

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

June 16, 2017



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on June 22 in
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Broadband, economic development, recycling and solar energy discussed at Region 4 Meeting

The 2017 round of VACo Regional Meetings kicked off on June 7 in Brunswick County, where more than 40 county officials engaged in a robust dialogue with State Senator Frank Ruff on pressing issues. The main topic centered on the availability of broadband and wireless services, and how that impacts education, economic development and the creation of new jobs. Senator Ruff said, "The biggest complaint I get" is lack of broadband internet service in rural areas, adding that we "have to find a solution."

Representatives from 10 counties were in attendance, including VACo President Mary Biggs, President-Elect Bill Robertson, and VACo Region 4 Representative and Charlotte County Supervisor Nancy Carwile.

After introductions, Melody Foster, regional planner with the [Commonwealth Regional Council](#), presented the challenges counties in Region 4 encounter when meeting state-mandated targets for recycling rates ([Foster's Presentation](#)). One problem is finding a willing buyer for collected recycled materials. Nancy Carwile noted that "some localities are being paid, some are paying" for recycling services.

Following the presentation, Senator Ruff discussed creating more opportunities for high school students to gain workforce skills and attend college. He encouraged attendees to get involved in the Great Aspirations Scholarship Program ([GRASP](#)). GRASP serves 76 high schools throughout Virginia with both counseling and financial aid "in the development of an education plan after high school." He added that a key component to creating more opportunities for young kids is access to the internet. He pointed to efforts by the Tobacco Commission, [rural electric cooperatives](#), and the [Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation](#) to build the necessary infrastructure for both wired and wireless internet access.

VACo staff then gave an update on recent market and regulatory forces leading to a surge in industrial scale solar installations. More than 50 [Renewable Energy Permits by Rule](#) (PBR) for solar installations covering hundreds and sometimes thousands of acres in area are seeking approval from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Up next was the Roundtable Discussion as counties shared



their issues and concerns. In addition to the issues discussed by the presenters, members shared concerns regarding inadequate funding for K-12 education, lack of access to natural gas, and the need for additional funds for both road maintenance and construction, among other issues. VACo staff will include all these items for discussion by their respective [VACo Steering Committees](#) when developing the 2018 legislative program.

VACo will next visit [Louisa County and Region 7](#) on June 22. Then Washington County will host the [Regions 12 & 13 Meeting](#) on June 29.

[Thank you Brunswick County](#) for hosting the Region 4 Meeting.

VACo Contact: [Joe Lerch](#)

2017 Annual Conference Update

“Communications | Engagement | Knowledge | Success” is the theme of [VACo's 2017 Annual Conference](#) and will tie into the general and breakout session topics. A [preliminary agenda](#) is available to help familiarize attendees with the conference schedule.

The Omni Homestead Room Reservation forms were sent by email to VACo Board of Directors, County Administrators and confirmed exhibitors on Thursday, June 15. The hotel has blocked out the conference dates in the online registration system, and only faxed or mailed reservations will be accepted. To refresh yourself on room reservation process, check out the [VACo Lodging Guidelines](#). If you have any questions about room reservations, contact [Carol Cameron](#).

If you plan to attend the conference, but stay at a different location, our [Alternative Lodging List](#) includes lodging near The Omni Homestead. VACo does not have any agreements or arrangements with these establishments. Note that there are no meals included in your conference registration. If you stay at The Omni Homestead, your breakfast(s) and dinner(s) are included in the cost of your room fee, including the Sunday night annual banquet for those with Sunday night room reservations. If you stay elsewhere and wish to attend the banquet, you will need to purchase a banquet ticket for \$75. The option to purchase a banquet ticket will be on your conference registration form.

The conference registration forms will be available in mid-August. Conference registration is separate from room reservations, and you must be registered to attend conference events.

Are you a golfer? Or do you want to try your skills on The Omni Homestead Old Course? [Register for the golf tournament](#) today. We have new prize levels available, so try your luck on the course to win a prize. Associate members and exhibitors - interested in sponsoring a portion of the tournament? We have [golf tournament sponsorship opportunities available starting at only \\$25](#).

New this year, during Monday's Opening General Session, the VACo Team asks current and former military service members for a photo to appear in the continuous loop PowerPoint presentation played during the program. If you want to participate, please send a photo with your name, branch of service and rank to [John Kandris](#).

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

VACo Regional Meeting

Join us on June 22 | Region 7 | Louisa County

VACo Members -

We are excited to bring a 2017 Regional Meeting to VACo Region 7. Regional representatives are invited to attend and should have received an informational email. This is an opportunity for county elected officials to share local and regional problems and solutions. We expect an open discussion and your attendance adds to the value of the meeting.

