

RESUME

November 27, 2018

ADOPTION OF 2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Each year in the fall, the Board communicates any legislative requests for the upcoming General Assembly session to the County's General Assembly delegation. The Board will meet with the delegation at a dinner meeting on December 4, 2018. Normally, the Board supports the VACO Legislative program and includes additional local priorities.

The 2019 preliminary VACO program is attached. The 2019 General Assembly session is a "short session" and will likely last 30 to 45 days.

The following are items for consideration by the Board:

1. Make no changes to DMV "Block" system (car owner cannot register vehicle) for collection of delinquent personal property taxes owed to localities.
2. Additional funding for broadband infrastructure grants to improve economic and educational competitiveness of rural areas to supplement Prince George's partnership with P.G. Electric.
3. State requirement to pay full daily rate of local jails if State prisoners are in local jail for longer than 12 months.
4. Require that any discretionary State salary increases for teachers and constitutional officers have guaranteed state funding.
5. Protect localities ability to discuss and accept cash profits within the HBA bill to be introduced in 2019.
6. Protect local grants to Prince George relating to local emergency planning, regional burn building, EMT personnel.
7. Review Dominion Power's report to the General Assembly on facilitating broadband expansion in rural areas so that it fairly requires Dominion to participate in broadband expansion by using Dominion's infrastructure to expand availability or allowing other vendors to access their infrastructure.
8. Require VDOT to comply with common law legal requirement to construct and maintain drainage facilities necessitated by road construction so that the water reaches an adequate natural water source.
9. Provide grant opportunities for treatment upgrade at the regional wastewater treatment plant.

VACo's Preliminary 2019 Legislative Program



October 16, 2018

1 **2019 Draft Legislative Program**
2 **Virginia Association of Counties**

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42 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND**
43 **PLANNING**

44 **Priorities**

45 **Broadband**

46 VACo urges the Commonwealth and the Federal Government to assist
47 communities in their efforts to deploy universal affordable access to the internet
48 for all areas, particularly in underserved and rural areas. Additionally, VACo
49 opposes mandates that limit or restrict local land use authority for the siting of
50 telecommunications infrastructure or result in a negative fiscal impact to county
51 budgets.
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53 **Proffers and Growth Management Tools**

54 VACo supports changes to the conditional zoning law to allow greater flexibility
55 in the application process for determining fiscal impacts.
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57 VACo also supports legislation that grants localities additional tools to adequately
58 meet increasing needs for public services driven by new development without
59 burdening current residents with the cost of new growth through increased real
60 estate taxes. Such additional tools may include broad impact fee authority for all
61 counties, and adequate public facilities provisions.
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65 **Positions**

66 **Land Use**

67 VACo supports maintaining local authority to plan and regulate land use and
68 opposes any legislation that weakens these key local responsibilities.
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70 **Regulation of Home-based Businesses**

71 VACo opposes any legislation that limits or restricts local authority to regulate
72 home-based businesses, including short-term rentals regardless of whether
73 services or goods are purchased through an online hosting platform.
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75 **Affordable and Workforce Housing**

76 VACo supports maintaining federal and state funding and appropriate incentives
77 to assist localities in fostering affordable housing, as well as workforce housing
78 for employees such as teachers and first responders.
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80 **Economic Development**

81 VACo supports economic development policies and programs that bolster local
82 and regional development efforts by maintaining state funding and granting
83 additional funding and authority to promote local and regional initiatives. This
84 includes the provision of adequate funding for the Agriculture and Forestry
85 Industries Development Fund (AFID); the Commonwealth Opportunity Fund;
86

87 and the operations of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP).
88 VACo also supports state funding for Virginia's planning district commissions
89 and local cooperative extension offices, which play key roles in addressing
90 regional challenges.
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92 **Impacts of Federal and Military Facilities**

93 VACo supports maintaining federal and state funding and technical assistance to
94 mitigate the impacts on counties affected by federal budget cuts and to sustain
95 current and future federal facilities in Virginia. VACo supports state and local
96 partnerships that work to prevent encroachment and non-compatible land uses
97 next to military installations. VACo also supports workforce training and
98 retraining for programs that support defense activities in Virginia.
99

