

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

November 21, 2017



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Sherrin C. Alsop Elected VACo President for 2017-2018



The membership of the Virginia Association of Counties elected King and Queen County Supervisor Sherrin C. Alsop as 2017-2018 President during VACo's 83rd Annual Conference in Bath County. Alsop and other newly elected officers started their terms at VACo's Annual Business Meeting on November 14.

Alsop succeeds Montgomery County Supervisor Mary W. Biggs and becomes the first-ever President from King and Queen County. She is the third President from VACo's Region 2 in the past 11 years.

"I am humbled and honored to be elected President and to have the opportunity to lead our association," Alsop said. "VACo brought many counties together under President Biggs, and I want to continue our outreach and education efforts throughout the Commonwealth. I live by Martin Luther King's quote, 'What are you doing for others?' That message will always be on my mind as I serve as VACo President."

Alsop has represented King and Queen County's Newtown District for 18 years. Her father, Raymond Alsop, served the same district from 1987-1999. Alsop is Chief Executive of the Alsop Group, a proposal development, copywriting, strategic consulting and training firm. She is an active member of VACo and has been on the Board of Directors since 2009.

Alsop is a 2005 graduate of the County Leadership Institute, a joint certification program of the National Association of Counties and New York University's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She is an active board and operations member of the King and Queen Volunteer Rescue Squad, where she is the Board Secretary, a certified emergency medical technician and a certified emergency vehicle operator. She also is certified as a CPR/First Aid/Blood-borne Pathogens instructor. Alsop is a gubernatorial appointee to the State Emergency Services Advisory Board and is a past chair of the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission.

"Over the past few years VACo has made major strides in services it offers to members," Alsop said. "I want to work with VACo staff to continue this great work and see if new opportunities arise for education, advocacy and membership engagement. We will continue our tradition of advocacy, and I hope to get more members involved in the process."

Alsop holds a Bachelor's Degree in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, an Executive Master's Degree in Government Contracting from George Washington University, a Master's Degree in Divinity from the American Bible University and a Doctorate Degree in Religious Studies from the American Bible University.

"Public service has been an Alsop family tradition in King and Queen County for 30 years," VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said. "That speaks to Sherrin's level of service and commitment to her community. As VACo President, she'll bring her experience, creativity and sense of service. We look forward to a great year with Sherrin at the helm."

[Click here to view New Members of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors](#)

2017 VACo Annual Conference Thank You



Thank you for making the VACo 83rd Annual Conference a success! The Theme “**Communications | Engagement | Knowledge | Success**” was felt throughout the 2.5 days. Thank you to 2017 Conference Planning Committee Chair, Bob Thomas, Stafford County Supervisor, and all of the committee members for their guidance, ideas and attention to detail.

Check out our [2017 Annual Conference Recap](#) page to download presentations and watch videos of several of the sessions.

Thank you to all our Sponsors for their generous support of the Annual Conference. We certainly cannot do it without your participation.

Don't forget to sign up for a [2018 Steering Committee](#). Forms can be found in your conference bags or [online](#). They are due by December 15. Your 2017 committee appointment does not automatically roll over; you must sign up each year. [Sign up now](#) to make sure you get all committee information as soon as it is released!

Thank you, again, for participating in the 2017 VACo Annual Conference. Consider joining the [Conference Planning Committee](#) to help shape the 2018 Annual Conference!

VACo Recognizes Winners of Go Green Program

The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2017 Go Green Awards, a program designed to encourage implementation of specific environmental policies and practical actions that reduce emissions and save local governments money.

The winning counties are:

- **Albemarle County**
- **Arlington County**
- **Chesterfield County**
- **Henrico County**
- **James City County**
- **Louisa County**
- **Prince George County**



This is the ninth year VACo has participated in the program, which was started in 2007 and called “Go Green Virginia.” The program is generously supported and sponsored by Moseley Architects and Trane.

“The seven winning counties represent a growing group of localities that believe in taking innovative steps to reduce energy usage and promote sustainability,” VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said. “Congratulations to all counties earning a Go Green Award.”