We also invited all state legislators in the VACo Region 7 area. The event format allows for lawmakers to hear your concerns and answer some of your questions.

The meeting includes an educational presentation as well as a session that gives local representatives an opportunity to share their issues. We encourage you to attend and represent your county.

Please RSVP to Valerie Russell at vrussell@vaco.org.

[Click here to view informational flier.](#)

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



The Virginia Association of Counties invites you to join us at the 2017 VACo Region 7 Meeting on Thursday, June 22 at Sunset Cove's Common Area on Lake Anna (near 529 Marcia McGill Way, Mineral, VA). Louisa County is hosting a barbecue dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by the meeting from 7 to 9 p.m.

Expected attendance includes Board Chairs, Vice Chairs, Supervisors, Legislators, Planning District Commissioners and County Administrators and Executive Staff from Caroline, Culpeper, Fauquier, King George, Louisa, Orange, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania and Stafford Counties.

VACo 2017 Region 7 Meeting Agenda

WELCOME

Stephanie L. Koren | Vice Chairman, Louisa County & Region 7 Director, VACo Board of Directors
Meg Bohmke | Vice-Chairman, Stafford County & Region 7 Director, VACo Board of Directors
Dean Lynch | Executive Director, VACo

VACo EDUCATION

Broadband Legislative Update
 Chesapeake Bay/Stormwater Issues

CONVERSATIONS WITH STATE LEGISLATORS (Invited)

Senator Mark J. Peake (22nd Senate District)	Delegate Mark L. Cole (88th House District)
Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr. (24th Senate District)	Delegate Mark Dudenhefer (2nd House District)
Senator Ryan McDougle (4th Senate District)	Delegate Peter F. Farrell (56th House District)
Senator Mark D. Obenshain (26th Senate District)	Delegate Buddy Fowler, Jr. (55th House District)
Senator Bryce E. Reeves (17th Senate District)	Delegate Nicholas J. Freitas (30th House District)
Senator Richard H. Stuart (28th Senate District)	Delegate L. Scott Lingamfelter (31st House District)
Senator Scott A. Surovell (36th Senate District)	Delegate Robert "Bobby" Dickson Orrock, Sr. (54th House District)
Senator Jill Holtzman Vogel (27th Senate District)	Delegate Margaret B. Ransone (99th House District)
Speaker of the House William J. Howell (28th House District)	Delegate Michael J. Webert (18th House District)

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION OF LOCAL ISSUES

Caroline County | Culpeper County | Fauquier County | King George County | Louisa County |
 Orange County | Rappahannock County | Spotsylvania County | Stafford County

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Regional Partners



VACo
SPOTLIGHT

**PENNY
GROSS**

**Fairfax
County
Vice Chair**



Q1. You spent a large part of your career working on Capitol Hill, first in the Senate and later in the House of Representatives. What led you to run for office at the local level?

Penny Gross: I had the great good fortune to learn practical politics at the feet of masters – Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon and Senator Frank Church of Idaho. Both Senators instilled in me an appreciation for people and their problems. When Oregon Congressman Mike Kopetski decided not to run for a third term in the face of the Gingrich revolution, I decided it was time for me to put my own name on the ballot. Fortunately, the voters of Mason District agreed.

Q2. You’ve been a leader on environmental protection in your time on the Board, chairing the Board’s Environmental Committee and the Potomac Watershed Roundtable, and serving on the Local Government Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Executive Council. What sparked your interest in environmental issues?

PG: Growing up in Oregon’s Willamette Valley, within an hour’s drive of the ocean and the mountains, environmental stewardship is in my DNA. Family outings included picnics along the river in a local park; a favorite Sunday drive was into the mountains to the ancient lava fields; and evergreen trees made home green all year long. At the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board of Directors, I became involved in water issues – drought in the late 1990s, the development of the Chesapeake 2000 agreement, even wastewater and stormwater improvements. Water quality and water quantity are hugely important to the future development of our region, and those issues impact nearly every community and county in the nation, as I have discovered as the vice chairman of NACo’s Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee.

Q3. You’ve also chaired the Board’s Personnel Committee for many years. As the “Baby Boomers” retire, how can younger workers be encouraged to see local government as an attractive career option?

PG: Serving the public is a privilege, as well as a responsibility, at any level of government. As VACo members know, the work gets done at the local level. Elected boards may change, but the policy implementation and “boots on the ground” work is done by ongoing staff, whether in human services, public works, public safety, or any of the myriad of other services. A local government career offers advancement, stability, and professional and personal satisfaction, and most localities offer commensurate salary and benefits packages, to recruit and retain good employees who serve the public.

