

1 **Virginia Association of Counties:**  
2 **DRAFT**  
3 **Preliminary 2012 Legislative Program**  
4

5 **Background**

6  
7 The membership will adopt the 2012 Legislative Program at the annual  
8 conference on Nov. 15 in Bath County. Prior to the Nov. 15 action, the eight  
9 steering committees will adopt their sections and submit them to the Resolutions  
10 Committee for approval. The Resolutions Committee approves the final draft of  
11 the program and sends it to the membership for consideration.  
12

- 13 • Sunday, Nov. 13: Steering Committees meet to adopt their sections
  - 14 • Monday, Nov. 14: Resolutions Committee meets to adopt the program
  - 15 • Tuesday, Nov. 15: Membership meets to adopt the program
- 16

17 The 2012 process was initiated in the summer when the steering committees met  
18 Aug. 12 in Richmond, and the Resolutions Committee met on Oct. 7 via  
19 conference call.  
20

21 **\*PR denotes a preliminary priority statement. Priority statements will be**  
22 **ratified during the annual conference.**

23  
24 **Statements requiring federal action are noted: (Federal)**  
25

27 <b><u>Table of Contents</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
28	
29 Administration of Government, Public Safety and Telecommunications	2
30 Community Development and Planning	5
31 Compensation and Retirement	7
32 Education	8
33 Environment & Agriculture	9
34 Finance	12
35 Health and Human Resources	15
36 Transportation	16
37	

## Administration of Government, Public Safety and Telecommunications

### **Aid to Localities**

VACo requests the Commonwealth to use the most current population statistics available for the purposes of determining state aid to those localities that have experienced population growth in the ten-year period between the decennial enumerations. During that period, population statistics from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service or the American Community Survey are available for use by the Commonwealth. The General Assembly should consider the many fixed costs of services in determining aid to those localities that have remained stable or lost population.

### **Annexation Moratorium**

VACo supports full funding of the Commonwealth's HB 599 commitments. VACo also supports the continuation of the current moratorium on city annexations regardless of whether those commitments have been met. The moratorium has promoted more intergovernmental cooperation between cities and counties; has allowed counties to plan for future growth and economic development within their borders; and has allowed counties to be able to protect their tax base in order to provide needed services to citizens.

### **Deployment of Universal Affordable Access to High-Speed Internet Services (State and Federal)**

VACo urges the Commonwealth and the Federal Government to assist communities in their efforts to deploy universal affordable access to high-speed Internet services ("broadband") to all areas, particularly in underserved and rural areas while preserving local land use, permitting, fees and other local authority. Widespread deployment of broadband should be a top priority for the Commonwealth to ensure competitive economic advantages, provide quality educational opportunities, and facilitate telemedicine and other modern health care initiatives.

Assistance should include economic incentives as well as budgetary and statutory policies that facilitate broadband deployment and adoption. VACo urges state support of local and regional authorities created under the Virginia Wireless Service Authorities Act, the preservation of the powers granted under the Act, support for Virginia Resources Authority and other favorable financing

76 mechanisms for broadband projects and improvement of the quality and  
77 accuracy of the state's broadband availability map.

78

79 **Collective Bargaining for Public Employees (Federal)**

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

81

82 **Dillon Rule**

83 VACo supports relaxation of the Dillon Rule to provide counties greater  
84 autonomy in areas including land use, local revenue measures and other issues  
85 of local concern. Examples include but are not limited to, the authority to  
86 regulate parking, to change BPOL taxes and to provide tax relief to certain  
87 citizens. The General Assembly should extend powers and authorities currently  
88 granted to some local governments by existing statute, to all other local  
89 governments.

90

91 **Elected Officials**

92 VACo respects the presumption of innocence until proven guilty and seeks to  
93 work with the General Assembly to address the issues that arise when an elected  
94 official faces prosecution for crimes of moral turpitude. This includes a process  
95 for appointing a temporary replacement to carry out the duties and  
96 responsibilities of the office until the legal process is complete.

