



Connections

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

January 5, 2007

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House to Reintroduce Land Use and Transportation Reform Package

On Dec. 27, House Speaker William Howell announced that three bills would be introduced during the 2007 legislative session intended to give localities additional tools to control development in order to limit sprawl and reduce traffic congestion.

Speaker Howell characterized the legislation as “the most significant change to the Commonwealth’s approach to land use since the advent of zoning.”

The three bills appear to be duplicates of legislation that was introduced during the September 2006 special session (HB 5093, HB 5094, and HB 5096), but were not reported out of committee at that time despite Speaker Howell’s strong support. Further, two of those bills, HB 5093 (Frederick) and HB 5094 (Athey), are currently being reviewed by an ad hoc House subcommittee that is scheduled to complete its work on Jan. 9. The 2007 session begins the next day, Jan. 10.

County leaders did not endorse the September bills. Several counties officially opposed the legislation. The Speaker’s new package will be analyzed and summarized by

VACo after the bills are printed.

Del. Clifford Athey, Jr., (Front Royal) will sponsor one component of the House package that would mandate the creation of urban development areas (UDA) in counties with a decennial growth rate of 5 percent or more, and that have adopted zoning (72 of 95 counties). Within such districts, the minimum residential density would be either four units per acre or three times the density of adjacent land outside of the UDA. All development within the UDA would have to be on public or community water and sewerage, although the provider of those services is not specified.

The current draft of the legislation under consideration by the ad hoc subcommittee also may require expedited zoning, subdivision and site plan consideration within the UDA, and limit a county’s ability to restrict by-right development outside of the UDA.

Del. Jeffrey Frederick (Prince William County) will sponsor the second bill that would permit counties to voluntarily assume the maintenance of all or a por-

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Governor Releases Traffic Impact and Land Use Regulation Affecting Local Governments

Gov. Timothy Kaine announced the publication of the final traffic impact analysis regulation last week. The regulation is the byproduct of 2006 legislation requiring localities to submit specific land use plans to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for review and comment (§15.2-2222.1.). The final regulation and additional information is available online at www.virginiaadot.org/projects/chapter527.

All counties impacted by the new regulation are encouraged to review VDOT's implementation Web site.

The regulation establishes statewide standards for traffic

impact analyses regarding proposed land use decisions affecting state-controlled transportation networks. The initiative also formalizes VDOT's role to analyze regional traffic impacts when local officials consider land use proposals.

"The intent of this regulation is to establish an important foundation to ensure that more basic, credible information is made available to our citizens and policy makers so they can make more informed decisions," Gov. Kaine said in a statement.

The regulation was developed with significant input from an advisory committee comprised of representatives from local govern-

ments and other stakeholder groups. VACo participated in the development of the regulation. Public comments were solicited through the Regulatory Town Hall and public hearings. VDOT also held a peer review with six other states in which similar reviews are being currently performed.

According to VDOT officials, the department is planning an extensive outreach program and training for state, local and industry stakeholders that will begin next spring. The regulation will be phased in beginning next July. Full implementation will occur over the course of the next two years. ☞

House Reform Package

Continued from page 1

tion of the secondary roads within one or more urban transportation service districts created in their jurisdiction. To pay for the road maintenance, the county would levy an extra real estate tax within the district, and also receive funds equal to VDOT's urban allocation for cities and towns. A county's incentive for the assumption of this additional responsibility would be the authority to collect impact fees for roads and schools on parcels located outside of the special service district and zoned for by-right residential uses.

The third part of the proposed reform package would

require VDOT to reclassify secondary roads as either "neighborhood roads" (i.e., subdivision streets) or "local collector roads" and prohibit the acceptance of "neighborhood roads" into the state system for road maintenance purposes. The apparent effect of this legislation, which will be introduced by Del. Robert Marshall (Prince William), would require counties to either maintain any newly created subdivision streets (through the creation of an urban transportation service district) or to have homeowner associations perform that task.

