



Virginia's Death Penalty



Key Facts:

- ◆ Virginia has executed 111 people since 1982, third behind Texas and Oklahoma in the number of people executed since 1973.
- ◆ Since 1973, 155 people on death row have been exonerated while 1,422 have been executed. That is one death row exoneration for every nine executions.
- ◆ Just days before Earl Washington, Jr. was to be executed, Virginia allowed DNA evidence to be examined that proved his innocence. However, the vast majority of capital cases have no biological evidence to test.
- ◆ A person is three times more likely to be sentenced to death in Virginia when the victim is white than when the victim is black (*JLARC*).
- ◆ Murder convictions in rural and suburban jurisdictions in Virginia are twice as likely to end in the death penalty in as in urban jurisdictions.

Virginians are losing their appetite for the death penalty:

- ◆ In the past, Virginia has sentenced to death 5-10 people each year and executed as many as 14 people annually. However, in the last five years it has executed only three people.

Death Penalty Resources

Death Penalty Information Center: <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/>

Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty: <http://catholicmobilizing.org/>

Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty: <https://www.vadp.org/>

Virginia Catholic Conference: www.vacatholic.org