

# COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the  
Virginia Association of Counties

September 1, 2017



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## State Investigates Security of Certain Voting Machines



The Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) has undertaken a security review of several models of Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines, an action that was sparked by [media coverage of the "DEFCON" hackers' conference this summer](#), which included a "Voting Village" demonstration during which hackers were able to breach the security of several commonly-used voting machines. Several of these models are currently in use in some counties and cities in Virginia. The results of VITA's review may lead to a recommendation to the State Board of Elections to decertify some or all of these machines prior to the upcoming November general election.

Legislation enacted in 2016 imposed a deadline of July 1, 2020, for localities to phase out use of DREs; decertification this fall would accelerate the timeline for replacement considerably, as new machines would need to be procured in time for the November election. VACo has been in contact with staff at the Department of Elections as well as with Secretary of Administration Nancy Rodrigues to express concern about localities potentially being required to purchase new voting equipment in the middle of the fiscal year in the event of a decertification of the DREs. Staff have been advised that vendors are open to discussions with counties about flexible financing arrangements. VACo has encouraged the Administration to explore options for financial assistance for localities, either as state grant funds or low-interest loan options.

Secretary Rodrigues said, "The Administration recognizes that the timing of the potential decertification decision could be problematic for localities. As VITA completes its review, we are working with vendors to ensure that an adequate supply of machines will be available for purchase and that vendors are prepared to work with localities on financing."

VACo has a longstanding position in its legislative program in support of state assistance with the costs of election administration and will continue to work on this issue with the Administration and the General Assembly in the 2018 session.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

## Gubernatorial Candidates address local government leaders at the 2017 County Officials' Summit



VACo welcomed nearly 150 county supervisors, administrators, staff and Association partners on August 21 to the 2017 County Officials' Summit. The Summit, held this year in Albemarle County, offers a chance for county officials from across the Commonwealth to come together and begin to develop what will eventually become the 2018 VACo Legislative Program.

With the 2017 election drawing near, VACo was pleased this year to welcome numerous candidates for statewide office to the Summit. Gubernatorial Candidates Ed Gillespie and Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam kicked the morning off, each separately sharing their vision for Virginia and their plans should they be elected Governor. Next, Lieutenant Governor Candidates Justin Fairfax and Senator Jill Vogel individually spoke to the Summit and shared their goals for the Commonwealth. All four candidates took questions and spoke to a wide range of topics and priorities important to VACo members, including broadband expansion, local tax authority, education reform, and access to healthcare.

"We are extremely grateful to have had these four candidates join us this year," VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said. "To be able to have an open and honest discussion with each of them as well as ask them some tough questions about the matters that mean most to us was truly invaluable. Win or lose, we look forward to working with these individuals in the future and are eager to hold them to their pledges."

Following the morning session with the candidates, the rest of the day was dedicated to working on VACo's legislative program and priorities. As in years past, all seven steering committees met and began to fine tune their own platforms. These platforms will be reconsidered and voted on in full at the upcoming Annual Conference and will become the 2018 Legislative Program.

"All in all, this was a tremendously successful Summit," VACo President Mary Biggs said. "We are so happy to not only have heard from the four candidates but also to have started to put together such a robust legislative program. I can't wait to take the next steps at our November conference."

[VACo 2017 County Officials' Summit Video](#)

**Sponsors' Videos - [Asset Protection Group and Aflac](#) | [Param Solutions](#)**

**VACo Contact: [Chris McDonald, Esq.](#)**

McAuliffe Administration proposes changes to Smart Scale application process, including limits on the number of applications per funding cycle - Comments due October 20



SMART SCALE

Funding the Right Transportation Projects in Virginia

Table with columns: District/Regional Entity, Jurisdiction/Regional Name, Submitted Round 1, Submitted Round 2, Average # Apps Submitted R1 & R2, Total Population 2010 Census, Max No. of Apps, Tier. Lists various Virginia jurisdictions and their application limits.

Click on spreadsheet to see limits applied to jurisdictions.

The Secretary of Transportation’s Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) has released a draft of proposed revisions to the Smart Scale Technical Guide. This document outlines the process and technical requirements for submitting applications for funding both local and regional transportation projects.

