



# Connections

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

February 15, 2008

## Governor announces revised revenue forecast and proposed budget cuts

The national economic downturn is impacting Virginia. Governor Timothy M. Kaine announced on Tuesday, Feb. 12, the revised revenue forecast for FY 2008 through FY 2010. The shortfall totals \$1.39 billion:

- FY 2008: \$339 million, added to the previously announced \$620 million shortfall (October, 2007)
- FY 2009: \$520 million
- FY 2010: \$532 million

The governor also presented his plan for budget reductions to deal with the shortfall. It is important to note that the General Assembly may or may not accept the governor's budget reduction plan (in part or in whole).

The House and Senate are scheduled to release their separate budgets Sunday, Feb. 17. VACo will report on the House and Senate budgets early next week.

### Revenue Stabilization Fund

Gov. Kaine's budget strategy includes transferring an additional \$162 million from the Revenue Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund) in the current year. The governor initially proposed an FY 2008 Rainy Day transfer of \$260 million in October. Therefore, the governor recommends a total FY 2008 Rainy Day transfer of more than \$400 million. The transfers from the Revenue Stabilization Fund protect local governments from additional cuts. Even with such a withdrawal, the Revenue Stabilization Fund will have a balance of over \$800 million.

### Local cuts

Kaine's plan does require additional local government cuts. However, the cuts come in the next biennium. While protecting direct operating aid to public education and car tax reimbursements from the state, the governor recommends a \$55 million reduction in K-12 school construction funding over the biennium, and shifts \$165 million of lottery proceeds from school construction to basic aid for K-12 operations. As proposed, the cuts are permanent (i.e., they will continue beyond the next biennium).

The governor also recommends a 5.4 percent reduction in targeted state aid to localities. The 5.4 percent plan amounts to more than \$130 million in statewide savings. Under the governor's plan, localities will choose how to allocate the 5.4 percent reductions across state-funded local programs within their own budget -- sparing direct state aid for K-12 and the car tax reimbursement.

In addition to the Rainy Day transfer and cuts to local governments, the governor proposes:

- reductions to specific gubernatorial initiatives, including his Pre-K plan (\$10 million);
- revisions to estimated sales and use tax receipts (local share: \$31 million);
- reductions in the form of specific percentage-based cuts to executive agencies (\$225 million); and
- conversion of specific pay-go capital projects to debt (\$268 million).

**Revised Revenue forecast and Budget Cuts cont.****Targeted Reductions**

The governor recommends a reduction in his expansion of the Virginia Preschool Initiative (Pre-K) by 25 percent in FY 2009 and FY 2010. This reduction includes changing the eligibility requirements of reduced lunch students from 100 percent (introduced budget) to 75 percent, while maintaining the 100 percent eligibility criteria for free lunch student. There will also be a reduction in support components (Quality Rating and Improvement System, professional development and VA Early Childhood Foundation).

The plan targets reductions in salary initiatives and to executive branch agencies. Targeted cuts include proposed salary increases for teachers, state supported local employees and state employees. Kaine recommends an across-the-board reduction of 1 percent in FY 2010 for all public employees. This proposed FY 2010 action leaves teachers with a 2.5 percent salary increase and other public employees with a 2 percent increase.

Foster care initiatives are reduced by nearly 20 percent. Reductions in the introduced budget include support for child welfare worker training and foster care, and adoptive family rate increases.

Other targeted reductions include:

- reduction by 75 percent in funding for the VirginiaShare initiative;
- elimination of the Medicaid inflation adjustment for hospitals and nursing facilities in FY 2009;
- elimination of the PACE (Program for the All-inclusive Care of the Elderly) in Northern Virginia.

VirginiaShare is a new initiative to help provide premium assistance to uninsured Virginians. The governor is now recommending that the initiative begin as a smaller regional pilot program. The Medicaid inflation adjustment is an annual increase for hospital and nursing facility billing rates. The adjustment in FY 2009 is eliminated. The PACE program, as recommended, was a one-time grant to Northern Virginia in FY 2008.

The plan also includes reductions in non-higher education state agencies in FY 2008 of 0.5 percent, and additional reductions of 3 percent in FY 2009 and FY 2010. These plans are due to the respective Cabinet Secretary's by March 31.

Links and attachments:

February 12: Governor's proposed budget plan.