100 **Maintain Public Sector Role in Onsite Sewer Program**

101 VACo supports an onsite sewage program at the Virginia Department of Health
102 (VDH) that protects public health and the environment in all regions of the
103 Commonwealth. The Commonwealth should give special focus to addressing the
104 challenge of failing septic systems and allow localities authority to develop and
105 implement policies that support the state's program. VACo supports the private
106 sector providing onsite sewage system design, installation and repair services, as
107 long as the services can be provided at affordable rates and in a timely manner,
108 and as long as VDH continues to provide these direct services as well.
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110 **Siting of Transmission Lines**

111 VACo supports requiring utilities to seek input from localities and property
112 owners before any actions to construct, modify or enlarge transmission facilities.
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EDUCATION

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Education Funding

137 VACo urges the General Assembly to provide full state funding for public
138 education, including the Standards of Quality (SOQ) as recommended by the
139 Board of Education, where these recommendations coincide with prevailing local
140 practice, targeted incentive programs, capital and maintenance support, and
141 teacher salaries.
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144 Full state funding should be achieved without reduction to other parts of state
145 public education budgets or to other core services. Changes to school security and
146 high school graduation standards will require additional resources to implement
147 and those costs must be adequately funded by the state. VACo supports
148 additional state resources and additional funding options for localities for capital
149 and school construction costs.

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151 VACo supports the current practice whereby all year-end funds appropriated to
152 the school divisions by the locality revert to the locality, retaining discretion with
153 the governing body to evaluate and approve the reallocation of year-end fund
154 balances.
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Positions

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Charter Schools

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VACo opposes legislation that removes authority from local school boards and
divisions to establish charter schools.

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Childhood Development and School Readiness

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VACo supports efforts to increase at-risk children's access to high-quality,
enriching learning environments, including more resources and flexibility for
localities participating in programs like the Virginia Preschool Initiative and
Head Start.

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Composite Index Calculation

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VACo supports legislation to adjust the calculation of the Local Composite Index
for public school funding by directing the Department of Education to adjust its
funding calculations for the local ability to pay by using the use-value assessment
of real property, in localities that have adopted use-value taxation.

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Critical thinking Skills

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VACo supports changes to educational programs and standards that rely less on
standardized testing and more on critical thinking skills.

178 **Funding Support Personnel**
179 VACo supports full restoration of budget cuts, including the elimination of the
180 funding cap on support positions, and full reinstatement of the Cost of
181 Competing Adjustment “COCA” for support staff. In addition to meeting its
182 obligations to fully fund instructional staff, the Commonwealth should meet its
183 obligation to fully fund K-12 support staff.

184
185 **Library System**
186 VACo supports maintaining the level of funding of financial aid to the library
187 system at levels budgeted for FY 2019 and FY 2020.

188
189 **School Safety and Security**
190 VACo supports efforts to improve school safety and preparedness including
191 establishing a Statewide School Safety Drill, for students, teachers,
192 administrators, law enforcement, and other staff to engage in active shooter
193 drills. VACo supports the development of model policies to provide guidance on
194 active shooter drills and updates to school safety plans and drills. VACo supports
195 dedicated state funding to improve school security for both capital and
196 operational costs including funding that would serve as an incentive for local
197 school divisions to hire additional Resource Officers, School Protection Officers,
198 or other security personnel and measures.

199
200 **Special Education Regional Tuition Reimbursement Program**
201 VACo supports enhancing local capacity to serve children with high-level support
202 needs in the least restrictive environment, including regional special education
203 programs. VACo supports local flexibility in the structure of such programs. If a
204 new model for the distribution of funding for special education students with
205 intense support needs is implemented, such a model should be phased in
206 gradually, with state dollars provided to enable school divisions that would
207 otherwise experience reductions in funding to continue to meet federal
208 maintenance of effort requirements.

209
210 **Teacher Shortage**
211 VACo urges the General Assembly to approve and fund strategies addressing the
212 teacher shortage in the Commonwealth. VACo supports a targeted approach to
213 teacher shortage by prioritizing areas in critical need, as recommended by the
214 Virginia Department of Education. VACo supports using district-level data to
215 determine how to best fill shortage gaps, especially in hard-to-staff divisions.
216 VACo supports reducing burdens on the teacher workforce in the
217 Commonwealth. VACo supports programs aimed at reducing student debt for
218 teaching in public schools.

