

Hampton Roads Letters to the Editor (LTEs) Guide

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1. Introduction

Letters to the Editor (LTEs) allow local residents and activists to voice their opinions through the written word, distributed by local publications. LTEs tend to be limited to a few hundred words and are selected to be published, at the discretion of the Editor and their staff. For the Miyares Campaign, they will be invaluable tools to highlight the accomplishments of Jason during his time as the Attorney General of Virginia, and to point out the risks of voting for Jay Jones during the upcoming general election.

2. General Rules to Follow

1. Make sure that your submissions are properly edited. Reading your written work out loud to yourself, sometimes multiple times, is a great way to make sure that your flow and syntax are easily understandable.
2. Keep it simple and to the point. The easier something is to read and comprehend, the more it will stick with a reader.
3. Stick to the facts. Jay Jones' voting record and lack of experience speak for themselves. LTEs just help to make sure these facts reach a wider audience.

3. Key Points to Use in LTEs

Jay Jones Soft Public Safety Record

Jay Jones consistently voted to reduce sentences, eliminate mandatory minimums, expand parole eligibility, and weaken pretrial detention standards—even for the most violent and repeat offenders. Jay Jones stands to belittle victims and hurt our Commonwealth.

- Jay Jones fought to release repeat felons early, and give them easy sentences.
 - Sponsored a bill that would have allowed **all** of Virginia's felons to receive time off their sentence.
 - This would have put **violent** felons back on the streets earlier, leaving our cities less safe, and victims fearful.
 - Voted against an amendment that would **exclude sex offenders** from receiving time off.
 - Jay Jones Stood against elevating the act of **selling fentanyl** leading to one's death, a felony murder.
 - This means that fentanyl dealers escape the punishment that they deserve, and families are once again left in danger.
 - People addicted to drugs are not the only people affected by fentanyl. Students, seeking a leg up in their studies sometimes buy fentanyl, thinking that it is a study drug like Adderall. **Multiple teens and young adults have died like this.**
 - This is why Jason started the “One Pill Can Kill” campaign
- Jay Jones doesn't believe in Mandatory Sentencing for people who target the most vulnerable of society.
 - Voted against mandatory sentences for **convicted domestic abusers**, even if they were **repeat offenders**.
 - Jay Jones claims that he wants to protect victims, but won't even stand up to wife beaters and child abusers.
 - Voted against mandatory sentences for **dealers selling drugs on school grounds**.
 - Children in general need to be protected, but especially on school grounds where their safety is the responsibility of the government. To target children, especially in school, is evil and predatory, and yet Jay Jones voted to ignore this problem when it was at a 30 year peak.
 - Voted against mandatory sentences for dealers selling drugs in **high quantities**.
 - Major drug dealers aren't affected by a short stay in jail or prison, and are only trusted with large quantities of drugs after they have proven that they are willing to do anything to push their product. **The best, and only**

deterrence, besides proper education, is locking major dealers up with a minimum sentence.

- Jay Jones doesn't believe in Parole and Bail Requirements.
 - Voted to allow some murders and rapists to have parole considerations.
 - Rape and murder are the two worst things that one person can do to another, and **under Jay Jones, someone who engages in these heinous acts can get out of prison much easier.**
 - Jay Jones voted to allow **violent felons** who committed murder, assault, or worse to be released before trial with **little to no bail requirements.**
 - This assumes that the criminal will show up to their day in court, as if they were law abiding citizens.
 - A violent felon released back into the community has no incentive to not harm people, especially if they believe that someone turned them in. It's a danger to witnesses and bystanders.
 - High \$ bail requirements, or rulings that there will be no bail, are meant to be tools for judges to use to keep the public safe.
- Immigration
 - Jay Jones actively prevents **Federal Law Enforcement** from doing their job.
 - Voted for sanctuary cities, shielding illegal criminals from police.
 - Supported legislation **preventing coordination** with federal law enforcement. In other words, if Jay Jones had his way, Norfolk Police could arrest an illegal immigrant for a violent crime or a sex crime and then watch them get set free, just because they're here illegally
 - Wrote legislation **preventing local law enforcement** from finding out a violent criminal's citizenship status. If law enforcement knows that someone that they arrested is in MS-13, they can't even find out if that person is here illegally.

4. Contact Information for Publications and Guidelines

Sussex-Surry Dispatch

Location: Surry, Sussex, Emporia, Southampton, Greenville

How to Submit:

https://www.thesussexsurrydispatch.com/site/forms/online_services/letter_editor/

Parameters: **250 word limit.** Please write in a Word Document and then copy and paste in the box that says "Type Your Letter".

