

The Boys State Chronicle

Volume 81, Issue 4
Designed by Taebeen Han

“A SCREECH OF FREEDOM”

June 20, 2024
Editors: Nathan Benyame, Eli Kopp, Anthony Xu

THE RESULTS ARE IN!

NATIONALIST

FEDERALIST

KYLE SOLIDAY vs. OWEN HUPP



Governor Nominee

AARYA RAJASHEKARA

Lieutenant Governor Nominee

JACKSON JONES

Attorney General Nominee



Governor Nominee

DECLUND STEVENSON

Lieutenant Governor Nominee

AUSTIN CLAYTON

Attorney General Nominee

Meet the General Assembly

Senate

SENATE PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE: Jacob O'Fiel (Burke)

CLERK: Quinn Choby (Henry)

MAJORITY LEADER: Malachi Montgomery (Puller)

MINORITY LEADER: Chance Harcrow (Nimitz)

BRADLEY CITY: Benjamin Dyer, Dawood Haji

BURKE CITY: Jacob O' Fiel, Rylan Williams

EISENHOWER CITY: Tommy Tong, Nathaniel Zuraw

GRAVELY CITY: Benjamin Mustico, Luke Sellers

HENRY CITY: Owen Cobb, Quinn Choby

JAMES CITY: Connor Elling, Lucas Muelberg

MACARTHUR CITY: Ari Kaplan, Graham Webb

MARSHALL CITY: Elijah Laird, Joshua Jeffers

NIMITZ CITY: Logan Gullberg, Chance Harcrow

PATTON CITY: Joshua Kon, Bryce Williams

PULLER CITY: Malachi Montgomery, Blake Tidwell

WASHINGTON CITY: Emmet Hand, Daniel Purvis



House

HOUSE OF DELEGATES SPEAKER: Roman Ivarone (Henry)

CLERK: Duke Flanagan (Bradley)

MAJORITY LEADER: Joe Beckwilder (Burke)

MINORITY LEADER: Riley Cornelisse (Nimitz)

BRADLEY CITY: Theodore Lewis (N), Duke Flanagan (F), Jake Graham (F), Sam Ibrahim (F)

BURKE CITY: Joseph Beekwilder (N), Theodore Shin (N), Brychen Averna (F), Liam Ginty (F)

EISENHOWER CITY: Ethan Edwards (N), Douglas O'Donnell (N), Alan Pellissier (N), Graham Whitaker (N)

GRAVELY CITY: Nathan Benyame (N), Oscar Harjo (N), Jackson Murphy (N), Richard Rivas (N)

HENRY CITY: Gavin Blanks (N), Jacob Coutts (N), Roman Ivarone (N), Dietrich Lawson (F)

JAMES CITY: Jaivant Dave (N), Furqan Shah (N), Jameson Shipman (F), N. Sundarrajan (F)

MACARTHUR CITY: James Libresco (N), Ansh Tripathi (F), Daniel Zeng (F), Leland Hudik (F)

MARSHALL CITY: Brandon Frazier (N), Joshua Siddiqi (N), Deven Hagen (F), Noah Hartig (F)

NIMITZ CITY: Nicholas Manic (N), Liam Arne (F), Collen Baron (F), Riley Cornelisse (F)

PATTON CITY: Kelsten Hudson (N), Kevin Krakie (N), Hayden Michael (F), James Riffe (F)

PULLER CITY: Sean Cady (N), Markus Kim (N), Cole McConnell (N), Silas Evans (F)

WASHINGTON CITY: Anthony Lim-Numez (N), Evan Kincel (F), Connor Muha (F), Ben Thomas (F)

Bills Passed

Cole McConnell - Puller City

Today were the first legislation meetings for the newly elected Senate and House of Delegates. In their joint morning session, both groups observed speeches from potential Supreme Court Justices which they then voted upon and the results were announced later (see related article). In their afternoon session, the two groups met separately to discuss, and vote on their newly created city bills. Last night, all six legislators from each individual city met to create new laws that affected the state of Virginia and many wonderful ideas were developed. After all the voting concluding, below is a list of all the bills that were passed by the House and Senate:

ALBS House Bill 7 - A BILL to create the (VIMHE) Veterans' Integrated Mental Health Enhancement to enhance the mental health services available to veterans by integrating mental health care into primary health care settings. Create new job opportunities for mental health professionals, including psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers. Provide specialized training and courses for mental health professionals, focusing specifically on the unique needs and challenges faced by veterans. Provide comprehensive mental health support for veterans to reduce the prevalence of suicide within the veteran community.

