

Kaye Kory



DELEGATE 38th District

Delegate Kaye Kory



Committee Assignments:

- Counties, Cities and Towns (Chair)
- Finance
- Labor and Commerce
- Public Safety

CONTACT ME

<https://www.kayekoryva.com/>

Cases in Virginia

The [Virginia Department of Health website](#) continues to update the status of cases in Virginia. As of noon today, 1,250 positive cases have been reported here in Virginia.

Virginia's Coronavirus Homepage

Virginia.gov has set up a website for all things coronavirus-related. All updates [can be found here](#), and the site will continue to update as Virginia takes new action to curb the spread of COVID-19.

I know that it is very difficult to believe that some would try to take advantage of this health and economic crisis and selfishly profit from the anxiety we all feel, but sadly this is our world. Attorney General Herring has been prosecuting reported scams. Read below and please call or email to report any suspicious contacts you have received.

ATTORNEY GENERAL HERRING TAKES FURTHER STEPS TO CRACK DOWN ON PRICE GOUGING

~ Herring has sent warning letters to 42 businesses about which Virginians have complained ~

**RICHMOND OFFICE**

Pocahontas Building
900 East Main Street
Room E401
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 698-1038

DISTRICT 38 OFFICE

6505 Waterway Drive
Falls Church, VA 22044
[703 354 6024](tel:7033546024)

Please send me questions about Virginia's response to the coronavirus pandemic. I will contact the Governor to obtain answers. Please email me at Delkkory@house.virginia.gov

Be Careful and Stay Healthy!

List of Utilities
Suspending Service
Disconnections, Offering
Other Billing Options

As COVID-19 impacts continue, area utility companies are taking actions to help offer relief during this time. Here's a current list:

CABLE TV/INTERNET

Cox Communications: Supporting FCC's Keep America Connected Initiative by for the next 60 days: not terminating services, waiving late fees, opening WiFi hotspots

Comcast: For a limited time, will not be suspending Xfinity Internet and Xfinity Voice services for customers not able to pay their bill.

Verizon: Waives overage charges and late fees for customers financially affected by COVID-19

ELECTRIC POWER

Dominion: Will not shut off power for nonpayment and reconnecting residential

Attorney General Mark R. Herring has taken further actions to crack down on price gouging in Virginia by sending warning letters to certain businesses about which Virginians have complained. The letters inform the businesses that they are the subject of a price gouging complaint, ask for documentation pertaining to the complaint, and advise the businesses to immediately stop any illegal price gouging practices. So far, Attorney General Herring's Consumer Protection Section has sent 42 letters to businesses in response to complaints made by Virginians.

"It is unfortunate that businesses will take advantage of a situation like a public health crisis to try and make more money off of necessary goods like hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, face masks, or water," **said Attorney General Herring.** "My office and I take price gouging complaints very seriously and I hope that these letters will send a strong message to businesses across Virginia that price gouging will not be tolerated here."

The letters explain that the Office of the Attorney General has authority to investigate possible violations of Virginia's Post-Disaster Anti-Price Gouging Act and to bring enforcement actions to enjoin violations, seek restitution for affected consumers, and recover civil penalties, attorney's fees, and expenses. The letters seek certain documentation from the businesses regarding their pricing practices before and after Governor Ralph Northam's declaration of a state of emergency on March 12, 2020. Importantly, the letters warn the businesses that the failure to cease and desist from engaging in any unlawful price gouging may be considered evidence of a willful violation for purposes of an award of civil penalties under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act.

Governor Ralph Northam's declaration of a state of emergency [triggered Virginia's Post-Disaster Anti-Price Gouging Act](#), which prohibits a supplier from charging "unconscionable prices" for "necessary goods and services" during the thirty-day period following a declared state of emergency. Items and services covered by these protections include but are not limited to water, ice, food, cleaning products, hand sanitizers, medicines, personal protective gear and more. The basic test for determining if a price is unconscionable is whether the post-disaster price grossly exceeds the price charged for the same or similar goods or services during the ten days immediately prior to the disaster.

Additionally, last week Attorney General Herring [joined 32 attorneys general in urging](#) Amazon, Facebook, Ebay, Walmart, and Craigslist to more rigorously monitor price gouging practices by online sellers who are using their services.

Suspected [violations of Virginia's Anti-Price Gouging Act should be reported to Attorney General Herring's Consumer Protection Section](#) for investigation, as violations are enforceable by the Office of the Attorney General through the Virginia Consumer Protection Act.