Q4. Since the 2016 election, there has been significant media attention to the perceived divisions in America between rural and urban areas. When you were VACo president, you made working on common issues across rural, suburban, and urban area a focus of your tenure. Are there lessons from the local level that can be applied nationally?

PG: As a Fairfax County Supervisor, I have an advantage of representing a large, established, urbanizing jurisdiction, but the people issues are pretty much the same anywhere. Understanding and identifying needs, providing services and solutions, and finding the revenue to support those functions, are shared by various levels of government. The scale may be different, but the ability of government to provide basic services to all its citizens should not be partisan.

I do find that participating in regional, state, and national organizations, like MWCOG, VACo, and NACo, gives me a greater understanding of the challenges we all face as elected officials. I always encourage newly elected officials to expand their knowledge and understanding outside of their own jurisdictions. It leads to better decision-making, and sometimes we actually can help each other achieve desired outcomes.

Q5. In your view, what are the key challenges and opportunities facing Fairfax County in the next 10 years?

PG: Multi-modal transportation and housing that is affordable are probably the top two. Layer onto that a growing and increasingly diverse population, and an aging population, and you can see that we need to change some of our traditional approaches, and also find new sources of revenue. As a great place to live, work, play, and learn, Fairfax County enjoys a well-educated workforce, and new technology sectors, along with the INOVA Center for Personalized Health, offer incredible opportunities for new jobs, new business creation, and an ongoing sustainable quality of life for all our residents.

Q6. Who are your role models in public service?

PG: As noted earlier, my treasured mentors were Senators Morse and Church, although I may not have realized it at the time. Senator Church’s wife, Bethine, also was a great role model. Known as “Idaho’s Third Senator,” she focused on personal and sincere human interaction, which I have tried to emulate. She also taught me that a great smile can break down lots of barriers!

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Joint Subcommittee on Local Government Fiscal Stress meets

The Joint Subcommittee on Local Government Fiscal Stress held its inaugural meeting on June 15. The joint subcommittee, created by language in the 2017 Appropriations Act that was modeled on [SJ 278 \(Hanger\)](#), is tasked with a broad examination of local government fiscal stress, including disparity in taxing authority between cities and counties and local responsibility for delivery of state-mandated services. The subcommittee is also to examine potential incentives to encourage regional cooperation and possible savings obtained from such efforts.

The joint subcommittee received a [presentation](#) from Secretary of Finance Richard D. Brown and Robert C. Bobb, President and CEO of The Robert Bobb Group, on efforts to address the financial situation of the City of Petersburg. These efforts have concentrated on stabilizing the city's finances in the short term and working to improve its cash reserves and financial practices in the long term. Language in the budget passed by the 2017 General Assembly authorizes the Secretary of Finance to provide up to \$500,000 in FY 2017 to assist a locality in fiscal distress; the city has submitted a request for funding, which is currently under review.

Language in the state budget also directs the Auditor of Public Accounts to convene a working group to establish an "early warning system" to identify localities in fiscal distress. As discussed in an earlier article in County Connections, this group [met in April](#) to review information provided by the Pew Charitable Trusts about other states' indicators of financial trouble and is expected to meet again in the coming months to review sample models.

The joint subcommittee also received an [overview](#) of local government fiscal stress as measured by the Commission on Local Government. This metric, created by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission in 1986, measures revenue capacity, revenue effort, and median household income and is used to calculate need in several funding formulae, such as the distribution of funding for equipment for constitutional officers. David Conmy, Local Government Policy Administrator at the Commission on Local Government, also provided information on existing opportunities for localities to cooperate, such as revenue-sharing agreements and agreements for joint service delivery. He also discussed several studies regarding consolidation of localities, including a current study on annexation that will conclude in 2018.

Lisa Wallmeyer, Senior Attorney at the Division of Legislative Services, presented an [overview](#) of local government taxing authority, pointing out the increasing reliance of localities on local resources, in particular real property taxes. Senator Hanger, the joint subcommittee's chairman, noted that he had been reluctant in the past to support authorizing all counties to levy cigarette taxes in the absence of a comprehensive review of taxing authority in general and stated that this subcommittee might provide an opportunity for such a thorough consideration. Senator Dance noted that although the problems in Petersburg had attracted attention, local fiscal stress is a problem broader than one city. The joint subcommittee expects to meet again later in the summer.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

State General Fund Revenues Up in May



Governor McAuliffe announced on June 12 that state General Fund collections in May increased by 4.6 percent over last year, buoyed by a strong performance in individual income tax withholding and sales tax collections. Total revenue collections increased 3.7 percent on a year-to-date basis, outpacing the forecast of 2.9 percent growth. As noted in April, May is a significant month for revenue collections, which generally must be evaluated in tandem with April receipts to provide an accurate picture of the state's revenue, since estimated and final payments for non-withholding are processed over the course of both months.

Individual income tax withholding continues to perform above expectations, with growth of 8.2 percent in May (including an additional deposit day). On a year-to-date basis, growth in withholding of 5.1 percent is outpacing the forecast of 3.6 percent growth. By contrast, nonwithholding collections have declined 2.2 percent on a year-to-date basis; collections were projected to drop only 0.7 percent. Sales tax collections grew 4.1 percent last month, but year-to-date collections continue to lag the annual forecast.

Secretary of Finance Richard D. Brown's [May revenue letter](#) notes that the state must collect \$2.1 billion in June in order to meet the revenue forecast; \$2.2 billion was collected last June.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)



Visit Arlington County and the Netherlands Carillon

A Sign of Lasting Friendship

G. L. Verheul, a Dutch government official in The Hague, first advocated for a gift to symbolize Dutch-American friendship. The concept took shape, and a fundraising campaign to cast the bells met with a generous response in the Netherlands. Queen Juliana endorsed the project, and on April 4, 1952, she visited the United States to present a small silver bell to President Truman as a token of the carillon to come. In ceremonies at Meridian Hill Park in Washington, DC, the queen spoke of the importance of the small bells of the carillon:

"To achieve real harmony, justice should be done also to the small and tiny voices, which are not supported by the might of their weight. Mankind could learn from this. So many voices in our troubled world are still unheard. Let that be an incentive for all of us when we hear the bells ringing."

Two years later 49 bells arrived and were installed in a temporary tower in West Potomac Park, where they were formally accepted by the United States. A permanent tower was built near the United States Marine Corps War Memorial, the bells were installed, and an official dedication was held on May 5, 1960—the 15th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands from the Nazis.

Design and Construction

The 50 bells of the carillon were cast using a bronze alloy of approximately four-fifths copper and one-fifth tin. The total weight of the bells is approximately 30 tons (61,403 pounds). The largest bell or "bourdon" is 6 feet, 9 inches in diameter and weighs 12,654 pounds. The smallest bell or "treble" is 8 inches in diameter and weighs 35 pounds. Each bell includes an emblem signifying a group within Dutch society. The smallest bells represent the youth of the Netherlands. Inscriptions cast on the bells were composed by the Dutch poet, Ben van Eysselsteijn.

The tower housing the carillon was designed by Joost W. C. Boks, a leading Dutch architect. It is an open steel structure reinforced by steel plates. The tower is approximately 127 feet high, 25 feet deep, and 36 feet wide. It stands on a quartzite plaza 93 feet square and is enclosed by a low, lava stone wall. Two bronze lions, designed by Dutch sculptor Paul Koning, guard the plaza steps. A rectangular staircase leads to an observatory platform from which a small circular staircase winds up to the glass-enclosed playing cabin 83 feet above the ground. Planted on the surrounding grounds are thousands of flowers, including tulip bulbs in the springtime.

SOURCE: [National Parks Service](#)



Mark Your Calendars



NACo's 82nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

The NACo Annual Conference & Exposition is the only meeting that draws a cross section of elected officials and county staff from across the country. Attendees from rural and urban counties with large and small budgets and staff – all come together for four days of education, networking and sessions aimed to help improve residents' lives and the efficiency of county government.

[REGISTER ONLINE](#) | [REGISTRATION FORM](#) | [GUEST REGISTRATION FORM](#)



Click on logo to view video of Annual Conference

Meet Our Newest VACo Associate Member



TechOne Partners is a Virginia-based boutique information technology staffing firm.

We recruit, screen and place highly qualified individuals in employment positions with Client companies satisfying both the position requirements for the Client and the career objectives of the employee.

We specialize in filling the ongoing IT staffing openings within County Governments as well as Government Agencies.

[Watch TechOne Partners' Informational Video](#)

Formed in 2013, we are relatively new; however, TechOne Partners has more than 20 years' experience providing strategic staffing services for its Clients. Headquartered in Richmond, Va., the company has been SWAM certified (Small, Woman and Minority) by the Commonwealth of Virginia. TechOne Partners is also part of the State CAI contract and we are members of VACo. Although TechOne Partners specializes in contract to hire and direct placements for their Clients, we also provide project staffing services on both a short term and long-term basis.

What Sets Us Apart? Our TOP Approach.