AMENDMENT - BILL will not create new program, instead will go under Veterans' Affairs

ALBS House Bill 9 - A BILL to require colleges to provide Narcan in their facilities to ensure immediate access to this critical intervention, saving lives, and enhancing college safety. In order to prevent drug overdoses in college, we propose that Narcan should be a mandatory requirement to have in each building.

AMENDMENT - Narcan will be placed with every fire extinguisher and AED

ALBS House Bill 10 - A BILL for secondary schools; at crosswalks within the jurisdiction of posten school speed limit signs and/or school zone signs, there shall be installed flashing pedestrian lights.

ALBS Resolution Bill 1 - A Resolution to protect free speech and promote the welfare of the disenfranchised, whereby the Virginia General Assembly affirms the right to donate necessity items on public property including, but not limited to food items, non-alcoholic beverages, clothing and sanitation products.

ALBS Senate Bill 3 - A BILL to reinstate the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) with the following changes: (1) Beneficiaries and veterans shall have live in Virginia and been citizens for a minimum of five years, (2) out-of-state schools are not covered, (3) States shall provide for at least one-third of the costs instead of the entire costs held by the school, (4) Fifty percent of online programs shall be covered, unless it is a disabled veteran with a 90-100% disability, (5) graduate school shall be covered, (6) trade schools and community colleges shall be covered, and (7) room and board shall continue to not be covered.

All these bills will be presented to the Governor on Friday where he has the ability to either sign or veto them.

Bob McDonnell

Eli Kopp - *Burke City*

Yesterday afternoon, VA Boys State was (virtually) visited by former Governor Robert McDonnell. McDonnell served as the 71st governor of Virginia from 2010 to 2014 and spoke to citizens about the importance of American History for leaders. During his Q&A session, McDonnell advised candidates on how to run a successful campaign.



VA State Police

The fatigued sentiment in the crowd was quickly lifted as adrenaline-filled excitement emerged coming from the sounds of trooper motorcycles revving onto the stage with a dazzling array of police lights. As the initial wave of excitement waned, the State Troopers introduced themselves to the crowd. Their first topic to discuss: Vehicle safety. The crowd of citizens were horrified by the initial animation of a driver without a seatbelt - and the gruesome consequences - as well as harrowing real-life stories of the consequences of distracted driving.

In a final demonstration, a K9 police dog was brought to the scene, impressing the crowds with its ability to detect which box had “substances” (smokeless powder) with ease. Near the end of the session, standing crowds gathered upfront to watch as each city’s mayors, sheriffs, and counselors each tried to pass the simple drunk driving test of walking toe-to-heel, with a twist: while wearing “Drunk” goggles. At the end, as the troopers took questions, one of them all was the most remarkable - a citizen asked if he could be *handcuffed*, as the assembly roared and cheered watching it unfold, before the policemen took off again in their motorbikes.



Andrew Diefenthaler

Eli Kopp - *Burke City*

Andrew Diefenthaler is the Chief of Staff of The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. He came and spoke to Boys State yesterday regarding mental health and substance abuse issues in the commonwealth. Diefenthaler attended Boys State when he was in high school, and said that the lessons he learned here motivated him to become a leader in his community and state.



Jason Wright

David Foster-- *James City* & Shatique Willis-- *Henry City*

Yesterday, Jason F. Wright, a New York Times bestselling author and actor, came to talk to the citizens of Boys State on the topic of giving. As the creator of the Kindness Card Movement, he distributes food gift cards to the homeless and needy. Throughout his presentation, Mr. Wright, showed that providing hope is the best form of giving and teamwork is the best way to achieve this.

Aside from his acts of humble philanthropy, Mr. Wright’s successful career as an author has earned him the best selling awards from both *The New York Times* and *The Chicago Tribune*. His appearance at Boys State has inspired us all to, in his words, “influence”.



