



Connections

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

August 15, 2007

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Federal Mandates Confront Local Governments

Congress will address two pending federal mandates, election reform and collective bargaining for public safety personnel, upon reconvening in September. The National Association of Counties opposes both measures and Virginia's local leaders are urged to contact their U.S. representative, including Senators John Warner and Jim Webb. Elected officials can be contacted through the legislative tracking Web page of the Library of Congress at <http://thomas.loc.gov/links/>.

Election Reform

The House likely will consider its bill (H.R. 811) after the summer recess while the Senate has yet to schedule committee action on its reforms (S. 1487). The so-called "paper trail" bill mandates expensive and potentially unworkable election reforms. Core House provisions require paper ballots for federal elections, polling places (including those used for early voting) to be equipped with sufficient pre-printed ballots for every voter desiring to hand-mark their bal-

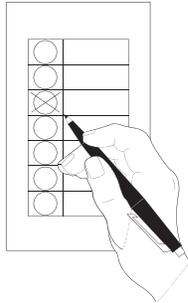
lot, and an outside auditor to conduct a hand count of a fixed percentage of ballots. Additionally, the legislation requires recounts by human hand and eye, thereby prohibiting the electronic scanning during a recount.

The bills effectively ban the electronic voting equipment that many counties purchased to comply with the Help America Vote Act. The House requires many counties to purchase new voting systems beginning with the presidential election in 2008. Additionally, before the presidential election of 2012, H.R. 811 requires printed marks on paper ballots to be scanned into an audio format for verification by the visually impaired and hands-free verification of printed ballot options by the motor impaired. This technology currently is unavailable. Although several Senate requirements are less burdensome when compared with the House bill, S. 1487 requires the ability of voters to cast ballots for statewide offices at any state polling place.

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Local Governments Key to Success for 2010 Census

The Census Bureau estimates there will be more than 310 million people living in more than 130 million households across the country by 2010. The partnership of local governments is vital to accomplish the feat of counting every person living in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.



Factoring in an increasingly diverse population, the rise in immigration and a record number of languages spoken by respondents, the need for a complete and accurate address list to mail or hand-deliver questionnaires will play a critical role in obtaining an accurate population count in the next census.

Although the 2010 Census is still three years away, the U.S. Census Bureau has begun mailing informational booklets to all state, local and tribal governments about a program for them to provide updated addresses for their communities known as the Local Update of Census

Addresses (LUCA) program.

This joint and voluntary program between the Census Bureau and your local government is the official start of the 2010 Census, which depends on a complete and accurate address list. Your assistance in assuring the residents in your community are counted is crucial to a successful census.

"Census data drive reapportionment and redistricting decisions and directly affect the distribution of more than \$200 billion in federal funding each year," said Doug Palmer, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. "In order to get money for public health, education, transportation and much more, mayors across the country need to take the lead and work to get a complete count of their city's population in 2010. LUCA is the first step."

In partnership with the Census Bureau, local governments will use their area knowledge to improve the list of addresses for housing units and group quarters, including growth from new con-

struction or annexation.

After registering for LUCA between July 2007 and January 2008, participating governments will receive review materials and will have 120 days to review and improve the address list.

The information contained in the address list is confidential by law, and those governments that choose to participate in the LUCA program will be provided an option to review the Census Bureau's address list. Like all census employees, those who review and update a confidential address list are subject to a jail term, a fine or both if they disclose any protected information.

After LUCA but prior to the 2010 Census questionnaire delivery, address listers will perform a field canvass across the country to make sure the latest address list is correct. Using GPS mapping on hand-held computers, workers will be able

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Federal Mandates

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Collective Bargaining Rights for Public Safety Employees

On July 17 the House passed H.R. 980 by a vote of 314-97. The Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act requires minimum collective bargaining standards for state and local police, firefighters and emergency medical service personnel. Core provisions require state and local governments to allow eligible public safety employees to form and join unions, bargain over working conditions, sign enforceable labor contracts, and use an impasse resolution procedure. States may exempt political jurisdictions with populations of less than 5,000 or fewer than 25 full-time employees. States would have two years to enact the new public safety collective bargaining law. Senators Judd Gregg of New Hampshire and Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts intend to introduce similar legislation in the Senate. ☞

Register for the 2007 County ENERGY STAR Change a Light Campaign

NACo, in cooperation with Office Depot, is pleased to announce the second annual County ENERGY STAR Change a Light Campaign, part of the Environmental Protection Agency's national ENERGY STAR Change a Light Campaign. Join with county governments from across the nation to help lower our country's energy consumption and curb greenhouse gas emissions.

