

# Boys State Sentry

VOL. 1



FIRST EDITION



22 JUNE 2026

## VIRGINIA BOYS STATE 2026 BEGINS!!



## **Schedule Changes Monday 6/22/2026 VA BOYS State**

**What:** Religious Service (Resource Person: Demas Boudreaux)

**Where:** Diaz Arena - Kirby Sports Center

- Now at 10:30 AM (previously 9:00 AM)

**What:** Flag Raising (Resource Person: Steve Cox)

**Where:** Kirby Sports Center Flag Pole

- Now at 8:30 AM (previously 8:45 AM)

**What:** Instructional Session “Training for City Sheriffs” (Resource Person(s): Matthew Hartman, Sgt. Jason Stitt, Sgt. Jason Cappo)

**Where:** Panill Commons and Rhetoric Center

- Now at 10:30 AM (previously 8:30 AM)

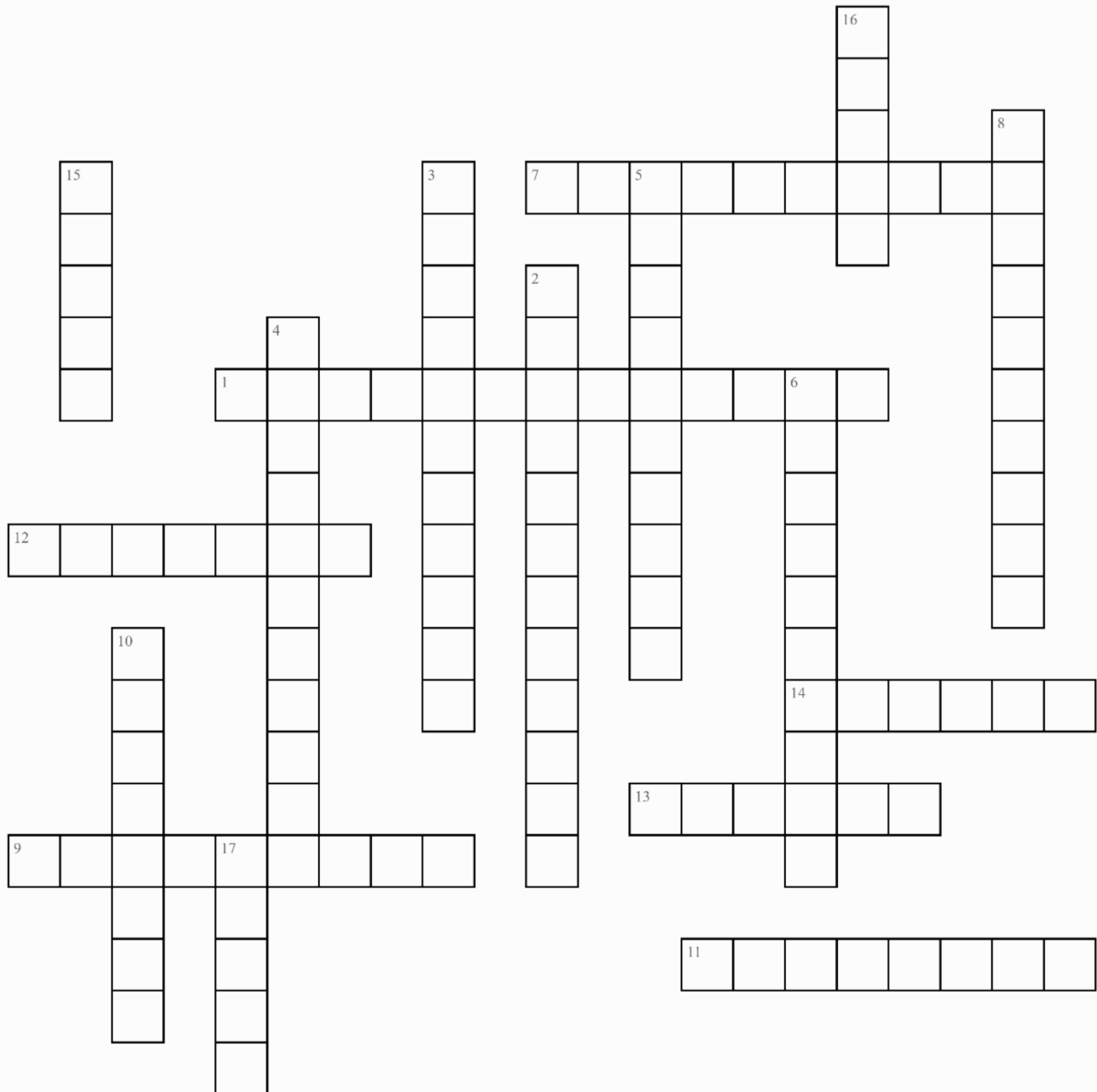
**Why?:** The Virginia House of Delegates is currently in an emergency session to decide the budget for the next 2 years (due June 30th) which means that they cannot be present later in the day, so they are coming earlier.