219
220 **Workforce-Ready Students**
221 VACo supports changes in curriculum and funding that will increase the number
222 of students leaving the K-14 system with workforce ready credentials. VACo
223 supports incorporating career and technical education curriculum at the
224 elementary school level. VACo supports high school students earning academic

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credit for participating in an internship, apprenticeship, credential and other work programs. VACo supports innovative models for schools to give academic credit for students that earn industry workforce skills through certifications, or licensure from an approved education or training provider. VACo supports establishing partnerships to strengthen the school-to-workforce pipeline in a variety of ways including guaranteed employment opportunities with local businesses and learning opportunities shared between local community colleges and high schools.

PRELIMINARY

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

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Priority

Water Quality Improvement Funding

VACo supports effective partnerships across all levels of government as well as adequate financial and technical assistance from the federal and state governments to improve water quality. VACo supports improved water quality but opposes strategies that penalize local governments by withdrawing current forms of financial assistance or imposing monitoring, management, or similar requirements on localities without providing sufficient resources to accomplish those processes. VACo opposes the imposition of a state fee, tax or surcharge, on water, sewer, solid waste, or any service provided by a local government or authority.

Hydraulic Fracturing

VACo supports a stringent state regulatory program for hydraulic fracturing (or “fracking”) that addresses the potential to tap into natural gas reserves in ways that protect public and private groundwater supplies and preserve local government authority to regulate and/or ban this type of mining activity through their land use ordinances. VACo supports transparency efforts that require the disclosure of all chemicals and chemical mixes used in the fracking process prior to their use.

Positions

Aquifer Protection

VACo supports initiatives by the state to assure adoption of actions to reduce high chloride concentrations and loss of artesian head pressure in Virginia’s aquifers. VACo also supports a review of regulations and supports education initiatives that promote reclamation of water on a local level for industrial and irrigation uses to offset future demands on all ground and surface water used for human consumption.

Biosolids

VACo supports an effective statewide regulatory program governing land application of biosolids. Such a program should not infringe upon the authority of local governments to monitor compliance. VACo supports the ability of local governments to propose amendments to biosolids permits as they are considered by DEQ.

Conservation

VACo encourages targeted initiatives to facilitate the protection of land for conservation purposes. VACo supports the creation a Purchase of Development Rights program that provides state funding for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and participation incentives for landowners. Such programs preserve

317 prime soils for food production and protect important forest land and
318 environmentally sensitive areas in the Commonwealth.

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320 VACo supports voluntary state and federal conservation programs, including the
321 United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Environmental Quality
322 Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program, to assist
323 producers with the implementation of best management practices.

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325 **Dam Safety**

326 VACo supports programs that keep downstream owners and developers aware of
327 potential inundation zones. VACo also supports sufficient state and federal
328 funding for the repair and maintenance of dams.

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330 **Energy**

331 VACo supports renewable energy policies and energy efficiency measures that
332 reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lessen dependence upon foreign sources of
333 energy. VACo supports legislation that encourages renewable energy production
334 through the implementation of Renewable Portfolio Standards. VACo supports
335 creative financing mechanisms that enable localities to implement their own
336 renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. VACo supports maintaining
337 local zoning authority regarding renewable energy facilities and other utility
338 projects to protect agricultural and other local considerations. Finally, VACo
339 supports responsible policies that enable coal and natural gas extraction,
340 processing, and transport while protecting agricultural interests and natural
341 resources.

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343 **Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds**

344 VACo supports funding for, and the complete implementation of, the Virginia
345 Invasive Species Management Plan. VACo supports an amendment to the term,
346 "noxious weeds," enabling additional invasive plants to be considered for
347 regulation. All programs and proposals should be evaluated for their commercial
348 impact, allowing no more than a negligible impact on Virginia's agricultural
349 industry. Finally, VACo supports requiring better state prevention and
350 mitigation practices.

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352 **Large Utility Projects**

353 VACo supports the provision of adequate direction and resources for the state to
354 improve monitoring and enforcement of Erosion and Sediment Control and
355 Stormwater requirements by entities constructing large-scale utility projects. The
356 state should conduct a review of the annual standards, specifications, and
357 construction general permit requirements to determine adequate protection of
358 water quality and natural resources.