For local governments, transit agencies and regional planning organizations (MPOs and PDCs), the most significant change being sought is the placement of a cap on how many projects may be submitted for funding. Specifically, for localities with a population less than 200,000 the maximum number of applications is four. For localities greater than 200,000 population, the maximum number of applications is 8. For regional organizations and transit agencies serving a population less than 500,000 the maximum number of applications is 4. And for those serving a population greater than 500,000 the maximum number of applications is 8. This spreadsheet provides additional detail on how these limits would be applied to specific localities, transit agencies and regional entities.

Other significant changes include the following:

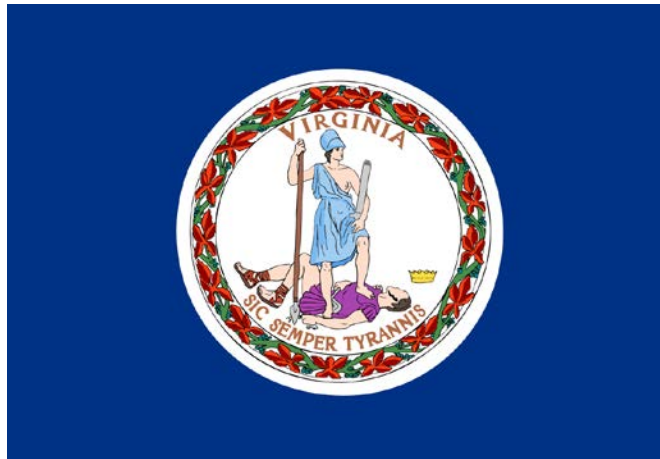
- A revised final application deadline of August 1 (current is September 30)
A new requirement for a pre-application to be completed by June 1 (pre-applications can be submitted online starting March 1);
A new requirement that all project submissions must include a resolution of support from MPO or PDC; and
Additional new requirements to demonstrate “project readiness.”

Comments can be submitted to SMARTPORTAL@CTB.Virginia.gov or by using the OIPI online portal.

It is expected that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will vote to adopt these revisions to the guide on October 24, several days following the deadline for comments. Therefore, counties with specific concerns should also contact their CTB representative.

VACo Contact: Joe Lerch, AICP

## Governor McAuliffe Addresses General Assembly “Money Committees”



Governor McAuliffe presented his year-end report on FY 2017 revenue collections to the House Appropriations, House Finance, and Senate Finance Committees on Monday, August 21. The news was largely positive, with a state General Fund (GF) revenue surplus of \$136.6 million, but the Governor sounded a strong note of caution in his remarks, citing continued uncertainty about the federal budget.

Overall GF revenue collections grew 3.6 percent over FY 2016 (excluding transfers), surpassing the forecast of 2.9 percent growth. This increase was largely driven by a continued strong performance in income tax withholding collections and corporate income taxes. Withholding collections grew 5.2 percent, ahead of the forecast of 3.6 percent growth. Secretary of Finance Ric Brown noted that collections in this sector improved over last fiscal year's growth of 2.4 percent, and attributed this change to growth in employment and in wages and salaries. Corporate income taxes also exceeded the forecast with growth of 8.1 percent, outpacing the forecast of 3.8 percent growth. Sales tax continues to be an area of weakness, with growth of 1.9 percent trailing the annual forecast of 2.8 percent growth. However, Secretary Brown noted that collections were stronger in the latter half of the fiscal year as overall economic conditions improve, a trend that appears to be continuing in the first month of FY 2018, as sales tax collections grew 6 percent in July.

Governor McAuliffe reflected on the contrast between the state's budget situation last August, when FY 2016 revenues were nearly \$270 million below the forecast, and the FY 2017 surplus, but he counseled prudence in the use of the surplus. He warned that the federal government may resort to a Continuing Resolution for its upcoming fiscal year, which could trigger spending cuts pursuant to sequestration that would be particularly harmful for Virginia's economy. Concerns about the effects of such federal budget reductions had influenced Standard and Poor's decision earlier this year to place a negative outlook on Virginia's AAA bond rating.

In light of these potential risks, the Governor announced his intention to place all of the revenue surplus into a reserve, after required deposits to the Water Quality Improvement Fund, rather than half of the surplus, as envisioned by the state budget as passed by the 2017 GA. Several GA leaders have previously signaled agreement with this proposal.