February 12: VACo spreadsheet summarizing Kaine's Feb. 12 budget cuts

October 1: VACo's summary of the governor's initial FY 2008 budget cuts

VACo contact: Dean A. Lynch, CAE

### **Officials share their experiences at Chairpersons Institute**

In the 2008 VACo Chairpersons' Institute held February 7th to 9th at the Richmond Marriott, twelve newly elected board chairs or vice chairs from diverse counties participated in a highly interactive seminar to prepare them for their duties. They heard informative presentations with practical tips on how to develop healthy working relationships between elected officials and staff, how to foster positive relationships with the media, and ways to develop constructive partnerships with neighboring localities. Other presentations emphasized such important laws as the Freedom of Information Act and Conflict of Interest Act.

Under the tutelage of Dr. Michael Chandler, Professor Emeritus of Virginia Tech, the participants, who came from a mix of rural and urban counties of varied shapes and sizes, learned that board chairs must be visionary leaders who will seriously think about ways in which the major decisions of today will affect their counties over the next twenty years.

The participants in the 2008 Chairpersons' Institute were J. Walter Tejada, Arlington County; Welton Tyler, Brunswick County; Barbara Jarrett Drummond, Brunswick County; Garland H. Hamlett, Charlotte County; Marvin F. Moss, Fluvanna County; Charles D. Wagner, Franklin County; Thomas M. Maynard, Grayson County; Willie L. Gentry, Louisa County; Douglas W. Marrs, Montgomery County; Allen M. Hale, Nelson County; Corey A. Stewart, Prince William County; and Darlene Rowland Neitch, Smyth County.

VACo Contact: Larry Land

### **Training standards for firefighters to be discussed**

Legislation calling for a task force to develop training and certification standard for volunteer and professional firefighters was carried over to the 2009 session of the General Assembly. [HB 1501 (Amundson)] At the present time, many career and volunteer fire departments have adopted their own requirements, but no state-wide certification process exists.

Firefighter certification is an important issue for counties because regulations require first responders to federally-declared disasters to have met certain training standards. The Virginia Department of Fire Programs currently provides such accredited training for local fire departments. However, mandated training may add to recruiting and retention problems for county volunteer firefighters.

In an effort to address the issue of mandatory training and certification standards, the Department of Fire Programs may facilitate discussions later in 2008 with representatives from VACo, VML, the Professional Firefighters, Fire Chiefs Association, the Fire Prevention Association, and the State Firefighter's Association. VACo contact Ted McCormack

**VACo urges County leaders to join the Quality Schools Coalition**

VACo urges local leaders to support and sign an online petition ([www.fundqualityschools.org](http://www.fundqualityschools.org)) calling on the state to increase state funding for public education. Additional state funding is necessary to improve public schools as well as to support the Standards of Quality, categorical, incentive and school facility programs. The petition will be sent to the members of the General Assembly.

The Quality Schools Coalition is comprised of specific statewide organizations promoting sufficient state funding for public education. It includes the Parent Teachers Association of Virginia (PTA), Virginia Education Association (VEA), Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS), Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA), as well as VACo and VML.

Last fall, these same organizations held a press briefing regarding the importance of state funding for public education and urged Gov. Timothy M. Kaine to buttress state funding for public education in his introduced budget. Gov. Kaine supports full funding of direct aid operating cost although he has proposed reducing the state's school construction obligations. The latter is the result of the economic downturn.

Greater state funding for public education helps to reduce local funding pressures. According to "Congressional Quarterly State Fact Finder 2007," Virginia ranked 32nd in the nation for state per pupil funding during 2006 and 2007.

The coalition also is concerned about potential efforts to divert or diminish funding for at-risk students. Virginia needs to increase, not back away from, its commitment to education.  
VACo contact: Mike Edwards

**Learn more about at-risk funding programs**

Please take a minute to better understand the importance and effectiveness of Virginia's At-Risk education funding programs. At-Risk programs, in addition to the Standards of Quality (SOQ), must be fully funded - or re-benchmarked - during the 2008 legislative session for the FY 2009-2010 biennial budget. VACo is urging the General Assembly to fully fund public education in 2008.

The programs, matched with local dollars, help to improve academic performance for those children at-risk of falling behind their peers. At-Risk funding is an investment in the future: the programs help to prevent unwanted increases in the number of dropouts, and help to ensure a well qualified workforce.