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360 **Non-Point Source Pollution**

361 VACo supports a well-financed state program to address non-point source runoff
362 from agricultural operations. The program should encourage implementation of
363 priority best management practices (BMPs) such as nutrient management

364 planning, use of cover crops, continuous no-till farming and development of
365 forested riparian buffers and livestock stream exclusion.

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Predator Control

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VACo urges state and federal agencies to support the agricultural industry by allowing farmers and producers sufficient flexibility when protecting livestock against predatory animals. VACo encourages the USDA Wildlife Services Division and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to allow producers access to the predator control tools required for the continuation of effective livestock production. VACo also supports USDA's Livestock Indemnity Program and the financial relief it provides to producers who have lost livestock to the attacks of federally protected predators.

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Southern Rivers Watershed

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VACo supports continued funding for the Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program to improve water quality in non-Chesapeake Bay watersheds.

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Stormwater Programs

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VACo supports state funding that enables local governments to fully satisfy the resource and funding needs associated with local stormwater management programs. VACo supports legislation that proposes creative and cost-effective stormwater management practices. VACo supports initiatives that clarify and modernize stormwater regulations and permitting processes, including measures that makes permitting more efficient, reevaluates the fee structure system, and allows for considerations of factors such as long-term maintenance costs. VACo supports legislation that proposes innovative solutions to facilitate compliance with stormwater standards in ways that promote economic development while achieving water quality goals.

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Onsite Wastewater Systems

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VACo supports legislation ensuring that potential buyers of real property are told about the type, size and maintenance requirements and associated costs of the wastewater systems on the property prior to the signing of the initial sales contract and the recordation of engineered systems plat and deed at the time of sale.

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Uranium Mining

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VACo supports continuation of a moratorium on uranium mining and milling within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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Technical Assistance

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VACo supports robust state funding for entities that provide critical resources and technical assistance to localities in their efforts to comply with environmental policies and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, organizations such as the Virginia Cooperative Extension and Planning District Commissions (PDCs).

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Water Supply Planning
VACo supports appropriations adequate to ensure full funding by the state for the ongoing development and implementation of state-mandated water supply plans. VACo does not support overly burdensome permitting processes or applications for water usage.

PRELIMINARY

FINANCE

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Priorities

Local Finance

VACo supports the authority of county governments to levy and collect revenue from local business taxes.

Equal Taxing Authority

VACo supports granting counties equal taxing authority to that enjoyed by cities and towns to enact local excise taxes without referendum, such as the authority to adopt a local meals tax without referendum and to levy and collect a tobacco tax.

Positions

Funding for State Mandated Positions and Jails

VACo urges the Commonwealth to meet its full funding obligations and provide flexibility in the use of state funds for compensation of constitutional officers and state-supported local employees.

VACo requests that jail per diem funding in the 2018-2020 biennial state budget be increased to levels that better represent the costs of housing inmates, and be adjusted for inflation in the future so that payments keep pace with rising costs. The current rates of \$4 per day for local-responsible inmates and \$12 per day for state-responsible inmates are inadequate and represent an underfunded mandate on counties. The Compensation Board estimated a total average daily cost of operating local and regional jails at \$85.17 per inmate in FY 2016, of which \$46.16 was contributed by localities.

Additionally, VACo requests that the state fully fund four quarters of per diem payments in the introduced budget and pay the medical costs of inmates using a cost-effective program jointly funded at the federal and state levels. VACo supports streamlining the process of eligibility determination and enrollment for inmates who may qualify for Medicaid. If the state mandates that mental health assessments be conducted for inmates of local and regional jails who appear to be suffering from mental illness, based on an initial screening, within 72 hours of that screening, the state must provide funding to support the necessary staffing to conduct such assessments.

VACo supports reinstating state payments (PILT) to counties that mitigate the impacts of state correctional and behavioral healthcare facilities on county revenue.

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Implementation of Medicaid Expansion

VACo supports full state funding for the local costs associated with Medicaid expansion, including local eligibility workers and case managers.