Consumers can contact Attorney General Herring's Consumer Protection Section for information or to file a complaint:

By phone: (800) 552-9963
By email: consumer@oag.state.va.us
[Price Gouging Complaint Form](#) - *Preferred method of submitting complaints
[General Online Complaint Form](#)
[Online Contact Form](#)

FBI Sees Rise in Fraud Schemes Related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Scammers are leveraging the COVID-19 pandemic to steal your money, your personal information, or both. Don't let them. Protect yourself and do your research before clicking on links purporting to provide information on the virus; donating to a charity online or through social media; contributing to a crowdfunding campaign; purchasing products online; or giving up your personal information in order to receive money or other benefits. The FBI advises you to be on the lookout for the following:

Fake CDC Emails.

Watch out for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or other organizations claiming to offer information on the virus. Do not click links or open attachments you do not recognize. Fraudsters can use links in emails to deliver malware to your computer to steal personal information or to lock your computer and demand payment. Be wary of websites and apps claiming to track COVID-19 cases worldwide. Criminals are using malicious websites to infect and lock devices until payment is received.

Phishing Emails.

customers who had been shut off for nonpayment previously. No specific timeline given

NOVEC: For 60 days, will suspend electric service disconnections

NATURAL GAS

Washington

Gas: Suspending disconnection and waiving late fees until the COVID-19 crisis is over. This will happen to customers automatically and does not need to be requested.

Columbia Gas: Will suspend shutoffs for nonpayment and will suspend late payment charges until May 1.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

RCN (In addition to Cox, Comcast and Verizon above): Allows special arrangements to be made to keep services active by deferring payments and waiving late fees.

WATER

Fairfax Water: Current customers should contact the company directly to discuss payment options.

A Message From Congressman Gerry Connolly About the CARES Act:

Dear Neighbor,

Small businesses across our country are hurting. While the most important thing we can do right now is practice physical distancing to hopefully contain the spread of COVID-19, Congress recognizes that small business are in need in of emergency assistance in the coming months. I want to make sure you are aware of two very

Look out for phishing emails asking you to verify your personal information in order to receive an economic stimulus check from the government. While talk of economic stimulus checks has been in the news cycle, government agencies are *not* sending unsolicited emails seeking your private information in order to send you money. Phishing emails may also claim to be related to:

- Charitable contributions
- General financial relief
- Airline carrier refunds
- Fake cures and vaccines
- Fake testing kits

Counterfeit Treatments or Equipment.

Be cautious of anyone selling products that claim to prevent, treat, diagnose, or cure COVID-19. Be alert to counterfeit products such as sanitizing products and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including N95 respirator masks, goggles, full face shields, protective gowns, and gloves. More information on unapproved or counterfeit PPE can be found at www.cdc.gov/niosh. You can also find information on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website, www.fda.gov, and the Environmental Protection Agency website, www.epa.gov. Report counterfeit products at www.ic3.gov and to the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center at iprcenter.gov.

If you are looking for accurate and up-to-date information on COVID-19, the CDC has posted extensive guidance and information that is updated frequently. The best sources for authoritative information on COVID-19 are www.cdc.gov and www.coronavirus.gov. You may also consult your primary care physician for guidance.

The FBI is reminding you to always use good cyber hygiene and security measures. By remembering the following tips, you can protect yourself and help stop criminal activity:

- Do not open attachments or click links within emails from senders you don't recognize.
- Do not provide your username, password, date of birth, social security number, financial data, or other personal information in response to an email or robocall.
- Always verify the web address of legitimate websites and manually type them into your browser.
- Check for misspellings or wrong domains within a link (for example, an address that should end in a ".gov" ends in ".com" instead).

If you believe you are the victim of an Internet scam or cyber crime, or if you want to report suspicious activity, please visit the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

Friends,

I have personally pledged \$250.00 to [Food For Others](#), as have all members of the Northern Virginia General Assembly Delegation. We have pledged to ask our supporters to join us in this effort to reach a total of \$6000.

\$1,000 can buy 400 families a gallon of milk and a dozen eggs or 1,000 families a bag of beans and a bag of rice. Food donations have come to a near stand-still as people are not dropping off contributions during this crisis; yet *Food for Others is seeing a four-fold increase in requests for assistance from families*. Help me show that your Delegates and Senators are working to make sure our community can meet the emergency needs of our citizens.

