

What's Poppin Around Boys State

- Rydell Wilkins, Washington City

The third day of Boys State went off with an exciting start. First, a visit from the Attorney General Jason Miyares. Miyares, an immigrant of a Cuban mother, spoke on the importance of leaders in society today. Miyares greatly promotes patriotism for his nation by praising its young leaders and providing strong leadership to the state of Virginia. We thank Jason Miyares for his encouraging words of motivation and strong insight into state leadership.



Next, we have newly elected officers, people performing in the Talent show, and more information on our candidates for the big race; governor. To start off, newly elected officers are incredibly excited to serve and have taken oath of office. These positions range from Mail Clerk all the way to Senators, from Delegates to Sheriffs now

newly elected and serving in their city. Sheriff Gavin Maxey (F) said “To be honest it feels kinda hard because you have a big responsibility, but it feels good to know that you stepped up and knowing you have that responsibility gives me good leadership experience”. Mayor Odin Clark Cleary (N) says, “it feels wonderful, it felt good to win. It gives me an opportunity to help organize and serve the people as a mayor. I listen, act and I appreciate that position.” Congrats to all new officers being elected at this point, we are glad to have you. Next up, both parties attended conventions to debate on planks & nominate candidates for the big 3; Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor and Governor. However there was conflict in both parties following the nomination process resulting in categories being unfulfilled. In other exciting news, the Boys State Talent Show will be hosted on Thursday at 8:00pm in Preston Bondurant Auditorium. Boys State while having over 400 exceptional young leaders with exceptional skills, we also house a numerous number of citizens with performance talents. These talents range from singing to dancing to comedians to pianists. A couple of citizens will take to the stage to showcase their talents with the Boys State. And finally, the questions everyone is asking are “who will be the big 3”. Both parties attempted to cast nominations, but failed to complete the process leaving everyone in suspense and wondering who the candidates will be?

The People's Protectors

-Paul Manetto, Nimitz City

The theme of today's speaker series was the judicial system, with citizens gaining the chance to see how the laws of the nation were made and enforced. The first part of the day featured interviews with Commonwealth Attorneys Justin Griffith, Eric Olsen, Donald Caldwell, Chris Rehak and Bobby Lilly, as well as Judge Michael Doucette. Each brought a unique set of stories and lessons to pass onto Boys State. Entering to a salute by the counselors and town officials of Boys State, Attorney General Jason Miyares offered Boys State a look into the top level of Virginia State Executive Government. Miyares proudly introduced himself as the people's protector, describing his job as a combination of "lawyer and politician". Wanting to share some of his success with the future leaders at Boys State, Miyares explained that his career was built on faith, family, friends and gratitude. He explained that what should be the happiest generation had the highest rate of drug and depression use, explaining the decline as a result of the decrease in religious attendance, and encouraging delegates to find solace in the love of God. The theme of friendship also factored into Miyares's talk with him urging the quote "when you have that connection... keep them close". Miyares reflected on the values taught to him by his family, including an appreciation for the rights American citizens have, highlighted by the stories of his relatives in Cuba. Concluding his speech reflecting on gratitude, Miyares made clear

that while America was not perfect, "what we have is "special" leaving Boys State citizens with food for thought regarding the future of their country.



Jason Miyares, Official Portrait

One on One with Miyares

-Kenneth Lucas, Henry City

Following his speech to the Boys State citizens, I was given the opportunity to have a sitdown interview with Attorney General Miyares to understand his beliefs on the role of the Judicial system in our society.

How do you move forward in a situation after realizing you're wrong?

"I'm married to an amazing woman, and you learn that the key to a successful marriage is to recognize when you're wrong, and to say the most magical words 'I'm sorry'

Why do you think judicial restraint is important in achieving justice in our modern society?

"I think it's important that we have as a general rule recognizing that there's three legal branches of government...so it's the legislature's job to pass the laws and it's the judge's job to apply the law...It changes when the judges reinterpret plain language into what they think the law should be."

What is your definition of Justice?

"Justice is treating everyone fairly and equally with a blind eye."

Sounds of Freedom:

One Voice: Faith, Patriotism, and Harmony at Dawn.

