

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Delanie Bomar, NRCC Southeast Regional Press Secretary  
**DATE:** July 12, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** There is no such thing as a "moderate" Virginia Democrat - including Abigail Spanberger



## **TOP LINE**

The recent Virginia Democratic primary results demonstrate “moderate” Democrats are [an extinct species](#) in Virginia.



Abigail Spanberger talks like a so-called “moderate” but her voting record tells a different story. Over the course of her tenure in Congress, Spanberger has been captured by the extreme left of her party, mirroring the hard-left lurch of Virginia Democrats.

In a recent [interview](#) with Roll Call, Spanberger bragged about being bipartisan, saying “plenty of times” she does her “own thing” within the Democrat Party. ***This is a lie.*** Spanberger votes [100%](#) of the time with Joe Biden and has espoused radical, far-left policies that are out of step with mainstream Virginia voters.

Spanberger’s leftward drift has pushed her far to the left of voters in her swing district. The NRCC [targeted](#) Spanberger’s seat for the 2024 cycle and we are confident her recent votes have undercut her own carefully-constructed brand.

## ***SPANBERGER'S VOTING RECORD IS EXTREME***

Spanberger, whose positions align with Biden 100% of the time, took radical votes in the first months of this Congress:

- Supported soft-on-crime policies to reduce penalties for violent criminals
- Voted for banning gas stoves
- Voted against American energy independence
- Voted against the Parents Bill of Rights
- Supported protecting dangerous criminal illegal immigrants
- Voted against allowing medical care for babies born alive after a failed abortion

Joe Biden is a historically unpopular president. Recent polling shows Biden is double-digits underwater on his job approval rating as voters have been buffeted by high inflation, crime, and concerns about the border. Biden is the most progressive president in American history - ballooning the debt with trillions in spending and implementing far-left pipe dreams on student loans and open border policies. Yet Spanberger's voting record is completely aligned with Biden.

## ***SPANBERGER'S POLARIZING STANCES***

In addition to her voting record, Spanberger's recent political stances don't mirror those of a bipartisan member.

Recently, Spanberger refused to say whether women should be able to choose abortion up until the moment of birth. This comes after Spanberger voted against the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, legislation requiring medical care for babies born alive after an abortion attempt. Again, this is not the type of stance you see from a member who wants to be viewed as bipartisan.

## ***CASE STUDY: DC CRIME BILL***

In February, 173 House Democrats - including Spanberger - voted to support a D.C. crime measure that would reduce penalties for violent criminals. Notably, this stance was too extreme even for President Biden, who changed stance and signed this bill into law. ***For the Democrats who voted 'no' like Spanberger this was a clear demonstration of their radicalism to voters - showing even within the Democratic Party their views are extreme.***

Of all these members, this vote was most consequential for Spanberger, given Washington, D.C., is in her own backyard. Spanberger's support for this bill will have real-life consequences for her own district. Compounding matters, Spanberger's vote to reduce penalties for violent criminals was so extreme that when the legislation made it to the Senate, neither Virginia Senators Warner nor Kaine could match her vote and they both voted against this legislation.

Spanberger's soft-on-crime vote came under massive local scrutiny. The Virginia Attorney General criticized Spanberger for her stance, [saying](#), "D.C. crime absolutely affects Northern Virginia crime – and the fact that they failed at this aspect of their job, I think was very troubling."

Local Virginia media picked up on the blowback from the Attorney General and Republicans, with ABC 7 [saying](#) "Va. AG slams Spanberger, Wexton, Beyer and Connolly for approving DC criminal code bill" and the Richmond Times Dispatch [writing](#), "GOP wields D.C. crime code revision as weapon against Spanberger."

Since then, Spanberger's soft-on-crime stance has continued to be a major problem for her as crime in and around her district is skyrocketing.

Local law enforcement says [violent crime is surging](#) in Prince William County, with [homicides doubling](#) in 2022. In Washington, D.C., motor vehicle theft is [up 118% since 2022](#) and local law enforcement is sounding alarms following [more than 100 homicides](#) so far this year, the [highest in 20 years](#).

As a whole, Republicans are forcing Democrats to answer for their soft-on-crime stances and it is expected to continue through the 2024 election. Politico reported "[Democrats have a crime problem](#)" and the Washington Post wrote "[Democrats concerned about crime ahead of 2024](#)." This problem and these votes are not going away and Republicans won't step off the gas in reminding Virginia voters about Spanberger's soft-on-crime stance.

## ***BOTTOM LINE***

Over the past several cycles, Abigail Spanberger carefully concocted a brand for herself. In the first six months under the new Republican Congress, she traded it all away. Spanberger is caught between a rock and a hard place - navigating an increasingly-radical Virginia Democratic Party that has expunged all moderates from its ranks while continuing to represent a swing district.

Republicans will continue to press Abigail Spanberger for her radical voting record undercutting her claim as a so-called "moderate." She has gotten comfortable in her district and revealed her true colors as an extreme Democrat. Now Spanberger is not the bipartisan member she portrays herself as. The NRCC will make sure every Virginia voter knows the real Abigail Spanberger.