97

98 **Election Costs**

99 VACo supports legislation to look at alternatives that would minimize the costs  
100 of primary elections.

101

102 **Eminent Domain**

103 VACo supports preserving the necessary powers of local governments and  
104 governmental agencies and authorities to address and abate blighted conditions  
105 through redevelopment, and preserving condemnation authority for public  
106 purposes such as schools, parks, roads utilities and other similar purposes.

107 VACo opposes a constitutional amendment or legislation that will severely limit  
108 the use and increase the expense of eminent domain.

109

110 **Freedom of Information Act Electronic Meetings**

111 VACo supports amendments to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act that  
112 allow local and regional authorities, boards, bureaus, districts, political  
113 subdivisions, commissions or agencies of local governments to conduct  
114 electronic meetings under the same provisions as state public bodies. VACo also

115 supports legislation allowing localities and regional bodies to conduct electronic  
116 meetings in the event of an emergency.

117

118 **Grievance Hearings**

119 VACo supports legislation authorizing localities to utilize an administrative  
120 hearing officer in lieu of the three-member panel. VACo also supports providing  
121 immunity to local government employees, officers, volunteers, administrative  
122 hearing officers and panel members for claims arising out of participation in  
123 personnel grievance procedures.

124

125 **Immigration Reform (Federal)**

126 VACo maintains a strong commitment to ensuring the security and safety of our  
127 communities. Legislative reforms must recognize the contributions of  
128 immigrants to a complex economy as well as the costs associated with  
129 welcoming immigrants into our communities. The U.S. Congress must enact  
130 comprehensive immigration reform that provides a funding stream sufficient to  
131 address the fiscal impact on state and local governments for any guest worker  
132 program and earned legalization program. The states and local governments  
133 require a national immigration system that is fully funded at the federal level,  
134 recognizes the realities of the marketplace, eases the fiscal stress on states and  
135 localities and properly secures our borders. It is important that the federal  
136 government establish a clear and understandable path to citizenship for those  
137 who are eligible.

138

139 **Interoperability (Federal and State)**

140 VACo supports the state's goal that by 2015 agencies and their representatives at  
141 the local, regional, state and federal levels will be able to communicate using  
142 compatible systems to respond more effectively during day-to-day operations  
143 and major emergencies. Local governments require new dedicated federal and  
144 state funding sources to achieve this goal.

145

146 **Pay Day Lending**

147 VACo supports legislation to set a total cap of 36 percent that shall include all  
148 interest, fees and other charges for payday lending and other similar businesses  
149 such as car title loans.

150

151 **Sovereign Immunity**

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

155

156

157 **Transmission Lines**

158 VACo supports legislation to encourage the undergrounding of high voltage  
159 transmission lines where right of way constraints or other considerations exists.

160 VACo also supports legislation to preserve existing trees and vegetation in  
161 transmission line rights of way to mitigate the visual and environmental impacts  
162 resulting from clear cutting practices and widespread use of herbicides. VACo  
163 suggests that effective and practical undergrounding and preservation practices  
164 be considered when locating new transmission lines.

165

166 **Unfunded Mandates**

167 VACo opposes unfunded mandates by the Commonwealth. When funding for a  
168 mandated program is altered, the mandate should be suspended until full  
169 funding is restored. When legislation with a cost to localities is passed by the  
170 General Assembly, the cost should be borne by the Commonwealth, and the  
171 legislation should contain a sunset clause providing that the mandate is not  
172 binding on localities until funding by the Commonwealth is provided.

173 Furthermore, VACo opposes the shifting of fiscal responsibility from the state to  
174 localities for existing programs. Any unfunded mandate or shifting of  
175 responsibility should be accompanied by a full fiscal and program analysis to  
176 determine the relative costs to the state and to the locality and to assure the state  
177 is meeting its full funding responsibility before taking effect.

178

179

## Community Development & Planning

180

181

182

183 **Affordable Housing (Federal)**

184 VACo supports increased federal and state funding and appropriate incentives  
185 to assist localities with their affordable housing.

186

187 **Economic and Workforce Development**

188 VACo supports increased state funding and support for workforce training and  
189 economic development programs as effective means for making the necessary  
190 investments in infrastructure and human capital.

191

192

193 **Impacts of Federal and Military Projects (Federal)**

194 VACo supports increased federal and state funding to mitigate the land use,  
195 environmental, infrastructure, and transportation impacts on counties affected  
196 by major federal projects, including the most recent recommendations of the  
197 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC). This support is also  
198 needed to sustain the federal and military presence in Virginia and to compete  
199 for the location of additional facilities in the Commonwealth.

200

201 **Land Use/Growth Management Tools**

202 Authority to plan and regulate land use should remain with local governing  
203 bodies and VACo opposes any legislation to weaken that authority. Furthermore,  
204 the General Assembly should grant localities additional tools necessary to  
205 adequately meet citizens' increasing transportation, education, public safety and  
206 other vital public infrastructure needs that are driven by new development. Such  
207 additional tools may include broad impact fee authority for all counties,  
208 adequate public facilities provisions in subdivision ordinances, state funds for  
209 the purchase of development rights, and real estate transfer charges. Current  
210 residents should not be expected to bear the cost of new growth through  
211 increased real estate taxes. \*PR

212

213 **Reimbursement for Offsite Improvements**

214 VACo supports allowing all localities to require a future developer to reimburse  
215 the initial developer a pro rata sum for offsite improvements provided by the  
216 initial developer.

217

218 **State Corporation Commission - Public Service Corporations: Location of**  
219 **Utilities**

220 VACo supports requiring public utilities to provide written notice to those  
221 residing or owning property within the affected areas and to hold a public input  
222 meeting in that area before they apply to the SCC for a certificate of public  
223 convenience and necessity to construct or enlarge any facility.

224

225 **Regional Cooperation**

226 VACo supports increased state funding and additional grants of authority to  
227 promote regional initiatives. VACo also supports the overall funding of  
228 Virginia's planning district commissions at a level of \$0.35 per capita.

229

230 **Water and Sewer Fees**

231 VACo supports allowing counties to enact water and sewer availability fees and  
232 mandatory water and sewer connection powers.

233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253  
254  
255  
256  
257  
258  
259  
260  
261  
262  
263  
264  
265  
266  
267  
268  
269  
270

## Compensation and Retirement

### **Employment Benefits including VRS**

VACo calls on the state to fully fund state mandated retirement and employment benefits. In particular, VACo opposes using retirement funds intended for teacher retirement for other general fund purposes

Full state funding of mandated benefits includes those required by the Commonwealth for particular classes of employees, including teachers, as well as emergency service, fire and police officials. In order to reduce increasing program costs, VACo supports legislation providing localities with greater flexibility in making adjustments to VRS benefits, including, but not limited to, legislation allowing localities, on an annual basis, the option of requiring employees hired before July 1, 2010, to pay the 5 percent VRS employee share, or any portion thereof.

### **Funding and Staffing of Constitutional Officers and State-Mandated Positions**

VACo urges the Commonwealth to meet its full funding obligations for constitutional officers and other state mandated positions. Any change to the definition of state responsible prisoner or other terms that result in increased cost or operational problems such as capacity for localities should be fully funded by the state.

### **Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness and Volunteer Recruitment & Retention (Federal)**

VACo urges the General Assembly to maintain current state funding and make certain that localities, often the first responders, are included in the planning process for homeland security and emergency preparedness measures. Federal funds received for homeland security and emergency preparedness must flow through the state to local agencies, departments and authorities to pay for eligible costs. In furtherance of this goal, VACo supports legislation that provides a local option for increased incentives for the recruitment and retention of volunteer public safety personnel who are crucial in these situations.

271 **Line of Duty Act**

272 VACo calls on the state to authorize local governments that “opt-out” of the state  
273 administered Line of Duty fund to be allowed to administer their obligations  
274 under LODA.

275

276 **Sheriffs’ Departments Staffing Standards**

277 VACo supports legislation to change the Compensation Board’s minimum  
278 staffing standards to fund at least 10 deputy sheriffs per county. The current  
279 standard provides one deputy per 1,500 people, with a minimum state funding  
280 level of five deputies per county. In a county with a small population but a large  
281 land area, five deputies are simply not adequate to perform 24-hour law  
282 enforcement, court security and other legally required duties.

283

284 **Virginia Retirement System Alternatives**

285 VACo supports efforts to work with VRS and other relevant stakeholders to fully  
286 explore optional alternative to the VRS retirement program for localities. These  
287 programs may include optional defined benefit and defined contribution plans.

288

289

290 **Education**

291

292

293 **Education Funding**

294

295 VACo supports enhanced funding for local education programs and encourages  
296 the state to recognize localities funding efforts towards school divisions. \*PR

297

298 VACo supports full state funding for public education including the SOQ,  
299 targeted incentive programs, capital and maintenance support, and teacher  
300 salaries. Full state funding should be achieved without reduction to other parts  
301 of state public education budgets or to the other core services. As state general  
302 funding diminishes, local autonomy should be increased and state education  
303 mandates reduced.

304

305 VACo opposes legislation that would allow local school divisions to keep any  
306 unexpended funds from local governing bodies for use the next fiscal year.

307 VACo supports the current practice whereby all year-end funds appropriated to  
308 the school divisions by the locality should revert to the locality.

309

## Environment & Agriculture

310

311

312

### 313 **Agriculture Production**

314 VACo supports increased availability of local food for purchase. To accomplish  
315 this, VACo supports the establishment of farmers' markets and the use of food  
316 stamps for purchases at farmers' markets; policies to increase direct delivery of  
317 food from growers to consumers; and funding for the design and construction of  
318 regional processing facilities to facilitate delivery of locally-produced food.

319

### 320 **Biosolids**

321 VACo contends that the land application of biosolids, when conducted properly,  
322 provides important benefits to the public and Virginia's agricultural sector. To  
323 reduce risks that might occur because of improper land application, VACo  
324 supports an effective statewide program and regulations governing land  
325 application of biosolids that protect the environment, public health and safety.  
326 VACo also supports the ability of local governments to monitor compliance with  
327 such regulations and the ability of local governments to submit  
328 recommendations for site-specific conditions into the permitting process.

329

### 330 **Energy Efficiency (Federal)**

331 VACo strongly endorses aggressive initiatives among all levels of government to  
332 reduce dependence upon foreign sources of energy, to reduce emissions of  
333 greenhouse gases, and to improve energy efficiency. VACo also strongly  
334 supports production of renewable energy in Virginia through the  
335 implementation of Renewable Portfolio Standards of 20 percent by 2020.

336

### 337 **Invasive Species**

338 VACo supports adequate funding to implement the Virginia Invasive Species  
339 Management Plan.

340

### 341 **Humane Investigators**

342 VACo opposes legislation requiring local governments to accept court appointed  
343 humane investigators. Humane investigators should only be appointed when  
344 specifically requested by a local governing body. Local governments should have  
345 the option of terminating a humane investigator program.

346

347

348

349 **Land Conservation**

350 VACo supports targeted initiatives to facilitate the protection of 400,000  
351 additional acres of land for conservation purposes. VACo also supports a  
352 Purchase of Development Rights program with state funding for the Virginia  
353 Land Conservation Foundation, and that provides incentives for landowners of  
354 all income levels to participate in the program. Such programs preserve prime  
355 soils for food production and protect important forestal land and  
356 environmentally sensitive areas in the Commonwealth.

357

358 **Local Regulation of Timbering**

359 VACo supports legislation amending Virginia Code § 10.1-1126.1 of the Code of  
360 Virginia to state explicitly that, once a subdivision plan is submitted for local  
361 approval at the request of the property owner for a development project, any  
362 timbering on the property is subject to local development regulations.

363

364 **Non-point Source Pollution**

365 VACo supports a well-financed state program to address the problem of non-  
366 point source runoff from agricultural operations. The program should effectively  
367 encourage implementation of priority best management practices such as  
368 nutrient management planning, use of cover crops, continuous no-till farming,  
369 development of forested riparian buffers, and livestock stream exclusion.

370

371 **Onsite Wastewater Systems**

372 VACo supports a legislative study of problems encountered by localities when  
373 enforcing requirements relating to onsite sewage systems, including the five-year  
374 pump-out requirement by localities subject to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation  
375 Act. VACo also supports legislation ensuring that potential buyers of real  
376 property are told about the type, size and maintenance requirements and  
377 associated costs of the wastewater system(s) on the property prior to the signing  
378 of the initial sales contract and recordation of an engineered system(s) on the plat  
379 and deed at the time of the sale.

380

381 **Recycling**

382 VACo supports the development of more aggressive strategies by the state to  
383 develop markets for recycled materials.

384

385 **Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program**

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

389

390 **Stormwater**

391 Stormwater requirements on local governments related to new development,  
392 redevelopment and existing development must be cost-effective, affordable and  
393 manageable at the local level. The Commonwealth must assume all expenses  
394 imposed by these new regulations. The new Virginia Stormwater Management  
395 Program "VSMP" regulations must have achievable objectives tested in "real  
396 world" situations, streamlined to minimize administrative reviews by state  
397 agencies, and provide localities with flexibility to make appropriate decisions  
398 about drainage and land use. Localities enforcing state regulations require full  
399 cost recovery through the fee schedule provided by the VSMP regulations. \*PR

400

401 **Virginia Cooperative Extension Service**

402 VACo opposes restructuring of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service that  
403 would eliminate beneficial extension agents and/or increase the financial burden  
404 on local governments for the same service.

405

406 **Virginia Outdoors Foundation**

407 VACo supports legislation that would increase the general fund appropriation to  
408 the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, permit an increase in transfer fees, or provide  
409 full funding to the Foundation through alternative means.

410

411 **Waste Management Flow Control**

412 VACo supports broad authority for local governments to adopt flow control  
413 ordinances.

414

415 **Water Quality Improvement Program Funding (Federal)**

416 VACo supports effective partnerships among and across all levels of government  
417 to improve water quality.

418

419 VACo urges state and federal agencies to carefully consider impacts on local  
420 governments of any initiatives intended to reduce loadings of pollutants into  
421 state waters from both point and non-point sources. In order for comprehensive,  
422 watershed-wide water quality improvement strategies to be effective, major and  
423 reliable forms of financial and technical assistance from federal and state  
424 governments will be necessary. VACo supports the goal of improved water  
425 quality but will vigorously oppose provisions of any strategy that threatens to  
426 penalize local governments by withdrawing current forms of financial assistance  
427 or imposing monitoring, management or similar requirements on localities  
428 without providing sufficient resources to accomplish those processes.

429 VACo strongly opposes the imposition of a state fee, tax or surcharge on water,  
430 sewer, solid waste or any service provided by a local government or authority.

431 **\*PR**

432

433 **Water Supply Planning**

434 VACo supports additional appropriations adequate to ensure full funding by the  
435 state for the development of state-mandated water supply plans.

436

437

438

## Finance

439

440

441 **Communication Taxation**

442 VACo supports legislation to reclassify the communications sales and use tax  
443 from a state tax to a local tax.

444

445 **County Authorities Including Equal Taxation**

446 VACo supports granting counties the authority cities and towns currently have  
447 to enact local excise taxes including the cigarette tax, admissions tax, transient  
448 occupancy tax and meals tax. VACo also supports granting counties specific  
449 powers enumerated to cities and towns under the Uniform Charter Powers Act.