-Felix Garcia, Burke City

It was in the first light of morning that music became a symbol. For the first time this week, the band and the choir joined forces to accompany the flag-raising ceremony. They weren't just musicians — they were guardians of the moment, messengers of unity, faith, and country.

As delegates stood in respectful silence, the opening chords of the national anthem rose into the air, wrapping the Radford campus in solemnity. The trumpets set the pace, the drums echoed the march of history, and the choir's steady voices lifted prayers in the form of song.

The morning air was cool, yet full of meaning. Each note seemed to honor something greater — duty, shared history, and the promise of a nation that, though imperfect, strives to be better.



Later, during the flag-lowering ceremony, the sound softened. Music descended with the flag itself, accompanied by a quiet hymn to God. It wasn't a performance. It was a statement.

That morning's music wasn't about perfect pitch or individual brilliance. It was about presence. About purpose. About using one's talent in service of something far greater than oneself.

And so, as instruments and voices united in a single ceremonial act, the band and choir showed that in key moments, we are not scattered sounds... we are one song



A New Face for Burke City Colten Fulcher Sworn In as Mayor After Intense Election

-Felix Garcia, Burke City



In one of the most thrilling political showdowns of Virginia Boys State 2025, Burke City witnessed a defining moment as it elected its new mayor. The race between **Colten Fulcher**, representing the Federalists, and **Jacob Mackey**, candidate of the Nationalists, was fierce, spirited, and full of vision. But when the final vote was cast, the people had made their choice.

With strong support and a clear message of leadership, **Colten Fulcher emerged victorious**. In a meaningful swearing-in ceremony, he officially took office as the new mayor of Burke City, marking a significant win for the Federalist Party. As campaign posters were taken down and the sound of applause filled the air, it wasn't just a political victory being celebrated—it was a triumph of civic engagement and democratic values. But the day's events didn't stop there.

Elections were also held for senators and delegates, positions crucial to the city's



voice in the General Assembly of Boys State.

The results showed an intriguing mix of representation across party lines:

Senate:

Avi Prakesh (Nationalist)

Bradley Dalton (Federalist)

Delegates:

Erick Elvir (Federalist)

Camden Fowler (Federalist)

Ruger Young (Nationalist)

Michael Dan (Nationalist)



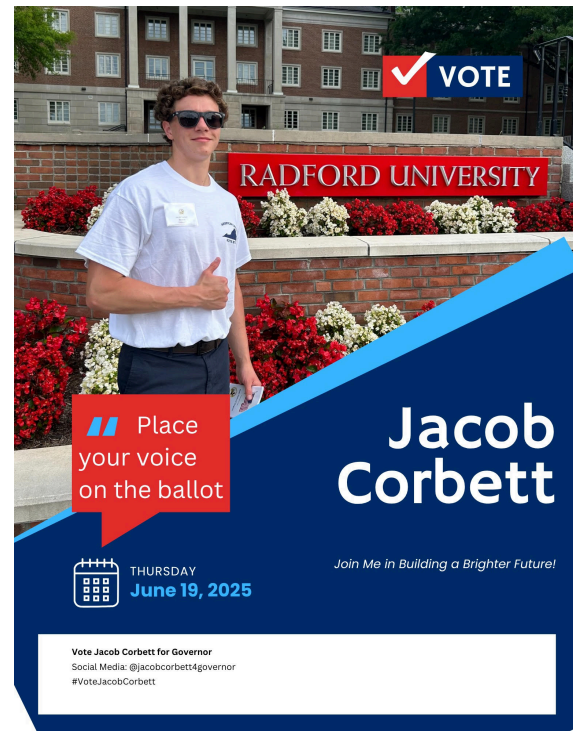
This balanced legislative body will require dialogue and cooperation between Federalists and Nationalists to effectively shape the policies and proposals ahead.

As the newly elected officials begin their work, Burke City enters a new chapter filled with both hope and uncertainty. What will Mayor Fulcher's administration prioritize? Can a divided Senate collaborate

effectively? What legislation will the delegates bring forward?