93 to 92: Nationalist Lt. Gov Nominee Results

Taebeen Han - *Marshall City & Nicholas Hourihan - Washington City*

Wow. 93 to 92. Yesterday, both Nationalist and Federalist parties voted for the nominees for Lieutenant Governor and Governor that would represent the respective parties later on. I'm a nationalist, so I wasn't present for the Federalist Party's meeting, but I doubt any of their votes were as close as this. In the end, it all came down to Aarya Rajashekara from James City and Noah Pelken from Washington City running for Lt. Governor, and the results were 93 votes for Aarya R. and 92 votes for Noah P. for a total of 185 votes, leading to Aarya Rajashekara being chosen as the Nationalist Lt. Governor. However, there was a shout (well multiple shouts) from the followers of Noah P., as the "Magic Number," AKA the minimum votes needed to win (the calculations for the "Magic Number" is the total number of votes available divided by 2 (and rounded up if the result is a decimal and if not, added by 1)).

However, on the board, the "Magic Number" was 94, instead of 93. Thus, some called for a recount of the votes, and here I am to help.

I added up all the votes available, which was 185, and following the above calculations, the half of 185 (92.5) would be rounded up to be 93, thus making the final vote counts being correct. Great job to both candidates, and what a close call!

| | |
|--------------|----|
| 14 | 14 |
| 15 | 15 |
| | 93 |
| Magic Number | 94 |

Interviews from Lt. Governor Nominee candidates interviewed by Nicholas Hourihan:

"I believe he (Noah Peiken) was very passionate and humorous, and he would've brought great spirit into the executive office. He deserves respect for running on such short notice. Gaining such a large proportion of the votes was commendable" -Aarya Rajashekara

"If I had a bit of better preparation, you know, I went into Boys State thinking Attorney General was for me, but I think Lt. Governor was my true calling all along, so maybe that was the shortcoming from me. If I had more time to prepare I think I might've pulled off the win, but congrats to Aarya. He ran a very tactiful campaign, and I can't be mad about that." -Noah Peiken

A Single Voice DOES Matter: Federalist Election Results

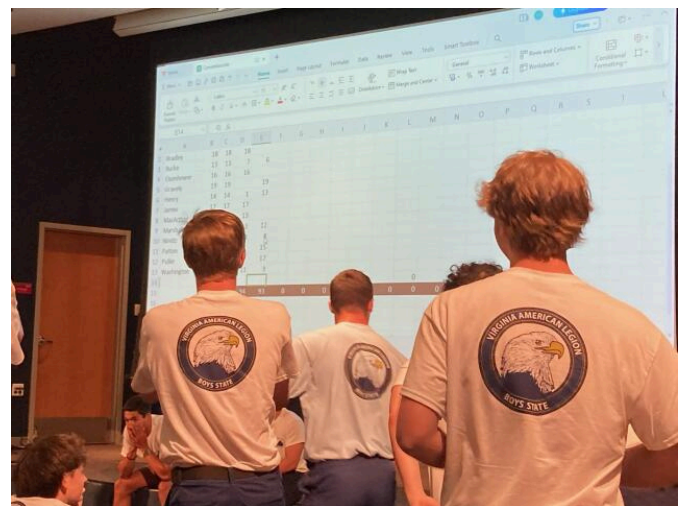
MacPhearson Strassberg - Bradley City

Today, the Federalist Party had a strong day of elections deciding the Federalist nominations for Lt. Gov, and the Governor. Surprisingly, the election results were quite similar to the Nationalist elections as the Lt. Gov position was hotly contested, and the Governor was an unexpected landslide.

For the Lt. Governor position, after a series of runoffs, the number of candidates was reduced to two: Dedund Stevenson and Andrew Wang. Although Wang garnered more votes than Dedund in the first two rounds of voting, in a surprising twist, Dedund managed to win by a single vote (94-93). This result caused many loud cheers and boos from the Federalists delegates, but in the end, no one could dispute the excitement of such a close election.

In terms of the Federalist Governor election, things started out similarly with the election boiling down to Aaron Lopez and Owen "Shaggy" Hupp. Despite the popular consensus that Aaron Lopez would win decisively, the result was quite the opposite. Owen Hupp managed to secure 125 votes compared to Aaron Lopez's 62 votes. The landslide victory was incredibly impressive, and generated as much excitement and surprise as the Lt. Gov election.

In conclusion, the Federalists went into yesterday's convention with high energy and expectations and were not disappointed by the results!