### **Elections for Sunday & Monday:**

By: Williams Gutierrez

- Four for Nominees for Moot Court - Sunday 6/21/26
  - Four nominees were chosen last night to compete for the positions of the supreme court.
    - 7 Supreme Court Justices State wide
    - 16 Circuit Judges (one per City)
- Sheriffs from each city were chosen to keep their cities orderly - 6/21/26
- Mayors for each city are Nominated - 6/22/26
- Nominations for Senators from each city are chosen - 6/22/26
- Nominations for the house of delegates are chosen from each city - 6/22/26

# Boys State Crossword #1



**Across:**

- 1. Procedure practiced in legislature (13)
- 7. Bay of Virginia (10)
- 9. Original Virginia capital (9)
- 11. Virginia state bird (8)
- 12. Virginia state tree (7)
- 13. Point of emphasis from Sunday's keynote speaker; along with attitude (6)
- 14. Hampden-Sydney College mascot (6)

**Down:**

- 2. Official term for Virginia in its constitution (12)
- 3. Oldest dorm building at Hampden-Sydney College (11)
- 4. Blue backpack party (11)
- 5. Boys state city named after the first supreme commander of Nato (10)
- 6. Event that began in the year of Hampden-Sydney's founding (10)
- 8. Red backpack party (10)
- 10. Virginia state capital (8)
- 15. Moot \_\_\_\_ (5)
- 16. Virginia AG Jay (5)
- 17. Boys state motto "faithfully we \_\_\_" (5)

## **Virginia Boys State Kicks Off 83rd Session with Registration, Orientation, and Opening Ceremony**

HAMPDEN-SYDNEY, Va. – The 83rd Session of American Legion Boys State of Virginia officially began Sunday as hundreds of delegates from across the Commonwealth arrived at Hampden-Sydney College for a week of leadership development, civic engagement, and government simulation.

Citizens began arriving late Sunday morning, checking in at Crawley Forum beginning at 11:00 a.m. Along with registration, delegates had the opportunity to contribute donations supporting community assistance programs, including Home Delivered Meals, Friendship Cafes, Homemaker Companion Aides, Pet Care Assistance, and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation services. Participants received their official Boys State shirts and supplies before settling into their residence halls and meeting fellow delegates of their city.

The afternoon focused on building community within each city. From 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., citizens attended their first city meetings, where they introduced themselves and began organizing their local governments. Delegates deliberated and voted to fill a variety of city positions, including chaplain, newspaper representative, athletic director, and other leadership roles that will help guide city activities throughout the week. The meetings marked the first opportunity for participants to collaborate and establish connections with peers from different regions of Virginia.

At 4:15 p.m., delegates walked from their individual cities and gathered for the Opening Assembly, which officially marked the beginning of the 83rd Session of Virginia Boys State. The ceremony opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Program staff then introduced the many individuals whose efforts make Boys State possible, including administrators, volunteers, and other leaders who support the program throughout the week. During the assembly, delegates were officially sworn in as Boys State citizens, signifying the start of their participation in the program.