Beyond Burke City, the effects of this election ripple through the entire program. With every vote cast and every leader chosen, the future of Boys State 2025 begins to take shape. This wasn't just a political moment—it was a lesson in leadership, democracy, and public service.

Burke City has spoken. The future is here. And now, all eyes turn to what comes next.



24 Hours Left: What the People Want

- W. Joel Simpson, Marshall City

Tuesday was an eventful day in the lives of the parties and the hopes of many gubernatorial candidates. With neither party producing a candidate in the conventions, campaigns are in a full sprint to win their party's nominations. Amidst the uncertainty and density in the candidate field, we interviewed citizens of Boys State to see what they wanted to see in the Governor's Race.

Derrick June of Gravelly said that he wanted a Governor that "is for everyone." He went on to say that "we're all family, we're all at Boys State" and said that a Governor that is "for the people, for us" is a key quality he

looks for in a candidate. Ethan Higgins of Burke says that some things he values in a gubernatorial candidate are "strong leadership capabilities" and someone who can "unite both sides of the political aisle." Jordan Koller of Marshall stated that "all gubernatorial candidates will have good qualifications," and for him, it's more about "being a really good communicator."

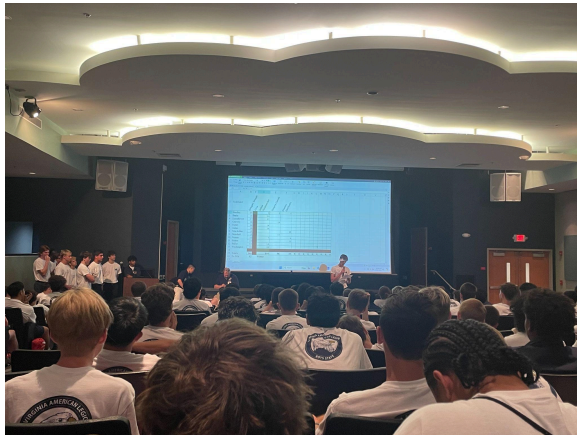
With these traits in mind, we also asked citizens about the policy issues they wanted to see candidates discuss in the race. Ethan Higgins said the infrastructure of the Commonwealth was on the top of his mind, specifying by saying he wanted "better roads and better public transportation." Pablo Campos, Mayor of Washington, said that he wanted to see "greater diversity" to be a priority of potential Governors, saying that

he wants all areas of the Commonwealth to be accounted for.

Lastly, we asked citizens if they had a candidate they would feel comfortable voting for right now, and the results were 50-50. Some citizens were solidly behind a candidate, whether they were from their party, city, or friends from home, and some citizens were going forward with an open mind, wanting to choose the candidate that aligned with them best. Today's party conventions will be crucial in deciding the traits and platforms that are represented in the state-wide race. As always, keep reading *The Statesman Daily* to stay informed about all aspects of Virginia Boys State.

Chaos in the Federalist Party

- *Written by William Hoosier, James city*



The Federalist party meeting ended in absolute chaos with part of the audience yelling for impeachment of the party Chairman. Leading up to this chaotic end, the party managed to elect a head Party Chairman, Joshua Seidensticker, who was met with immediate protest. Then the party

started voting on planks with 2 confirmed and 1 rejected. With “Add a time limit to questioning” and “increase education funding” both being confirmed while “adding trash cans to rooms” being rejected.” After that, the votes for General Attorney started with increasing dismay from many cities, especially some young men in them starting to be vocal. Then, two ties led to a final with Anon Joseph and Isaiah Peppey on a tie break with Anon Joseph eventually winning. Throughout all of the elections and voting multiple cities ran wild with nothing being done leading to Joshua Seidensticker eventually using the sheriffs to take “control” with them being instructed to kick out anybody talking when they weren’t supposed to be. After that, a man went up to the floor asking to be granted the floor while the votes for lieutenant governor were happening just for him to be denied, because of this he then went to the microphone and made a movement to impeach the Head Chairman. He was then promptly taken out of the convention. That then caused mass, uncontrollable, waves of hysteria to occur in the cities. The effects of this is shown with the city of Patton leaving for their city meeting shortly after the chaos; with the meeting being ended by the Head Chairman soon after the cries for impeachment became uncontrollable.

