

36<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands SENATE CALENDAR July 14, 2025 – July 25, 2025

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025

# CHAIR: SENATOR HUBERT L. FREDERICK VICE CHAIR: SENATOR ANGEL L. BOLQUES, JR.

Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture 10:00 A.M. Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

### BLOCK I

The Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture will receive updates from RT Park on current tenant activity, including the number of active companies, industry sectors, and new tenants. The briefing will also cover RT Park's economic impact through job creation, workforce development, and contributions to territorial revenues. Additional updates will include partnerships with UVI, infrastructure and capital development projects, community engagement efforts, and policy or legislative recommendations to support RT Park's continued growth and impact.

## Invited Testifier:

Mr. Eric Sonnier, Executive Director, UVI Research and Technology Park

#### LUNCH

#### **BLOCK II**

The Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture will receive updates from the VI Casino Control Commission on its operations, regulatory activities, financial oversight, and community impacts. The Commission is expected to provide testimony and supporting documentation on current licensing, compliance, and enforcement actions; revenue collections and employment data; responsible gaming initiatives; financial audits and regulatory compliance; community benefit programs; and any legislative recommendations to enhance its operations.

<u>Invited Testifiers:</u> Mr. Marvin Pickering, CEO/Chairman, VI Casino Control Commission Honorable Gordon C. Rhea, Esq., Attorney General, VI Department of Justice TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025

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

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

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, July 15, 2025, 10:00 A.M.** in the **Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room** on St. Croix to receive testimony on the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

#### BLOCK I

Public Television System Tanya Singh, Chief Executive Officer

#### BLOCK II

Office of Territorial Public Defender Julie Smith Todman, Esq., Chief Territorial Public Defender

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025

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

Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance 10:00 A.M. Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will meet on **Wednesday**, July 16, 2025, 10:00 A.M. in the **Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall** on St. Thomas to receive testimony on the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

BLOCK I	10:00 A.M 12:00 P.M.
Virgin Islands Olympic Committee Angel Morales, President	
BLOCK II	1:00 P.M 3:00 P.M.
Department of Public Works Honorable Derek A. Gabriel, Commissioner	
BLOCK III	3:00 P.M 5:00 P.M.
Water and Dawar Artheriter	

Water and Power Authority Karl Knight, CEO and Executive Director

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025

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

Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance 10:00 A.M. Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will meet on **Thursday, July 17, 2025, 10:00 A.M.** in the **Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall** on St. Thomas to receive testimony on the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

#### BLOCK I

Judiciary Honorable Rhys S. Hodge, Chief Justice 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

BLOCK II

VI Economic Development Authority Wayne Biggs, Chief Executive Officer

#### **BLOCK III**

University of the Virgin Islands, UVI Tech Park Safiya George, President Eric Sonnier, Executive Director

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

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

Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports and Parks 10:00 A.M. Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

The Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks will convene a legislative hearing to examine the financial and operational oversight of the Paul E. Joseph Stadium project. The hearing will focus on reviewing the historical and current management of this major territorial capital improvement initiative, with particular attention to financial stewardship, regulatory compliance, procurement processes, and construction progress.

#### **BLOCK I**

#### 10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

During this Block, the Committee will receive testimony and conduct a comprehensive examination of the financial and administrative oversight of the Paul E. Joseph Stadium project. This inquiry will span the past decade and focus on identifying the root causes behind persistent delays, budget overruns, and the current status of project implementation.

**The Office of Management and Budget (OMB)** will provide an in-depth review of historical funding allocations and expenditures, offering clarity on the fiscal trajectory of the project and identifying any budgeting inconsistencies or reallocations over time.

**The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR)** will share insights into regulatory oversight, environmental permitting, and compliance with Coastal Zone Management guidelines. Their testimony is expected to reveal how environmental regulations have influenced project pacing and development.

**The Department of Property and Procurement (DPP)** will address procurement strategies, contract management, and any administrative hurdles encountered during the solicitation and oversight of construction contractors, including GEC, LLC.

**The Department of Public Works (DPW)** will present on the operational coordination and statutory responsibilities related to infrastructure execution. Testimony will cover project milestones, contractor coordination, and the department's role in ensuring progress accountability.

**The Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation (DSPR)**, as the agency with end-user responsibility, will summarize its oversight contributions, facility requirements, and its involvement in guiding the project toward functional utility.