Dinner was held by city groups beginning at 5:00 p.m. and led into a brief window of leisure time for the delegates. Following the close of free time, delegates arrived outside of the Diaz Arena, to participate in the flag lowering ceremony that took place at 7:30p, p.m. Dinner and free time granted delegates opportunities to form new connections, network, and become involved in extracurricular activities.

The Official Opening Ceremony for the 83rd annual Virginia Boys State Conference began at 8:00 p.m. in Diaz Arena. To begin, an opening prayer was delivered by Mr. Demas Boudreaux. The opening prayer ushered in official blessings over the program and all of its participants. Following the prayer, Mr. Mark Antley led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Just afterwards the brand new Boys State chorus (with a healthy representation of nearly 15 citizens from Jefferson City) gave an incredibly impressive performance of the star spangled banner. The president of Hampden-Sydney, Dr Larry Simpart followed the national anthem by formally welcoming all delegates to campus and sharing brief information about the mission of Hampden-Sydney College. Mayor Brian Vincent of Farmville, Virginia welcomed participants of the conference to Farmville county, further extending gratitude and appreciation for VA Boys State 2026. Recognition of special guests and dignitaries. U.S. Senator Angus King then delivered a message to Boys State participants encouraging involvement and participation among all present during the conference. Last but not least, RADM Russell Dash, U.S. Coast Guard, delivered a keynote address to the delegates by sharing his personal experiences as a Boys State Alum and how to get the most out of the

conference and its potential opportunities. Following the presentation, Mr. Dash held a Q&A allowing delegates the opportunity to further inform themselves about Boys State, what it has to offer, and how they can apply what they learn here to life outside of camp.

Moving later into the evening, city meetings resumed following the ceremony. Beginning at 9:30 p.m., meetings were held to discuss internal party politics and to hold elections for a few city-wide positions. These meetings promoted delegates to begin forming the foundations of their city governments. To close out the first day of Boys State, lights went out at 11:30pm, but not for the news crew!

## **Preview of Monday Speakers**

By: Koby Shnekendorf

HAMPDEN-SYDNEY, Va. - With the emergency session of the General Assembly on Monday, the list of speakers has been slightly changed. Despite that, there is still a long list of impressive guests, and it's important to know who is who.

### **Tommy Wright**

Tommy Wright will help kick off the day's speaker series. Mr. Wright serves as a Republican representative from the 50th district. With experience in leadership and public service, Wright is expected to share lessons from his career and discuss the importance of civic engagement. Delegates will have the opportunity to hear firsthand about the challenges and rewards of serving their communities and making an impact through leadership.

### **Delegate Wren Williams**

A member of the Virginia House of Delegates, Wren Williams represents Virginia's 47th House District in Southwest Virginia. An attorney, businessman, and former local party chairman, Williams first won election to the House in 2021 and has since become one of the younger members of the General Assembly. His work has focused on issues including education, economic development, and government policy. Delegates can expect to hear about his path into public service and his experiences navigating Virginia's legislative process.

### **Delegate Wendell Walker**

Representing Virginia's 52nd House District, Delegate Wendell Walker serves constituents in Lynchburg and portions of Campbell County. First elected in 2019, Walker has built a reputation as an advocate for fiscal responsibility and local government accountability. Before entering the General Assembly, he was active in local Republican leadership and community organizations. His remarks will likely provide delegates with insight into state government and the role legislators play in addressing the concerns of their communities.

### **Jeff Ryer**

Jeff Ryer brings another perspective to today's program, drawing on his professional and leadership experience. His address is expected to focus on leadership development, civic responsibility, and the skills necessary to succeed both in public service and beyond. Delegates will have the opportunity to learn from his experiences and consider how those lessons apply to their own futures.

### **Former Speaker Kirk Cox**

Perhaps the most experienced elected official on today's schedule – Kirk Cox – served in the Virginia House of Delegates for more than three decades and was Speaker of the House from 2018 to 2020. A former government teacher, Cox spent much of his career working on education and state policy issues while rising through House leadership positions. His unique experience as both an educator and one of Virginia's most influential legislators provides a rare perspective on leadership, bipartisanship, and the evolution of state government.