VACo's legislative priorities for 2007 seek additional local land use tools, such as impact fees, to meet infrastructure needs driven by rapid residential devel-

opment and oppose the devolution of state road maintenance responsibilities. Serious unanswered questions remain about the impact these three bills will have on counties. Del. Athey has repeatedly stated that his legislation mandating the creation of urban development areas remains "open for discussion."

Copies and analyses of these bills will be sent to members as they are available. In the meantime, if you have questions about the proposed legislation, contact VACo staff member Ted McCormack at (804) 343-2506 or tcmccormack@vaco.org. ☞

Kaine Proposes New Transportation Funding Package

Gov. Timothy Kaine presented his 2008 transportation funding package Jan. 4 in Northern Virginia. The initiative is similar, but not identical, to his 2007 package.



The new proposal includes annualized recurring funding and specific land use reforms. The governor proposes an escalating funding base generating more than \$800 million a year by 2010 for construction and maintenance. The base exceeds \$850 million within five years.

The governor is reintroducing his 2007 legislation clarifying that inadequate transportation infrastructure permits local governments to deny rezoning cases. Kaine will pursue legislation authorizing VDOT to reform the subdivision street standards through the regulato-

ry process. Additionally, he will introduce separate access management legislation intended to “help ensure that existing roads are protected from unnecessary curb cuts and turning movements that can diminish their effectiveness....”

Kaine’s funding sources include dedicating automobile insurance premiums, increasing the motor vehicle sales and use tax, increasing the motor vehicle registration fee for all vehicles including heavy trucks, and capturing enhanced abusive driver fines.

The governor is also proposing the annual transfer of year end, non-recurring general fund balances to transportation. Such transfers occur during periods of economic growth and are similar to, but do not trespass on, the earmarks for the Rainy Day

Fund and Water Quality Improvement Fund. Kaine proposes earmarking 50 percent of these balances to transportation.

With the new funding, Kaine proposes closing VDOT’s maintenance funding gap, borrowing to advance priority projects, but-tressing transit capital payments, expanding the revenue sharing pot, and increasing support for rail enhancement projects as well as for the new Transportation Partnership fund that encourages public-private agreements.

VACo will report on the development of competing funding plans as well as the status of the governor’s new initiative throughout the 2007 legislative session. The governor’s funding proposal is outlined in a VDOT chart. The chart is available in the Jan. 4 issue of *Capitol Contact* (www.vaco.org). ☞

Cash Proffers Remain Important Source for Local Public Improvements

The recently released report from the Commission on Local Government shows that for the fourth year in a row local governments continue to rely on cash proffers to pay for much-needed public facilities resulting from new residential development.

One of the reasons for this trend has been the decline of state funding for transportation improvements. The commission’s report noted that during the 2006 Fiscal Year, counties, cities and towns received a total of \$67 million in cash proffers and spent \$68 million in proffer revenue for local projects. For the third year in a row, the largest expenditures were for transportation and schools. In 2006, those investments in public infrastructure were \$23 million and \$21 million, respectively. The next highest expenditures from cash proffers was approximately \$11 million used for special needs and affordable housing in Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties.

Copies of the complete report can be downloaded from the Commission’s website at <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/CD/CLG/PDFs/proffrpt1206.pdf>. ☞

Winery Issues Getting Juicy

Sen. John Watkins (Chesterfield) and Del. Christopher Saxman (Staunton) held a press conference Jan. 3 to announce legislation they will sponsor that will allow small farm wineries to self-distribute their wine, with a distribution cap of 3,000 cases per year.

The two legislators explained that restrictions are currently in place that hinder, and in some cases threaten, to cripple the vast majority of small farm wineries in the Commonwealth. This affects not only small farm wineries but the suppliers, wholesalers, retailers and consumers. VACo supports such legislation and encourages the state to adopt policies that support flexible distribution of Virginia wines without altering local land use authority.

Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Robert Bloxom recently issued a report to the governor and members of the General Assembly. The report was a requirement of HB 1435 that imposed prohibitions on enactment of new local regulations

on farm wineries, and provided that the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry continue efforts to address the relationship among the farm wineries and the communities where they operate.