Attention now turns to the fall revenue forecasting process. In October, the Joint Advisory Board of Economists will be reviewing projections for FY 2018 and the upcoming biennium. In November, the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates will review the revenue forecasts; the forecast will be finalized in December and presented to the money committees along with the Governor's FY 2018-2020 biennium budget and amendments to the current biennium budget (the "caboose" bill). The upcoming biennium budget will need to address several large spending items, including rebenchmarking of Standards of Quality costs and growth in the Medicaid forecast. Replenishing the state's reserves and addressing these "big ticket" items will likely be priorities in the next session.

The Governor's remarks as prepared for delivery are available [here](#); Secretary Brown's presentation is available [here](#).

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)



## Visit Surry County and Smith's Fort Plantation

ca. 1761 | 217 Smith Fort Lane, Surry, VA 23883

Come visit the only place you can listen to the stories of John Smith, John Rolfe, Pocahontas and Wahunsenacawh, all told through their interactions with the location now known as Smith's Fort Plantation.

Smith's Fort Plantation is nestled on the south side of the James River, located on the site of Captain John Smith's planned "New Fort," on the land given by Chief Powhatan as a dowry for his daughter Pocahontas upon her marriage to John Rolfe. The 18th century manor house retains much of its original woodwork and provides examples of early American and English period furnishings from the late 16th through the early 18th centuries.

Built sometime between 1751 and 1765, this story-and-a-half Flemish bond brick house was home to Jacob Faulcon and his family. The name "Smith's Fort Plantation" comes from the fact that John Smith began construction of a second fort on this site in 1608. Smith's Fort offered a strategic location for a retreat fort away from the original settlement, but construction was abandoned early due to starving conditions at the first fort and conflicts with the local Native American tribe. A few years later after the successful union of Pocahontas and John Rolfe, the bride's father, Wahunsenacawh, the paramount chief of Tsenacommacah (in 1607, the English colonists were introduced to Wahunsenacawh as Powhatan and understood this latter name to come from Powhatan's hometown near the falls of the James River near present-day Richmond, VA), gave his new son-in-law a grant of this land as a dowry gift. Although the couple never lived on site, their only son, Thomas Rolfe, later returned to Virginia and opened a tobacco plantation on over 400 acres of the property.

Since Preservation Virginia acquired Smith's Fort Plantation from the John D. Rockefeller Foundation in 1933, it has been fully restored and boasts a fine collection of colonial English and early American furnishings. The original 1609 fort site is just a short walk or drive away from the plantation. Today, visitors can see the site of the proposed retreat fort, the manor house, and its grounds restored by the Garden Club of Virginia.

Photos and information from [Preservation Virginia](http://www.preservationvirginia.org).



# Mark Your Calendars



## Regional FirstNet/AT&T State Plan Conferences



As recently reported in the news, Virginia became the first state to “opt in” to FirstNet, the national First Responder Network Authority created under federal law in 2012. The purpose of FirstNet is to build an “interoperable” public safety broadband network so that first responders will have a reliable and robust communications system to handle crisis situations.

A series of sessions will provide attendees with an explanation of FirstNet’s proposed Virginia State Plan, Virginia’s actions to study the Plan, and various technologies that will leverage Virginia’s future public safety dedicated broadband network. Attendees will have a chance to ask questions, which enables sponsors to collect feedback for review and analysis of FirstNet’s impact on the Commonwealth.

See the conference schedule below and register for the one nearest you. **NOTE:** the hyperlinks allow for direct registration to attend.

VACo Contacts: [Joe Lerch, AICP](#) and [Phyllis Errico, Esq.](#)

Regions are hyperlinked	Password all CAPS and the #
<a href="#">Region I</a> <b>September 12, 2017</b>   Eanes-Pittman Safety Training Center   Chesterfield, VA <a href="#">INFORMATION FLYER</a>	REGION1
<a href="#">Region II</a> <b>August 17, 2017</b>   Germanna Community College   Culpeper, VA <a href="#">INFORMATION FLYER</a>	REGION2
<a href="#">Region III</a> <b>August 23, 2017</b>   Liberty Mountain Conference Center   Lynchburg, VA <a href="#">INFORMATION FLYER</a>	REGION3
<a href="#">Region IV</a> <b>August 9, 2017</b>   Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center   Abingdon, VA <a href="#">INFORMATION FLYER</a>	REGION4
<a href="#">Region V</a> <b>September 27, 2017</b>   Mariner’s Museum   Newport News, VA <a href="#">INFORMATION FLYER</a>	REGION5
<a href="#">Region VI</a> <b>September 19, 2017</b>   The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center   Roanoke, VA <a href="#">INFORMATION FLYER</a>	REGION6
<a href="#">Region VII</a> <b>August 30, 2017</b>   Prince William County & Fire Rescue Training Center   Nokesville, VA <a href="#">INFORMATION FLYER</a>	REGION7

