# Meet the Republican Candidates vying for U.S. Senate seat in Virginia



Five Republican candidates are competing in the June 18 primary for the U.S. Senate seat in Virginia, currently held by Democrat Tim Kaine. The candidates, who seek to challenge Kaine in the fall, are Jonathan Emord, Hung Cao, Eddie Garcia, Scott Parkinson, and Chuck Smith.

Tim Kaine, a former Virginia governor and Hillary Clinton’s running mate in 2016, is seeking reelection unopposed for the Democratic nomination. According to the Cook Political Report, the seat is rated "Solid D," suggesting it is not considered competitive.

Hung Cao is a retired Navy captain who previously ran unsuccessfully against Rep. Jennifer Wexton in 2022. He has raised over $2 million for his Senate campaign, though much less than the $13 million Kaine has amassed since 2019. Cao's campaign has faced criticism for not spending funds raised by his political action committee on state or local candidates, instead using it for his Senate bid.

Scott Parkinson, a former adviser to Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, is the second-highest fundraiser with over $841,000. Parkinson emphasizes his economic policy experience and has been critical of federal spending.

Jonathan Emord, an attorney known for challenging the FDA, has raised nearly $809,000. Emord advocates for significant reductions in federal government size and opposes military aid to Ukraine, calling for limited strategic assistance instead.

Chuck Smith, a lawyer from Virginia Beach, supports a federal abortion ban and eliminating the Federal Reserve and other federal agencies. He has raised about $510,000 for his campaign.

Lastly, Eddie Garcia, an Army veteran and small-business owner, has raised $301,000. Garcia, the son of a Texas ranch hand, advocates for tougher immigration enforcement and campaign finance reform.

The Republican candidates have varying stances on key issues such as abortion, with most agreeing that it should be left to states following the overturning of Roe v. Wade. They also differ on the legitimacy of the 2020 presidential election and military aid to Ukraine. Emord takes the hardest line on transgender rights, advocating for a federal felony for gender-affirming care for minors, while Garcia emphasizes compassion and healthcare availability.