Out of Control Nationalist Convention

- *Javier Garcia, Bradley City*

“A fever dream.” When doing a convention, it does with nature seem to have an out of control behavior. Although, that is

what makes it interesting. Claimed as “the most energetic time in Preston Hall”, a lot went down. Let’s jump right into it.

First, starting with the ideas of planks. It was rumored that some cities were promoting an order for having a *Subway Surfers* video on the side of the auditorium while a speaker is presenting an information session to enhance attention. Although, preferably, I would encourage a *Brawl Stars* video.



It first started smoothly jumping right into electing Barrett Kindig from Bradley City as party chairman. But all broke loose with the first remarks of the audience during the nomination speeches of the attorney governor. Some include:

- “Who is your barber?” Another alternative was, “Blud has beef with his barber.”
- In response to someone only listing facts and no actions, the audience’s response was: “Get out!”, “You need to leave!” (in a womanly voice).
- When nominees were just reading their speeches from their phones, the public claimed that it was a “ChatGPT ahh speech 🤖🙏.”
- One attorney general nominee gave the biggest plot twists of a speech.

He said, “A group of kids were bullying my girlfriend’s little brother. So, I put on my ski mask and went to their houses, and I found their moms.” One member of the audience asked, “Is your girlfriend bad?” The candidate, showing much respect to his girlfriend, replied with, “Oh, of course.”

- The most common audience shouts were insulting the candidates. The worst insult was, “You can’t see over the podium, cuh 🐱💔🌹 (withered).” As a fellow 5 foot and 4 inch citizen, I personally resonated with this.

Nationalist Convention Results- Day 1

Platform:

- 1) Wake up 30 minutes later, along with an hour minute nap

Chairman of the Nationalist Party: Barrett Kindig

Attorney General Nominee: Cole Hill

Lieutenant Governor Nominee: Zachary Johnson

Federalist Convention Results- Day 1

Chairman of Federalist Party: Joshua Seideilsticker

Attorney General Nominee: Anon Joseph

Banter with Burke: Nationalist Party Chair Interview

-Enoch Tan, Eisenhower

Over the course of a party convention, things can get pretty confusing. Speeches were made, cheers and boos drowned out questions, and perplexing plank-passing protocol puzzled our party people. To clear this up, we asked Burke Nationalist Party Chair Patrick Core for his comments on what happened at the National convention tonight. When asked for his thoughts on the forming of political alliances, Patrick had a positive outlook: "Sure, I think it's looking real good. I think we got some good candidates up, and I'm excited to see who we elect for governor, and I'm excited to see, you know, the outlook of this thing." When asked about the formation of voting coalitions, "That kind of worked against them, I think in the end, because there was less people that, you know, grouped together. than you know everybody else. And when everyone else saw that, they were like, hey, these guys are grouping together and they didn't like that. So I ended up voting, you know, differently." When pushed for info on specific candidate

endorsements, Core was unsure but optimistic on the current political terrain "Just kind of like, working on your lives. seeing what happens. Yeah, that's right. We're figuring it out." Despite initial disorder, the various parties are beginning to come together. As top positions are beginning to be nominated, I'm hoping that parties will begin to collaborate on various issues and open fruitful discussions between different city members and candidates. Remember, even if yesterday didn't quite end the way you wanted it to, recollect, reconsider, and face today with renewed effort and attitude.

Repercussions

-Cabot Fisher, MacArthur

After handing out business cards on the first day, gubernatorial candidate Gabe Haley faced the repercussions of giving his number to hundreds of competitors. He was left voicemails saying things like "I'm going to call Glenn Youngkin, he's going to deport you to North Carolina. We don't want you here" and "Gabe we've got your parents." When asked about these messages, the candidate took them in stride, saying "Quite frankly, I thought it was hilarious. It was very creative and articulate. Bravo to Marshall."

