

36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands REVISED SENATE CALENDAR February 17, 2025 – February 24, 2025

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025

PRESIDENTS' DAY

Holiday

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025

CHAIR: SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR. VICE CHAIR: SENATOR MARVIN A. BLYDEN

Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance 10:00 A.M. Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will meet on **Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 10:00 A.M. in** the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix.

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will meet on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 10:00 A.M. in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix to receive testimony from the Government's Financial Team on the territory's finances to include the status of vendor payments, property taxes, 90-120 days revenue collections, 90-120 days general expenditures, the Tourism Revolving Fund, Compliance reporting in accordance with Act 8915, the Line of Credit, the Budget Stabilization Fund, the Single Payer Utility, cash on hand, federal drawdowns and status of federal grants to include FEMA, ARPA and CARES and the Epstein Fund, etc.

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will also receive testimony from the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works on the overview of Capital Projects (Territorial), Garvee funded projects, an update on road projects and bridges and the status of the Paul E. Joseph Stadium and the VITRAN Maintenance and Operations Facility on St. Croix.

Invited Testifiers: Honorable Kevin McCurdy, Commissioner, VI Department of Finance Julio Rhymer, Director, Office of Management and Budget Joel Lee, Director, VI Bureau of Internal Revenue Adrienne Williams-Octalien, Director, Office of Disaster Recovery Brent Leerdam, Tax Collector, Office of the Lt. Governor Chalma Moorhead, Acting Tax Assessor, Office of the Lt. Governor Joss Springette, Esq., Chief Negotiator, Office of Collective Bargaining Cindy L. Richardson, Director, Division of Personnel Honorable Derek Gabriel, Commissioner, VI Department of Public Works

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

CHAIR: SENATOR MARISE C. JAMES VICE CHAIR: SENATOR MILTON E. POTTER

Committee on Disaster Recovery, Infrastructure and Planning 10:00 A.M. Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

The Committee will receive testimony from the Office of Disaster Recovery on its operations and key disaster recovery and infrastructure projects, including but not limited to:

Review of Federal Disaster Assistance Grants

Current data on anticipated, allocated, obligated, and expended funds Challenges and Opportunities in Grant Utilization

Super Project Management Office (PMO): Structure and Responsibilities

Operation and Effectiveness of Super PMO Coordination with Other Agencies and Stakeholders

Status of Bundles: Critical Projects

Assessment of Bundling Approach and Contractor Responsiveness Update on Key Infrastructure and Recovery Projects

Performance of CDBG-DR Programs

Progress of Envision Tomorrow Initiative Data on Resident Participation and Responsiveness

Invited Testifiers:

Adrienne L. Williams-Octalien, Director, Office of Disaster Recovery Eugene Jones, Jr., Executive Director, Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025

CHAIR: SENATOR ANGEL L. BOLQUES, JR. VICE CHAIR: SENATOR CARLA J. JOSEPH

Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports and Parks 10:00 A.M. Cleone H. Creque Legislative Conference Room MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025

CHAIR: SENATOR AVERY L. LEWIS VICE CHAIR: SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.

Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs and Consumer Protection 9:00 A.M. Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection has scheduled a meeting for **Monday, February 24, 2025, at 9:00 AM in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands** to provide updates on the following agencies:

BLOCK I

The Department of Property and Procurement will provide a comprehensive update on the state of the Government of the Virgin Islands contractual agreements, vendor payments, leases, and the GVI Buy Software.

Key highlights will include the status of capital projects, pending/outstanding leases, contracts, and payments that affect government operations.

Invited Testifier: Honorable Lisa Alejandro, Commissioner, Department of Property and Procurement

BLOCK II

Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs to provide an update on programs that prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices and information to help consumers spot, stop, and avoid scams and fraud.

Key highlights include a fuel price survey, the frequency of grocery store price analyses and results, and the status of capital projects.