Food For Others:

<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/foodforothers?code=website>

Food for Others will let me know how successful our effort is. When donating Online to **Food for Others**, please use **Fairfax County General Assembly Delegation** in the memo field to help track the donations.

Thank you so much for your help. We **can** make a difference.

Virginia Tax Penalty and Interest Updates

Payment Extension and Penalty Waiver Pursuant to Tax Bulletin 20-4

important programs that were included in the CARES Act to help small businesses keep employees on payroll, provide sick leave, and cover rent, mortgage, and utility payments.

Paycheck Protection Plan

The Paycheck Protection Program prioritizes millions of Americans employed by small businesses by directing \$349 billion towards job retention and business operating expenses. This program is designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on payroll by providing each small business a loan up to \$10 million for payroll and certain other expenses. If all employees are kept on payroll for eight weeks, SBA will forgive the portion of the loans used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. Up to 100 percent of the loan is forgivable.

Businesses – including eligible non-profits, Veterans organizations, Tribal concerns, sole proprietorships, self-employed individuals, and independent contractors described in the Small Business Act – with 500 or fewer employees may apply. Businesses in certain industries may have more than 500 employees if they meet the SBA's size standards for those industries.

More information on the Paycheck Protection Plan is available [here](#).

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Additional Ways to Stay Informed:

- **Get the latest updates by texting FFXCOVID to 888777.**
- Get County Operating Status by department or service.

- In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the due date for individual, corporate, and fiduciary income tax payments otherwise due in April or May 2020 is extended to June 1, 2020
- Penalties will be waived on final payments made by June 1, provided at least 90% of the tax is paid
- Penalties will also be waived for estimated payments otherwise due in April or May that are paid in full by June 1
- If the required payment is not submitted by June 1, the penalty waiver will not apply and penalties will accrue from the original payment due date
- Because Virginia Tax does not have the authority to waive interest, any interest will continue to accrue from the original due date of such payment
- The filing deadlines remain May 1 for individuals and April 15 for most corporations
- Taxpayers may still utilize Virginia's automatic filing extension - no application is required
- However, taxpayers using the filing extension are required to pay at least 90% of the final tax liability by June 1 or they will incur penalties
- For taxpayers who do not pay by June 1, but make full payment with their return by the extended due date, the lower 2% extension penalty applies instead of the higher 6% late payment penalty

Automatic Extension of Income Tax Returns

- Virginia law provides an automatic extension for filing income tax returns
- This extension is 6 months for individuals and 7 months for most corporations
- However, there is no extension of time granted for paying taxes due
- Taxpayers are generally required to pay at least 90% of the final tax liability by the original filing due date (May 1 for most individuals, April 15 for most corporations)
- An extension penalty of 2% of tax due per month (up to 12% total) is assessed for taxpayers who file by the extended due date but do not pay at least 90% of their tax liability by the original due date
- Late payment penalty and extension penalty will not apply to the same month

Existing Virginia Penalty and Interest Provisions

- Late Payment Penalty: 6% of tax due per month (up to 30% total)
- Late Filing Penalty: 6% of tax due per month (up to 30% total)
- Either payment or filing penalty applies each month; up to 30% total combined
- Interest: 2% higher than the federal interest rate; currently 7% annually in Virginia
- Both interest and penalties accrue from the original due date, regardless of whether a return is filed on extension
- Virginia Tax has the statutory



Even during a pandemic, women performing essential work aren't paid equally.

Women working as grocery store cashiers and physicians caring for COVID-19 patients are **only being paid about 65%** of what their male counterparts are being paid.

#EqualPayDay
MomsRising | MamásConPoder

Source: "Women Experience a Wage Gap in Nearly Every Occupation,"
National Women's Law Center.



Today, Tuesday, March 31st, is Equal Pay Day, marking how far into 2020 women have to work to catch up to what men made last year. Every year this day is recognized by CLUW and many other partner organizations to raise awareness about the gender wage gap, which on average is 82 cents for women to every dollar paid to men while for many women of color it is even less.

Be Careful and Stay Healthy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaye".

Delegate Kaye Kory

delkkory@house.virginia.gov

KayeKoryVA.com

Follow along on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kaye.kory>

Follow along on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/KayeKory>

{{Disclaimer}}
{{OrganizationAddress}}

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive newsletter updates from me, you can [{{UnsubscribeLink}}](#).
Though I will miss you immensely, I will still do my absolute best to represent you in the House of Delegates.