Delegate Procedures

-Camden Fowler, Burke City

After being elected, the senators and delegates had their first challenges shortly after. The Nationalists obtained the majority of representatives and thus chose Joel Simpson (Marshall) as the Speaker of the House and Jackson Mayfield (Patton) as the

Majority Leader. The Federalists chose Abhiram Gadolam (Puller) as Minority Leader and Devesh Stansbury (Marshall) as Clerk. Immediately after, the senators and delegates of each city had only two hours to draft their own bill. The bills will be presented and voted on by the House of Delegates and Senate on Wednesday.

Gravely City Slanders the masses

- Written By Luke Griffin, Pulle City

The City of Gravely is taking heat for shouting offensive lyrics during marching practice. The second day of Boys State didn't go too slick for the citizens of Gravely. While practicing platoons marching around the grounds, the group thought of starting a chant to help boost team morale. Unfortunately, they had the real smart idea to belt out lyrics such as; "We didn't like their attitude (referring to random cities). We pushed, shoved, and

threw them in a lake; and laughed as they **drowned.**" Not surprisingly, this spiked controversy as justly offended Boys State members verbally expressed their disapproval toward Gravely City. When they were interviewed, inhabitants of Gravely stated how sorry they were about their juvenile mistake and offered an earnest apology in the hopes of moving on and putting this whole situation behind them.

Congratulations to the Newly Elected Leaders

| | | | | | | |
|----------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | Bradley | Burke | Eisenhower | Gravely | Henry | James |
| Mayor | Elijah | Colten Fulcher | Jace DeAngelis | Tiberius Schmittel | Jonathan Jovene | Oden Cearley |
| Senator | Cooper White | Avi Prakash | Jacob Cakes | William Corner | Elijah Parson-Edwards | Sankalp Agarwal |
| Senator | Benjamin Wood | Bradley Dalton | Christopher Rapach | Miles Sweeny | Braden Tull | Brandon Crooms |
| Delegate | Jack Shepherd | Camden Fowler | Jaime Westray | Om Chhibber | Luca Bourne | Benjamin Lierni |
| Delegate | Thomas Watters | Ruger Young | Jaden McCarney | Grady Calhoun | Kenneth Lucas | Tucker March |
| Delegate | Eilian Sanchez | Michael Dan | Cole Martin | Ashir Zaman | Conner Quinn | Samuel Park |
| Delegate | Jaden Scott | Erick Elvir | Gavyn Simpson | Griffin McCallum | Julian Mark-Williams | Jacob Synder |

| | | | | | | |
|----------|------------------|--|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| | MacArthur | Marshall | Nimitz | Patton | Puller | Washington |
| Mayor | Ethan Govar | Grant | Jaxon Johnson | Qais Khairzad | Andy Pan | Pablo Campos |
| Senator | Daniel Ashby | Joshua Pan - Clerk | Collin Graniero | Douglas Stanley | Roman Dembicki | Lucas Jones |
| Senator | Sean Hodel | Paolo Mascola | Christian Jimenez | Ivan Schaible | Kevin Bautista | Naveed Jantzen |
| Delegate | Lyndon Berlin | Walter Joel Simpson - Speaker of the House | Luke McFarlane | Jackson Mayfield - Majority Leader | Abhiram Gadolam - Minority Leader | Jacob Lee |
| Delegate | Noah Son | Wyatt Nash | Brock Rodgers | Bronson Fleming | Jackson Childers | Gavin Zais |
| Delegate | Cole Hershberger | Devesh Stansbury - Clerk | Zachary Young | Owen Kujawcki | James Ward | Philp Rappa |
| Delegate | Matthew Klein | Mikiale LeGrand Carney | William Rommelmeyer | Rutu Nanda | Christian Turner | Cameron Hall |

**Apologies if any names are missing or misspelled*

Jaidon Faircloth-Scott
Supreme Court Justice nominee

Hello, my name is Jaidon Faircloth-Scott. I am a 17-year-old high school junior at Kings Fork High School in Suffolk, Virginia. I am the Washington City nominee for the Supreme Court. I am running for election for Supreme Court Justice---I am an exceptional candidate for Supreme Court Justice. Currently, I am enrolled in the moot court program, demonstrating my commitment to further developing my understanding of the law. In regards to terms of my experience, I am currently serving as Head Delegate (President) of the Model United Nations Club as well as Congressional Captain of my school's Speech and Debate Club. I have been awarded with both the Verbal Delegation and Honorable Mention Award for my proven abilities in drafting legislation, advocating for my country and the positions of others, communication skills, and my passion for International Law. My motto for Supreme Court Justice is **Principles, Integrity, and Spirit**. I believe that a