Modernization of Communications and Sales Tax Structure

VACo supports updating the Communications Sales and Use Tax (CSUT) to ensure that it reflects the modern telecommunications landscape, which has evolved since the CSUT took effect in January 2007.

VACo opposes any further diversion of Communications Sales and Use Tax Trust Fund dollars beyond the uses already specified in statute. These revenues should be held in trust for localities and not diverted for general state purposes.

Currently, funds from the Communications Sales and Use Tax Trust Fund are taken “off the top” for the Department of Taxation’s costs to administer the tax, the telephone relay center operated by the Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and any franchise fees owed to localities. Language adopted in the 2018-2020 biennium budget provides for an additional diversion of funds to the state General Fund from assumed savings in the telephone relay contract; these funds would otherwise flow to localities.

VACo supports revising sales and use taxes to address modern patterns of consumption, such as online purchases. Any statutory changes enacted in light of the Supreme Court decision eliminating the requirement for physical presence for collection of sales and use taxes must include the ability for local option sales taxes to be collected from remote sellers in addition to state sales taxes.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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Priorities:

Local Authority

VACo supports relaxation of the Dillon Rule and legislation maintaining and enhancing local authority and autonomy in matters including land use, revenue measures, procurement and other issues of local concern. VACo supports extending powers currently granted to some local governments to all local governments. VACo opposes legislation that erodes local authority.

Unfunded Mandates

VACo opposes unfunded mandates and shifting fiscal responsibility for existing programs by the Commonwealth from the state to localities. When funding for a mandated program is altered, the mandate should be suspended until full funding is restored. When legislation with a cost to localities is passed by the General Assembly, the cost should be borne by the Commonwealth, and the legislation should contain a sunset clause providing that the mandate is not binding on localities until funding by the Commonwealth is provided.

Positions

Collective Bargaining for Public Employees

VACo opposes any effort to mandate collective bargaining for public employees.

Election Costs and Districts

VACo supports legislation that would decrease the costs of elections to localities. These costs include primaries, voting equipment, personnel and voting places. Cost reduction solutions include requiring parties to pay for primary elections, having one date for primary elections, using printed ballots, establishing countywide voting places and other similar measures. The state should provide adequate funding to localities for optical scan and other voting equipment and registrar costs. VACo also supports legislation to minimize or eliminate Split Voting Precincts. Additionally, VACo supports a streamlined process to address situations in which census boundaries do not align with locally drawn or commonly adhered to boundaries.

Ethics Reform

VACo supports common sense efforts to strengthen Virginia's public ethics and conflicts of interest laws that are applicable and practical at the local level.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

VACo opposes changes to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act that would impose additional burdens on localities.

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Grievance Hearings

VACo supports legislation authorizing localities to use an administrative hearing officer and existing grievance panels and procedures, and opposes the mandate of a three-member panel. VACo also supports providing immunity to local government employees, officers, volunteers, administrative hearing officers and panel members for claims arising out of participation in personnel grievance procedures.

Interoperability

VACo supports the state's goal that agencies and their representatives at the local, regional, state and federal levels be able to communicate using compatible systems to respond more effectively during day-to-day operations and major emergencies. Local governments require dedicated federal and state funding sources to achieve this goal.

Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1)

VACo supports the Commonwealth's transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) in a way that does not unfairly burden localities, financially or otherwise.

Pretrial Services

VACo supports increased funding for and expansion of pretrial services.

Public Notice, Public Hearing and Public Procurement

VACo supports legislation to reduce required newspaper advertising for public notices, public hearings and public procurement including legislation to give localities the option to use electronic or other forms of notification as an alternative to newspaper advertising.

Public Safety – Body Worn Cameras

VACo supports maintaining the ability of local governments to adopt policies and practices regarding body worn cameras that reflect local needs and fiscal realities.

Sovereign Immunity

VACo opposes any substantive change in local governments' present defense of sovereign immunity. VACo opposes bringing counties under the Virginia Tort Claims Act.

State Assistance for Police Departments

VACo supports increasing state assistance for police departments through "599" Aid to Localities. This funding is designed to equalize state funding between counties in which the sheriff department provides law enforcement and those cities, counties and towns with a police department.

HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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Priority

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Health and Human Resources Funding

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VACo supports transparent state policies and funding to ensure the Commonwealth's at-risk families have access to high quality and appropriate services. The Commonwealth should provide full funding to localities and their state administrative entities for state-mandated human services and provide the necessary program flexibility to enable localities to provide comprehensive and case-tailored services.

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Positions

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Aging/Long-Term Care

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VACo supports efforts that allow seniors to remain at home in a safe and secure environment. VACo urges the General Assembly to provide sufficient funding for companion services, in-home services, and home delivered meals.

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Behavioral Healthcare

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VACo supports continued funding by the Commonwealth sufficient to allow Community Services Boards (CSBs) to meet adequately the charge of providing services through a community-based system of care. State support must adequately enable CSBs to provide the additional services mandated by the General Assembly to be phased in over the next several years, as well as any additional requirements that may be added, such as a requirement to provide behavioral health treatment in local and regional jails. VACo supports the ability of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to waive local matching requirements for CSB funding for localities experiencing financial hardships. Realignment of the behavioral health funding structure to incentivize community-based treatment rather than use of state hospitals will require additional state dollars and must not rely on local funding to backfill unanticipated costs for hospitalization.

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VACo supports the creation of additional Medicaid waiver slots to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community, more than 12,000 of whom were on a wait list as of January 2018.

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Children's Services Act

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VACo supports monitoring the implementation of policies by the State Executive Council that provide guidelines for public participation in its process of developing and adopting policy.

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VACo supports equitable cost-sharing between the state and localities for the costs involved in the placements of children in residential treatment facilities for non-educational reasons. VACo opposes proposals to limit state participation in

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688 funding services for children and youth who are mandated to be provided with
689 special education and foster care services.

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691 VACo supports enhancing the ability of local school divisions to serve children
692 with disabilities in their neighborhood schools, to include flexibility in use of
693 state pool funds to serve children with high-level needs in local or regional
694 programs tailored to meet those needs, and additional support for special
695 education wraparound services to help support children in their communities.

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697 VACo supports the development of outcome measures to track students' progress
698 in private day placements. VACo supports state assistance to localities with
699 contracting for CSA services as well as a study of the potential benefits of
700 establishing a rate-setting structure for educational services funded through CSA.

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702 **Early Intervention**

703 VACo supports sustainable funding for Part C Early Intervention, which is an
704 entitlement program that provides services for Virginia's infants and toddlers.
705 VACo requests that the General Assembly continue to increase state general
706 funding to address growth in caseloads. Underfunding this entitlement program
707 puts pressure on local revenues to fill funding gaps for this mandated service.

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709 **Emergency Medical Transportation**

710 VACo supports policies to protect consumers who require air ambulance services.
711 VACo opposes proposals that would add additional legal and administrative
712 burdens on local first responders regarding decisions about methods of
713 transportation in emergency situations.

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715 **Group Homes**

716 VACo encourages the state to enforce appropriate regulation of group homes to
717 ensure protection of residents' health and safety.

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719 **Healthcare**

720 VACo supports continued state funding for dental care, school nurses and
721 preventive services and maternal and child health programs offered through local
722 health departments and local school systems. VACo encourages the state to
723 prepare for emergency health services access to care and to develop and fund
724 incentives that would alleviate the nursing shortages felt in many communities.

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726 **Local EMS Involvement**

727 VACo supports increased local involvement in state EMS planning to ensure
728 statewide needs are met.

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730 **Prevention Services**

731 VACo supports increased state general funding for community-based service
732 programs. VACo recognizes programs such as Healthy Families, Comprehensive
733 Health Investment Project (CHIP) of Virginia, Smart Beginnings, and Resource
734 Mothers as important models and requests that the General Assembly provide

735 additional funding for these home- and community-based activities. Investments
736 in programs that ensure a strong start for children can help reduce the need for
737 costlier interventions later in life.

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Substance Abuse

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Efforts to address substance dependency must be comprehensive and
741 coordinated with localities. The state should develop and support evidence-based
742 prevention initiatives and should continue to improve access to treatment.

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Telehealth

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VACo supports the use of electronic information and telecommunications
746 technologies to support long-distance clinical health care, patient and
747 professional health-related education, public health and health administration.
748 Flexibility in the delivery of these services is essential in meeting the needs of
749 residents.