- Our rigorous screening process which helps lower turnover
- Our ability to identify true performers
- Maintaining a "live pipeline" of candidates
- Not focused on using "Job Board" postings to meet Client's needs
- We pride ourselves in providing excellent Client communications
- We look for ways to expand the value we bring to the relationship
- This includes careful cost control for TechOne Partners which we pass on to Clients

Our Process:

- Drill down to fully understand and qualify the Client's requirements.
- Identify candidates that meet the base line position requirements at a minimum.
- Test the candidates on their IT knowledge and skills.
- Interview the candidates to see if they are a good cultural fit for the Client.
- Conduct Technical Interviews to determine strengths and weaknesses to present to the Client.
- Provide notes as to why the candidate is a good fit to the Client to enhance and streamline their evaluation process.
- Once a Client chooses to hire the candidate, TechOne Partners will run the drug testing, background checks, credit reports, reference checks and finger printing. TechOne Partners will also obtain the candidate's commitment to accept the offer from the Client.

TechOne Partners can solve one of your biggest problems, finding great IT employees in the highly competitive IT marketplace within your budget. We speak your language and understand that both the quality of candidates presented, as well as the customer service they will provide are critical to government. Thank you for your interest and we look forward to setting up another win/win relationship with you.

[Watch TechOne Partners' Informational Video](#)

News from our Associate Members



AISN Names Ben Lewis to Business Development Team

[AIS Network](#), a secure and compliant IT managed services expert serving large enterprises and The Commonwealth of Virginia, is pleased to announce the appointment of Ben Lewis to its business development team. Lewis will be responsible for engagement management and business development consulting, primarily in the Commonwealth of Virginia's state & local and education (SLED) market.

"We welcome Ben to our team," said AISN CEO Jay Atkinson. "In addition to being tasked to build our SLED customer base, Ben will also be a terrific resource for our customers and others who will work with him."

AISN works with multiple federal, state and local government agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia and elsewhere. In Virginia, AISN's eGov services are available under multiple contracts to any public entity, including counties, independent cities and educational institutions.

With more than 30 years' industry experience, Lewis was recently a senior account manager for Lexmark International. Managing sales opportunities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia for the global output and information management company, he supported state and local government, higher education institutions, and public K-12 schools.

"I am looking forward to being part of the AISN team," said Lewis. "The majority of my career has been spent supporting technology within the Commonwealth of Virginia public sector and I look forward to putting that experience to work at AISN."

Prior to his work at Lexmark, Lewis represented The IQ Business Group, CGI (AMS) and NTT Data (Keane / Metro) as an account executive primarily in their dealings with Virginia state & local government.



About AIS Network

AIS Network takes highly regulated businesses and governments to the cloud. AISN is the high compliance, secure cloud hosting and managed services expert serving large enterprises in the health care, pharmaceutical, government and financial industries, notably numerous international corporations and the Commonwealth of Virginia. When our clients' highly regulated data, applications, payment portals and websites are simply too critical or complex to entrust to a commodity hosting provider, they call us for help. We engineer, customize and manage high-performance, secure cloud and disaster recovery solutions. Our clients never worry about whether their IT environment can pass a HIPAA, PCI, FISMA, SOX or other compliance audit, because we pass ours 100% of the time. We value highly giving our clients all of the personalized attention that they deserve, while also helping them to audit their infrastructure, reduce their IT compliance risk, avoid costly regulatory mistakes and lower costs for their business and their customers. AISN is small business-certified (SWaM #723554). Visit www.aisn.net.



Associate Members - Seize this opportunity to connect with VACo members through the Associate Member Business Cards Program in County Connections. This is a stylish and quick way to connect with local government elected officials and county leadership and staff through VACo's newsletter.

The design allows for you to showcase the following – **Logo | Contact Name and Title | Contact Email (Linked) | Specific Website Page (Linked) OR Content like Video or Promotional Material (Linked)**

Please contact Carol Cameron for more information at ccameron@vaco.org or 804.343.2507.

President Biggs attends Community Wealth-Building Briefing

President Biggs was invited to participate in a June 9 presentation hosted by Secretary of Health and Human Resources William A. Hazel and featuring Ted Howard, a leader in the field of “community wealth-building” – a strategy that combats generational poverty by assisting individuals in attaining self-sufficiency through building assets. Community wealth-building aims to create an “ecosystem” where the economic power of anchoring institutions such as universities and hospitals is leveraged to support locally-owned enterprises, which in turn generate assets for local workers. Advocates for this approach argue that holding a job is not enough to break the cycle of poverty: workers must be able to accumulate enough assets to cushion ordinary disruptions in life so that they can stay out of poverty. Similarly, a local economy with a number of locally-owned businesses is less vulnerable to the economic disruption caused by one large employer relocating to another area or undergoing large layoffs.

Mr. Howard spoke about his work in several areas of the country, in particular efforts in Cleveland, Ohio, where his organization has helped to establish several local enterprises that provide goods and services to large institutions in the city. For example, a commercial laundry service, a worker-owned cooperative, contracts with the Cleveland Clinic. The laundry hires local residents, who are often graduates of a job-training program run by a local nonprofit. The business has been profitable, allowing the workers to share in its growth and enabling them to build assets to bolster their long-term self-sufficiency.

During the question and answer period, there was some conversation about the application of this model to smaller and more rural areas. Mr. Howard has typically worked in cities where there is enough population density in close proximity to anchoring institutions to allow small businesses to be established in distressed neighborhoods; he suggested that smaller jurisdictions or rural areas may need to work regionally in order to aggregate enough demand for local businesses to supply. Agriculture was also discussed as a sector where wealth could be created in rural areas.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Secretary Hazel asked attendees to offer suggestions on what the state could do to support similar efforts in Virginia. President Biggs sent a letter in response making several recommendations. First, the state could provide technical assistance to interested localities. State help is also needed to address the problem of transporting residents to workplaces in rural areas where it is difficult to provide public transit. The state could also support agriculture in rural areas by continuing to fund the Virginia Cooperative Extension, which provides technical assistance to farmers, and by exploring opportunities to find markets for locally-grown food. Lastly, the state may wish to work with local planning district commissions in developing community wealth-building strategies, particularly in rural areas where programs may need to be regional in order to be sustainable.

President Biggs said, “The projects we learned about were innovative approaches to using existing assets to tackle entrenched poverty. I look forward to having more conversations about how this model might be adapted to support local solutions in our urban, suburban and rural counties.”

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

2017 Green Government Challenge launched

VACo members may now register online to participate in the 2017 Green Government Challenge, a friendly competition designed to encourage implementation of specific policies and practical actions to protect the environment and promote energy efficiency by local governments and the broader communities they serve. As in years past, those qualifying with at least 100 “green” points for completing certain action items will be recognized at the VACo conference in November.

So how will the revised challenge look? There will be more action items than ever, up to 73 from last year’s 55, thereby presenting additional opportunities to garner points to reach the 100 level. Many of the new items will present opportunities for VACo members to build partnerships (both public and private) to expand efforts at building more resilient communities. For example, points can be earned by participating in the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) program, a certification process that reduces risks and damages due to flooding with the reward of lower insurance premiums for policyholders. Another example is the ability to earn points by facilitating or supporting a “solarize” initiative in your community to lower the cost of solar panel installations through bulk purchasing. More opportunities are also available in such categories as community involvement, energy efficiency, renewable energy, procurement, land use/transportation, water stewardship and waste management. The score sheet is also structured to allow applicants to earn points for innovative programs.

Completed scorecards need to be submitted by October 6, 2017.

As with the current challenge, there will be plenty of resources and examples available on the website for each action item. For more information and to register for the challenge go to www.gogreenva.org. If you have any questions contact Larry Land, VACo’s Director of Policy Development, at lland@vaco.org or by calling 804.343.2504.



Don't Miss a Special Go Green Forum on August 2!

Go Green Virginia, a partnership between VACo and the Virginia Municipal League, will present a special forum on August 2 on high-profile environmental issues that will have major impacts upon local governments in the immediate future.

This year's forum will focus on solar energy, water supply and requirements associated with the Chesapeake Bay TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load). To discuss issues relating to solar energy the presenters will be Robert Lazaro, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, VACo's own Joe Lerch, Director of Local Government Policy. A presentation on Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts will be made by Russ Baxter, Virginia's Deputy Secretary for the Chesapeake Bay. Scott Kudlas, Director of DEQ's Office of Water Supply has also been invited to make a presentation.