NEWS FROM OUR  
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

## Param Solutions

### Mycounty-Digital Citizen Engagement Mobile Platform



The Mycounty platform is an all encompassing cloud-based self-service mobile application available on iOS (<https://goo.gl/LxEiGM>) and Android (<https://goo.gl/nccVxT>) with a highly configurable backend helping state and local counties deliver digital citizen engagement services. The Mycounty platform is built to be configured on the fly and is deployable in 30-60 days or less.

Since the platform comes with a pre-built set of features (offered to counties as a free version for 3 months) that are needed for all counties, the amount of time it takes to get up and running is significantly less than average industry timelines. Additionally, there is no need for citizens of your counties to download multiple apps and clutter their mobile phones. With a single app download (Android and iOS platforms) and by using our customization and personalization features they can choose the most favorite services that they need based on the service deck menu options and start enjoying the incredible benefits of our application.

We have built the platform to scale massively and help counties to Inform/Engage, Involve/Enable, and Include/Empower citizens. Mycounty platform offers many functionalities both in the freemium and paid versions. A few of them are as listed below:

1. Prebuilt set of features
2. 30-60 days for deployment
3. 90 day usage for free
4. A single app for Citizens for all things related to county services
5. No more app clutter
6. A highly intuitive backend for Counties to customize their service offerings

Website link: <http://mycounty.io/>

 **VACo Associate Member SPOTLIGHT** 

VACo is proud to announce a new feature in County Connections. Each month we will spotlight at random one of our Associate Members so you can get to know them better. This month's spotlight is on Ballou Justice Upton.



**Ballou Justice Upton**  
**Architects**

**Ballou Justice Upton Architects** is a leading Virginia architectural firm that has more than 100 years of experience. We have an excellent reputation for providing architectural and engineering services utilizing innovative technology and creative design solutions. Design excellence is the hallmark of this organization. Many Virginia education, county administration and privately owned facilities carry the Ballou Justice Upton Architects signature of quality. Our work has included multi-disciplined efforts in expansion, additions, renovations, and new construction. Ballou Justice Upton Architects consists of experienced and recognized leaders in architectural design, planning, interior design, project management and construction administration. Our team combines their talents to offer an Owner Oriented approach to providing professional services.

Our Architects have extensive experience in all facets of architectural design. Our firm accomplishes its goals by providing quality architectural and engineering services and by meeting time and budget demands. Ballou Justice Upton Architects has designed a wide variety of award winning projects including: K-12 schools, offices, medical, college and university, government, and industrial facilities.

Ballou Justice Upton Architects is a Virginia based architectural firm. We have designed major icons in the Commonwealth of Virginia that have stood the test of time. Our firm built a noteworthy reputation by designing important, enduring structures. Our commission list reads like a historic document for Virginia with projects from historic Jamestown and Williamsburg to the restoration of the Rotunda at UVA to the current renewal of the nationally ranked number one high school in the nation, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. Ballou Justice Upton Architects has a history in Virginia that cannot be matched.

Please visit our website [www.bjuarchitects.com](http://www.bjuarchitects.com) for examples of the high standard of quality that Ballou Justice Upton Architects puts into each project.