Visit www.GoGreenVA.org for more information.

Janet Romanchyk is New Director of Loudoun County Department of Finance and Procurement

Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet announced the appointment of Janet Romanchyk as the new director of the Loudoun Department of Finance and Procurement. Romanchyk has been acting director of the department since March, overseeing the timely and accurate processing and reporting of Loudoun County government financial transactions, financial analysis, capital financing, debt management, and the acquisition of all goods and services for the county government.

“Janet brings a wealth of experience to her new position as director of the Department of Finance and Procurement,” said Hemstreet. “She has played a vital role in many of our most important financial transactions.”

Romanchyk began her service with Loudoun County in September 2011 as Loudoun County Controller. In that capacity, she ensured that the county’s financial management and accounting systems were maintained appropriately and that county agencies and the public received information in a timely and effective manner.

Romanchyk previously worked in Fauquier County as a budget analyst for the school system before moving to the Fauquier County government as Assistant Finance Director in 2004, becoming Finance Director in 2009. Previous to that, she was the financial manager for Oswego County Opportunities, a not-for-profit organization, in Fulton, New York.

Romanchyk received a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Empire State College in New York; a bachelor’s degree in public justice from the State University of New York at Oswego, New York; and a master’s in public administration from George Mason University.

Romanchyk is also Treasurer of the Virginia Government Finance Officers Association and an active member of the Government Finance Officers Association.

More information about the Department of Finance and Procurement is online at www.loudoun.gov/finance.



Do you know someone who is always putting others first? How about an organization or business that never hesitates to help out whenever there’s a problem in the community?

The Governor’s Volunteerism and Community Service Awards are presented in each of nine categories. The nine outstanding award winners represent the millions of generous Virginians who offer their time and talents to others each year.



Award Categories: Youth Volunteer | Adult Volunteer | Senior Volunteer | Family Volunteer | Corporation | Small Business | Faith-Based Organization | Educational Institution | Community Organization

Winners will be honored at a special ceremony in the spring. The Governor’s Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism, the Virginia Service Foundation, and the Virginia Office on Volunteerism and Community Services are honored to assist the Governor in selecting and recognizing these volunteers.

Submit your nomination online October 27-December 22, 2017.
<http://virginiainservice.virginia.gov/volunteering/governors-volunteerism-awards/>

**VACo
SPOTLIGHT**

**ALLISON
MAYS**
**Washington
County Board of
Supervisors**



Q1. You're a Washington County native and you've worked in a variety of fields - in financial planning, in the arts, and in the nonprofit health care sphere. What made you decide to run for office? How does your background influence your service on the Board of Supervisors?

Allison Mays: I regularly attended Board of Supervisors and Town Council meetings as part of my job for several years prior to running for office. I became very interested in what it takes to successfully manage a county and the fact that crucial decisions affecting the County were essentially in the hands of seven elected officials. I ran for office because I felt my professional experience qualified me for the position and also because of my personal passion for Washington County and wanting to do what is best for the residents of our county.

Q2. You formerly worked for the Barter Theatre and you serve as Vice-Chair of NACo's Arts and Culture Commission. What sparked your interest in the arts? What role do you see local government playing in promoting the arts as an element of economic development?

AM: Arts and culture can be huge economic drivers, particularly in rural counties. Our tourism industry in Washington County is primarily driven by arts and culture, which I think also includes our outdoor recreation and historical assets. Agriculture is our number one industry in Washington County, and it's interesting to see the way that agriculture has influenced arts and culture. For example, Barter Theatre was founded using the "barter" system. During the Great Depression, local patrons would exchange fresh produce for a ticket to the theatre. Our main tourism generator would not even exist if it weren't for our strong agricultural base. The local farm to table movement was started by a local author, Barbara Kingsolver, and has resulted in several restaurants and farmer's markets throughout the county.