The Campaign asks individuals to pledge to change a light in their home to an energy efficient one. In 2006, over 6,000 pledges were collected from county employees. This will help to prevent over 2.7 million

pounds of greenhouse gas emissions thanks to an energy savings of more than 1.7 million kWh.

By popular demand, the 2007 County ENERGY STAR Change a Light Campaign has expanded to include county residents. The Campaign will be conducted over two phases. Counties have the option to register for either or both phases of this year's Campaign.

Phase 1: County Employees
Pledge Collection: July 1, 2007 - September 13, 2007

Phase 2: County Residents
Pledge Collection: October 3 - November 30, 2007

Each person who pledges will

receive a coupon for \$3 off the purchase of an ENERGY STAR light bulb from Office Depot.

Go online today to register your county as a participant and for more information:

www.naco.org/regCAL.

Winning counties from each phase will receive special national recognition.

For more information contact either Alison Abbors at (202) 942-4274/aabbors@naco.org, or, Kelly Zonderwyk at (202) 942-4224/kzonderwyk@naco.org. ☼



Annual Conference Update

The 2007 VACo Annual Conference registration form is now available. Copies were sent by mail on Aug. 14. You also have the option to register online or print the registration form from the Web at www.vaco.org. Click on "meetings."

2010 Census

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to update information electronically while out in the field.

"The Census Bureau has moved beyond being a 'pen and paper' census and is now utilizing new technology in order to improve the speed and accuracy of census operations in the field," Census Bureau Deputy Director Preston Jay Waite said. "We are mandated by the Constitution to count the population every 10 years, and with the reengineering of the 2010 Census, we will be well equipped to fulfill this mandate."

Dating back to the nation's first census in 1790, the 2010 Census will have one of the shortest census questionnaires in the history of the United States. Asking just seven questions including name, sex, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether you own or rent your home, the questionnaire will take respondents only about 10 minutes to fill out.

For more information, visit the 2010 Census LUCA Program at <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/luca2010/luca.html>. ☼



Mark Your Calendar...

VACo Supervisor Certification Course

Funding Public Services in the 21st Century: The Role of Budgeting

Sept. 9-10 with a followup session on Nov. 10 at The Homestead, University/Medical Center Courtyard by Marriott in Charlottesville

Visit www.vaco.org for a registration form. Click on "calendar."

Virginia's 2007 Rural Summit

Sept. 9-11

Widening the Road: Revitalizing Rural Virginia

Omni Charlottesville Hotel

www.cfrv.org

www.councilforruralvirginia.org

It's Showtime! Delivering Effective Presentations

Sept. 12, UVA Richmond Center

Sponsored by UVA's Virginia Institute of Government.

Contact jessicasmith@virginia.edu or visit www.vainstituteofgovernment.org.

First Annual Urban Marketplace

Sept. 14, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center, Washington, DC

The Urban Land Institute's one-day conference and expo will highlight local investment opportunities and community development strategies in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. Registration fees are \$50 for public sector and nonprofit attendees.

(<http://www.uli.org/misc/washington0914regform.pdf>).

Systems of Care & Evidence-based Practices Conference

Sept. 16-18, Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center

Please visit the conference website at <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/reg/scep/index.html> for more information including registration details.

Lodging Details:

*Hotel Roanoke - \$99 for a single occupancy room or \$119 for double occupancy, (540) 985-5900

*The Wyndham - rooms start at \$76, (540) 563-9300

2007 Virginia Forum for Excellence

Sept. 19-20, Arlington

Hundreds of local government, education, healthcare and business representatives will gather at this event to hear best practices and continue the learning path toward improved performance excellence and results. For details on the agenda, registration, pre-conference workshops and exhibit opportunities visit www.spqa-va.org.

First NACo County Climate Protection Forum

Sept. 20 - 21, Washington, DC

www.naco.org/climateforum

Composting and Compost Use for Sustainable Low Impact Development

Sept. 19-21, Beltsville, MD

The conference is intended to provide useful information to utility operators, local govern-

ment decision-makers, landscape architects, general contractors, environmental engineers, regulators, composers, and other professionals with interest in using compost in low impact development. For more information visit www.midatlanticcompost.org or contact John Bouwkamp at (301) 405-4334 or jbouwkam@umd.edu.

2007 Brownfield Communities Network Summit:

Redeveloping for the Future

Sept. 25-26, Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Washington, DC

The Summit will bring together all levels of brownfield practitioners and feature interactive peer-to-peer discussions on pressing issues facing localities, including green redevelopment, redeveloping petroleum sites, sustainable reuse, public health, local-state government connections and small & rural community redevelopment.