VACo has posted an excellent two page summary about At-Risk funding on the homepage. Please visit [www.vaco.org](http://www.vaco.org) to view the document titled "Preserve Funding for At-Risk Students." The handout was produced by the JustChildren program of the Legal Aid Justice Center in Charlottesville.

When re-benchmarking the SOQ, VACo calls on the state to recognize and fully fund the true costs of public education. VACo urges the state to determine, prescribe and fund the SOQ on the basis of realistic and actual educational needs, practices and costs. This includes operational, capital and maintenance costs for school facilities and transportation.

VACo Contact: Mike Edwards

**VDEM seeks your comments for preparedness**

Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Governor's Office for Commonwealth Preparedness invites local officials to participate in a regional meeting to discuss the National and Virginia priorities for the DHS 2008 Homeland Security Grant Program. Each locality is encouraged to send two to five participants who represent the different facets of emergency management, including law enforcement, fire and EMS, local government, public health, volunteer organizations, and private business.

Localities do not need to bring specific projects to this meeting but should be prepared to discuss their local needs along with the national and state priorities, how these priorities fit with our regional feedback from the State Preparedness Report meetings, and the types of investments that might be included in the 2008 grant application.

One meeting will take place in each of the seven Virginia Homeland Security regions during February and March. Meeting dates/regions and registration are available online at:

[http://www.ocp.virginia.gov/rpac\\_registration.cfm](http://www.ocp.virginia.gov/rpac_registration.cfm)

VACo Contact: Larry Land

**VDOT to Hold More Information Sessions about Chapter 527 Traffic Impact Analysis Regulations  
Land-Use and Transportation Planning Coordination**

In March, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is holding information sessions about new regulations that establish uniform statewide standards for traffic impact analyses of land-use proposals that will substantially impact the state-controlled transportation network. The intent of the regulations is to improve the coordination between land-use and transportation planning decisions by providing information to local government officials and citizens.

Implementation of the regulations began July 1, 2007 in VDOT's Northern Virginia, Richmond and Salem districts and Jan. 1, 2008 in its Fredericksburg, Culpeper and Staunton districts.

Implementation in VDOT's Bristol, Hampton Roads and Lynchburg Districts will start July 1, 2008. The information sessions are intended for local municipal and county government officials, transportation planners and development industry personnel who are involved in the land-development process and who would benefit from an overview of the regulations and their implementation, as well as for interested citizens. Information sessions were held in the previous six districts prior to implementation, and follow-up sessions are being held in each after implementation.

The March information sessions are scheduled as follows; training sessions for those directly involved with implementing the regulations will be held before July 1.

Please attend the information session most convenient to your location and schedule; the same presentation will be made at each session. It is not necessary to pre-register for these sessions.

VDOT Information Sessions Dates

March 6, 2008 - Bristol District

10 a.m. - Noon

Holiday Inn at I-81 Exit 7

3005 Linden Drive

Bristol, VA 24202

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Southwest Virginia Community College

Charles R. King Community Center

724 Community College Road

Cedar Bluff, VA 24609

March 17, 2008 - Hampton Roads District

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Newport News Police Headquarters

Conference Room

9710 Jefferson Avenue

Newport News, VA 23605

March 18, 2008 - Hampton Roads District

10 a.m. - Noon

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

The Regional Building

723 Woodlake Drive

Chesapeake, VA 23320

March 19, 2008 - Lynchburg District

10 a.m. - Noon

Central Virginia Community College

Merritt Hall

Harvard Street

Lynchburg, VA 24502

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Prince Edward County Courthouse

Board Room

111 N. South Street

Farmville, VA 23901

Details about the regulations, the guidelines for traffic impact analysis, and more information can be found at <http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/chapter527/default.asp> and at VDOT Bristol, Hampton Roads and Lynchburg district offices - <http://www.virginiadot.org/about/districts.asp>

Information about other transportation and land use initiatives can be found at <http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/landuse.asp> or through the Transportation and Land Use link on VDOT's home page - [http://www.virginiadot.org/default\\_flash.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/default_flash.asp)

VACo Contact: Ted McCormack

## Employment

### Director of Social Services, Franklin County, Va.

Growing community known for its scenic beauty, nestled between Philpott and Smith Mountain Lakes along the Blue Ridge Mountains, located approximately 10 miles south of Roanoke, Va., is currently accepting applications for the position of Director of Social Services.