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**Ben Upton** | Director of Finance  
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Richmond, VA 23229

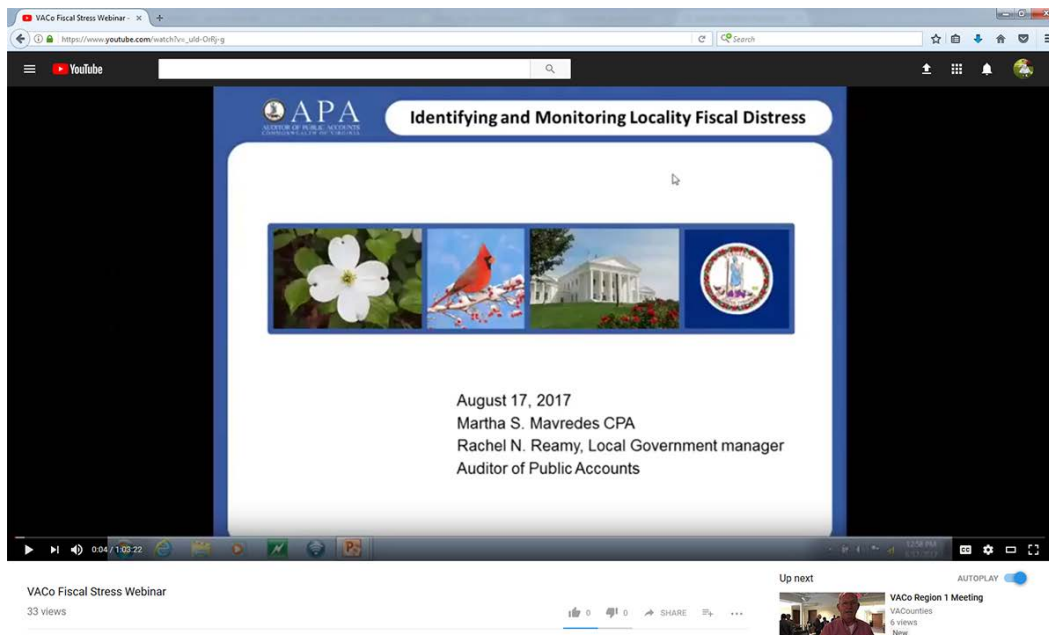
**Phone:** 804.270.0909 Ext. 152 | **Fax:** 804.346.3301

**Email:** [benupton@bjuarchitects.com](mailto:benupton@bjuarchitects.com) | **Website:** [www.bjuarchitects.com](http://www.bjuarchitects.com)

VACo Contact: [Carol Cameron](#)



## VACo Hosts Auditor of Public Accounts for Webinar on Local Fiscal Stress



On August 17, VACo hosted Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) Martha Mavredes and members of her staff for a webinar on the proposed “early warning system” for local government fiscal stress. As discussed in a [previous article](#), language adopted in the state budget by the 2017 General Assembly requires the development of this system, which is intended to allow the APA to flag localities experiencing financial trouble for potential follow-up.

A proposed model based on Louisiana’s Financial Assessment Model (FAM) was released on July 31. This model uses data from localities’ Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports to calculate ten ratios for each locality, which are then converted into percentile rankings; these percentile rankings are then averaged to generate the overall FAM score. Information regarding the draft model was circulated to county administrators earlier this month, and initial feedback from counties was provided to APA staff.

During the webinar, the APA and Local Government Manager Rachel Reamy provided an overview of the ratios and how FAM scores would be calculated. They also discussed the follow-up that the APA intends to undertake with localities scoring below a certain level; for these localities, the APA would notify the local governing body and chief administrative officer and request the completion of a follow-up questionnaire. This document asks about qualitative factors such as changes in bond ratings or use of revenue anticipation notes, and allows the locality to provide some contextual information about its financial situation, such as circumstances outside the locality’s control affecting its budget or borrowing practices. Localities scoring above the threshold of concern generally would not be asked to provide additional information, although the APA does intend to have further discussions with localities whose scores are trending downward and approaching the threshold for follow-up.

The APA will soon be transmitting a letter to localities to provide information about the process and following up with those localities whose initial FAM scores fell under the cutoff point. Ms. Mavredes indicated on the webinar that the model is a work in progress and will continue to be refined. She subsequently provided an update to the Joint Subcommittee on Local Government Fiscal Stress on the proposed model; legislators serving on that body expressed an interest in being notified about localities in their respective districts whose FAM scores trigger follow-up by the APA.

The webinar is available for viewing on [VACo’s YouTube channel](#). VACo is continuing to work with the APA to refine the model and ensure that it provides an accurate picture of local finances. VACo will also be making a presentation to the Joint Subcommittee on Local Government Fiscal Stress later this fall and will be discussing localities’ financial situation more broadly, including stressors in the state-local partnership with respect to funding shared services.

