduced The Reproductive Health Act, Which Was Passed In 2020. [SB 733, 3/06/20]</p> <p>The Bill Expanded Access To Abortion Through Allowing Nurse Practitioners To Provide Abortions And Removed Requiring An Ultrasound Prior To Accessing Abortion Services. "Expands who can perform first trimester abortions to include any person jointly licensed by the Board of Medicine and Nursing as a nurse practitioner acting within such person's scope of practice. The bill eliminates all of the procedures and processes, including the performance of an ultrasound, required to effect a pregnant woman's informed written consent to the performance of an abortion; however, the bill does not change the requirement that a pregnant woman's informed written consent first be obtained. The bill removes language classifying facilities that perform five or more first trimester abortions per month as hospitals for the purpose of complying with regulations establishing minimum standards for hospitals." [SB 733, 3/06/20]</p> <p>2022: Helped Block An Amendment To The State Budget That Would Have Denied</p>

Medicaid Funding For Abortion Services In The Case Of An “Incapacitating Fetal Diagnosis.” “An amendment that would have denied Medicaid funding for women to receive abortion services where there’s an incapacitating fetal diagnosis, was also blocked by democratic leaders. Democratic Senator Jennifer McClellan said the amendment would have had devastating consequences for women who didn’t have insurance coverage for such services. ‘This amendment will say ‘you’re on your own,’ argued McClellan. ‘It should not be the case when you have gotten devastating news and on top of that, your choices about what to do will be dictated by the insurance you have.’” [CBS, 6/21/22]

2021: Sponsored And Voted For A Bill To Remove The Prohibition On Private Insurance Sold Through The VA Exchange’s Covering Abortion Care. In January 2021, McClellan sponsored a bill that “removes the prohibition on the provision of coverage for abortions in any qualified health insurance plan that is sold or offered for sale through a health benefits exchange established or operating in Virginia.” The bill passed the Senate 20-17 but was continued into special session in the House. [[SB 1276](#), 1/22/21]

Said Her Bill Would Allow Health Insurance To Pay For Abortion Would Expand Access To 240,000 Virginians. “Sen. Jennifer McClellan (D-Richmond), who sponsored the legislation, said this has forced many women to pay out-of-pocket for the procedure, which can cost \$1,000 in some cases. ‘It has made access to care unaffordable and out of reach for many women, particularly low income women, women in rural communities and black and brown women,’ McClellan said. McClellan’s bill would not impact coverage for those on Medicaid or employer-based policies. It would allow--but not require--private insurers on the state’s health benefits

	<p>exchange to cover all legal abortions for the first time in a decade. McClellan's office estimates that this will impact 240,000 Virginians currently enrolled in these plans, though it's not clear how many of those people can actually become pregnant." [CBS, 1/27/21]</p>
<p>Senator McClellan wrote the Reproductive Health Protection Act, which overturned onerous Republican laws that blocked abortion access.</p>	<p>McClellan Introduced The Reproductive Health Act, Which Was Passed In 2020. [SB 733, 3/06/20]</p> <p>The Bill Expanded Access To Abortion Through Allowing Nurse Practitioners To Provide Abortions And Removed An Ultrasound Requirement Prior To Accessing Abortion Services. "Expands who can perform first trimester abortions to include any person jointly licensed by the Board of Medicine and Nursing as a nurse practitioner acting within such person's scope of practice. The bill eliminates all of the procedures and processes, including the performance of an ultrasound, required to effect a pregnant woman's informed written consent to the performance of an abortion; however, the bill does not change the requirement that a pregnant woman's informed written consent first be obtained. The bill removes language classifying facilities that perform five or more first trimester abortions per month as hospitals for the purpose of complying with regulations establishing minimum standards for hospitals." [SB 733, 3/06/20]</p>
<p>The anti-choice candidate in the race has a dangerous record of voting with Republicans in support of abortion bans and restrictions. He also supported new efforts to pass abortion bans for Virginians. Virginians cannot afford to have an abortion ban supporter in Congress.</p>	<p>Joe Morrissey Said He Was Personally Opposed To Abortion And Was Described As A Pro-Life Democrat. "From his south Richmond office, State Sen. Joe Morrissey shared his views on abortion. 'As a Catholic, I am personally opposed to abortion but I don't think Catholicism should be telling, ever be allowed to tell, other people what they can</p>