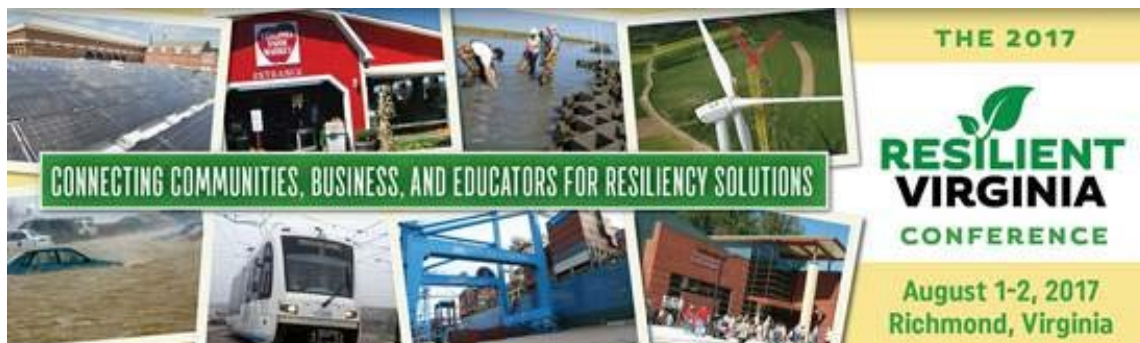
The Go Green Forum will be offered at no charge. It is scheduled between 1:45 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. at Richmond's Convention Center, after adjournment of the Resilient Virginia Conference (see below).

Although there is no fee for attending the Go Green Forum, we ask those planning to attend to submit a [registration form](#) or [register online](#).

Questions about the August 2 Forum may be directed to Larry Land, VACo's Director of Policy Development, at lland@vaco.org or by calling 804.343.2504.

Resilient Virginia Conference Focuses on Local Governments' Role in Building Vibrant, Strong Communities

August 1-2, 2017 | Richmond



Local governments, working with their local businesses and community institutions, play a critical role in resiliency planning. At the 2017 Resilient Virginia Conference, nationally recognized planning processes will be demonstrated that your local government leadership can take back to their own communities. They will learn about:

- the tools and resources to better deal with anticipated threats, such as hurricanes, infrastructure failures, health crises, and cyber attacks;
- how to become more expert at reducing their vulnerabilities;
- how to mobilize their resources and assets, including community business and institutions; and
- what it takes to set forth a plan for a more economically secure future for their citizens and businesses.

Plan to attend to learn and network, take away resiliency planning tools and resources.

Find out more about the agenda and speakers at the website - www.resilientvirginia.org - and [register today](#) to join colleagues in working toward a resilient future!

NACo releases analysis of potential county impacts of the President’s FY 2018 Budget Request

On May 23, President Trump released his Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Budget Request, laying out a \$4.1 trillion spending proposal for fiscal year 2018 and the following decade. The budget expands upon the administration’s initial “skinny budget” request for FY 2018 released earlier this year. NACo has released a comprehensive analysis of the president’s FY 2018 Budget Request and its potential impact on programs important to America’s counties.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL ANALYSIS OF THE PRESIDENT’S FY 2018 BUDGET REQUEST](#)

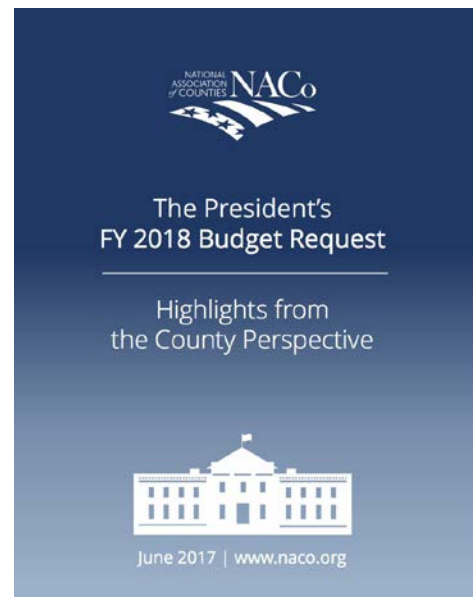
The budget proposes significant spending cuts, which, combined with optimistic economic growth assumptions, attempt to balance the budget over the next decade. Specifically, it outlines discretionary spending levels at \$1.151 trillion and mandatory spending levels at \$2.943 trillion. This represents a \$1.7 trillion cut in mandatory programs over 10 years and a 10 percent cut to domestic programs in 2018.

Counties are concerned with several of the president’s proposed spending cuts, which include the elimination and reduction of programs that aid counties and their residents. The proposed budget includes significant changes to the Medicaid program, converting the program to a block grant or per capita cap. Other significant proposed reductions compared to enacted FY 2017 levels include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (30 percent) and the U.S. Departments of State (32 percent), Agriculture (21 percent), Labor (20 percent), Commerce (15 percent), Health and Human Services (16 percent), Transportation (17 percent) and Housing and Urban Development (12 percent).

In response to the president’s budget, NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase expressed his concerns with the president’s budget in a statement released May 23: “We are greatly concerned that this proposed budget essentially abdicates the federal role in the federal-state-local intergovernmental partnership that is essential to addressing our nation’s most pressing challenges. This budget, if enacted, would deal devastating blows to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.”