Invited Testifier: Honorable H. Natalie Hodge, Commissioner, Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

CHAIR: SENATOR RAY FONSECA VICE CHAIR: SENATOR HUBERT L. FREDERICK

Committee on Health, Hospitals and Human Services 10:00 A.M. Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

Please be advised that the Committee on Health, Hospitals & Human Services will be conducting a hearing on **Tuesday**, **February 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, on St. Croix.**

BLOCK I

The Committee will receive testimony regarding the strategic plan to address staffing shortages and the reduction of emergency room wait-times at both hospital facilities. Also, the members will be presented with an overview on the territory's MAP program and the boarder crisis in the Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital & Regional Medical Center and the Schneider Regional Medical Center.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Averil E. George, Commissioner, Department of Human Services
Tina M. Comissiong, Esq., MPA, CEO, Schneider Regional Medical Center
Hazel Philbert, Interim CEO, Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital & Regional Medical Center
Darlene Carty-Baptiste, Incoming CEO, Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital & Regional Medical Center
Christopher Finch, Chairman, Virgin Islands Government Health and Hospital Corporation
Edgar Phillips, Resident, St. Thomas, USVI

BLOCK II

The members will receive an overview on the designs including final completion target dates of the Herbert Grigg Nursing Home, Queen Louise Home for the Aged, Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital & Medical Center, Schneider Regional Medical Center, Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center, and the Department of Human Services Complex, on St. Thomas.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Averil E. George, Commissioner, Department of Human Services
 Christopher Finch, Chairman, Virgin Islands Government Health and Hospital Corporation
 Darryl Smalls, Executive Director, Facilities and Capital Development, Territorial Hospital Redevelopment Team
 Jerry Smith, Incoming Chairman, Virgin Islands Government Health and Hospital Corporation

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025

CHAIR: SENATOR CARLA J. JOSEPH VICE CHAIR: SENATOR KENNETH L. GITTENS

Committee on Rules and Judiciary 10:00 A.M. Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

The 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands Committee on Rules and Judiciary has scheduled a hearing for <u>10:00 a.m. on</u> <u>Thursday, February 27, 2025 in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas.</u> The purpose of the meeting is to receive testimony and consider the following legislative measures:

BLOCK I

The Committee will receive testimony on the operations of the Judiciary Branch of the Virgin Islands including but not limited to enabling law and jurisdiction, current department challenges, and plan of action to resolve challenges.

Invited Testifier:

Regina deChabert Petersen, Esq., Administrator of Courts, Judiciary Branch of the Virgin Islands

LUNCH

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Dr. Safiya George, Governor's Nominee Virgin Islands Government Hospital and Health Facilities Corporation, District Governing Board of St. Thomas-St. John		
BLOCK III	2:00 PM -	3:30 PM
Mr. Anthony Mardenborough, Jr., Governor's Nominee Board of Career and Technical Education-St. Croix		
BLOCK IV	3:30 PM -	5:00 PM
Mrs. Elizabeth Guadalupe-Perez, Governor's Nominee Virgin Islands Real Estate Appraisers Board		
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025		

CHAIR: SENATOR MARVIN A. BLYDEN VICE CHAIR: SENATOR CLIFFORD A. JOSEPH, SR.

Committee on Housing, Transportation and Telecommunications 10:00 A.M. Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

BLOCK II

The Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications has scheduled a meeting for **Friday**, **February 28**, **2025**, in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas.

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

BLOCK I

Update and discussion on key matters related to the operations of the Department of Public Works. Providing the department's short- and long-term goals, staffing updates, transportation and bus route extensions, ferry operations, engineering services to GVI agencies, and the current state of the territory's roads, bridges, and cemeteries. As well as the challenges the Department is facing and their plans to address them to better serve the residents of our territory.

Invited Testifier:

Honorable Derek Gabriel, Commissioner, Department of Public Works

LUNCH

BLOCK II

Discussion on the operations of the Virgin Island Waste Management Authority as it relates to their plans and priorities for the coming year. Update on the status of staffing, payroll challenges and vendor payments. In addition to the status of tipping fees, wastewater treatment plants, pump station operations and capacity, landfills within the territory, garbage collection, oil collection, and any other challenges the agency is facing, along with their plans to overcome them to better serve the community.

Invited Testifier:

Daryl Griffith, Interim Executive Director, Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority