



Wednesday, January 11, 2017

2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES; Look for Capitol Contact on Tuesdays and Thursdays

The 2017 General Assembly session will span from January 11 to February 25, and legislators will deliberate on many issues critical to local government, including tax, state budget, education funding, pension funding and other public policy matters.

VACo will continually provide updates during the session through [Capitol Contact](#). To ensure that you are receiving Capitol Contact, please send [Gage Harter](#) your best email address.

[Capitol Contact](#) is published every Tuesday and Thursday starting today. In addition, VACo will email and text county officials Capitol Contact Alerts and talking points on many issues before they are heard by select committees. If you would like to receive text alerts on your phone – email Gage Harter with your cell number

Please check VACo's website often to get the latest information and bill updates. Also, be on the lookout for a weekly legislative video recapping issues affecting counties. VACo will continue to release its newsletter, [County Connections](#), around the first and 15th of each month.

Also, VACo is excited to announce its participation in a pilot program that features a legislative tool that will help us collect and organize your opinions on issues. Over the past year, VACo consulted with the developers of FlagPoll, a software platform that allows you to easily view and weigh in on issues that are most important to counties.

In Capitol Contact or Capitol Contact ALERTS, you will have an option to leave feedback on issues with a click of the mouse. Your comments help us determine positions on legislation.

FlagPoll features a personalized intuitive dashboard where you can learn more about each issue, leave comments, keep track of revisions to legislative bills and read your past comments on similar issues.

If you are a VACo Member – [Click here to sign up for FlagPoll](#).

VACo Contact: [Dean Lynch, CAE](#)

Speaker Howell previews the upcoming legislative session



House Speaker Bill Howell sits down with VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch to talk about the issues that will affect counties during the 2017 General Assembly Session. Speaker Howell weighs in on state supported salary increases, short-term rentals or Airbnb as well as local business taxes and tax reform.

[Click here for the video.](#)

Key Dates for 2017 General Assembly Session

The Joint Rules Committee met on December 16 to adopt the procedural resolution that will set out the schedule for the 2017 General Assembly session. Although the procedural resolution will be considered by the full House and Senate in January, typically it is agreed to without amendments. Key dates in the procedural resolution are as follows:

- **January 11:** General Assembly convenes at noon. Prefiled legislation must be submitted by 10 a.m.; this is also the last day to file bills dealing with the Virginia Retirement System or legislation creating or continuing a study.
- **January 13:** Budget amendments by General Assembly members must be submitted by 5 p.m.
- **January 20:** All bills must be filed by 3 p.m.
- **February 5:** The Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees must report their respective budgets.
- **February 7:** Crossover (deadline for legislation to pass its chamber of origin)
- **February 9:** Deadline for each chamber to complete work on its budget
- **February 20:** Deadline for committee action on legislation
- **February 25:** Scheduled adjournment *sine die*
- **April 5:** Reconvened session to consider the Governor's amendments and vetoes

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Governor McAuliffe to speak at VACo County Government Day



This is our day to advocate for counties at the General Assembly. Join us at VACo County Government Day on Thursday, February 2! Registration opens at 11 a.m. and the event kicks off with a boxed lunch at noon. Our keynote speaker will be The Honorable Governor Terry McAuliffe who will address attendees on issues

that affect counties.

VACo staff will provide legislative briefs before charging all present to meet with their General Assembly representatives that afternoon. For information on how to reach your representatives, see the [Virginia House of Delegates Member Listings](#) and the [Senate of Virginia](#) websites. Find information about VACo's positions in the [2017 Legislative Program](#), created by VACo Steering Committees, and adopted at our Annual Business Meeting. We will distribute our VACo County Government Day Bulletin at the event.

We encourage all counties to participate in the legislative process - hear briefs on the issues and make appointments to speak with your representatives that afternoon. The VACo County Government Day event should last no later than 1:30 p.m.

Register for [VACo County Government Day online](#) or by faxing in a [registration form](#) to 804.788.0083. Register early and show the state who's coming to town!

For rooming information, check out [our dedicated online room reservation page](#) or call 1.800.THE.OMNI and use code "VACo County Government Day" to unlock our special event rate. Omni Richmond is participating in the HUNGER program, which will provide one week of meals to a family of four for every online reservation. Consider reserving online to help a family during this season. Room Reservation cut off is 5 p.m. January 18. Room rate is not guaranteed after that date.

We are also introducing sponsorship opportunities for the February events. Check back soon, or contact [Amy Sales](#) for more information.

VACo Contact: [Amy Sales, CMP](#)