The essential function of the position within the organization is to direct, plan, organize, and formulate local policy for the Franklin County Social Services Department, in addition, has responsibility for program development, personnel management, fiscal management, and public relations. Incumbent insures full utilization of community resources and participates in the development of new resources. The position is responsible for budget development, coordination of community resources, making final personnel decisions, directing staff, preparation of grant applications, and implementing programs.

The position formulates long range goals for the organization; develops policy and position papers and develops partnerships within the community to achieve the department's goals. Responsibilities include accountability based on measurable cost effective results for the substance, efficiency, productivity and quality of activities performed.

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Public Administration or related field and six (6) years of directly related and progressively responsible supervisory/administrative experience required. Master's Degree preferred. Additional education may be substituted for experience where applicable.

Initial application review begins 02/29/08. Salary DOQ/E EEO/AA

### Chief of Police City of Lynchburg, Va.

The City of Lynchburg is seeking a progressive Chief of Police who is a proven professional with extensive law enforcement experience, including at least five (5) years at a high ranking management/command level, to oversee a department of 173 sworn officers and 60 civilians and an annual budget of \$16.3 million. complex community policing issues and a track record of effective supervisory skills and resource management. The Chief of Police reports to and serves at the pleasure of the City Manager. Residency within the City of Lynchburg is required. Any equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered in lieu of the specific requirements listed above. Market competitive salary, dependent on qualifications including excellent benefits.

A full recruitment profile is avail-

able at <http://www.lynchburg-va.gov/Index.aspx?page=4256>.

Interested, qualified parties are encouraged to submit a City of Lynchburg employment application, including a cover letter and confidential resume with salary history and professional references, on-line at [www.lynchburgva.gov](http://www.lynchburgva.gov) or via mail, email or fax by March 17, 2008 to:  
Margaret M. Schmitt, SPHR  
Director of Human Resources  
900 Church Street  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24504  
Fax: (434) 845-4304  
Email:  
[margaret.schmitt@lynchburg-va.gov](mailto:margaret.schmitt@lynchburg-va.gov)

### Assistant Director of Utilities/Stafford County

Salary \$76,086- \$117,956 /year  
DOQ

Closing Date: Feb. 29

Apply online @ [www.co.stafford.va.us](http://www.co.stafford.va.us). A resume will not be accepted in lieu of a County application. Performs difficult professional and administrative work in overseeing the planning, design, and construction of the Capital Improvements Program for the Utilities Department; does related work as required. Planning and developing long range projects and capital budgets; supervising and coordinating capital improvement projects; assisting with project design and selection of consultants and engineers; preparing

Continued on page 8

**Employment**

Continued from page 7

and maintaining files and records. Thorough knowledge of the principles, practices and procedures of utility planning, design, and construction; general knowledge of data processing practices; ability to plan, organize and direct the work of consultants and construction contractors; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other department officials, county employees and the general public; ability to communicate technical ideas effectively, both orally and in writing. Any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a degree in civil engineering or related field and considerable experience in water and sewer construction; Registration as Professional Engineer preferred but not required.

A driver's license valid in the Commonwealth of Virginia, (copy of current DMV record, dated within 30 days, must be provided before the employment start date).

Candidate selected will be required to successfully complete a criminal history and fingerprint check and will be required to satisfactorily complete a post-offer, pre-employment medical exam at the County's expense unless this requirement has been completed for current County position.

**City Events Coordinator/City of Hopewell**

Develop/coordinate activities with organizations including the City Council, Dept. of Tourism, National Park Service, Public School system, Chamber of Commerce, Appomattox Regional Library System, Historic Hopewell Foundation and civic, cultural, ethnic and other organizations to build programs and projects that broaden awareness of the significance of historic downtown Hopewell and the riverfront areas. Work days, evenings, weekends and holidays. Minimum education/experience: Completion of bachelor's degree with 3 years experience in design, customer service and special event planning. Possession of a valid VA driver's license. Deadline for applications: Open Until Filled. A City of Hopewell Application is required for all City job vacancies. You may access a City application @ [www.ci.hopewell.va.us](http://www.ci.hopewell.va.us). Submit application to Human Resources, City of Hopewell, Municipal Building, Room 221, 300 N. Main Street, Hopewell, VA 23860 ph. (804) 541-2211. posted 1/25/07