Hampton Roads Messenger

Location: Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Suffolk, Virginia Beach

How to Submit: Email: editor@hamptonroadsmessenger.com

Parameters: None listed. **Aim for 250 word limit.**

Smithfield Times

Location: Smithfield, Isle of Wight, Adjoining Areas

How to Submit: <https://www.smithfieldtimes.com/submit/letter-to-editor/>

Parameters: None listed. **Aim for 250 word limit.** Please write in a Word Document and then copy and paste in the box that says “Letter to the Editor”.

Jewish News Tidewater

Location: Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Suffolk, Virginia Beach

How to Submit: news@ujft.org

Parameters: <https://jewishnewsva.org/letter-to-the-editor/>

Daily Press

Location: Tidewater in general

How to Submit: <https://www.dailypress.com/2023/07/06/submit-a-letter-to-the-editor-3/>

Parameters: **250 word limit.** Please write in a Word Document and then copy and paste in the box that says “Type Your Letter here”.

Virginian-Pilot

Location: Tidewater in general

How to Submit: <https://www.pilotonline.com/2023/07/06/submit-a-letter-to-the-editor/>

Parameters: **250 word limit.** Please write in a Word Document and then copy and paste in the box that says “Type Your Letter here”.

Eastern Shore Post

Location: Eastern Shore

How to Submit: Email to editor@easternshorepost.com

Parameters: 250 word limit. Local Issues.

Suffolk News-Herald

Location: Suffolk Area

How to Submit: <https://www.suffolknewsherald.com/services/letters-to-editor/>

Parameters: None listed. **Aim for 250 word limit.** Please write in a Word Document and then copy and paste in the box that says “Letter to the Editor”.

Tidewater News

Location: Western Tidewater

How to Submit: <https://www.thetidewaternews.com/services/letters-to-editor/>

Parameters: None listed. **Aim for 250 word limit.** Please write in a Word Document and then copy and paste in the box that says, “Letter to the Editor”.

Emporia Independent-Messenger

Location: Emporia/ Greensville

How to Submit:

https://www.emporiaindependentmessenger.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/independent_messenger_letter_editor/

Parameters: **250 word limit.** Please write in a Word Document and then copy and paste in the box that says “Type Your Letter”.

New Journal and Guide

Location: The Tidewater Area

How to Submit: email to njguide@gmail.com

Parameters: None listed. **Aim for 250 word limit.**

Shore Daily News

Location: Eastern Shore

How to Submit: <https://shoredailynews.com/submit-opinion-letters/>

Parameters: None listed. **Aim for 250 word limit.** Please write in a Word Document and then **upload where it says “file upload”**. You may have to convert your document into a PDF.

Brunswick Times-Gazette

Location: Brunswick County

How to Submit:

https://www.brunswicktimes-gazette.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/brunswick_times_gazette_letter_editor/

Parameters: **250 word limit.** Please write in a Word Document and then copy and paste in the box that says “Type Your Letter”.

5. LTE Example

The following was published as a Letter to the Editor in the *Fairfax County Times* on August 11, 2025.

Dear Editor,

This fall, Virginia citizens need to re-elect Jason Miyares as the Attorney General (AG) of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The last three and a half years, he and his team have targeted the most violent criminals, reducing murders by 30% and violent crime by 11%. He has partnered with all levels of law enforcement to ensure they have the resources and cooperation required to get criminals off the streets and keep our citizens safe. He also kicked off the One Pill Can Kill initiative to warn of the deadly threat of fentanyl – leading to one of largest drops in overdose deaths across the nation.

Over the last eight years, Virginia has had an opportunity to see both political parties in power and evaluate how they govern and how their ideologies work for our citizens. The last four years, Virginia has prospered under Republican leadership that believes in capitalism, freedom, law and order, and parental rights. The Commonwealth under Republican Governor Glenn Youngkin, Lt. Governor Winsome Sears, and Attorney General Miyares has attracted billions in investments and Virginia's economy is thriving. The team has derailed the radical left agenda in education, supported police, and cracked down on criminals. During the previous four years, under democrat Ralph Northam and his team, Virginia's economy underperformed, police funding was

reduced, and sanctuary cities were embraced. Parents were villainized in school board meetings, and Northam embraced infanticide as an acceptable form of birth control.

Since our inception, Virginia has always been against high taxes, oppressive governments, and political leaders who appear to be more interested in serving themselves, criminals, and special interests than our hardworking and patriotic citizens. Virginians want political leaders that respect and value our history, heritage, and culture. Considering the above, it's clear that one party understands what Virginians want, and one clearly does not.

Virginia needs to re-elect Attorney General Jason Miyares and the rest of the ticket to keep our citizens safe and continue to protect and build a greater Commonwealth.

Sam Jones

Fairfax Station