Our identity as a county is based on our artistic, cultural, historical, outdoor and agricultural assets. Cross-promotion has also worked really well across these assets. For example, local artisans sell their art at the farmer's market, other artisans have their work displayed at local restaurants and breweries and restaurants run parallel to trail systems. This is what makes our county work. One of our largest pitches to economic development prospects is our unique arts and culture scene. CEOs and top-level executives make decisions to move to and live in Washington County because we are truly unique.

Q3. You served as part of a panel on early childhood issues at NACo's Annual Conference in July. There has been so much research on the benefits of high-quality early learning. Could you share some of Washington County's successes in this area?

AM: Washington County is participating in the Rural Impact County Challenge initiative through the National Association of Counties, which works to combat rural childhood poverty. We were one of thirteen counties in the nation chosen to receive a community coach to assist with our efforts through County Health Rankings and Roadmaps and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The best thing about our committee is that it is truly a collaborative effort among agencies and organizations in Washington County and Southwest Virginia. Our committee members include representatives from Washington County Public Schools, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Washington County Public Library, United Way of Southwest Virginia, Smart Beginnings, People, Inc., Virginia Department of Health, Washington County Department of Social Services, Ecumenical Faith in Action, Virginia Cooperative Extension and Children's Services Act of Virginia.

Our first project as a committee was putting together a Resource Guide that lists all of the services available to members of our community. A link to the Resource Guide has been added to the county website. All of our committee partners will place the link to the guide on their website and we also plan to ask other agencies (such as hospitals, etc.) to make the guide available. Printed copies will also be made available as needed. We chose this project recognizing that sometimes people who need help are not even aware that these resources exist. We felt the first step was helping those people in our community with a quick and easy way to find the assistance they need. Recognizing the ongoing importance of rural childhood poverty and early childhood development in our county, we have voted to make this an official committee of the Washington County Board of Supervisors.

VACo SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED ON PAGE 12





Mark Your Calendars



March 23-24, 2018

[Registration Form](#) | [Preliminary Agenda](#) | [Register Online](#) | [Book Online Omni Richmond Hotel](#)

The County Supervisors' Forum helps supervisors concentrate on critical issues facing counties today: intergovernmental relations, financial responsibilities, schools, economic development, transportation, environmental protection, communications, legal issues and more. An overview of county government and the work of county supervisors are covered.

Newly elected and incumbent supervisors, chief county administrative officers and other government managers should attend. These leaders will come away with information they need to steer their locality forward.

The conference registration fee is \$295, which covers a County Supervisors' Manual, Friday lunch and dinner and Saturday breakfast and lunch. Spouses and guests who attend may register for \$150, which covers those meals.

[Click here for the Registration Form.](#)

[CLICK AGENDA TO ENLARGE](#)

	2018 VACo County Supervisors' Forum Preliminary AGENDA	
	MARCH 23-24, 2018 Omni Richmond Hotel Registration Form	
<hr/>		
Friday, March 23		
Noon	Registration	
1230pm	Lunch	
Welcome and Introduction: The Honorable Sherrin Alsop VACo President King and Queen County Supervisor		

VACo Recognizes Graduates of the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program



The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) and the Virginia Cooperative Extension recognized the 12th graduating class of the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program on November 14 during VACo's 83rd Annual Conference in Bath County.

The Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program is a partnership between the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech and VACo to provide training to enhance the leadership and decision-making skills of county supervisors in the Commonwealth.

The 10 graduates of the 18-month certification program are:

- **Joel C. Acree** | Isle of Wight County
- **Jessie L. Barksdale** | Pittsylvania County
- **Keith C. Blowe** | Sussex County
- **Claudia Hubbard Lundy** | Mecklenburg County
- **Bill Martin** | Greene County
- **Allison B. Mays** | Washington County
- **William M. McCarty, Sr.** | Isle of Wight County
- **Larry Nordvig** | Powhatan County
- **Odessa H. Pride, Ed.D** | Prince Edward County
- **Richard F. Randolph** | Albemarle County

The Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program was created to provide VACo members more in-depth knowledge about government and governing.

