Ahead of the 2023 General Assembly session, Virginia Organizing developed four legislative priority areas for the upcoming year: 1) school funding; 2) housing; 3) mental health; and, 4) energy burden. In addition to those priority areas, Virginia Organizing also supports efforts to make our state income tax structure more progressive, protect abortion access, and increase investments in childcare access and affordability.

During the 2023 General Assembly session, we supported bills that met those priorities and opposed bills that undermined them. You can read more about those priorities and the bills on the reverse side.

From dozens of bills, we selected 19 with which to evaluate our representatives. Not all of the representatives we scored voted on each of the bills, because not all of the bills made it to the House or Senate floor for a full vote. On the reverse side, you can see whether this representative supported or opposed the bills they did have a say on.

We totaled those voting opportunities and then divided that number by the number of times they supported our position on a bill. This number is the score you see on the right. If a representative patroned a bill we supported, then we added one point to their score as “extra credit.” If they were a chief patron, we added two points. And if they patroned a bill we opposed, we subtracted a point. For a fuller picture of our scorecard and this process, you can use the QR code below to visit our website.

To get involved with Virginia Organizing, please contact us at info@virginia-organizing.org or 434-984-4655 x227.
In 2021, the Supreme Court of Virginia drew new maps for congressional and state legislative districts. These new maps take effect this year for the upcoming elections. Many of our representatives will now be running in new districts. And in some new districts, incumbents will face each other in primaries. At right is a map of the new district for this representative.

**Shutoff Protections for Extreme Weather**

HB 2283 and its companion bill SB 1447 failed to pass. The former was defeated in committee, and the latter passed the Senate with bipartisan support before being defeated in a special House Commerce and Energy subcommittee. The bills would have directed the State Corporation Commission to prevent electric, gas, water, and wastewater utilities from shutting off customers for the nonpayment of bills during temperature weather extremes, or on a Friday, weekend, state holiday, or day immediately preceding a state holiday. Virginia Organizing supported the bills and will continue to organize in support of such protections.

**Counseling Compact**

HB 1433 and its companion bill SB 802 passed the House and Senate with broad support. The bills authorize Virginia to become a signatory to the Counseling Compact which permits eligible licensed professional counselors to practice in Compact member states, provided they are licensed in at least one member state. Due to a continued shortage of qualified mental health professionals in the state, Virginia Organizing strongly supported these bills.

**Tax Credits for Education Improvement Scholarships**

HB 1821 passed the House but was defeated in a Senate committee. The bill would have diverted funding away from public schools into the education improvement scholarships tax credit program. Virginia Organizing...