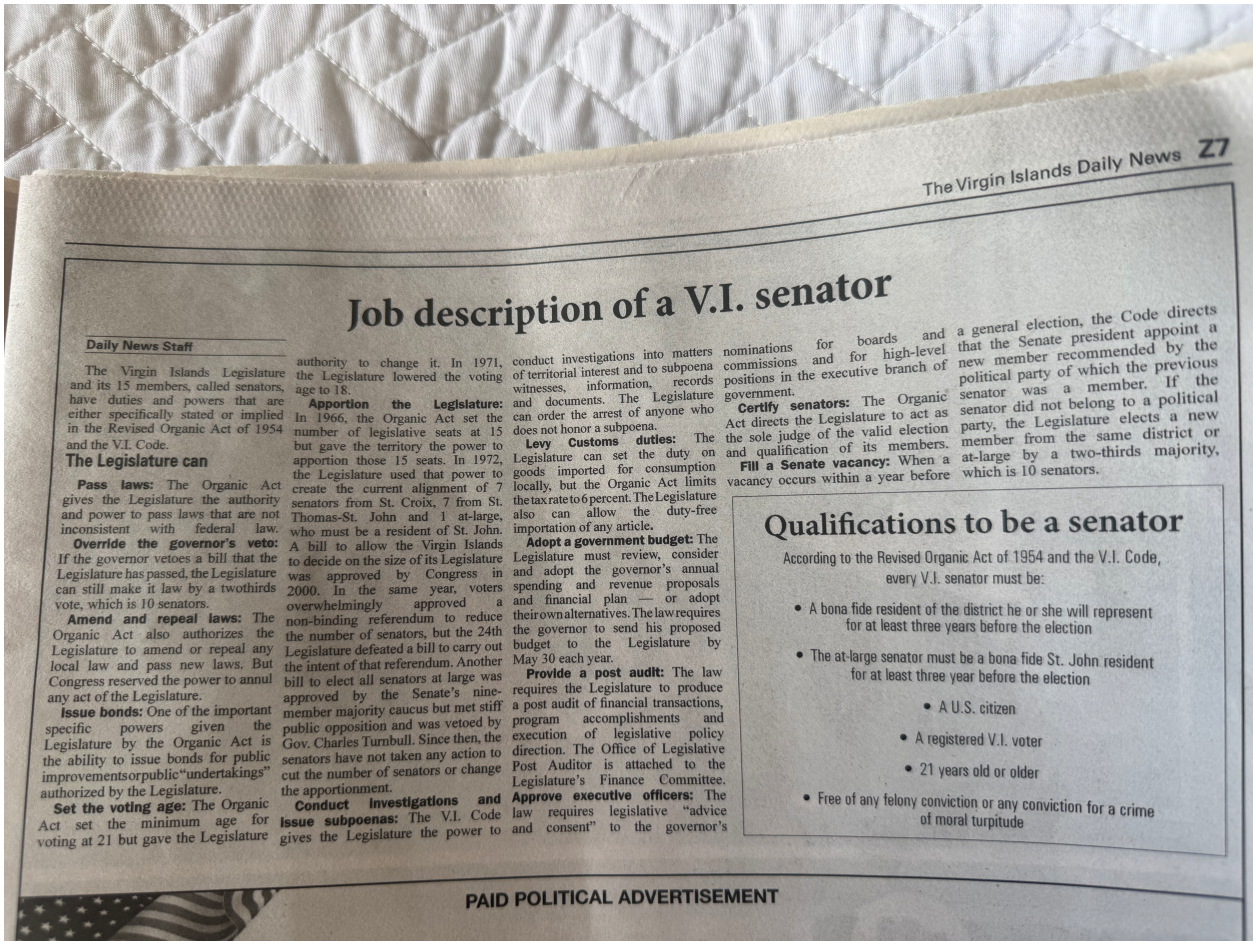
Salary $85,000 plus perks, office and staff

24 candidates vying for 7 positions on St. Croix, all of whom represent the Territory as a whole, not St. Croix, not you or me.