"Congratulations to our newest graduates on completing one of VACo's premier educational programs," said Dean Lynch, VACo Executive Director. "We now have more than 70 graduates from more than 40 counties since the program's first class in 2006. I was proud to join the ranks of other graduates last year, and I can attest that this is a master's degree level program. I encourage more supervisors to participate in this unique educational program."

Virginia Cooperative Extension partners with Virginia Tech and VACo to develop and deliver the program. "This program is a great example of Virginia Cooperative Extension growing its partnership with an organization to strengthen the impact of our community viability efforts and to collaborate with other agencies to provide leadership education," said Dr. Michael Chandler, Professor Emeritus at Virginia Tech and one of the program's instructors, along with Dr. Martha Walker, Extension Viability Specialist.

The Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program provides an overview of the issues, expectations, and practices associated with serving as a county supervisor as well as detailed information about local government. Each participant completes five core courses that span 55 hours of classroom instruction and 45 hours of home study and focus on leadership development, duties and responsibilities of public officials, community planning, local government finance, and collaborative governance.

Loudoun County Chair Phyllis J. Randall Speaks at Congressional Briefing on Opioid Epidemic

Loudoun County Chair and VACo Board of Directors member Phyllis J. Randall spoke November 13 at a Congressional briefing organized by the National Association of City and County Health Officials, the National Association of Counties, and the U. S. Conference of Mayors. The event, “Tackling the Opioid Epidemic and its Hidden Casualties: Local Health Departments on the Front Lines,” offered an opportunity for local elected officials and staff to provide information to Congress about the local experience of the opioid epidemic and to offer recommendations for how Congress might assist states and localities in addressing this serious national problem.

Chair Randall urged caution in focusing too much on individual drugs, noting that the underlying problem is substance dependency, which has remained constant through several previous drug epidemics, whether the drugs abused were cocaine, methamphetamines, or heroin. She noted that despite Loudoun County’s many strengths, it suffers from substance abuse like many other jurisdictions across the nation.

In response, Loudoun County has provided naloxone to its first responders and worked with the Virginia Department of Health to train residents in the administration of naloxone, as well as in identifying the signs of substance abuse. In an effort to reduce the stigma surrounding substance dependency, Loudoun County has convened what Randall called “courageous community conversations,” which included representatives from the County, public safety, nonprofits and the faith community, health providers, and, importantly, members of the community struggling with addiction and their families – voices which are often not included in these discussions, Randall pointed out. She urged attendees to follow the President’s declaration of the opioid epidemic as a public health emergency with a commitment of more federal resources to the problem. She pointed to past anti-smoking campaigns as an example of how federal funding could be used to address the problem in a comprehensive way.



Photo from NACo Twitter

Other panelists at the briefing were Dr. Michael Kilkeny, Director of the Cabell-Huntington Department of Health in West Virginia and Mayor Lydia Mihalik of Findlay, Ohio. Dr. Kilkeny discussed local efforts in Cabell County and Huntington, including distribution of naloxone in the community and the establishment of the state’s first syringe exchange program, a harm-reduction measure that combats the spread of communicable diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C that can be spread by contaminated needles. He encouraged federal assistance to localities to support the purchase of naloxone, the cost of which has risen significantly in recent years, as well as assistance in negotiating more favorable pricing. Mayor Mihalik discussed her work with a bipartisan coalition of Ohio mayors to share best practices and improve communication with state officials.

Panelists agreed during the question-and-answer period that trauma-informed care is essential to dealing with the far-reaching effects of the epidemic, from the strain on first responders to the effects on children who must be removed from their parents’ care. Mayor Mihalik noted that teachers in her city have been trained in trauma-informed practices so that they are prepared to meet the needs of students who have experienced situations such as watching a parent overdose, for example.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

State Air Pollution Control Board Approves Draft Rule to Cut CO2 Emissions



On Thursday, November 16, 2017, the Virginia State Air Pollution Control Board unanimously approved [draft rules](#) to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants and to link Virginia to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) carbon trading network.