The Federalist Party looking at the Lt. Gov Election Results
Photo Courtesy of Eli Kopp and MacPhearson Strassberg

Killer Furrries

Diego Quintanar-Pena - Eisenhower

The past few days have been filled with stirring speeches and restless campaigning. Even though not everyone can win, each candidate has brought their own ideas to the table, and it's been a wild ride through and through. Though Nationalists should rally around their nominee, Kyle Soliday, one can't help but think about the many bright minds whose political ambitions didn't quite make the cut. Certainly a distinguished political mind, Noah Gearey was one Nationalist candidate for governor. He touched hearts and enlightened minds with his wisdom and experience. Yet he brought attention to a terrible scourge in our society. "Imagine you're in your dream car," he started. "You're at a red light, and you look at the rearview mirror. There's a furry in a lime green Kia Soul, and he's barreling towards you." Gasps and screams of horror were heard. This terrifying image has haunted the minds of all since Geary delivered the monumental address during one of his first speeches as a candidate. He makes a good point. Who is safe, if anyone, if behind any corner you turn, at any moment, a furry could be waiting?

While no sheriffs have offered a comment as to plans to keep citizens safe from local furrries, as the final race for governor nears, we must ask ourselves, who will keep us safe from furrries and green Kia Souls? Which candidate will dedicate themselves to our safety and end this reign of terror? No one knows what the future holds, but we must pray that somehow, King Kyle™, can save us.



Explosive Campaign

Taebeen Han - Marshall City

I was talking to one of the citizens of Marshall City this afternoon and I happened to hear something very interesting. Something quite *explosive*, in fact. According to the roommate of a certain Attorney General candidate (not a nominee yet) from Marshall City, the bathroom in his room was occupied all night due to the candidate's constant use of the toilet. I conversed with the candidate as well, and he blamed it all on "the pasta from yesterday." I don't know if any of that's true, but anyway, this tale seems to be an ingenious way to start a campaign for Attorney General.

Well, that previous paragraph was written in the afternoon, and it is nearly midnight now, and I have some unfortunate news. The explosive candidate did not get nominated... The ex-candidate wanted to have his name publicized, but I kindly declined. However, his name does rhyme with "Jail" I think...

Genius in Marshall

Taebeen Han - Marshall City

Move out the way everyone, there's a super genius in Boys State! David Penning-ton, a 15-year-old junior, resident of Marshall City, is an incredible guy. Sporting an impressive 1560 SAT score (770 Reading/Writing, 790 Math) and a 35 on the ACT (36 Reading, 35 Writing, 35 Math, and 35 Science - David claims that he would have gotten a 36 if only his calculator hadn't died in the middle of testing), David is also an amazing coder, being able to play songs on DESMOS (yes, the graph/calculator website) and was also suggested by a friend to code his own RPG. While I was talking to him earlier, he asked me to give me two 3-digit-numbers, to which I complied. Then, he showed off his mental math skills by multiplying the two numbers in his head and told me with little to no error (this continued on for around 10 to 15 minutes). Thank you to David Pennington for agreeing to the interview, and say hi if you see him!



A Speech to Remember

David Foster - James City

On Monday, the citizens of Boys State started their first activities for the week. One of the most packed activities was the Better Speaking Class held by Dale Jenkins. Dale Jenkins is a Virginia Tech instructor and he started the meeting off with some basic fears that come with public speaking. Mr. Jenkins explained “More people are afraid of public speaking than death.” With his expertise in the field of public speaking, Mr. Jenkins’ course drew in more people than seats for the class!

On Tuesday, after starting a little behind schedule, Mr. Jenkins engaged the citizens in a conversation about what the fear of public speaking actually does to the speaker. Oftentimes the result is shaking, freezing up, and sweating profusely. While some citizens couldn’t refuse to use the overly hot and crowded room as a makeshift sleepover, Mr. Jenkins kept most of the citizens awake and engaged.

Yesterday, Mr. Jenkins explained to the citizens how to combat the fear of public speaking. He noted that doing “Box breaths” allows the speaker to relax and not succumb to their fears. Overall, the past three days have been quite productive, and many seem to be using tactics learned from the course.