The Virgin Islands Daily News Z7

Job description of a V.I. senator

Daily News Staff

The Virgin Islands Legislature and its 15 members, called senators, have duties and powers that are either specifically stated or implied in the Revised Organic Act of 1954 and the V.I. Code.

The Legislature can

Pass laws: The Organic Act gives the Legislature the authority and power to pass laws that are not inconsistent with federal law.

Override the governor's veto: If the governor vetoes a bill that the Legislature has passed, the Legislature can still make it law by a twothirds vote, which is 10 senators.

Amend and repeal laws: The Organic Act also authorizes the Legislature to amend or repeal any local law and pass new laws. But Congress reserved the power to annul any act of the Legislature.

Issue bonds: One of the important specific powers given the Legislature by the Organic Act is the ability to issue bonds for public improvements or public "undertakings" authorized by the Legislature.

Set the voting age: The Organic Act set the minimum age for voting at 21 but gave the Legislature authority to change it. In 1971, the Legislature lowered the voting age to 18.

Apportion the Legislature: In 1966, the Organic Act set the number of legislative seats at 15 but gave the territory the power to apportion those 15 seats. In 1972, the Legislature used that power to create the current alignment of 7 senators from St. Croix, 7 from St. Thomas-St. John and 1 at-large, who must be a resident of St. John. A bill to allow the Virgin Islands to decide on the size of its Legislature was approved by Congress in 2000. In the same year, voters overwhelmingly approved a non-binding referendum to reduce the number of senators, but the 24th Legislature defeated a bill to carry out the intent of that referendum. Another bill to elect all senators at large was approved by the Senate's nine-member majority caucus but met stiff public opposition and was vetoed by Gov. Charles Turnbull. Since then, the senators have not taken any action to cut the number of senators or change the apportionment.

Conduct investigations and issue subpoenas: The V.I. Code gives the Legislature the power to conduct investigations into matters of territorial interest and to subpoena witnesses, information, records and documents. The Legislature can order the arrest of anyone who does not honor a subpoena.

Levy Customs duties: The Legislature can set the duty on goods imported for consumption locally, but the Organic Act limits the tax rate to 6 percent. The Legislature also can allow the duty-free importation of any article.

Adopt a government budget: The Legislature must review, consider and adopt the governor's annual spending and revenue proposals and financial plan — or adopt their own alternatives. The law requires the governor to send his proposed budget to the Legislature by May 30 each year.

Provide a post audit: The law requires the Legislature to produce a post audit of financial transactions, program accomplishments and execution of legislative policy direction. The Office of Legislative Post Auditor is attached to the Legislature's Finance Committee.

Approve executive officers: The law requires legislative "advice and consent" to the governor's nominations for boards and commissions and for high-level positions in the executive branch of government.

Certify senators: The Organic Act directs the Legislature to act as the sole judge of the valid election and qualification of its members.

Fill a Senate vacancy: When a vacancy occurs within a year before a general election, the Code directs that the Senate president appoint a new member recommended by the political party of which the previous senator was a member. If the senator did not belong to a political party, the Legislature elects a new member from the same district or at-large by a two-thirds majority, which is 10 senators.

Qualifications to be a senator

According to the Revised Organic Act of 1954 and the V.I. Code, every V.I. senator must be:

- A bona fide resident of the district he or she will represent for at least three years before the election
- The at-large senator must be a bona fide St. John resident for at least three year before the election
- A U.S. citizen
- A registered V.I. voter
- 21 years old or older
- Free of any felony conviction or any conviction for a crime of moral turpitude

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Vs.

Four mayors (I'm kidding, we can't have them) - $0- salary, perks, office, staff.