**VACo Contact:** [Katie Boyle](#)

## Long list of issues discussed at Region 1 meeting



Solar farms, transportation, stormwater, Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), economic development, the proffer legislation of 2016, broadband, funding for education, workforce development, unfunded mandates, and local taxing authority were among the list of issues that were raised by county officials during the meeting of VACo Region 1, which took place at the Isle of Wight County Government Complex on August 29.

Despite the loss of power caused by heavy winds and rain, meeting attendance was strong, with 40 county officials present. Nearly all counties in VACo Region 1 were represented at the meeting. Hampton Roads Planning District and Crater Planning Districts were all represented.

Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade B. Hayes Framme made comments relating to solar energy, wireless, and broadband. Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources Russ Baxter provided a [status report](#) on the Chesapeake Bay Program's "mid-point assessment." By April 2019, Virginia and other states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed will be required to submit a Watershed Implementation Plan to demonstrate how water quality improvement goals for the Chesapeake Bay will be achieved by the year 2025. Secretary Baxter's power point presentation is available on VACo's website.

Toward the end of the meeting the county officials were strongly encouraged to review and comment upon the preliminary version of VACo's 2018 Legislative Program and Policy Statements that will be distributed to VACo members during in late September.

Again, VACo would like to thank all sponsors for their support of our regional meetings.

[Russ Baxter's Report](#)

[Region 1 Meeting Video](#)

VACo Contact: [Larry Land, CAE](#)

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## Public Comment Period Open on Proposed Revisions to Standards of Accreditation

Proposed amendments to the state's Standards of Accreditation for public schools were [published in the Virginia Register of Regulations](#) earlier this month; the public comment period is open until October 6. The proposed amendments implement the changes to high school graduation requirements envisioned in the "Profile of a Virginia Graduate," which the Board of Education was directed to develop by [legislation enacted in 2016](#).

Under this new approach, students would focus on core academic skills in the early years of high school and undertake more intensive career or college preparation as they approach graduation. The number of verified credits (typically attained by passing a standardized test) required for graduation would be reduced, and alternative performance assessment options would be permitted. Career planning would begin in middle school; the proposed regulations would require middle school students to complete a career investigation course and to develop an academic and career plan.

The proposed amendments also make changes to the process for school accreditation by adding several school quality indicators on which schools would be rated, including chronic absenteeism and academic achievement gaps. Schools would be rated on each indicator and could attain accreditation by meeting benchmarks or by demonstrating a certain level of improvement over the previous year's performance.

Public comments on the proposed regulations are being accepted on [Virginia's Town Hall website](#).

VACo Contacts: [Katie Boyle](#) and [Chris McDonald, Esq.](#)

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## Applications being accepted for grant monies available through license plate sales

The Chesapeake Bay Restoration Advisory Committee is accepting grant applications to conduct Chesapeake Bay-related education and restoration activities. The grants are funded with monies from the sale of the of the special Chesapeake Bay "Friend of the Chesapeake" license plate. This year, \$310,882 in grant monies will be awarded to eligible applicants. During this past year, 49 grantees received \$247,839 in grant funds. Since 1996, over \$7.7 million has been awarded as a result of the sale of the "Bay Plate."

The deadline for submitting a proposal for 2018 support grants is October 1, 2017. Grant funds will be awarded in May-June 2018. To be eligible to receive a grant, applicants must submit proposals emphasizing environmental education or restoration and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay. Projects focusing on environmental education should increase public awareness and knowledge about the Bay, and projects of a restoration and conservation nature should be action oriented. Grants are awarded for one year, except in special circumstances. Grant funds may not be used to supplant existing state or local general fund appropriations.

Applications will be accepted from private not-for-profit conservation organizations, schools and universities, and governmental agencies whose projects will affect water bodies that are located within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. There is no limit on the funding amount that an applicant may request. More information on the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, including the application, W-9 and EDI forms, grant guidelines, and a catalogue of past projects can be found at <http://dls.virginia.gov/commissions/cbr.htm>.

General Assembly members of the Advisory Committee are Senator DeSteph of Virginia Beach, Delegate Hodges of Urbanna, and Delegate Ransone of Kinsale. Citizen members include Terra Pascarossa Duff of Virginia Beach, John W. Peterson of Burke, Claiborne B. Roberts of Sandston, and Daniel G. Van Clief, III of Charlottesville.