The common thread connecting all of these speakers is a commitment to public service and long standing experience in Virginia politics. Listen actively, ask good questions, and consider how the lessons shared can affect your own life.

### **Instagram Beef Already Begins at Boys State**

After a great first day in 2026 Virginia Boys State tensions have risen after the activation of the Madison and Puller City Instagram accounts. According to first hand sources Puller City has incited a feud with their Madison City peers. Delegates of both cities are looking forward to a friendly competition during the duration of the camp. Both Cities accounts are still currently active and can be found under the names "madison\_city26" and "bs.puller".

## **Governor Election Race Begins: What We Know So Far**

By Lucas Sohn and Watkins Irby

Today marks the beginning of the 83rd session of Virginia Boys State. Several ambitious delegates have already begun planning and campaigning for high-achieving positions, most notably governor. Candidates running for state government positions must gather 70 signatures from at least seven cities before advancing, and more are expected to declare before Thursday, when elections will be held.

### **"Triple F" Campaign Gains Early Attention**

One of the more visible early contenders to emerge from Puller City is running on a straightforward message: he is one of the people he hopes to represent. Franklin Fling, whose nickname "Triple F" has spread quickly across campus, is campaigning under the Nationalist Party and has made personal accessibility the centerpiece of his bid.



*“I’m not above the people I represent. I’m one of them. That’s why I’ll be your voice.”*

- Franklin “Triple F” Fling

Delegates across campus, particularly near the Whitehouse Quadrangle, where several cities are clustered, have frequently spotted Fling casually engaging with residents and discussing Boys State issues firsthand. One moment that drew particular attention came when Fling was seen helping a fellow delegate tie his shoe, a simple yet impactful gesture that reinforced his campaign's core principles of humility and connection.

## **Nationalist Candidates Coordinate Statewide Efforts**

Cooperation among Nationalist Party delegates has become increasingly visible in the early days of the campaign. Puller's Franklin Fling and Washington's Griffin Wiliford have both been active in outreach efforts and early campaign discussions, and delegates have noted a growing sense of coordination between Nationalist candidates across cities.



*Franklin Fling (Puller) and Griffin Wiliford (Washington), both Nationalists, discussing and debating various issues to tackle on the platform.*

While each is pursuing a different office, the emerging solidarity within the Nationalist party may prove a strategic asset as the race develops.

## **Additional Candidates Announce Campaigns**

Several other delegates have also entered the gubernatorial race, including Henry of Jefferson City, Mukund Marri of Nimitz City, Jack Weber of Monroe City, and Kaden Sigmond of James City, among others. As signature collection continues, delegates can expect to hear more from candidates seeking statewide support.

With the field still taking shape and qualification deadlines approaching, the governor's race promises an active campaign season. Days remain before the field is finalized, and Boys State delegates should expect the competition to intensify.

## **Sunday's Food Review:**

By: Aiden Vergara

Our first dinner on campus included well-balanced and nutritious options to select from. Delegates could choose from various stations in the dining hall, each presenting well made entrees and sides. The entree options were chicken legs and ribs, while the available sides were green beans, corn on the cob, and sliced potatoes. Bread was also offered in the cafeteria for all citizens.

The highest ranked entree among various reporters was the chicken, with the highest ranked side being potatoes. Some say the ribs were a bit sweet, with a hint of messiness, ultimately losing best entree to chicken. As for desert - **solid ten**. There was a swarm of people surrounding the ice cream, and for good reason—not to mention the pound cake and angel cake you could cover with your choice of fruit. Overall, last night's dinner rating can easily be rated as a solid **7/10**.

## **An analysis of the American Medical system - Preview**

We live in the culmination of the affordable healthcare crisis in the United States. Tomorrow, Boys State Sentry reporter James Reed explores the work of Dr. Benjamin Rush, Founding Father and pioneer in American medicine, and how it relates to the controversies of the American insurance and healthcare system, through the lens of the Samsung-American Legion Scholarship and associated essays.

## **Final word of wisdom**

***“You cannot control the world around you, but you can control your ATTITUDE and EFFORT”***

**- Admiral Rusty Dash**