

Black Elected Officials in Virginia

Delegate Don L. Scott, Jr., a lawyer and a Democrat representing the 80th district, was elected unanimously Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, making him the first Black speaker in Virginia history.



Del. Scott approached the podium to cheers and a standing ovation as he took the oath of office and began his term as the leader of the House.

“My first immediate emotion is just gratitude. I’m very grateful,” said Scott, tearing up as he thanked his 88-year-old mother and his wife, who

were watching from the gallery. “The historic nature of this moment is not lost on me,” he told the House.

Del. Luke E. Torian said in his nomination speech, “I pray that it is a proud moment for all of us, as we nominate Delegate Don Scott as our next speaker of the house.”

“Over 400 years ago, people who looked like Delegate Scott gave their sweat blood and tears to build this Capitol,” Del. Torian elaborated. “And I would say that is probably only right and fitting and appropriate that 400 years later, a person of color, an African American, whose ancestors helped to build this capital now stands to help lead this House of Delegates.”

Dr. Deborah Frazier, a middle school principal, made history in Spotsylvania County, Virginia when she became the first African American to be sworn into office on the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors. Representing the county's Salem District, she was sworn in on December 17, 2019, by Circuit Court Judge Ricardo Rigaul.

Mrs. Frazier is the second African American ever elected to any position in historic Spotsylvania County, Virginia. The late Mrs. Lee Broughton was the first ever African American elected to any position in the county, she was elected to a seat on the Spotsylvania School Board in 1991.



Supervisor Deborah Frazier expressed her commitment to serving the community, acknowledging that her achievement was built upon the efforts of those who fought for democracy and equity. She aims to listen to the community and give them a voice in her role as a supervisor.

Mrs. Frazier – a wife, grandmother, school principal, and a member of Sylvannah Baptist Church – and now Spotsylvania County's first African American Supervisor. Chancellor Middle School Principal Deborah Frazier hopes to bring a new era to the county after defeating incumbent Paul Trampe for his spot on the Board of Supervisors. Frazier says her priorities are education and public safety, and she ran for the Salem District post as an independent.

In addition to over three decades in education, Frazier has served as Chairperson of Governor McAuliffe's Standards of Learning Committee.

Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan, former Virginia Democratic State Senator, cruised to an easy victory in a 2023 special election for Virginia's 4th Congressional District, making her the first Black woman to represent the state in Congress.



McClellan is an attorney who has served as the U.S. representative for Virginia's 4th congressional district since 2023. A member of the Democratic Party, she represented the 9th district in the Virginia State Senate from 2017 to 2023 and the 71st district in the Virginia House of Delegates from 2009 to 2017. She ran in the Democratic primary for

governor of Virginia in the 2021 election, losing to former governor Terry McAuliffe.

In an interview, the Congresswoman noted her new district was also the first in Virginia to send a Black man to Congress, when voters sent John Mercer Langston to the House of Representatives in 1888.

“It blows my mind that we’re still having firsts in 2023,” McClellan said. “But it is an incredible honor.”

McClellan beat out Republican pastor Leon Benjamin Sr. in a heavily Democratic district that stretches from Richmond to the North Carolina border. Her win narrowed the GOP majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.

McClellan is a corporate attorney for Verizon and has served in Virginia's part-time General Assembly since 2006.