**Executive Director/LENOWISCO Planning District Commission**

The LENOWISCO Planning District Commission, a regional association of local governments serving Southwest Virginia (Lee, Scott, and Wise Counties and the City of Norton) seeks a highly

motivated, skilled and multi-disciplinary executive director. LENOWISCO is a Virginia political subdivision that was organized and staffed in 1965. work would be extremely critical for any applicant. The successful applicant will conduct and/or manage key regional initiatives, including environmental, transportation and community development-related planning; oversee the development and drafting of reports and studies; supervise project management of public and private funds and interact with local, state and federal officials and members of the public on a regular basis. Direct experience in economic development work, including traditional business recruitment, entrepreneurial development, asset-based development and all the tools necessary for success in these areas is required. Occasional evening meetings and out of town travel will be required. Excellent communication skills, including grant and technical report writing and meeting facilitation, are essential. Candidates must demonstrate the ability to build consensus on complex regional issues with local elected and appointed officials from multiple jurisdictions. First hand familiarity with a number of Federal and state public financing programs (grants and loans) for public utility construction, economic development, community revitalization, transportation, work force training and related work is essential.

Continued on page 9

## Employment

Continued from page 8

Specific familiarity with programs unique to Virginia, and/or southwestern Virginia would be a major asset.

At a minimum, the candidate must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university; although a master's degree is preferred (extended successful work experience will be considered in lieu of a master's degree however). Degree emphasis in planning, public administration or equivalent field is preferred, along with minimum of ten years of professional planning/grant management experience. Starting salary range is consistent with qualifications, with competitive benefits, including participation in VRS state retire-

ment system and hospitalization. Additional information about the Commission is available at: [www.lenowisco.org](http://www.lenowisco.org). Resumes must be sealed in an envelope and marked "Executive Director's Position" and must be received or postmarked by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 29, 2008, to: Mr. Jack Kiser, Chairman, LENOWISCO Planning District Commission, PO Box 366, Duffield, VA 24244. The LENOWISCO Planning District Commission is an EEO/AA employer. Position will be available on July 1, 2008, and will be open until filled.

### **Director of Planning/Henrico County**

Seeking energetic individual to manage 50 staff. Responsible for

implementation/updates of Comprehensive Plan, administering zoning and subdivision ordinances, overseeing site plan/subdivision review and small area studies/site selection studies, interacting with development representatives on proposed developments and managing fiscal responsibilities (\$4.2 million budget). Serves as Secretary to the Planning Commission and Acting Secretary to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Makes presentations to civic and professional organizations and the Board of Supervisors. For a more specific description of duties and qualifications, pay information and to apply, visit our Job Opportunity Source for Henrico (JOSH) on the Internet at [www.henricojobs.com](http://www.henricojobs.com). Deadline 2/17/08.



**Virginia**  
*Where Local  
Government Began*



1001 E. Broad St., Suite LL 20  
Richmond, VA 23219



### Executive Committee

**President:** William B. Kyger, Jr., Rockingham County  
**President-Elect:** Donald L. Hart Jr., Accomack County  
**1st Vice President:** Phillip A. Bradshaw, Isle of Wight County  
**2nd Vice President:** Robert R. Adkins, Wise County  
**Secretary Treasurer:** Barbara A. Favola, Arlington County  
**Immediate Past President:** Teresa L. Altemus, Gloucester County

### Staff

**Executive Director:** James D. Campbell, CAE  
**General Counsel:** Phyllis A. Errico, Esq.  
**Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs:** Michael L. Edwards  
**Director of Policy Development:** Larry J. Land, CAE  
**Director of Intergovernmental Affairs:** Dean A. Lynch, CAE  
**Director of Governmental Affairs:** Ted McCormack, AICP  
**Director of Administration:** Vicky D. Steinruck, CPA  
**Director of Technical Services:** John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA  
**Director of Member Services:** Carol I. Huff  
**Director of Communications:**  
**Administrative Assistant:** Pricilla Wallace  
**VACo Risk Management Programs:** Wayne A. Faddis, ARM,  
Administrator, (888) 822-6772

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

1001 E. Broad St.  
Suite LL 20  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 788-6652  
Fax: (804) 788-0083  
[www.vaco.org](http://www.vaco.org)

County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

Editor: Wendy Jenkins  
(804) 343-2502