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*Wednesday, June 14, 2017*

**Activate Virginia**

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**Candidates Rejecting Dominion Energy Contributions Emerge from Primaries Victorious**

(Richmond) – Despite Dominion Energy’s unprecedented propaganda campaign and GOTV [efforts](#), 13 of the 16 non-incumbent House of Delegates Democratic primary winners have pledged never to accept Dominion contributions. As a result, Democratic candidates refusing Dominion contributions are running in 11 of the 17 Republican-held House of Delegates districts won by Clinton in 2016.

Of the 40 remaining Democratic challengers in Republican-held districts, 27 have pledged to refuse these contributions. Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, Justin Fairfax, has also [pledged](#) to reject these contributions this election.

In three notable races, candidates rejecting Dominion contributions bested opponents unwilling to make the same pledge. In House District 8, Steve McBride defeated Bryan Keele with nearly 64 percent of the vote. In House District 31, Elizabeth Guzman narrowly defeated Sara Townsend with 52 percent of the vote. HD 8 includes parts of Craig County, Montgomery County, Roanoke County, and Salem. HD 31 includes parts of Prince William County and Fauquier County.

In House District 68, Dawn Adams defeated both Dr. Ben Pearson-Nelson and Mary Jo Sheeley with over 47 percent of the vote. Sheeley is a former environmental lawyer who retired from Dominion Energy. HD 68 includes part of Richmond, Henrico County, and Chesterfield County.



Josh Stanfield, Executive Director of Activate Virginia, views these results as symptomatic of increased public resistance to Dominion’s stranglehold over Virginia politics and environmental policy. “Yesterday, voters made it clear that opposition to Dominion contributions comes with no noticeable electoral risk within the Democratic Party - in fact, this position seems increasingly popular.”

Stanfield added that he expects Dominion to view the primary results as a victory. “Dominion spent a lot of money to ensure Perriello’s loss. But their tendency to flippantly dismiss criticism, in the case of House candidates, is a tendency we encourage for strategic purposes.”

“Because ultimately,” Stanfield said, “campaign finance reform will come from the General Assembly. It’s there that we’re building a coalition in support of clean governance.”

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**Note:** Josh Stanfield is available for interview.