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PRELIMINARY

TRANSPORTATION

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Priorities

Transportation Funding

VACo supports a study to examine the causes for declining growth in transportation revenues and to develop recommendations to grow revenue over time to meet increasing demands for new construction and maintenance for existing transportation infrastructure. Such a study must address the secondary road needs of counties throughout the Commonwealth, as such funding has been vastly reduced over the past 10 years.

VACo supports changes to simplify the Smart Scale process for allocating transportation funds to reduce time and costs to prepare and review applications.

VACo supports adequate funding levels to maintain existing transit capital state match rates which are projected to decline starting in 2021 due to the depletion of transportation bonds.

In 2018 the legislature enacted a dedicated funding solution for Metro that came largely through reallocation of existing revenues, at the expense of other significant transportation projects throughout Northern Virginia. To address this issue, VACo supports legislation that (1) provides additional regional dedicated sources that follow the WMATA Compact funding formula; and (2) gives localities the authority to create dedicated funding sources for operating and capital expenses for WMATA contributions.

Positions

Local-State Cooperation

VACo is committed to the protection of local government authority to regulate land use. This authority must be recognized by Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) when evaluations are conducted to determine the consistency between local transportation plans and the Commonwealth's transportation priorities. VACo also opposes the reduction of local control that is associated with the CTB's process of designating Corridors of Statewide Significance and the implementation of Arterial Preservation. Additionally, VACo supports additional flexibility within the VDOT project approval process and standards to be responsive to localities' individual needs.

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Devolution of Secondary Roads

VACo opposes legislative or administrative initiatives that would transfer to counties the responsibility for the construction, maintenance or operation of new and existing roads.

Highway Tolls

VACo opposes the installation of toll facilities on Virginia's interstate highways until the Commonwealth Transportation Board has thoroughly reviewed and assessed the components of a long-term capital improvement program, has identified and compared all available funding alternatives and has adopted a proposal that matches capital improvements with realistically available funding sources.

Maintenance Priorities

VACo supports a requirement imposed upon VDOT to implement a notification plan with the local governing body to establish maintenance priorities.

Parking

VACo supports general authority for counties to adopt ordinances regulating, including prohibiting, the parking of boats, RVs, utility trailers, campers, etc. on subdivision streets.

Rail Enhancement Fund

VACo supports authority for counties to approve Rail Enhancement Fund projects funded by the state and constructed within their jurisdictions.

Railway Crossings

VACo supports efforts to safely improve mobility issues on roads that cross railway lines.

Road Construction and Maintenance

VACo supports legislation that would prohibit VDOT from requiring localities to administer any transportation project without the consent of the local governing body.

Truck Size and Weight

VACo opposes any legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight beyond the current federal standards, thereby stressing the capacity of the Commonwealth's road systems and putting highways, roads and bridges at risk of increased damage or deterioration.

DECEMBER 2018

2019 Session – Prefiling period
Adopted by the General Assembly

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 3px double black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0e0e0;"> <p><i>Prefiling begins Monday, July 16, 2018.</i></p> </div>						
2	3 All requests for drafts of legislation to be prefiled to Legislative Services by 5:00 p.m.	4	5	6 Last day for committees to act on legislation continued from the 2018 Regular Session (Thursday, November 29 by midnight)	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 All drafts of legislation to be prefiled available for review by midnight	29
<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>					

Virginia General Assembly Session Calendar

JANUARY 2019

2019 Session – Prefiling period
Adopted by the General Assembly

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 All requests for drafts, redrafts, and corrections of legislation creating or continuing a study to Legislative Services by 5:00 p.m.; All requests for redrafts and corrections for legislation to be prefiled to Legislative Services by 5:00 p.m.	5
6	7	8 All drafts of legislation to be prefiled available by noon	9 (1) Prefiling ends at 10:00 a.m.	10 (2)	11 (3)	12 (4)
13 (5)	14 (6)	15 (7)	16 (8)	17 (9)	18 (10)	19 (11)
20 (12)	21 (13)	22 (14)	23 (15)	24 (16)	25 (17)	26 (18)
27 (19)	28 (20)	29 (21)	30 (22)	31 (23)		

Virginia General Assembly Session Calendar