Late in 2005, the Office of the Secretary began to conduct meetings among the counties, farm wineries and their representative associations, including VACo, to work on establishing positive relationships. This group was joined by a number of entities specified in HB1435 and acted as an advisory group to Secretary Bloxom on issues raised in the bill.

As a result of these discussions, Secretary Bloxom concluded that conflict between counties and wineries appear to be limited to four or five localities. He further found that in those localities where conflict exists, it appears to be the result of either inconsistent or overly restricted interpretation of zoning laws and the right to farm law, or activities and events held by wineries that are well beyond the normal activities associated with wine tasting



and wine marketing.

The most intense conflict appears to occur where suburbanization is encroaching on rural areas. Finally, the secretary found that such conflicts arise from a desire for some farm wineries to conduct frequent and sizeable events to market wine in agricultural districts and the obligation of counties to protect the health, welfare and safety of those in the community.

The secretary recommended that the General Assembly enact legislation patterned after revisions to HB 1435 discussed in the advisory committee meetings, refrain from legislation regarding numbers and types of activities, and to work on efforts to further improve the relationships and communication among the parties. Legislation regarding these issues will likely be introduced in the upcoming session.

VACo staff contact: Phyllis Errico, perrico@vaco.org, (804) 343-2509 ☞

Governor Recommends 07/08 Budget

Gov. Timothy Kaine delivered his FY 2007 and 2008 budget recommendations on Dec. 15 at a joint meeting of the General Assembly money committees.

The governor stated that Virginia's economic outlook calls for growth in both jobs and income. He noted that the Commonwealth is experiencing a slowdown in the housing market and volatile energy prices. Based on this uncertainty, projected growth in general fund revenue is estimated to be at 6.5 percent in FY 2007 and 4 percent in FY 2008. Growth and combined savings create \$690 million in general fund revenue resources. In addition, there is an additional \$339 million in surplus funds available from the FY 2007 budget. These funds were set aside for transportation needs and were intended for a one-time infusion of general funds. The total amount of general fund resources available for the remainder of the biennium is approximately \$1.2 million.

A detailed analysis of Gov. Kaine's budget amendments is available in the Dec. 18 edition of *Capitol Contact*, which is available at www.vaco.org (click on publications) or by calling (804) 788-6652. ☞

Local Erosion and Sediment Programs Under Review

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has informed VACo that Erosion and Sediment Control implementation by local governments has continued to be a concern. Of the 64 local programs recently reviewed by DCR staff, only 11 were found to be fully consistent with the Erosion and Sediment Control Law and Regulations upon initial review. Common problems that were observed during these reviews were out-of-date Erosion and Sediment Control ordinances, unqualified staffing, inadequate inspection processes, lack of locality enforcement, and inadequate plan review during the approval process. DCR is continuing to review additional local programs this year in order to move toward a goal of examining every program statewide in the next few years.

The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board, which has final statutory authority for the Erosion and Sediment Control Program, has become increasingly concerned about DCR's findings with regard to local implementation. DCR has informed VACo that localities with inconsistent Erosion and Sediment Control Programs may be called before the board to explain their deficiencies and their plans for addressing the board's concerns. ☞

Governor Launches Comprehensive State Web Site

On Jan. 3, Gov. Kaine launched a comprehensive data-rich Web site on Virginia's quality of life goals and measures, www.vaperforms.virginia.gov.

Built in partnership with the Council on Virginia's Future, the site gives citizens, government and business an easy-to-use portal to information about the Commonwealth and its localities. It also paints a comprehensive picture of how Virginia government measures its own performance, plans improvements and monitors progress. Users can create custom reports to view specific state agency progress in significant areas.

The site focuses on seven key areas and outlines the state's long-term goals for each: economy; education; health and family; public safety; natural, cultur-

al and historic resources; government and citizens; and transportation.

Through the website, citizens can get a demographic profile of Virginia and can find detailed information on Virginia's regions and localities. A mapping feature allows users to create local and regional maps and receive community-specific data on important measures.

The Council on Virginia's Future was established during the 2003 General Assembly session to create a vision of Virginia's future and a system for state government that aligns with and supports achievement of the vision.

