



The Office of
SENATOR
CARLA JOSEPH

REPORTS

NOVEMBER 2021



My Dear Fellow Virgin Islanders,

I hope and pray this report finds you and your loved ones in good health and spirits. The pandemic has certainly been a challenging time for all in our community, nation, and world. On behalf of my family and staff, I express sincere condolences to all who loss loved ones and/or friends during this time.

As we work to reboot our economy, my staff and I are working to address the many issues and challenges we face through dialogue and sponsorship

of meaningful legislation to improve our lives here in the Territory. This Report provides an update on some of my efforts and initiatives made in service for you. As always, my staff and I stand ready to serve. Please be encouraged to contact my office for assistance at (340) 693-3515 or log on to senatorcarlajoseph.com.

God bless,

Carla J. Joseph
Senator
34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



BILLS I'm Working on

Bill No. 34-0143 An Act amending title 18 Virgin Islands, code chapter 20, section 523 relating to the requirements for approval of electronic voting machines to restore voting by political party symbols.

BR 21-0759 An Act recreating the Assisted Living Facilities Act.

BR 21-0613 Uniform Personal Data Protection Act.

Bill No. 34-0038 An Act appropriating \$2,000,000 to the Department of Justice for its White-Collar Crimes Unit to prosecute white collar crimes in the Virgin Islands.

Bill No. 34-0044 An Act amending title 3, Chapter 25 Section 714 of the Virgin Islands code to expand the timeframe governing eligibility for service retirement for members of the Legislature.

Senator Joseph's Legislation MAKES LEGAL DOCUMENTS EASILY ACCESSIBLE

With the enactment of Bill No. 34-0034, now Act 8462, primarily sponsored by Sen. Carla J. Joseph and co-sponsored by Sen. Genevieve Whitaker, the Virgin Islands will now have easy access to verifiable legal documents. The Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA), Act 8462, brings the Virgin Islands on board with twenty-one states and the District of Columbia in the adoption of the Act. The legislation enables citizens to verify the trustworthiness of legal material in the Territory when it becomes available online.

"The uniform state law can help the U.S. Virgin Islands expand access to justice by ensuring access to official, authentic, and preserved electronic legal information," Tom Bolt, Chair of the Virgin Islands Uniform Law Commission said. During its legislative review, the measure won support from the U.S. Virgin Islands Law Commission, the Uniform Law Commission, AARP of the Virgin Islands, and the Virgin Islands Bar Association. Of special note, Senator Joseph is the first democratic freshman senator with a bill enacted into law in the 34th Legislature.



Senator Joseph congratulates Legislature of the VI Security Officer, Khalisha Clarke, at the VI Police Department Academy Peace Officer Class 2020-1 graduation ceremony on September 8, 2021.



From left to right: Senators Milton Potter, Donna Frett-Gregory, Marvin Blyden, and Carla J. Joseph at Groundbreaking for Estate Donoe Redevelopment Project on January 14, 2021.



Senator Joseph, Chair and members of the Committee on Government Operations and Consumer Protection tour VI Water and Power Authority (WAPA) to better understand the Authority's challenges in producing affordable and reliable power on April 28, 2021.

FOR MORE PHOTOS GOTO: SENATORCARLAJOSEPH.COM

**RADIO SHOW
AT 6:00PM**

ON POINT

WSTF

1340AM RADIO

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY



Senator Speaks at African Liberation Day Ceremony on May 25, 2021.

**Job Opportunities
for Interns**

Follow the
Senator on
SOCIAL MEDIA



Three (3) of the four (4) private sector employers partners offered permanent jobs to young people through Senator Joseph's Summer Youth Employment Opportunity Program.

"The job opportunities provided to our summer interns speak volumes to positive outcomes when we give young people the opportunity to be productively engaged."
Senator Joseph said.

In addition to job placement, students participated in a 1-day Professional Development Workshop. The workshop, facilitated by Senator Joseph's office, included resume building, interviewing techniques, and budget planning sessions.



"I enjoyed being a part of the program and going to work every day."
-Leondre' Marshall

8% Salary Reduction Restored

Government employees impacted by the 8% salary reduction from 2011-2013 can look forward to receiving overdue payments at the beginning of the upcoming fiscal year. The enabling legislation Act No. 8469, was signed by Gov. Albert Bryan, Jr. on August 12, 2021.

As a co-sponsor of this measure Act No. 8469, I worked with my colleagues to ensure that all government employees impacted by the 8% wage reduction received the return of their full justified wages. "This is a great accomplishment as the monies have been owed to employees for over ten years," Senator Joseph said. The funds are also available to designated beneficiaries of deceased employees that may have been impacted. For more information on the 8% Salary Restoration, visit the

**VI Department of Personnel Portal at
<https://www.dopusvi.org/8percent/>**

You may also contact their office for more information at 340-714-5010. The targeted time for the release of funds is November 2021.

**Joseph Co-sponsors Bills addressing
child abuse and neglect**

"I am pleased to join with my colleague Sen. Javan E. James, Sr. in co-sponsoring two(2) significant legislations to address the penalties related to perpetrators of child abuse and neglect that we see too often in our Territory. Both Bill Nos. 34-0031 and 34-0032, now Act 8460 and 8461, respectively were signed into law by Governor Albert Bryan on August 16, 2021.

"These pieces of legislation will bring some justice and much practical and needed assistance to our most vulnerable population – our children who have experienced the unwanted and cruel encounter of child abuse or neglect at the hands of those who a charged to nurture and protect them", Senator Joseph stated.

The Legislation mandates that perpetrators are required to seek professional counseling; parenting classes and other related service deem appropriate by DHS. This is geared toward reducing the risk of re-offending and causing harm to children in the future.