450

451 **Online Travel Taxes and Transient Occupancy Taxes (Federal)**

452 VACo supports ensuring the proper collection of applied and assessed taxes  
453 including state (sales and use) and local Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) levies  
454 associated with online travel sales. As a matter of competitive fairness with  
455 Virginia based properties, online travel companies (OTC) should apply and  
456 remit state and local taxes for the actual prices paid by their customers.

457 Generally, OTCs deduct particular "fees" from taxation. These business practices  
458 reduce the companies' tax liabilities, shield from customers, governments and  
459 the contracting Virginia properties the total amount charged to customers, and  
460 place Virginia properties at a competitive disadvantage (i.e. unlike OTCs,  
461 Virginia properties are applying and collecting taxes on the actual prices paid by  
462 their customers). A significant portion of TOT revenues are reinvested in local  
463 tourism.

464

465 Additionally, VACo supports the authority of counties to apply an existing TOT  
466 to short-term rentals; i.e., single family residences rented out for continuous  
467 occupancy for fewer than 30 days.

468

#### 469 **School Boards**

470 VACo supports requiring school boards to consolidate specific administrative  
471 functions with counties. Currently, a school board is not compelled to combine  
472 or share functions with the county including but not limited to building and  
473 grounds, finance, information management/technology, and personnel.

474

#### 475 **State and Local Obligations and Revenues**

476 During this period of ongoing economic uncertainty, VACo reaffirms its  
477 commitment to protecting state and local fiscal stability. Fiscal stability enables  
478 the Commonwealth and local governments to provide the core public services  
479 critical to the long-term economic vitality of Virginia including public primary  
480 and secondary education (K-12). The counties in Virginia stand ready to partner  
481 with the Commonwealth to make the tough fiscal and programmatic decisions  
482 required and offer the following strategies to state leaders.

483

- 484 • State Funding

485 Almost 50 percent of the state's general fund is appropriated to local  
486 governments to support mandated services provided by localities  
487 including K-12, public safety, the Comprehensive Services Act,  
488 constitutional officers and mental health and mental retardation services.  
489 Therefore, VACo is dedicated to protecting the reliability and  
490 sustainability of the Commonwealth's general fund.

491

- 492 • Local Government Fiscal Policy including Managing State Budget  
493 Reductions

494 VACo calls for the repeal of the state's FY 2011 and FY 2012 Reductions in  
495 Aid to Localities. Instituted in FY 2009 (\$100 million for 2008-2010 - \$50  
496 million each year; and \$120 million for 2010-2012 - \$60 million each year),  
497 these reductions are in addition to program specific cuts (for example,  
498 state budget cuts to K-12, Constitutional Officers, the human services and  
499 public safety). When compared with FY 2008, state aid to localities was  
500 almost 15 percent less in FY 2010.

501

502 VACo supports sufficient local discretion to manage state mandated  
503 reductions for non-educational services. State K-12 reductions should not  
504 be combined with other non-K-12 reductions but rather should be

505 categorized as education specific cuts from the Commonwealth. It must be  
506 recognized that many counties do not have the fiscal capacity to replace  
507 state-mandated K-12 reductions with local funds.

508

509 • Local Government Revenues and State Tax Reform

510 VACo opposes proposals to eliminate or reduce specific local tax  
511 revenues, including local business taxes (the Machinery and Tools and the  
512 Business Professional Occupational License taxes). The state is obligated  
513 to replace repealed local revenues with new, offsetting local revenue  
514 sources. The elimination of local revenues without providing a  
515 replacement will lead to increased local property taxes, including those on  
516 homeowners.

