



For Immediate Release

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NWPC-VA Endorses Jennifer McClellan and Andria McClellan to lead Virginia

The National Women's Political Caucus of Virginia has endorsed Senator Jennifer McClellan as the Democratic nominee for Governor and Councilwoman Andria McClellan for Lt. Governor, ahead of the June 8th Democratic primaries.

NWPC-VA mailed out endorsement applications to all the women candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor whose positions were in alignment with those of the organization. Candidates who completed the application and interview process were considered for endorsement. After thorough deliberation by the interview team and the board of directors, NWPC-VA determined that both Senator McClellan and Councilwoman McClellan best exemplified the mission and goals as stated in our charter: to protect women's rights to safe, effective reproductive healthcare; increase women's participation in the political process; increase the number of women in elected and appointed positions; support candidates who will prioritize women's issues and who will employ women in decision-making roles in their campaign and office staffs; work for the repeal of discriminatory laws, especially laws that discriminate on the basis of gender; and draft and support legislation that complies with the principles of human equality and that concerns the needs of women.

NWPC-VA President Krysta Jones stated, "NWPC-VA is proud to endorse Jennifer McClellan for Governor. Her extensive experience, ability to build relationships and consensus, and commitment to equity for all Virginians makes her the right choice to be our next Governor at this critical time. Politics as usual won't move us forward. NWPC-VA is excited to promote bold, women-centered politics, and with Jennifer McClellan leading Virginia we can't go wrong."

During the 2021 General Assembly session alone, Senator McClellan sponsored or co-sponsored 25 bills focused on making life easier and more equitable for women and families, including the Virginia Human Rights Act and the Housing Bill of Rights. Her career-long record championing access to quality reproductive health impressed the NWPC-VA Board. The Reproductive Health Protection Act, sponsored by McClellan and signed into law by Governor

Northam in 2020, was a milestone piece of legislation for Virginia. The law repeals Virginia's mandatory ultrasound law and 24-hour waiting period prior to abortion. The legislation also rolls back politically motivated "TRAP" restrictions on women's health centers, which are designed to force their closure and make it more difficult for Virginians to get access to healthcare services they need. As McClellan noted at the time of the bill signing, "This is about protecting Virginians' health, rights, and basic dignity. Today, we have finally put an end to these medically unnecessary barriers to women's reproductive health care. Politicians should not interfere in women's personal medical decisions, period."

During Councilwoman Andria McClellan's five years in office, she has made the needs of coastal Virginia women and families a focal point. On the Norfolk City Council she has earned a reputation as a problem solver, often amplifying lesser-heard voices in the community. She was the sponsor of the City of Norfolk's resolution supporting the Equal Rights Amendment, making Norfolk the first city in Hampton Roads to favor Virginia's ratification of the ERA. She created the region's first Climate Action Plan to address climate change mitigation in Norfolk and is an advocate for a safe, sustainable environment for every Virginian. Prior to serving on the city council, she served as Vice Chair of the Democratic Party.

As Jones states, "Let's face it: the status quo is not working for many Virginians. We need executive leadership that understands the challenges of our local communities and can build bridges throughout state government. As a local elected official and experienced businesswoman, Andria McClellan has proven that she is ready to lead on day one. NWPC-VA is excited to endorse Andria McClellan for Lt. Governor."

Jones continued, "Senator Jennifer McClellan and Councilwoman Andria McClellan will be true leaders and champions for all Virginians."

Candace Graham, VP of Endorsements for NWPC-VA, is excited for this election season. "Our endorsement team and interviewers have dozens of combined years of experience in Virginia politics. We were all so impressed with these two candidates, their breadth of work and advocacy experience, and their vision for Virginia's future."

NWPC is the only national organization dedicated exclusively to increasing women's participation in all areas of political and public life. NWPC has a significant history in this country, dating back to its founding in 1971 at the organizing conference of the National Women's Political Conference in Washington, D.C. NWPC-VA is proud to continue this tradition in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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