Marshall Rides Santa’s Sleigh

Taebeen Han - Marshall City

Yep, that’s right. Marshall City rode Santa’s Sleigh this afternoon after dinner. The Santa in question, Mr. Fargo Wells, counselor of Marshall City, allowed Marshall citizens to ride around the fountain, stating that he finally got a battery for the sleigh. Some comments I got from my beloved Marshalls included “fantastic,” “10/10 experience, I think we can stop world hunger,” and more (quotes by Jayden and Drew). I was too busy filming to ride the sleigh, but it looked exciting!

Gaudeamus Igitur

Anthony Xu - Patton City

“We will live in the dirt. All of us here will one day be dead, dead, dead, dead. So we might as well have fun with it. Isn’t that beautiful?” These words were said by Mr. Demas Boudreaux, Choir Director and Chaplain. Participating in choir will be one of the most memorable experiences of my time at Virginia Boys State.

It feels like a contradiction. I have to wake up earlier. I have to scarf down breakfast and dinner. I have to stand under stage lights instead of sitting in a comfy Preston Hall. I hail from a nonpracticing family. The sheet music is sometimes confusing. (Why are the lyrics so far away? Why is everything in A-flat major?) I have never sung in a choir. There’s no point in using the treble clef pin to skip the lunch line—the lines are already short, and the pin makes my name tag sag. Yet twice a day, I scuttle down to Covington Center to infringe on my moot court, talent show, reporting, or sleeping time (I even show up early to practice a piano accompaniment for, you might have guessed, choir).

I can’t describe the feeling. But there is something truly magical about feeling harmonizing music coming from your own throat instead of a trumpet bell or piano wire.



Kyle Soliday Sweeps Nationalist Primary

Nicholas Hourihan- *Washington City*

Going into the Nationalists Convention, there were some ideas on who would take Nationalist Governor Nominee. There was Nicholas Page, who was the first to seize initiative to get his name out for Governor, had multiple cities that were expected to back him. There was also John Thomson, another promising candidate that put a lot of effort into campaigning, was also a frontrunner. Despite this, Kyle Soliday came out on top with over 100 votes on the 2nd ballot

When Soliday was posed the question, “due to your unexpected participation for Nationalist’s Governor Nominee, what was your initial reaction from the Nationalist Party endorsing you out of thin air?” Soliday responded, “I was shocked I was voted by my city, then shocked that I proceeded to the 2nd ballot, and then even more surprised that I won. I was swarmed as soon as I got off stage!”

When Soliday had his 2nd question posed to him, stating, “do you have any idea of why you might’ve won the election. Anything specific that you did to unite over half of the convention under you?” Soliday replied, “No, I just tried to speak with as much confidence and authenticity as possible.”

Soliday immensely expressed his appreciation for his unprecedented support during the convention. This support is no small matter. There were shouts from the crowd with various statement such as, “marry my sister!” “I love you Kyle!” and last but not least, “all hail king Kyle!”



Soliday exemplified the ideal that anything is possible with his last minute choice to run for Governor. The support garnered is nothing short of impressive, and to most, nearly impossible. His various slogans such as, “If it made you smile, it was Kyle,” and, “every day is a holiday with Soliday!” has been echoed and remembered all throughout the Nationalist party. Washington has high hopes for Soliday representing and winning the election for them. He has been an upstanding and diligent citizen within the city since day one, and has certainly caused his fellow Washington citizens to warm up to him.

The Rise & Fall of Burke

Op-Ed | Nathan Benyame - *Gravelly*

As I stood at the flagpole to honor the raising of the Flag, my attention was caught by how Counselor Steve Cox called out a man with headphones around his neck and missing a nametag to come and stand upon a pedestal to be shamed. I and many other citizens at first felt sorry for the person, as anyone would, but it seemed that as soon as it was mentioned what his city was... everyone’s sympathy turned to enjoyment encapsulated in the statement:

“Well, well, well.”

There has been no city in the Mythical 51st State which has received more disapprobation than the city of Burke. The amount of booing, jeering, and vitriol that is incurred by the mere mention of the name “Burke” is essentially a massive Boys State-wide joke. Without a doubt, many of our citizens and leaders will recall, years or even decades from today, how in their Boys State program, there was *that* city, remarking about it so snidely.

My question, however, is simple: Why?

Burke has produced perhaps the greatest number of Governor candidates of any city at Burke... now, that may not exactly be true, but it seems as such based on the amount of advertisement area dedicated to (and revenue extracted from) Burke candidates.