VACo Contact: [Larry Land, CAE](#)

## Early Bird Registration for the 83rd Annual Conference ends September 30



Registration for the 83rd Annual Conference is now open.

[REGISTRATION FORM](#) | [REGISTER ONLINE](#) | [PRELIMINARY AGENDA](#)

Join us November 12-14 in Bath County for VACo's premier event. Register today!

## 83<sup>rd</sup> VACo Annual Conference Logo

VACo is happy to present the official logo for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference being held November 12-14. As noted in the May 19 newsletter, the conference planning committee chose the following theme:

**COMMUNICATIONS | ENGAGEMENT |  
KNOWLEDGE | SUCCESS**

This conference theme represents four vital elements that local government officials incorporate on a daily basis to achieve their county's objectives and goals. Each one is important on its own but when all four are put into practice together, the outcome can truly be SUCCESS.





The achievements of planning are celebrated in October with National Community Planning Month.

The annual observation kicks off with the announcement of APA's [Great Places in America](#).

This year marks the 10 year anniversary of Great Places in America.

### **PLANNING MONTH KEY MESSAGES**

**National Community Planning Month is a time to highlight the important role of planning in our communities.** Planning can be summed up as comprehensive, community-focused and enhancing choices. While many people may not realize it, planning has a significant impact on their day-to-day life. From where they live, to how they commute, to the type of home they live in, planning plays a vital role in a person's life and well-being.

**Planners help create communities of lasting value.** Planning helps leverage public and private funds that lead to business growth, job creation, and economically resilient communities.

**Planners are skilled at balancing the varied interests and viewpoints that emerge as a community plans its future.** Planners consider what is best for the entire community – senior citizens, workers, children, people living with disabilities, business owners, and elected officials. How do they arrive at these community-wide decisions? Through conversations with residents and thoughtful outreach to community stakeholders.

**Planners work for the greater good.** Planners work with professionals from different fields such as public health, recreation and engineering to make communities safer, stronger, and healthier. Planning does not stop at a geographic border. Communities are served best when planners take a broader viewpoint, encompassing regional and statewide perspectives.

**Planners have the unique expertise to comprehensively address the impacts of today's actions on tomorrow's communities.** Planners do not just focus on where to locate (or site) a building, but also consider how that decision impacts the safety of the community, the existing character of the community, how it impacts the environmental resiliency, and if the decision encourages social and economic diversity.

More than 15,000 planners have earned their professional certification. Certified planners pledge to uphold high standards of practice, ethics and professional conduct, while keeping their skills sharp and up-to-date by pursuing advanced professional education.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **What is National Community Planning Month?**

Established in 2006, National Community Planning Month is celebrated each October as a way to highlight the role of planners and the importance of good planning in our communities. Across the country, communities celebrate planning through a variety of avenues including having a mayoral proclamation declaring October as Community Planning Month; planning department open houses; community tours of APA designated [Great Places in America](#); or photo contests. Planning is essential for our communities to prosper and maintain balance and cohesiveness.

Each year, a theme is identified to help a community highlight an aspect or outcome of planning. The theme can be used to organize events and activities within the community. This year, the theme is **innovation in planning**. Planning plays an important role in addressing and adapting to the challenges faced by communities in the 21st century. From using data sources and technology to address issues including inequality, access to transportation and social mobility to celebrating new approaches to creating communities of lasting value.

#### **Why celebrate Planning?**

National Community Planning Month is your chance to raise the visibility of planning, the planning profession, and to highlight the positive impact it has on your community. It is also an opportunity to share your stories with your appointed and elected officials to reinforce the importance of planning in your community.

# SIGN UP FOR THE NEXT SUPERVISORS' CERTIFICATION CLASS



## **Making a Governance Difference: The Role of Purpose Driven Policy, Deliberation and Decision Making**

**Opening Session:** September 15, 2017

**Closing Session:** November 3, 2017

**Location:** Albemarle County

**Cost:** \$350

**Registration Deadline:** September 5, 2017

[Registration Form](#) | [Register Online](#)

Can Boards of Supervisors apply innovative decision-making models to create purpose driven policies? Decision making is challenging when multiple elected officials, government professionals, and citizens are involved. Nonetheless, there must be a clear process to move from defining a problem to implementing a course of action and then evaluating the outcome realized.