Supreme Court Justice must uphold the principles of the United States Law. A Justice has to hold to the principles of the law in order to enforce their role as an unbiased, bipartisan, and ethical leader. As to Integrity, I firmly believe that a Supreme Court Justice should have strong ethical foundations and beliefs. These beliefs should be to enforce the law for the benefit of the United States and uphold the values to which we hold dear. I believe these values are Freedom, Democracy, Hard Work, and the American Dream. Lastly, Spirit represents the spirit of the foundation of the United States Constitution. I believe the Constitution is an essential document that must be respected and valued. It is a precious and sacred document from which all of the exceptional American values and rights are written. As a Supreme Court Justice, I will uphold the principles of the law, demonstrate and show integrity as a Supreme Court Justice, and emphasize the spirit of the law inspired by the U.S. Constitution. I thank you for your consideration.

ANON JOSEPH FOR ATTORNEY

GENERAL

Anon is a very enthusiastic, empathetic, and visionary candidate running for Attorney General. He has shown strong leadership and a deep commitment to fairness and service in his city of Gravelly. Anon believes that the role of Attorney General is about protecting the rights of all and making sure justice is applied equally. He is known for being thoughtful, respectful, and honest in everything he does.

Anon has taken part in activities that reflect his passion for justice. He has been an active member of his school's mock trial team, where he developed strong skills in argument, research, and legal thinking, earning him his presidential position. He also volunteers in his community, helping at local events and supporting programs that serve others. His calm and steady approach has made him a reliable and trusted leader among his peers.

His vision for Boys State is to lead with integrity, hard work, and collaboration. He believes that true leadership brings people together and listens to every voice. Anon also believes in people over power and compassion over selfishness. His goal is to serve with fairness and purpose.

ZAREEF SAID FOR JUSTICE

Zareef Said is a dedicated and passionate candidate running for Supreme Court Justice. He has consistently shown strong leadership and a deep commitment to helping others. In his city of Gravelly, Zareef has supported multiple delegates in reaching important positions. His guidance and encouragement have played a key role in their success. He is known for speaking on behalf of others in a true and respectful fashion, always standing up for what is fair and just.

Zareef currently serves as the president of Model United Nations at Gainesville High School in Prince William County, one of the most competitive counties in the state. In this role, he has led discussions, organized many events, and inspired students to engage with global issues. His positive attitude and dedication to growth earned him a place at the Summer Residential Governor's School, one of the most competitive academic programs in the United States.

Zareef believes in people over party and compassion over selfishness. He hopes to become a lawyer and is clearly on the right path. He stands for justice, fairness, and making sure every voice is heard. Zareef Said is not just a leader. He is a role model. Vote for Zareef Said and choose a future built on fairness, service, and integrity.

An Open Letter regarding the Nationalist Convention

Gabe Haley



Gentlemen, what I saw at the Nationalist Party Convention was simply an absolute disgrace. Consistent backstabbing, backhanded agreements, and under the table deals. Nobody voted based off of their own personal values, but rather, voted off of the interests of position.

Whether you vote for me or not, I implore you all to not sit back and not let your voice be heard. Vote off of what you feel in YOUR HEART.

Elections should not be made off of deals. I didn't see that then, but I see that now. That is not what democracy is about. We need to do better as men, as we are the future.

Respect your honor.

Gabe Haley of MacArthur

VOTE ZACHARY JOHNSON **FOR** **Lieutenant Governor**

Zachary Johnson, a member of Burke City and a Nationalist, won the nomination for Lieutenant Governor during the Nationalist Party Convention. Zachary is a strong leader who will guide Boys State to greatness and look out for the people. If you want an unforgettable Boys State experience, vote Zachary Johnson!



Want to join my campaign? Reach out at 703-955-1396

I WANT YOU!

VOTE WINSTON BARLOW
FOR GOVERNOR!