The governor chairs the council, and its membership includes representatives from the General Assembly, the governor's Cabinet, business leaders and citizens. ☞

VACo to Hold County Board Chairpersons' Institute Feb. 1-3

The Virginia County Board Chairpersons' Institute will be conducted on February 1-3 at the Richmond Marriott. Topics include structure and function of county government, powers and responsibilities of the board chair, chair work relationships, communication and meeting management skills.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to attend VACo/VML Legislative Day on Feb. 1. The Chairpersons' Institute is geared toward county board chairs and vice-chairs. The registration deadline is Jan. 19. Advance registration is required and enrollment will be limited to approximately 25 participants.

Registration forms for the Institute and Legislative Day are available at www.vaco.org or by calling (804) 788-6652. ☞



Mark Your Calendar...

2007 VACo Events

VACo/VML Legislative Day
Feb. 1, Richmond Marriott

VACo Board of Directors Meeting
Feb. 1, Richmond Marriott

Chairpersons' Institute
Feb. 1-3, Richmond Marriott

Supervisor Certification Course
Feb. 2-3, Richmond Marriott
Leadership for Effective Governance in the 21st Century

VACo Regional Meetings
March 13- April 20
VACo staff will take part in regional meetings around the state.

VACo Board of Directors Meeting
April 28, location TBA

NACo's Annual Conference
July 13-17, Greater Richmond Convention Center
www.naco2007.org

VACo Summer Meetings
Aug. 10-12, location TBA

VACo Resolutions Committee Meeting
September 6, Richmond

VACo's 73rd Annual Conference
Nov. 11-13, The Homestead

An Introduction to Basic Soil Science

Jan. 10-11, Henrico County Cooperative Extension Office
This intensive two-day short course focuses on understanding soil physical, chemical and morphological properties in natural and managed landscapes. The course will stress relationships among basic soil properties, water quality and various land use issues. The fee for the two-day short course is \$200, which includes the mandatory CEU fees (\$40) to Virginia Tech. For more information contact Sue Brown at (540) 231-5741 or suebrown@vt.edu; or W. Lee Daniels at (540) 231-7175 or wdaniels@vt.edu.

The Grant Institute's Grants 101: Professional Grant Proposal Writing Workshop
Virginia Commonwealth University, Jan. 22-24
Interested development professionals should register as soon as possible, as demand means that seats will fill up quickly. All participants will receive certification in professional grant writing from the Institute. For more information call (888) 824-4424 or visit The Grant Institute Web site at www.thegrantinstitute.com.

Local Government Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Web Cast)
Jan. 25, 3 - 4:30 p.m.
National Association of Local

Government Environmental Professionals
To register, visit <http://www.nalgep.org/Registration/Registration1.cfm>. The registration fee is \$30 for nonmembers.

Pandemic Influenza Planning: Local Government Assistance
International City/County Management Association Webcast
Jan. 25, 2 -3:30 p.m.
The per-site participation fee is \$95 and registration is now open at <http://lgean.org/html/training>.

America and the World: Sustaining Democracy in the Global Age
Jan. 25-27, Longwood University and Hampden-Sydney College
Understanding the challenges facing global democracy in the 21st century is vital, especially since America's security depends on freedom surviving in other lands. Registration fees: \$76 (includes meals), \$38 (no meals)<http://www.longwood.edu/democracy/>. ☼

VLFC Grants Available

Five million dollars in grants are available to localities, public bodies and nonprofit organizations across Virginia for land conservation and acquisition. The Board of Trustees for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLFC) approved the grant round and is accepting applications until 5 p.m., Jan. 16. Earlier this year, Gov. Kaine set a goal of protecting 400,000 acres by the end of his administration.

VLFC grants are used to acquire and protect special lands in the following categories: open space and parks, historic areas, farm and forestry and natural areas. The grants require a minimum of a 50 percent match, so awarding the entire grant round in approved projects will represent at least \$10 million in public and private money going to land conservation across the state.