517

518 Local governments require sufficient and sustainable revenue streams to  
519 meet state mandates. VACo suggests that the Commonwealth grant  
520 counties and cities the option, by action of the local governing body  
521 without a referendum, the ability to increase the local sales and use tax by  
522 0.5 percent to help offset state budget reductions affecting localities. If  
523 appropriate to a particular locale, the new dollars will help local leaders to  
524 fund adequately K-12 and other critical government services while  
525 lessening the on-going pressure on local property taxes. In addition,  
526 VACo continues to support equal taxing authority for cities and counties.

527

528 Counties must be assured of reliable revenues and authorized to adopt  
529 and maintain practical financial policies, including tax assessment and  
530 collection laws, to provide the core public services and to comply with  
531 state and federal mandates. Conversely, VACo opposes mandated “one-  
532 size-fits-all” budget, revenue and investment policies that hinder local  
533 government’s cost effectiveness. VACo also opposes changing the legal  
534 presumption for the application of local taxes.

535

536 VACo calls upon the Commonwealth to strengthen the stability of the general  
537 fund by initiating state tax reform. Significant tax reform will help to buttress the  
538 Commonwealth’s general fund that finances most core government functions.  
539 Significant tax reform also will reduce pressure on local government leaders who  
540 continually must consider raising real estate tax rates to fund the mandated  
541 services. Tax reform should include a restructuring of state income and sales and  
542 use taxes with the intent to stabilize and increase revenues to meet current and  
543 foreseeable core service demands. Reform should include revisiting specific state

544 tax reductions the Commonwealth enacted in better economic times that may no  
545 longer be affordable. \*PR

546

547

548

## Health & Human Resources

549

550

### 551 **Aging/Long-Term Care**

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

555

### 556 **Behavioral Health Care**

557 The Commonwealth should continue to provide funding sufficient to allow  
558 community services boards to meet adequately the charge of providing services  
559 through a community-based system of care.

560

### 561 **Comprehensive Services Act (CSA)**

562 The State Executive Council (SEC) and Comprehensive Services Act (CSA)  
563 should follow the Administrative Process Act (APA) in promulgating, amending,  
564 or repealing regulations. VACo encourages that localities be allowed to enter  
565 into regional contracts with social service vendors using the lowest match rates  
566 out of the localities involved. VACo encourages the SEC a balance in member  
567 seats from stakeholder groups with an equal number of state, local, private, and  
568 citizen representatives on the council.

569

### 570 **Health and Human Resources Funding**

571 VACo supports state policies and funding to ensure the Commonwealth's at-risk  
572 families have access to high quality and appropriate services. The  
573 Commonwealth should fully fund localities for state mandated human services  
574 and provide the necessary program flexibility to enable localities to provide  
575 comprehensive and case-tailored services. Additionally, increased state funding  
576 for the Virginia Juvenile Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) will enhance the ability of  
577 local governments to plan and receive youth offenders back into the community  
578 (re-entry services). \*PR

579

580

581

582 **Healthcare**

583 VACo supports continued state funding for offered dental care, school nurses  
584 and preventive services and maternal and child health programs through local  
585 health departments and local school systems. VACo encourages the state to  
586 prepare for emergency health services and develop incentives that would  
587 alleviate the nursing shortages felt in many communities.

588

589 **Prevention Services**

590 VACo supports sufficient state general funding for startup costs associated with  
591 community-based service programs. VACo recognizes that programs, such as  
592 Healthy Families, Children’s Health Involving Parents “CHIP” of Virginia, and  
593 the Resource Mother, are models that are operated throughout the state and  
594 requests the General Assembly to provide additional funding for these and other  
595 home-based activities. Reductions in prevention programs will put numerous  
596 youth at risk of high-end CSA placements.

597

598

599 **Transportation**

600

601

602 **Billboards**

603 VACo supports a requirement that proposed billboards in the Virginia  
604 Department of Transportation’s (VDOT) right of way conform to local zoning  
605 and other applicable ordinances and local approval processes.

606

607 **Corridors of Statewide Significance**

608 VACo opposes the reduction of local control that is associated with the  
609 Commonwealth Transportation Board’s process of designating Corridors of  
610 Statewide Significance.