JUST DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

IT'S THE MAYOR'S JOB

THE DUTTY HEART MEMORIAL

Municipal BUG Cup
Halloween 2nd-Day Town Clean-Up
Candidates Division Challenge
Commissioners Division Challenge
NPO Division Challenge
BUG Town Concurrent Events - Sunday Afternoon 11/1/2026
Unincorporated Town of_____Organizers: _____
Governor's Island Administrator, CosTown Manager: Ranking Judge

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2026 - Sunday morning begins after Halloween

12:06am: 911 dispatch - shots fired on Christiansted Boardwalk outside Shupes - revelers in Halloween rooster costumes chasing revelers in chicken costumes shooting in the air to scare them away.
WWOMD?
12:29am - 911 dispatch - shots fired, shot spotter - armed robbery in progress of tourist who drank too much while sitting on a bench on the Boardwalk was mugged, drunk patrons come to her rescue - robbers in hoodies and masks surrounded the good samaritans and held guns to their heads and ordered them to throw all their money and wallets and jewelry on the street. Presently being filmed on corner street cam.
WWOMD?
3:33am - 911 dispatch - homeless man accosted by gang members near cemetery behind Episcopal Church - found bloody and unconscious by a grave by other homeless vagrants who heard scuffling a little after 3am.
WWOMD?
5:00am - wake up alarm. Get up, shower and get dressed for Mass, review overnight phone messages, Facebook news: almost Full Moon Halloween Night Party on the beach in Gallows Bay. Shots fired…patrons panicked and scattered, tripping in potholes, stumbling on broken sidewalks to get away in the moonlight - 5 injured taken to hospital for breaks and abrasions - released at 4:50am.

6:30am - CosMayor's daily briefing by CosTown Manager (Island Administrator) - schedule, appointments, meetings scheduled for next 24 hours, review daily precinct activity reports from Town Councilors while walking from home to Holy Cross "the long way" to feel and see the post-

Halloween vibe, visit with parishioners gathering on the church steps, greet the clergy, prayers and confession, back on the streets at 8am.

9:00 - 11:00 working brunch with municipal staff to discuss upcoming week and events scheduled for the next month (there is no time Monday for day meetings - have to prepare for Town Council Work Session at 7pm at Town Hall - discussing infrastructure maintenance, repairs and replacement schedule budget for streets, roads, sidewalks, trails and paths and the Boardwalk in the Unincorporated Town of C,CA,CB,F. (CosMayor's Report to the Town Council for the work session the next day for each Unincorporated Town due at 6pm 11/1/2026. Late reports won't be ranked.

Break for Family Time, relaxation.

12-1pm - Team Orientation - CosMayors-only Safari bus tours (provided by candidates' and incumbents' teams) of each town (maps and tours available Friday 10/30 by appointment); plot Team Strategy Sessions to determine and plan role in clean-up.

1-2pm - CosMayors organize your crews, build coalitions with other captains to achieve your objectives - report your team coalitions, objectives and each Team member's affiliation, duties and responsibilities to the coalition, in writing, to BUG to activate your Team(s). BUG must approve all objectives in order for the Team/Coalitions to be ranked. BUG and each Team/Coalition must agree on ranking criteria in writing at this stage to proceed.

2-3pm - Deploy coalition teams to their approved areas of operations to begin tasks.

3-4pm - Delivery of Services

4-5pm - Wrap up Delivery of Services and file final reports with BUG by 6pm to register your team/coalition for ranking by your Island Administrator.

Teams of 5 (one team per candidate)

1. **Candidate - CosMayor** - provide BUG a list of all your ongoing volunteer, fraternal, NPO and public affiliations; 50 word (max) CV abstract, hand written; Affiliations: NPOs you support: NPO name, CEO - your supporting role.
2. **Territorial CosCommissioner of (department?)** - prospective reference to governor.
3. **CosNPO CEO** (CosTown Manager)
4. **Deputy CosMayor** - GVI relations - provide summary report to CosMayor by 5:30pm.
5. **Deputy CosMayor** - External Town relations - provide summary report to CosMayor by 5:30pm.

11:59pm CosMayor's Day Ends - A real Mayor's next day starts in 1 minute.

Results and rankings of Teams/Coalitions will be as widely publicized as VI media and social media reaches beginning 11/1/2026 for release at 11:11pm, running through 11/3/2026 at 1:11pm.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL - the BUGs need you to understand what our towns need - affection and caring. ALL THE BEST TO ALL OF US!

Jack Pickel, 1 Strand Street, Unincorporated c.1733 Town of Christiansted
Organizer - BottomUpGovernment.org (BUG)