	<p>do,’ said Morrissey, D-16th District. Morrissey is a Catholic and a pro-life Democrat.” [NBC 12, 5/24/22]</p> <p>Morrissey Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Expanded Access To Abortion Care. [SB 733, 1/29/20]</p> <p>Was Among 20 No Votes On The Bill Along With Several Republicans. [SB 733, 1/29/20]</p> <p>Morrissey Said He Would Support A Bill To Ban Abortion After 20 Weeks. “Morrissey, who is White, also has supported those goals but has not hesitated to buck his party at times. He is the lone General Assembly Democrat who is antiabortion. Morrissey has opposed some restrictions on the procedure but has said he would support a bill that bans most abortions at the point when a fetus can feel pain, often said to be 20 weeks.” [Washington Post, 12/13/22]</p> <p>Morrissey Said Abortion Later In Pregnancy Should Be Banned. “‘I think one of the considerations has got to be fetal pain. If a fetus can feel pain, that may be the marker when you, up to where abortion is allowed. And whether that’s 20 or 20 plus weeks, we need to, all the legislators need to, hear scientific evidence,’ said Morrissey. If the decision is kicked to the states, Morrissey says he doesn’t support a full ban on abortions. But the lawmaker also says attempts to allow abortion through the third trimester should not be allowed. Morrissey would be a critical vote in the Senate, where Democrats have slim power and the ability to block any restrictive legislation coming from the GOP-controlled House.” [NBC 12, 5/24/22]</p>
<p>Jennifer McClellan has served 17 years in the General Assembly as a leader the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, fighting for opportunity for all and passing landmark laws that help people – protecting voting rights,</p>	<p>McClellan Has Served In The General Assembly Since 2006. “McClellan, a corporate lawyer, has served in the Virginia General Assembly since 2006, first in the House of Delegates and then the state</p>

safeguarding abortion access and combating climate change.

Senate beginning in 2017.” [Washington Post, [12/13/22](#)]

McClellan Serves As Vice Chair Of The Virginia Legislative Black Caucus. [Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, About, Accessed [12/14/22](#)]

McClellan Has Passed Several Pieces Of Major Legislation That Broaden Opportunity For Virginians. “Jenn’s

legislative accomplishments include:

- Ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment
- Passing the Voting Rights Act of Virginia
- Passing the Virginia Clean Economy Act
- Passing the Solar Freedom Act
- Passing the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights
- Passing the Reproductive Health Protection Act
- Passing the Pregnant Worker Fairness Act
- Creating a state-based health exchange under Obamacare
- Addressing the school-to-prison pipeline
- Expanding tenant rights and protections
- Creating the School Construction and Modernization Commission
- Expanding access to childcare
- Authorizing new business models such as benefit corporations and contract brewing
- Establishing protections against predatory lending
- Reforming Virginia’s criminal justice system”

[Jennifer McClellan for State Senate Website, Accessed [12/13/22](#)]

Sponsored Bill To Protect Voting Rights In Virginia. “Prohibits any voting qualification or any standard, practice, or procedure related to voting from being imposed or applied in a manner that results in the denial or abridgment of the right of any United States

citizen to vote based on his race or color or membership in a language minority group. The bill further prohibits at-large methods of election from being imposed or applied in a locality in a manner that impairs the ability of a protected class, defined in the bill, to elect candidates of its choice or to influence the outcome of an election, by diluting or abridging the rights of voters who are members of a protected class.” [SB 1395, [4/07/21](#)]