611

612 **Inter-Directional Signage Program**

613 VACo supports a requirement that any signs installed under VDOT's Inter-  
614 directional Sign Program, including the Tourist Oriented Directional Signs  
615 Program, conform to local ordinances, including any local approval processes.

616

617

618

619 **Parking**

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

623

624 **Rail Enhancement Fund Approval**

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

627

628 **Rest Stops**

629 VACo supports federal legislation to allow commercialization of rest stops on the  
630 interstate highway system in Virginia.

631

632 **Road Construction and Maintenance**

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

636

637 VACo vigorously opposes legislative or administrative initiatives that would  
638 require, or result in, the transfer of responsibility to counties for construction,  
639 maintenance or operation of new and existing roads. In addition, VACo supports  
640 amendments to Virginia Code § 33.1-75.3 of the Code of Virginia that would  
641 require VDOT to administer all projects financed by VDOT. If VDOT cannot  
642 administer the projects due to limited resources, then VDOT's consultant services  
643 shall be utilized or the locality shall have the option to use VDOT's consultant  
644 services on locally administer projects financed by VDOT. **\*PR**

645

646 **Securities for Subdivision Streets**

647 VACo supports authority for a local governing body to determine requirements  
648 for developer securities for the construction of subdivision streets.

649

650 **Separation of Federal Funds (Federal)**

651 VACo supports granting each county the authority, working with VDOT, to  
652 determine the percentage of federal funds applied to all secondary road projects  
653 within their jurisdiction. In addition, for any locally administered road projects,  
654 the county should be allowed to use all state funds, as long as they can obligate  
655 their federal funds on other projects.

656

657 **Service Contracts**

658 VACo supports administrative changes allowing all localities to use professional  
659 service contracts similar to other agencies of the Commonwealth (i.e., Virginia  
660 Department of General Services).

661

662 **Transportation Funding**

663 VACo contends that an efficient transportation network is critical to a healthy  
664 economy, job creation, a cleaner environment, enhanced public safety and a  
665 better quality of life. To eliminate the revenue shortfalls that have caused  
666 Virginia's transportation infrastructure to deteriorate at an alarming rate, VACo  
667 urges the governor and the General Assembly to enact a funding package for  
668 transportation with new revenues. These new revenues must be separate from  
669 the general fund; and are stable, recurring and sufficient to meet Virginia's well-  
670 documented transportation needs for highways, transit and all other modes.

671 New revenues should include, but not be limited to, gas tax revenues.

672 Transferring state general funds to transportation neither adequately supports  
673 documented and recurring transportation infrastructure investment needs, nor  
674 serves to protect the Commonwealth's additional core services including public  
675 education, health care, mental health and retardation, and public safety. VACo is  
676 also alarmed by the elimination of formula allocations for secondary roads, and  
677 contends that these funds must be restored. \*PR

678

679 **Transportation Revenue Sharing**

680 VACo appreciates legislation passed by the 2011 General Assembly that  
681 increased funding for the revenue sharing program and removed the hierarchy  
682 of priorities for awarding revenue sharing funds. VACo supports additional  
683 amendments to Section 33.1-75.1 of the Code of Virginia that would also allow  
684 maintenance projects to receive matching funds under the revenue sharing  
685 program. \*PR

686

687 **Truck Size and Weight (federal)**

688 VACo strongly opposes any legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight  
689 beyond the current federal standards, thereby stressing the capacity of our road  
690 systems and putting highways, roads, and bridges at risk of increased damage or  
691 deterioration.

692

693 **VDOT Cooperation**

694 VACo requests full cooperation and timely responsiveness from VDOT in  
695 addressing local government concerns. VACo contends that it is critical for

696 VDOT to involve local officials in any studies or audits examining VDOT's  
697 operations, organizational structure, and processes for delivering services. \*PR

698

699

700

\* \* \*

PRELIMINARY