

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Kurt Violet Tops Senate Race

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Meet St. Croix Senator Kurt Violet--the first-time Democratic senator who garnered the lion share of the senatorial vote in Tuesday's General Election.

With 11 of 16 precincts reporting at the time of this story, which is 68.75 percent completed, Violet's victory is secured.

From the start of polling results being made available to the public after 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, Violet topped the list of senatorial candidates and continued to hold steady as the results were periodically updated into the wee hours of Wednesday morning.

The *VI Consortium* caught up with Violet at the Virgin Islands Elections System office on election night, where he said he was "very pleased" and "overwhelmed" by the support

he had received from the people of St. Croix.

Dressed casually in a campaign t-shirt and jeans, an outfit rainy weather that had swept across the region throughout the day and well into the night, Violet vowed to "look out for St. Croix" and "represent the people of St. Croix to show what a gem St. Croix really is," he said.

When asked about his thoughts on the 2014 election cycle, which has been replete with challenges ranging from voting machine issues to correctly recording write-in candidate names, Violet said its been "quite difficult."

He went on to say it was "a shame that we have spent over \$100,000 on the new machines," but that the challenges voters faced with not being able to verify their own votes has set residents "20 years backwards."

Violet added that he believes the percentage of spoiled ballots in the General Election will top the number of those that were spoiled during the Democratic Primary Elections on Aug. 2.

When asked what his first order of business will be when he takes the oath of office, Violet said, "Even before the first day, I will first try to develop consensus with the other six Senators that were elected."

"If we can't work together and show a united front," Violet said, it would be impossible for them to make any real change happen for St. Croix.

After developing consensus with his colleagues, Violet pointed out he would then work on decreasing the high cost of energy and then work to establish long term and short term growth for St. Croix.