<http://www.nalgep.org/Registration/Registration2.cfm>

Local Government Attorneys Fall Conference

Sept. 27-29, Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel/Suites and Conference Center.

Contact: Leisa Steele at (804) 371-0202 or lrs5c@virginia.edu. For lodging reservations call 1-800-261-9530

VML Annual Conference

Oct. 14-16, James City County www.vml.org ☞

Study of Emergency Services Incentives Underway

A joint subcommittee of the General Assembly established by HJR 743 has begun a study of various incentives to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and rescue squad members. Chaired by Del. Thomas Rust of Fairfax, patron of the study resolution, the subcommittee had an initial meeting on July 24 and heard a presentation from the state firefighters association. Members briefly discussed some ideas to assist local governments in bolstering their emergency services volunteers.

The second meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 24 at 10 a.m. in House Room D. The subcommittee will hear from VACo and VML concerning the composition of local fire and rescue squad companies, current incentives for volunteer personnel, recruitment and retention problems, and suggestions for additional incentives.

The subcommittee is scheduled to make its final recommendations by Nov. 30. VACo sent a brief survey by email to county administrators asking about incentives offered to volunteer emergency responders. Please submit this information to VACo staff member Ted McCormack as soon as possible (tmccormack@vaco.org). ☞

Seven Virginia Counties Receive Federal Disaster Designations

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has designated Culpeper, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Washington and Wise counties primary natural disaster areas due to reductions in farm production caused by drought and high temperatures since Jan. 1. This disaster designation makes farmers eligible for low-interest loans and any supplemental relief that may be provided by Congress.

Farmers in several adjacent localities also have received contiguous disaster status and also may be eligible for federal assistance: the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Dickenson, Fauquier, Grayson, Madison, Orange, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Tazewell, and Wythe, in addition to the independent cities of Bristol and Norton.

Requests for federal drought disaster designations are currently pending for nine localities: the counties of Bedford, Bland, Brunswick, Caroline, Essex, King George, Lancaster, Loudoun and Orange.

Disaster declarations make farm operators in both primary and contiguous areas eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provided they meet certain eligibility requirements. FSA will consider each application on its own merits by taking into account the extent of the losses, security available, and repayment ability. Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with additional information. ☞

Congratulations!

Nelson County Supervisor Constance Brennan and Prince William County Supervisor John Jenkins have been reappointed to the Virginia Geographic Information Network Advisory Board.

Henrico County is pleased to announce the addition of C. Michael Schnurman as legislative liaison.

Joel A. Warriner, Sr., PE, has been hired by Draper Aden Associates as a project manager for the Richmond Geotechnical Team. Janet C. Frazier, an employee for 17 years, has become a registered brownfields professional. Colin McIntyre, E.I.T., staff engineer in utilities engineering, has passed the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam to become an engineer-in-training.

S&ME, an engineering design firm, is pleased to announce the following additions to the Richmond office: Brock Bryan as staff scientist; Anna Best will be working with field investigations and environmental sampling; and Lisa Ennis has transferred to Richmond from the Raleigh office. ☞

Employment Opportunities

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

Agricultural Development Director/Pittsylvania County

Salary range: \$48,803-\$55,000. Applications are available in the Office of the County Administrator or www.pittgov.org. The deadline for applications is 5 p.m., Sept. 14.

Animal Shelter Manager/King William County

Hiring salary: \$30,000. Send county application form and/or resume including three (3) professional references and salary history to King William County Administrator, P.O. Box 215, King William, Virginia 23086. Application form may be obtained on the county web site at www.kingwilliamcounty.us. Position is opened until filled.

Building Official/King William County

Hiring range \$38,000 to \$43,000 Send county application form and resume including three (3) professional references and salary history to King William County Director of Community Development, P.O. Box 215, King William, Virginia 23086. www.kingwilliamcounty.us. Position is opened until filled.

Civil/Environmental Engineer/Goochland County

Salary range - \$42,925- \$64,548

A County Employment Application is required and available at (804) 556-5831 and online at www.co.goochland.va.us. All applications are to be submitted to Goochland County Human Resource Office, 1800 Sandy Hook Rd., P. O. Box 10, Goochland, Virginia, 23063. For more information, please call Donald L. Charles, Director of Community Development at (804) 556-5861. Email countyadmin@co.goochland.va.us. Open until filled.

Computer Analyst/Greene County

Submit cover letter/resume or a completed County application to Tracy Morris, Finance Director, P.O. Box 358, Stanardsville, VA 22973, by Aug. 24. Visit www.gcva.us for an application.

