The VB Voting System

Ed. - This is an overview of the unusual system Virginia Beach uses to elect members of the City Council and School Board. It shows current office holders. There are 11 seats on each body. Four of the 11 are at-large seats, meaning candidates can live anywhere in the city and all city voters select them. The other seats are geographically-defined districts. Candidates must live within the districts, but all city voters - even those living outside the districts - vote for those representatives. The General Assembly could change that. Districts are denoted in red on the maps below.

Maps by Charles Apple/For The Independent News. City Council member portraits by Craig McClure except Jones (courtesy)/City of Virginia Beach. School Board member portraits by Ritchie Gregory/ For Virginia Beach City Public Schools. Information from the City of Virginia Beach, including the Virginia Beach City Charter.





CENTERVILLE

KEMPSVILLE

2

T-LARGE SEATS



ROSE HALL

BAYSIDE

OUIS

LYNNHAVEN







BEACH





ROSEMARY

AT-LARGE SEATS

Candidates to serve as one of the four at-large members of the School Board can live anywhere in the city to qualify for this office, and they are selected at-large, which means all voters within the city help select them. As with City Council, representatives of the district seats shown at the bottom of the page must live within the respective district, but they, too, are selected by all city voters. The School Board chairperson is not directly elected like the mayor is. The chairperson is selected by members of the School Board from their own ranks.













PRINCESS ANNE





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THE MAYOR

The mayor can live anywhere in the city. All city voters select them. They are a member of council and the ceremonial head of government.

COUNCIL

Candidates to serve as one of the three at-large members of the City Council can live anywhere in the city to qualify for office. They are selected at-large, which means all voters within the city can help select them. In comparison, representatives of the district seats shown at the bottom of the page must live within the specific geographic area, but they, too, are selected by all city voters. That wrinkle is unique to Virginia Beach. It could soon change.

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AT-LARGE SEATS