**The USVI Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR),** report on its oversight of funds allocated to the Paul E. Joseph Stadium project. Testimony will cover funding compliance, project monitoring, and coordination with agencies and contractor to ensure timely execution.

**Representatives from GEC, LLC/Coastal Systems USVI** will be required to outline the history of their contractual engagement, change order justifications, and ongoing challenges affecting project delivery. Their testimony will be key to understanding the practical execution of construction tasks and any unresolved issues still affecting completion.

This Block seeks to present a full-spectrum view of the operational, fiscal, and regulatory layers of the stadium's development, with the goal of identifying actionable legislative solutions to move the project forward effectively and responsibly.

**Invited Testifiers:** 

Julio A. Rhymer, Sr., Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
Honorable Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner, Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR)
Honorable Lisa M. Alejandro, Commissioner, Department of Property and Procurement (DPP)
Honorable Derek A. Gabriel, Commissioner Department of Public Works (DPW)
Vincent Roberts, Commissioner Nominee, Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation (DSPR)
Mr. John Wessel, Managing Member, GEC, LLC/Coastal Systems USVI
Mr. Tim Dempsey, Director of Operations, USVI Office of Disaster Recovery
Adrienne L. Williams-Octalien, Director, USVI Office of Disaster Recovery

#### LUNCH

#### **BLOCK II**

# 1:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

12:30 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.

This Block will continue the Committee's in-depth review of the Paul E. Joseph Stadium project. Building on the testimonies and findings from the morning session, this segment will allow additional input from invited testifiers and deeper discussion on unresolved issues. The focus will remain on construction progress, fiscal management, interagency coordination, and identifying any further actions needed.

#### MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025

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

Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance 10:00 A.M. Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will meet on **Monday, July 21, 2025, 10:00 A.M.** in the **Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall** on St. Thomas to receive testimony on the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

10:00 A.M. Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority

12:00 P.M. LUNCH

1:00 P.M. Virgin Islands Housing Authority

# **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 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 22, 2025 in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas. The purpose of the meeting is to receive testimony and consider the following legislative measures:

Mr. Vincent Roberts, Commissioner Nominee, Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation

**BLOCK II** 

**BLOCK I** 

Mr. Erwin Raphael, Governor's Nominee, University of the Virgin Islands Research and Technology Park Board

**BLOCK III** 

Mrs. Chantelle D. Quinones, Governor's Nominee, Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission

LUNCH

12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

1:30 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

BLOCK	IV
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#### 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

**Bill No.** <u>36-0077</u> An act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 37 to enact the Virgin Islands Commission on Ethics and Conflicts of Interest.

#### **Invited Testifiers:**

Ms. Gwen-Marie Moolenaar, PHD., President, League of Women Voters of the Virgin Islands
Mr. Kevin Williams, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Ms. Hinda Carbon, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Bar Association
Honorable Gordon C. Rhea, Esq., Attorney General, Department of Justice
Ms. Regina deChabert Petersen, Administrator of Courts, Judiciary Branch of the Virgin Islands

#### **BLOCK V**

3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

- **Bill No.** <u>36-0003</u> An act amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code relating to nursing homes and assisted living facilities by adding a new chapter 76 to establish the services that nursing homes and assisted living facilities are required to provide; establishing limitations on financial charges, requirements for visitation, and the rights of a resident.
- **Bill No.** <u>36-0039</u> An Act amending title 33 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 4 by increasing the costs to bring containers or flat rack containers into the Virgin Islands.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 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 **Wednesday, July 23, 2025, 10:00 A.M.** in the **Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room** on St. Croix to receive testimony on the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

10:00 A.M. Department of Licensing & Consumer Affairs

12:00 P.M. LUNCH

1:00 P.M. Casino Control Commission

3:00 P.M. Bureau of Information Technology

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 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 **Thursday, July 24, 2025, 10:00 A.M.** in the **Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room** on St. Croix to receive testimony on the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

10:00 A.M. VI Board of Education

12:00 P.M. LUNCH

1:00 P.M. Board of Nurse Licensure

3:00 P.M. Department of Health

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2025

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

Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance 10:00 A.M. Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will meet on **Friday**, **July 25**, **2025**, **10:00 A.M.** in the **Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall** on St. Thomas to receive testimony on the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

- 10:00 A.M. Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- 12:00 P.M. LUNCH
  - 1:00 P.M. Office of the Governor
  - 3:00 P.M. Schneider Regional Medical Center