



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS REPORT

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Presented by

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**75TH GOVERNOR OF
VIRGINIA**

June 2026

Letter from the Governor

When I took office, I issued Executive Order 12, prioritizing collaborative partnerships between law enforcement and community leaders.

I am now glad to announce the launch of the **Governor's Community Partnership Council on Corrections**, reaffirming our commitment to transparency and to connecting with the community.

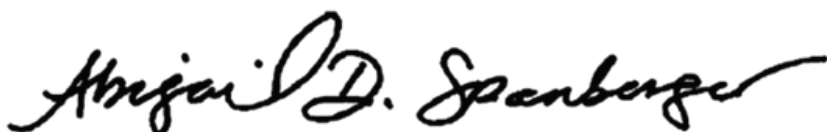
This council — led by Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Stanley Meador and Director of the Virginia Department of Corrections Joseph Walters — will help us understand issues impacting Department of Corrections staff, incarcerated individuals, and the larger community.

The partnership council will provide a forum for dialogue and action on areas of continued improvement, including:

- Conditions of confinement
- Reentry and reintegration
- Family engagement
- Staffing matters
- Public accountability

We will be inviting a wide array of Virginians to participate on the council who want to see continued progress, including but not limited to representatives from community groups, faith-based organizations, healthcare, public safety, education, and formerly incarcerated individuals.

I am proud of what our team has done to prioritize professionalism, accountability, and transparency. This report is an illustration of those principles — and what we can achieve with them at the forefront.



Overview

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) is committed to protecting Virginians through safe, lawful, and professional correctional operations. Since the beginning of the Spanberger Administration, VADOC has undertaken strategic reform to create a safer environment for incarcerated individuals and staff. In support of fostering community trust, as referenced in Executive Order 12, VADOC has prioritized accountability, professionalism, engagement, and transparency.



The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) is the largest state agency with more than 11,000 employees across the Commonwealth.

Building on this foundation, VADOC has advanced a coordinated effort to strengthen internal culture, modernize operations, and reinforce expectations of integrity across all levels of the organization. These actions have supported safer, more consistent facility environments and have helped ensure that both staff and those in custody are treated with fairness and professionalism.

Of note, **VADOC accomplished all the results detailed in this report while operating with a 21% vacancy rate**, making clear the dedication of employees to these core principles. VADOC has expanded its commitment to openness by increasing collaboration with community partners and establishing new channels for meaningful engagement. This emphasis on constructive dialogue and shared responsibility is helping align corrections practices with community needs and further solidifying trust in the Commonwealth's public safety system.

Accountability & Professionalism

GOAL: Create a mission-driven, people-centered agency where respect, dignity, and fairness are not optional for employees and incarcerated individuals.

ACTIONS:

- Appointed full leadership teams to guide the agency — the first time the Director, Chief Deputy Director, and Senior Policy Advisor are appointed positions
- Established a new Code of Ethics to ground all employees in public safety, professional conduct, accountability, and people-first conduct
- Created an Office of Professional Standards, overseen by a newly created Deputy Director for Professional Standards position, to hold all employees, including senior leaders, accountable
- Created and mandated new refresher training on Use of Force, covering de-escalation, appropriate use of force, less-than-lethal options, and rendering aid

Serious inmate-on-staff assaults decreased by 56% from January-May 2026, compared to the same time frame in 2025



IMPACT:

From January to May 2026 compared to the same time frame in 2025:

- Serious inmate-on-staff assaults **decreased by 56%**
- Use of Force across all VADOC facilities **decreased 39%**
- Full lockdowns across all facilities **decreased 27%**
- Confirmed overdoses **decreased by 47%**
- Suspected overdoses **decreased by 12%**
- Number of incarcerated individuals in Restorative Housing Units **decreased 20%**
- **Ceased use of five-point restraints**, aligning with prevailing standards of practice that show the system is not effective for individuals in mental health crisis

Engagement & Transparency

Governor Spanberger
visiting Fluvanna
Correctional Center
for Women in March



GOAL:

Strengthen public trust and improve agency communications

ACTIONS:

- Created Director of Community & Legislative Affairs position to streamline stakeholder engagement
- **Secretary of Public Safety, Director, and full VADOC leadership team** hosted **in-person engagements at VADOC headquarters with 13 advocacy groups** to listen to concerns and improve community engagement, an unprecedented step taken by DOC toward community collaboration
- Immediately actioned approximately 85% of advocacy group concerns, including simple actions like extending visitation hours and ensuring consistent application across all facilities
- Launching Governor's Community Partnership Council on Corrections to foster collaboration, community trust, and transparency

IMPACT:

- Received positive feedback from community groups about the willingness to maintain open dialogue



GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA

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