For the full NACo analysis of the President’s FY 2018 Budget Request, [please click here](#).

NACo Contact: [Deborah Cox](#) | Legislative Director



NEW CONTRACT FOR TRACTORS, MOWING EQUIPMENT, IMPLEMENTS AND PARTS AND SERVICE



New competitively-solicited contract for tractors and mowers provides access to overall best government pricing with leading suppliers

We are excited to announce a new contract for tractors, mowing equipment, implements, parts and service. The tractor contract was awarded to Mahindra North America and AGCO–Massey Ferguson and the mowing equipment contract was awarded to Grasshopper through a competitive solicitation process conducted by lead agency, Cobb County, Georgia. The initial contract term is for three (3) years with the option to renew for two additional one year periods.

To learn more about this new contract, [register for one of our complimentary webinars](#). If you are unable to attend the webinars below, click the supplier partner links to learn more or contact them directly.

employment opportunities



The Virginia Association of Counties accepts employment ads in a PDF file or a link to a job site. Please include information for applying, and a link to other important information. Please do not fax your employment ad. VACo members are not charged for placing an employment ad. The cost is \$50 per ad for non-VACo members. VACo publishes the ad on its website and mobile app as well as the upcoming County Connections issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [Valerie Russell](mailto:Valerie.Russell@vacounty.org).



EMT – INTERMEDIATE OR PARAMEDIC LEVEL | Madison County | Posted June 8



WATER DISTRIBUTION APPRENTICE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES | James City County | Posted June 2



PRINCIPAL PLANNER | Isle of Wight County | Posted June 8



DIRECTOR I | Grayson County | Posted June 2



PLANNER | Prince George County | Posted June 12



SENIOR APPRAISER | Albemarle County | Posted June 7



TECHNOLOGY TRAINING SPECIALIST | Albemarle County | Posted June 1



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Craig County | Posted June 12



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION GENERALIST | Albemarle County | Posted June 7



DIRECTOR I | Grayson County | Posted May 31



DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | Orange County | Posted June 8



ACCOUNTANT | Powhatan County | Posted June 7



COUNTY PLANNER | Essex County | Posted May 31



CURRENT PLANNER | Northampton County | Posted June 8



GIS ANALYST | Caroline County | Posted June 6



PRINCIPAL PLANNER-PROJECT MANAGER | Hanover County | Posted May 30



PLANS EXAMINER | Shenandoah County | Posted June 8



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS | Gloucester County | Posted June 5



LITTER CONTROL/ COURT SERVICES OFFICER | Fauquier County | Posted May 30



SENIOR BENEFIT PROGRAM SPECIALIST AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES | James City County | Posted May 26



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE | City of Poquoson | Posted May 26



WORKFORCE COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR - COORDINATOR OF YOUTH TALENT DEVELOPMENT - YOUTH CAREER NAVIGATORS | Region 2000 | Posted May 26



ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER | Stafford County | Posted May 26



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE | Caroline County | Posted May 26



GENERAL PROPERTIES MANAGER | Bedford County | Posted May 24



PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR | City of Buena Vista | Posted May 24



LANDFILL TECHNICIAN | Frederick County | Posted May 23



SPOTTER - LANDFILL | Frederick County | Posted May 23



BROADBAND PROJECT MANAGER | Fauquier County | Posted May 22



MANAGEMENT ANALYST II | Albemarle County | Posted May 22



CHILDREN'S SERVICE ACT COORDINATOR | Fluvanna County | Posted May 22



FIRE RESCUE TECH | James City County | Posted May 22



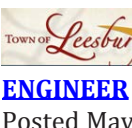
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES | James City County | Posted May 19



AGRITOURISM COORDINATOR | Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission | Posted May 19



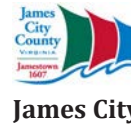
PLANNER II | Roanoke County | Posted May 18



SENIOR UTILITIES ENGINEER | Town of Leesburg | Posted May 17



ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY | Louisa County | Posted May 17



PERMIT TECHNICIAN | James City County | Posted May 16



LIBRARY DIRECTOR | Essex County | Posted May 16



BUILDING INSPECTOR PART TIME | Pittsylvania County | Posted May 16



LIBRARY DIRECTOR | City of Falls Church | Posted May 12



DEPUTY SHERIFF I/II AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES | James City County | Posted May 12



BUYER III | Albemarle County | Posted May 12



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER | Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control | Posted May 11



TOWN MANAGER | Town of Christiansburg | Posted May 11



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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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