A copy of the VLFC grant manual can be downloaded from the DCR website at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/vlfc/index.htm>. For specific questions, contact DCR's Land Conservation Coordinator Sarah Richardson at (804) 225-2048, or via email at sarah.richardson@dcr.virginia.gov. ☞

NACo Offers Rural Health Works Technical Assistance Opportunity

As part of the Rural Health Works program, NACo will select a limited number of counties to receive technical assistance awards on a competitive basis. The award includes intensive technical assistance on the Rural Health Works model. Rural Health Works is a community engagement process that assists counties to evaluate their healthcare system and to generate county-specific data on the importance of the health care sector to the local economy. The ultimate goal of the project is to strengthen rural economies by increasing the use and expansion of health services.

At the end of the project, participating counties will receive several county-specific reports including an economic impact report, a directory of health and human services provided in the local service area, a survey of the community's health services utilization patterns, and a compilation of secondary data regarding the community.

To apply, download an application from www.naco.org/techassistance under health. The deadline to apply is Feb. 5 and awards will be announced on Feb. 12. More information is available in NACo's *County News*, or from www.ruralhealthworks.org. ☞

Congratulations!

Larry Hasson, an architect in the Danville, Va., office of **Dewberry**, has recently been recognized as a LEED Accredited Professional by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

Virginia Community Development Block Grants (VCDBG) totaling more than \$3.5 million have been awarded to **King and Queen County**, and the towns of Gretna, Saltville and Blackstone.

Accomack County has been awarded a \$700,000 Virginia Community Development Block Grant (VCDBG) to support infrastructure improvements for a future research park on Wallops Island. In addition, Gov. Kaine announced he will submit a \$1.6 million budget amendment to provide additional support to extend broadband capacity on the Eastern Shore.

AECOM, a leading global provider of professional, technical and support services for government and commercial clients around the world, has merged with **Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern, Inc. (HSMM)**.

Lawrence (Lonnie) Johns, AIA, architect with **HSMM**, has successfully completed the Architectural Registration Examination and received his RA license for the state of Virginia. ☞

Employment Opportunities

Employment ads have been edited due to space considerations. To view the full versions, visit www.vaco.org.

Assistant County Executive for Community Services/ Albemarle County

Hiring Salary Range: \$94,055 to \$122,271. Deadline: Jan. 12. Apply online at www.albemarle.org or send cover letter & resume to Gilliam@albemarle.org. County of Albemarle, Department of Human Resources, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902; (434) 296-5827.

Benefits Coordinator/ Montgomery County

Salary begins at \$30,909/yr. with excellent benefits. County application required. Deadline: Jan. 26. (540) 394-2007 www.montva.com

Chief Executive Officer (Solid Waste Authority)/Roanoke County

Salary is commensurate with experience. Resumes and applications should be submitted to Roanoke Valley Resource Authority, 1020 Hollins Road, N.E., Roanoke, VA, 24012-8011, (540) 857-5050. Deadline: Open Until Filled

Chief of Current Development/ Albemarle County

Full Salary Range: \$53,556 - \$85,686 Open until filled.

Apply online at www.albemarle.org/jobs.asp. County of Albemarle, Department of Human Resources, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902; (434) 296-5827.

City Manager/City of Chesapeake

Submit letter of application, detailed resume with salary and references to: John T. Maxwell or Roger M. Scott, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 4698 Honeygrove Road, Suite 4, Virginia Beach, VA 23455 by Jan. 15, 2007. Fax (757) 422-6617 or email: jmaxwell@springsted.com. For a full profile visit www.springsted.com.

Communications Officer/ Henrico County

Accepting applications from Feb. 2 - March 4. Starting salary \$30,437.97 annually. www.henricopolice.org, applications accepted online at www.henricojobs.com

County Engineer (Civil Engineer II)/Albemarle County

Albemarle County is seeking to fill several full-time key positions in a dynamic, supportive, fast paced team environment. For a complete job description, salary information, and on-line applications go to www.albemarle.org/jobs.asp. (434) 296-5827.

Database Administrator/ Albemarle County

Salary Range: \$49,916 - \$79,865/Annually. Open until filled. Apply Online at www.albemarle.org/jobs.asp. County of

Albemarle, Department of Human Resources, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902; (434) 296-5827.

