



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR  
**GROWTH &  
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# SENATOR JANET HOWELL

Virginia Senate, 32nd District

## **BIOGRAPHY**

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Janet Howell has been a Virginia State Senator since 1992. A community leader prior to running for office, Janet was a PTA president, Reston Community Association President, and Chair of the State Board of Social Services.

Senator Howell is one of Virginia's most influential senators. She is second in seniority in the Senate and the longest serving female Virginia legislator. She was the first woman to serve on the powerful Senate Finance Committee, a committee she now chairs. It is now named the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee. She also serves on the Education and Health, Privileges and Elections, Local Government and Rules committees.

Senator Howell is credited with major legal reforms. She headed the overhaul of Virginia's family violence laws. She led efforts to protect children from sexual predators. Virginia has genetic information privacy legislation due to her efforts. She spearheaded the mental health law reform in the Senate following the Virginia Tech tragedy. Education, children, and families have always been top priorities. Equal rights for women, including forcing a committee vote on the ERA in 2018, and reproductive choice for women have also always been her priorities.

Senator Howell's work has been widely praised and honored. The American Academy of Pediatrics named her their National Child Advocate of the Year. The Virginia Sheriffs have repeatedly called her Senator of the Year. The League of Conservation Voters has awarded her top ratings since the inception of the award in 2000. Numerous human services organizations, including the Virginia Housing Alliance and the Virginia Interfaith Center, have also given her awards. But Reston, her home, has been where her heart is and she has served her constituents with honor.