County Administrator/Charles City County

Submit a Charles City County employment application along with resume and salary history to: Office of the County Administrator, ATTN: Jacqueline Wallace, Charles City County, P. O. Box 128, 10900 Courthouse Road, Charles City, VA 23030. For more information, call (804) 652-4701 or visit co.charles-city.va.us. Application deadline: Sept. 20.

County Engineer/Washington County

Salary range \$60,000 - \$63,500 Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. www.washcova.com.

Development Administrator (Planner I)/Louisa County

Applications accepted until filled. Send to County of Louisa, Human Resources Director, P. O. Box 160, 1 Woolfolk Avenue, Louisa, VA 23093. (540) 967-0401 TDD (540) 961-1100.

Director of Finance/ City of Monroe, North Carolina

Submit resume and current salary by Aug. 31 to: John T. Maxwell, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 4698 Honeygrove Road, Suite 4, Virginia Beach, VA 23455, Fax (757) 422-6617 or email: jmaxwell@springsted.com.

Director of Finance/Halifax County

Review of applications will begin Aug. 31. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, salary history, and professional writing sample to Bryan D. Foster, County Administrator, Halifax County, P.O. Box 699, Halifax, VA 24558 or via email to jobs@co.halifax.va.us.

Director of Parks & Recreation/ Alleghany County

Applications are available on the Alleghany County website at www.co.alleghany.va.us or you may pick up an application at the Administration Office. (540) 863-6600. Position open until filled.

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Employment

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**Director of Planning & Community Development/
Franklin County**

Salary range: \$68,688-\$74,870(+). An application and complete job description may be obtained in the Office of the County Administrator, 40 East Court Street, Rocky Mount, Virginia 24151 or online at www.franklincountyva.org. Application review will begin Friday, Aug. 17.

**General Services Manager/
Prince George County**

Salary range \$54,651 - \$83,615. For information, call (804) 722-8669. Deadline for applications is 4 p.m., Friday, Aug. 31. Faxed applications are not accepted. Postmarks are not considered as received. www.princegeorgeva.org

Halifax County Service Authority/Executive Director

Salary range: \$76,000 -\$131,755. Excellent Benefits. Send resume and application marked "Confidential" by Sept. 28 to HCSA Board of Directors Attention: Search Committee, P.O. Box 699, Halifax, VA 24558. Phone (434) 476-3300 or (434) 575-4200. E-mail: tdaniel@southbostonva.us for application and more information.

Library Director/Gloucester County

Salary: \$52,374 -\$65,467 (+)
To Apply: Submit Gloucester

County application w/cover letter and resume by 4:30 p.m., Oct. 31 to Human Resources Department. Download application from www.gloucesterva.info or contact Gloucester County HR Dept., 6467 Main St., Gloucester, VA 23061; phone (804) 693-5690.

Planning Director/Montgomery County

Salary DOQ. County application required. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply by Sept. 4 (first review, open until filled). For more information contact Human Resources at (540) 394-2007; TTY/Voice (1-800-828-1120 or 1-800-828-1140); County Job Line: (540) 394-2010 or visit our website at <http://www.montva.com/jobs.php>.

Procurement and Grants Manager/Isle of Wight County

Salary \$41,286-\$51,607 DOQ
Position open until filled. Interested candidates should submit an application and resume to: HR, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our website at www.iwus.net or call (757) 365-6304.

Project Engineer/Isle of Wight County

Salary \$41,286- \$51,607
Interested candidates should submit an application and resume to: HR, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our website at www.iwus.net or call us at (757) 365-6304. Position open until filled.

Town Manager/Kenbridge

SALARY: Negotiable
DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Bachelor's degree and/or experience desired. Send resume, salary history & references to: Mayor Richard W. Harris, P. O. Box 478, Kenbridge, VA 23944. Deadline Sept. 30.

Utility Engineer/Hanover County

#22486-1. \$40,874 - \$67,245 + benefits. This position is part of a career development program. Visit www.hanovercountyjobs.com or call (804) 365-6489 (TDD# 365-6140).

Zoning Administrator/King William County

Hiring range: \$39,000 - \$44,000
Open until filled. A complete job description and County application may be obtained by calling (804) 769-4969 or at www.kingwilliamcounty.us.

Zoning Compliance Officer/Goochland County

Position open until filled. Salary range - \$32,375-\$48,684. A Goochland County Employment Application is required and available at (804) 556-5831 and online at www.co.goochland.va.us. ☼

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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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