

Strong Together

Virginia
Organizing
Mid-Year Report
2022



Your support for Virginia Organizing brings me hope in these difficult times, and thanks to you we have grown and taken on new challenges this year.

We continue to develop our work for gender justice in Virginia. Organizers participated in a second Gender Justice Workshop with the Wildfire Project in April and afterwards began to create our own three-day workshop for chapters that will be offered in February alongside our longstanding Dismantling Racism workshops. These workshops will help us build our issue campaigns around the affordable childcare crisis, preventing the criminalization of abortion and pregnancy, and protecting LGBTQ+ rights and health care from further erosion.



Since January, chapters have held dozens of meetings with state legislators and other elected officials. These relationships make it possible for us to lobby effectively for our priorities, including public education, mental health, and affordable housing. We didn't win all the funding we needed, but we helped prevent the governor from removing vital spending increases from the state budget.

Chapters are getting ready to help eligible Virginians register to vote or have their voting rights restored before the election, in addition to their local work for housing, disability rights, criminal justice reform, and many other issues.

At the federal level, we continue to hold rallies to put pressure on Congress to lower the cost of prescription medicine, extend premium tax credits in ACA coverage, and make billionaires pay their fair share of taxes.

Virginia Organizing's strength has always been that we bring people together across all of the divides in our communities. When people who face different issues work to support each other, we have a lot more power to protect each other and win policy change.

In this report, we are featuring a few highlights from our local work. Thank you for your contribution to making Virginia a place where everyone can live well together,

Del McWhorter
Chairperson

Richmond won their two-year campaign for a “Student, Parent, and Caregiver’s Bill of Rights” in Richmond Public Schools.



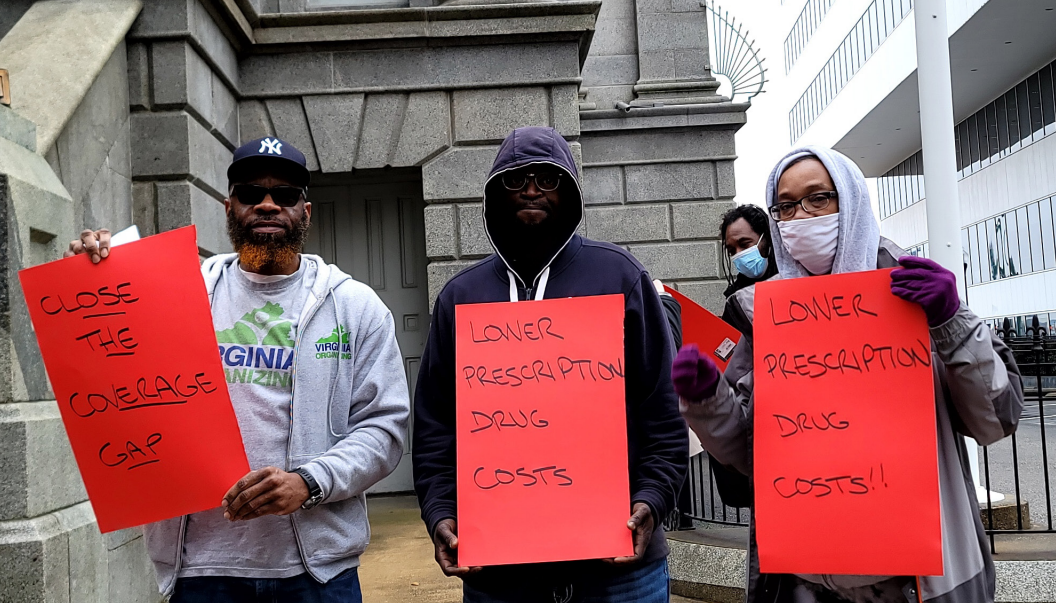
The Fredericksburg Chapter and Stafford County Public School Cleaning Workers have won the support of the Stafford County School Board in their demand for just working conditions.

Newport News/Hampton has visited their city council for months to urge the city to provide a shelter for the unhoused.



Waynesboro continues their work with city council for tenants' rights





Norfolk hosted a health care rally in February. The Eastern Shore, Newport News/Hampton, Portsmouth, and Suffolk Chapters all sent members to participate.



After two years of work, the Eastern Shore Chapter celebrated the Eastern Shore Broadband Authority being awarded a \$15.6M VATI grant for expansion of services on the Shore. The expansion will move the needle to 80% coverage for the region. Board member Karen Downing (left) has been a leader in the campaign from the beginning.



Portsmouth held a forum on mental health where mental health providers explained the Marcus Alert program and the value of mindfulness education in public schools.

The city school board has committed to expanding the mindfulness program.

On tax day, Suffolk members said thank you to workers and business owners who pay their fair share in taxes every year.

They called on Congress to make billionaires pay their fair share of taxes, which would fund health care, schools, roads, and other public services.



79

letters to the
editor and op-eds

586

one-to-one meetings

355

new skills learned by
leaders

141

new members recruited

41

meetings with
legislators and other
decision-makers

678

people attended forums,
legislative meetings, and
actions

37

meetings with
partner organizations

66

mentions in the media

The new Wythe County Chapter held the first ever
Juneteenth celebration in Wytheville.





Chapters 2022



Virginia Organizing
703 Concord Avenue
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-984-4655
info@virginia-organizing.org
www.virginia-organizing.org