This class examines legal principles established by the U.S. and Virginia Constitutions, the Dillon Rule, as well as other ordinances and regulations which influence policy making and decision making. Class participants explore how they can work effectively across boundaries as well as apply thinking strategies and the six thinking hats methodology espoused by the [de Bono Group](#).

**VACo Contact:** [Valerie Russell](#)

# 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).



**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION** | Essex County | Posted August 30



**SENIOR COOK** | Merrimac Center | Posted August 30



**FT COUNSELOR** | Merrimac Center | Posted August 30



**ECONOMIST/PLANNER/ANALYST** | Hampton Roads Planning District Commission | Posted August 30



**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER** | Hanover County | Posted August 29



**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ZONING** | Shenandoah County | Posted August 29



**COUNTY PLANNER** | Essex County | Posted August 25



**ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN AND OTHER CAREER OPPORTUNITIES** | James City County | Posted August 25



**NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES** | Gloucester County | Posted August 24



**CLINICAL SUPERVISOR, CHILD & ADOLESCENT SERVICES** | Hanover County | Posted August 23



**COUNTY EXECUTIVE** | Fairfax County | Posted August 23



**DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** | Brunswick County | Posted August 23



**DEPUTY CLERK I & OTHER CAREER OPPORTUNITIES** | James City County | Posted August 23



**BUILDING INSPECTOR** | New Kent County | Posted August 23



**SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR** | Hanover County | Posted August 23



**PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATOR** | Pittsylvania County | Posted August 23



**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR** | Dumfries | Posted August 18



**SENIOR PROBATION OFFICER AND OTHER CAREER OPPORTUNITIES** | James City County | Posted August 18



**BUILDING INSPECTOR** | Powhatan County | Posted August 18



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TECHNICIAN** | Powhatan County | Posted August 18



### ENGINEER I

Spotsylvania County | Posted August 15



### SECURITY ANALYST

Stafford County | Posted August 15



### EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Town of Warrenton | Posted August 14



### ZONING

ADMINISTRATOR | Town of Warrenton | Posted August 14



### PERMIT TECHNICIAN PT

| Town of Warrenton | Posted August 14



### PLANNING

ADMINISTRATOR | Chesterfield County | Posted August 14



### AQUATICS/COMMUNITY PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

Montgomery County | Posted August 11



### COMMUNICATIONS

SPECIALIST | James City County | Posted August 11



### INSTRUCTORS I/II/III (OUTDOORS & SPORTS) AND OTHER CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

| James City County | Posted August 11



### UTILITY OPERATOR

Montgomery County | Posted August 11



### SENIOR ZONING

ADMINISTRATOR | Northampton County | Posted August 11



### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CRC | Prince Edward County | Posted August 10



### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fauquier County | Posted August 10



### GENERAL MANAGER

Loudoun County | Posted August 10



### COUNTY

ADMINISTRATOR | Rappahannock County | Posted August 10



### PLANNING ASSOCIATE

Louisa County | Posted August 9



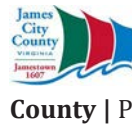
### SOLID WASTE

OPERATOR - DRAINAGE | Hanover County | Posted August 9



### ENVIRONMENTAL

PROGRAM DIRECTOR | Gloucester County | Posted August 8



### LIBRARIAN I

| James City County | Posted August 7



### LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

| City of Alexandria | Posted August 4



### UTILITY TECHNICIAN

- COLLECTIONS | Hanover County | Posted August 3



### RESIDENTIAL & SMALL

BUSINESS PROJECT FACILITATOR | City of Alexandria | Posted August 2



### CIRCUIT COURT CLERK/

CASHIER | Caroline County | Posted August 2



### PLANNER-

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW | Hanover County | Posted August 2



### ENVIRONMENTAL

SPECIALIST | Fauquier County | Posted August 1





#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**President:** Mary W. Biggs, Montgomery County  
**President-Elect:** William A. Robertson, Jr., Prince George County  
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**2nd Vice President:** Robert Thomas, Jr., Stafford County  
**Secretary Treasurer:** Donald L. Hart, Jr., Accomack County  
**Immediate Past President:** Judy S. Lyttle, Surry County

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**Director of Government Relations:** Chris J. McDonald, Esq.  
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**Director of Technical Services:** John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA  
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**VACORP:** Chris Carey, 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.

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