Deputy Director of Finance/Town of Herndon

\$58,209-93,136 DOQ (may underfill \$55,995-89,592 if selected candidate does not currently possess a CPA license). Call (703) 481-1185, email jobs@herndon-va.gov or visit www.herndon-va.gov.

Director of Community Development/Cumberland County

Salary commensurate with experience. Submit County application form to Cumberland County Administrators Office, Attn: Jill Matthews, P.O. Box 110, Cumberland, VA 23040. Position open until filled. (804) 492-3562.

Director of Development/City of Hopewell

Position No. 11062, Salary Range: \$65,771 - \$98,655 Hiring Range: \$65,771 - \$71,972, Telephone: (804) 541-2211; Fax: (804) 541-2339 Access a City Application at www.ci.hopewell.va.us. Open until filled.

Director of Engineering and Capital Projects/ Shenandoah County

Position is open until filled. (540) 459-6165, www.co.shenandoah.va.us

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Employment

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Director of Finance/Orange County

Submit letter of application, detailed resume, salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Senior Vice President or Dale Johnson-Raney, Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 8790 Park Central Dr., Suite B, Richmond, VA 23227; Fax (804) 726-9752 or Email Richmond@springsted.com by Jan. 31. For further information visit www.springsted.com.

Director of Parks and Recreation/ Prince George County

Salary range \$56,401 - \$85,820. Deadline for applications is 4 p.m. on Jan. 11. Faxed applications are not accepted. Postmarks are not considered as received. Submit to: Department of Human Resources; P. O. Box 68; Prince George, VA 23875 www.princegeorgeva.org.

Director of Public Utilities/Caroline County

Salary negotiable DOQ. Submit a completed county application, cover letter and recent salary information to County Administrator Percy Ashcraft at P.O. Box 447, Bowling Green, Virginia 22427, (804) 633-5380. www.visitcaroline.com. Position is open until filled.

Executive Director Position/ Young Professionals of Central Virginia

Responsible for collaborating with regional businesses and organizations on the retention and recruitment of talent. Candidate must become familiar with region, have experience in building relationships, developing budgets, knowledge of the young professional movement and have proven excellent communication, sales and organizational skills. Send resumes to YPCV Search, PO Box 212, Lynchburg, VA 24505.

GIS Administrator/Page County

Submit an application to Director of Human Resources, 117 South Court Street, Luray, Virginia 22835. Visit our website at www.pagecounty.virginia.gov or call (540) 743-4142. The deadline for accepting applications is Jan. 26.

GIS Coordinator/Isle of Wight County

Starting salary \$36,862-46,077. Interested candidates should submit an application to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our website at www.iwus.net or call (757) 365-6304. Open until filled.

GIS/E911 Planning Technician/ Middlesex County

Salary range \$30,000 to \$35,000, depending on qualifications. Submit cover letter, resume, and completed Middlesex County Application for Employment to Matt Higgins, Planning Director, Department of Planning and

Community Development, Post Office Box 427, Saluda, VA 23149. Deadline for applications is 4:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 17. (804) 758-4330.

Local Government Policy Manager/ DHCD

Hiring Range: \$65,000 - \$85,000 Annually. Complete a state application through the online employment system at http://jobs.virginia.gov/ by Jan. 26 at 5 p.m.

Planning Director/ Page County

Please contact the Page County Human Resources Director at (540) 743-4142 for an application or visit http://www.pagecounty.virginia.gov. Deadline Jan. 26.

Planning and Zoning Administrator/Montgomery County

Closing date: Jan. 10. Salary: \$46,790 to \$57,083 depending on qualifications plus excellent benefits. County application is required and available by calling (540) 382-5700 or visit www.montva.com/jobs.php.

Public Information Director/Montgomery County

Salary begins at \$45,304/yr. DOQ with excellent benefits. County application required and available at Human Resources, 755 Roanoke Street, Suite 2-D, Christiansburg. Deadline: Jan. 31, at 5 p.m. (540) 394-2007, www.montva.com. ☘

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Executive Committee

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VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

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