



Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission

May 19, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

General Assembly Building, House Committee Room C

mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov

The Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission (the Commission) met in Richmond with Delores L. McQuinn, chair, presiding.¹ The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks, followed by discussion. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Commission's meetings webpage](#). Video of the meeting is archived on the [House of Delegates Video Streaming](#) webpage.

Update on 2026 Legislation

Lily Jones, Division of Legislative Services

Ms. Jones updated members on two pieces of legislation recommended by the Commission that passed during the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly. House Joint Resolution 87, patroned by Delegate McQuinn, passed unanimously, designating April 13, in 2026 and in each succeeding year, as a Day of Remembrance for Victims of Lynching in Virginia. April 13 was selected as the date marking the lynching of James Holden, the first recorded African American lynched in Virginia. The resolution was initially a recommendation of the Commission's History of Lynching in Virginia Work Group.

The General Assembly also passed House Joint Resolution 18 (McQuinn) and Senate Joint Resolution 12 (Locke), authorizing the Commission, in consultation with the Clerks of each house, to contract for, have painted, and have appropriately framed and placed in the Capitol a portrait of the Honorable Yvonne Bond Miller commemorating her service in the General Assembly. These resolutions passed unanimously and were the next step in the process of creating a tribute to Senator Yvonne Miller, which the Commission has been involved in for several years.

Portrait of Senator Yvonne Miller

Having passed HJ 18 and SJ 12, the Commission voted to request an exemption from the Virginia Public Procurement Act in order to select an artist for the portrait of Senator Yvonne Miller following the recommendations and processes used by the Clerks' offices for past portraits

¹ **Members Present:** Delegate Delores L. McQuinn (chair), Senator Mamie E. Locke (vice-chair), Delegate Mike A. Cherry, Delegate Joshua G. Cole, Senator Stella G. Pekarsky, Senator William M. Stanley, Delegate Virgil Gene Thornton, Sr., Delegate Thomas C. Wright, Jr., Reverend Ricardo Brown, Dr. Matthew S. Gibson, Kirk T. Schroder, J.D., Ph.D., Dr. Karen Turner Ward, Kevin L. Williams, Michelle Ellis Young (virtual)

Members Absent: Delegate Betsy B. Carr, Senator Angelia Williams Graves, Paula P. Williams, The Honorable Joseph C. Lindsey

in the Capitol. Tara Perkinson, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Senate, highlighted aspects of that process for the members.

The Commission also directed staff to look into establishing a fund to receive donations toward the portrait, in case members of the public wish to contribute to the effort. The Commission appointed a work group to select an artist and a location in the Capitol for the portrait to recommend to the full Commission.

Report of the Commission to Study Slavery and Subsequent De Jure and De Facto Racial and Economic Discrimination Against African Americans

The Commission reviewed the *final report*, issued in 2024, of the Commission to Study Slavery and Subsequent De Jure and De Facto Racial and Economic Discrimination Against African Americans. A work group of the Commission will convene in summer 2026 to determine how to publish and further disseminate the information contained in the report.

Next Meeting

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in House Committee Room C in the General Assembly Building.

For more information, see the [Commission's website](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

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