It seems to me that the beginning of the end for Burke was two days ago, during that fateful “Instructional Session.” One of the Governor candidates had come up to the microphone to ask a question to the guest, perhaps incurring some light mocking and jeering from a couple citizens that were nearby. Now, it’s clear what the correct response was by that candidate: Turn the other cheek and keep focus. Instead, this candidate decided to respond in a snide manner, incurring the first of very many auditorium-wide boos from the audience.

From then on, the once innocent practice of taking your opportunity at the mic to shoutout your team, followed by their cheers, has made many a poor citizen - and their whole city - the victim of mass-scale reprimand in the form of booing. I believe that this single event was also the catalyst for the breakdown in decorum at Boys State, encapsulated in the rowdy and incredibly vicious nature of the crowds of the Party Conventions.

Wordsearch

VA Boys State Word Search

Eli Kopp - *Burke City*

NEG TBHSXFDWGCQIBQUKORNWRYKLWXY
WQWOENDXXHQNTJNBURRJCKV GUTSPPM
FFGOVHXQZMBAXEJUSBICPZJDKGGGZO
KWSOLXBZVLJLSUDHAHTJVFBEDDRGHZ
LUSCVELVYRXMSHQFXDHHAQXJKPFMLY
QFCPBEAU YDFJKNGI REZGGMZDIHEINB
HVWXMNRDYMOWQVXEOMVDFWAHRRDCOM
BQKXEORNEMPFFNCYCOGFNRTRCOEFRJ
KNFHBTWSORSWFLBEMCCEFAKTAYRODL
HDKBEKJPMRSQKUQRQRNADJVZYAJAY
YPVOHLBCAELHLHPBQABWDFADZELNGF
GTFDYTPEJSTGIFJLTCBYNOMLVYIYJQ
NSWNVPI TLNUSR PZMDYUNDRPPXUSUST
TOXXVELICWRVDKFENGA IYDIJSTTCIJ
YJCITIE SPQLSRVNPXSTJEKLD BUXLO
JSCRKQUSYRUPQDXDHS HHZBZLIYMFUR
JNSMRJHKKFWTYESWYAH AHZEORPGINM
ZAALCSJDNPCYHKYKZSVLPFPUIUGTMK
VNRTIFZXMLCIIYBWUZITOGTLCZRNMU
GLUEISQVEJJHTUVM SHAWLOIWSLURIH
FPEGBOUKIBOOJGNVXP NQIKZLVNWRJ
VQJSSBNGMRYWNSJDC LAW TGZUNSWONY
MAYEUYXAGERJYIGGHVJSIXNWH PATLZ
AFPTILXILLMRJFJQOGMVCXBPFBUJOF
YEBAEFGCEIGGKPD RWHBPSXDYEXZSNU
OAOBIKVCHZSBSIGFWYRIUUUIRALGJS
RKVXMGZKRUNTNOEDTMXVDJMANPIJDH
KTNMNSSBVJTQGLGOND CMNPJEDGPTAY
BQCF CMVXBWYBQYBPBTXMDSCOCYFTXQ
HXTZJGDATOOXISEYERZXHZILRFWLHN

- Nationalist
- Democracy
- Politics
- Leadership
- Governor
- Cities
- Federalist
- Radford
- Mayor

College Day Colleges

Eli Kopp - *Burke City*

College Day will take place on Friday the 21st from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM and will feature the following colleges:

Belmont Abbey College

Berea College

Bryant University

Chowan University

Christopher Newport University

Concord University

East Carolina University

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University

Emory & Henry College

Fairmont State University

Ferrum College

George Mason University

Glennville State College

Hampden-Sydney College

Hood College

James Madison University

Johns Hopkins University

Liberty University

Longwood University

Mississippi State University

Old Dominion University

Radford University

Randolph College

Randolph Macon College

Regent University

Roanoke College

St. Andrews University

The Citadel

University of Alabama

University of Lynchburg

University of Mississippi

University of Richmond

University of Virginia

University of Virginia at Wise

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

U.S. Military Academy at West
Point

U.S. Naval Academy

Virginia Commonwealth
University

Virginia Military Institute

Virginia State Police

Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech Army ROTC (VT
Corps of Cadets)

Virginia Wesleyan University

West Liberty University

West Virginia University