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**Northern Virginia
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*Empowering Communities.
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...increasing the number of
black elected officials in Virginia to...

500 by 2026

Virginia Leadership Institute

Keeping America's Promise

About VLI

Virginia Leadership Institute, Inc. (VLI) is a non partisan, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Founded in 2006, VLI aims to increase the number of black elected officials in Virginia through training, mentoring, and networking.

VLI's training sessions bring together campaign operatives, elected officials, and policy experts who have experience in Virginia and national politics to teach critical campaign skills to a future generation of public servants. Our interactive sessions focus on fundraising, grassroots operations, media, public speaking, data analysis and other critical campaign skills.

For more information on the Virginia Leadership Institute, please visit www.virginialead.org or email info@virginialead.org.

Background

VLI aims to increase the number of black elected officials in Virginia to 500 by 2026. Close to 20% of Virginia's voting age population is black, yet in 2009, Virginia's black elected officials only represented 8% of the total number of elected officials in Virginia.

One of the most compelling reasons to increase the number of black political representatives is the sign of progress that it means for our country. In a nation that prides itself on being a democracy, for hundreds of years blacks were enslaved, institutionally lynched, and politically disenfranchised—and treated anything but democratically. Since our country's founding, blacks were denied the opportunity to participate in the political process despite the promise that our forefathers made to create a democratic nation.

As America moves closer to that goal, unfortunately Virginia is behind the curve. Thus it is the vision of the Virginia Leadership Institute to help Virginia, "Keep America's Promise."

Membership

Membership in the Virginia Leadership Institute puts you closer to your political aspirations. Join the VLI today for only \$25.

Preparing You to be a Candidate

Winning political campaigns capitalize on the candidate's resources, message and networks. VLI sessions bring together trainers with diverse experiences to teach our future candidates how to effectively win campaigns in Virginia.

Building Your Networks

A strong network is the basis of a political campaign. The VLI helps you build networks with fellow session attendees, presenters and political leaders.

Giving you Access to Political Leaders

Aspiring candidates need access to political leaders for potential support and to learn valuable lessons. The VLI offers access to experienced public servants through networking events and training sessions.

Keeping You Informed

As more blacks enter the political arena, it's critical that we share information and lessons learned. The VLI offers access to historical and current information on African American politics in Virginia to keep you informed.

