

Clinton’s VP: Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA)



Biography

Senator Tim Kaine has represented Virginia in various public offices including Mayor of Richmond, and as both Governor and Senator of the state. He grew up a Roman Catholic in a suburb of Kansas City. His father ran an ironworking and welding shop where Kaine often worked. Kaine graduated from the University of Missouri in three years and went to Harvard Law school. He took a brief hiatus from studying law to spend nine months teaching in Honduras on a Jesuit missionary trip. Kaine moved to Richmond to be with his wife, Anne Holton, where he began working for a federal judge and as a civil rights lawyer. Kaine won his 2005 gubernatorial race on a quality of life platform that emphasized tax relief for homeowners, a statewide pre-k initiative, and new transportation infrastructure. His opponent criticized Kaine for opposing the death penalty, calling him too liberal for Virginia. Kaine’s second year as governor, 2007, was marked by the passage of a \$1 billion transportation bill he negotiated with a Republican-controlled legislature and the Virginia Tech mass shooting. When the shooting occurred, which killed 32 students, Kaine flew home from trade negotiations in Japan and was praised for his handling of the tragedy. In February 2007, Kaine endorsed Barack Obama for president. Kaine helped Obama win the Virginia primaries, one of the candidate’s most significant victories. After the election, Obama named Kaine chairman of the DNC. Kaine went on to beat George Allan (R-VA) in 2012 for a Virginia senate seat Allan had held from 2001-2007.

Biography

Currently:
Junior Senator of Virginia

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Previously:
Governor of Virginia

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Education:
University of Missouri, B.A. (1979)
Harvard University, J.D. (1983)

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Family: Anne Bright Holton (wife), three children

Previous Experience

- Lecturer, University of Richmond School of Law (1987-93, 2010-12)
- Practicing Attorney (1983-2000)
- City Council, Richmond (1994-2008)
- Mayor, Richmond (1998-2001)
- Lt. Governor, Virginia (2002-2005)
- Governor, Virginia (2006-2010)
- Chairman, DNC (2009-2011)
- Senator, Virginia (2012-present)

Kaine as VP

- **Pro:** Kaine speaks Spanish and can campaign easily on Hispanic media.
- **Pro:** He will likely have some electoral benefit in Virginia.
- **Pro:** He is a seasoned politician and is unlikely to make a gaffe or embarrass Clinton.
- **Con:** Kaine may not excite the base, partly because he is not well-known.
- **Con:** He “isn’t overwhelmingly adored by those familiar with him” according to Harry Enten of *FiveThirtyEight*. His lack of popularity could add fuel to frustration from those farther left.

Election Results: 2012 Virginia Gubernatorial Race

Tim Kaine (D)	53%
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George Allen (R)	47%
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Sources: National Journal Research; Harry Enten, “Hillary Clinton Picks Tim Kaine, Betting She Can Beat Trump Without a Splashy VP,” *FiveThirtyEight*, July 22, 2016.