McClellan Introduced The Reproductive Health Act, Which Was Passed In 2020. [SB 733, [3/06/20](#)]

The Bill Expanded Access To Abortion Through Allowing Nurse Practitioners To Provide Abortions And Removed Requiring An Ultrasound Prior To Accessing Abortion Services. “Expands who can perform first trimester abortions to include any person jointly licensed by the Board of Medicine and Nursing as a nurse practitioner acting within such person's scope of practice. The bill eliminates all of the procedures and processes, including the performance of an ultrasound, required to effect a pregnant woman's informed written consent to the performance of an abortion; however, the bill does not change the requirement that a pregnant woman's informed written consent first be obtained. The bill removes language classifying facilities that perform five or more first trimester abortions per month as hospitals for the purpose of complying with regulations establishing minimum standards for hospitals.” [SB 733, [3/06/20](#)]

Introduced The Virginia Clean Economy Act, Which Passed The Legislature In 2020. [SB 851, [3/18/20](#)]

The Bill Set A 100% Clean Energy Standard. “One year ago, the Virginia

	<p>Clean Economy Act (VCEA) officially became law. Since then, the VCEA has established the Commonwealth as a national leader in the fight against climate change as the first state in the South to set a 100% clean energy standard and commit to a zero-carbon electricity grid.” [Virginia Conservation Network, Virginia Clean Economy Act: 4 Things To Know, 7/01/21]</p>
<p>McClellan also led passage of the Virginia Clean Economy Act, which moves Virginia to 100% clean energy and prioritizes environmental justice. And she was chief sponsor of the Voting Rights Act of Virginia to protect all Virginians’ voting rights and stop voter intimidation.</p>	<p>Introduced The Virginia Clean Economy Act, Which Passed The Legislature In 2020. [SB 851, 3/18/20]</p> <p>The Bill Set A 100% Clean Energy Standard. “One year ago, the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA) officially became law. Since then, the VCEA has established the Commonwealth as a national leader in the fight against climate change as the first state in the South to set a 100% clean energy standard and commit to a zero-carbon electricity grid.” [Virginia Conservation Network, Virginia Clean Economy Act: 4 Things To Know, 7/01/21]</p> <p>The Bill Focused On Addressing The Public Health Threats Caused By Climate Change. “A warming climate exacerbates health threats like infectious diseases and respiratory illnesses due to carbon pollution, and Virginia is not immune from these health risks. Richmond has been labeled as the Asthma Capital of America several times within the last five years by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America – climate change is a public health emergency, and front-line communities need our help now.” [Virginia Conservation Network, Virginia Clean Economy Act: 4 Things To Know, 7/01/21]</p>

Sponsored Bill To Protect Voting Rights In Virginia. “Prohibits any voting qualification or any standard, practice, or procedure related to voting from being imposed or applied in a manner that results in the denial or abridgment of the right of any United States citizen to vote based on his race or color or membership in a language minority group. The bill further prohibits at-large methods of election from being imposed or applied in a locality in a manner that impairs the ability of a protected class, defined in the bill, to elect candidates of its choice or to influence the outcome of an election, by diluting or abridging the rights of voters who are members of a protected class.” [SB 1395, [4/07/21](#)]

Was Chief Patron Of SB 1395. [[SB 1395](#)]

The Bill Prohibited Anything That Stopped Citizens From Exercising Their Right To Vote. “Prohibits any voting qualification or any standard, practice, or procedure related to voting from being imposed or applied in a manner that results in the denial or abridgment of the right of any United States citizen to vote based on his race or color or membership in a language minority group. The bill further prohibits at-large methods of election from being imposed or applied in a locality in a manner that impairs the ability of a protected class, defined in the bill, to elect candidates of its choice or to influence the outcome of an election, by diluting or abridging the rights of voters who are members of a protected class.” [SB 1395, [4/07/21](#)]