The draft regulations came after over a year of hearings and study prompted by Governor McAuliffe's [Executive Order 57](#), which directed the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources to "convene a Work Group, chaired by the Secretary, to study and recommend methods to reduce carbon emissions from electric power generation facilities." This workgroup was made up of the Secretary of Natural Resources, the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Director of the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME), and the Deputy Attorney General for Commerce, Environment, and Technology. This group facilitated extensive stakeholder engagement, including six in-person meetings and a three month public comment period, before compiling the recommendations and submitting a final report to the Governor on May 12, 2017.

Finding that the Work Group's most important recommendation was the establishment of regulations limiting the total amount of carbon dioxide emitted from electric power facilities, on May 16, 2017, the Governor issued [Executive Directive 11](#) directing the DEQ to "[d]evelop proposed regulations for the State Air Pollution Control Board's consideration to abate, control, or limit carbon dioxide emissions from electric power facilities."

The approved draft rule establishes a new carbon dioxide cap of 33 million or 34 million tons, beginning in 2020. This cap will decrease 3 percent each year until 2030. Under this new rule, fossil-fuel plants that generate more than 25 megawatts will receive state allowances that permit certain levels of emissions. According to the Governor's office and DEQ, this will affect approximately 33 power plants and will reduce Virginia's carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent between 2020 and 2030.

Beyond the new cap, the draft rule also links Virginia to the RGGI network, a 9-state carbon cap and trade program that establishes regional emission caps and issues tradeable carbon allowances. Participating states sell their emissions allowances through quarterly auctions and in turn invest the proceeds in various energy efficiency, renewable energy, and/or other consumer benefit programs. The DEQ expects that joining the RGGI market will increase average residential bills by about 1 percent, commercial bills by 1.1-1.4 percent, and industrial bills by 1.3-1.7 percent by 2031. Despite this slight increase, however, RGGI states have seen approximately 3.6 percent higher economic growth than non-RGGI states since the program began.

With the approval of the State Air Pollution Control Board, the draft rule now will undergo a 60-day public comment period before the final rule is drafted. Michael Dowd, Director of the Air Division of the DEQ and author of the new regulation, expects the final rule to be ready for board approval by summer 2018.

VACo Contact: [Chris McDonald](#)

Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Board Sets FY 2019-2020 Contribution Rates for Political Subdivisions

On November 16, the VRS Board of Trustees received reports by its actuaries on the valuation of pension plans for political subdivisions, the Health Insurance Credit for political subdivisions, the Virginia Local Disability Program, and the Line of Duty Act (LODA) Fund.



Virginia
Retirement
System

Overall, VRS's actuaries reported that the funded status of pension plans improved for most employers, and contribution rates are expected to decline for slightly more than half of employers. For political subdivisions offering enhanced benefits for hazardous duty employees, the average employer contribution rate will be 10.6 percent of covered payroll (down from 10.7 percent in the current biennium), and for political subdivisions not offering these enhanced benefits, the average contribution rate will be 7.6 percent (down from 8.2 percent in the current biennium). Each political subdivision will receive its valuation and contribution rate from VRS in January, based on its individual experience and population covered. Localities electing coverage for the Health Insurance Credit will receive individual contribution rates for this program as well.

The Health Insurance Credit contribution rates for Constitutional officers, social services employees, and general registrars were approved at 0.38 percent, 0.43 percent, and 0.39 percent, respectively. Rates for the Virginia Local Disability Program were set at 0.41 percent for teachers and 0.72 percent for political subdivisions.

The Board also approved a contribution rate for political subdivisions participating in the LODA Fund of \$705.77 per LODA-eligible employee/volunteer. This rate is up from the previous rate of \$567.37, due in part to increases in health care costs. These rates will take effect July 1, 2018.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

State General Fund Revenues Up in October



Governor McAuliffe announced on November 14 that state General Fund (GF) revenues continued to deliver a strong performance in October, growing by 7.7 percent. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, total revenue collections are up 4.9 percent, running well ahead of the annual forecast of 2.7 percent growth.

[Secretary of Finance Ric Brown's memorandum](#) notes that October's revenue growth was attributable to continued strength in individual income tax withholding, sales tax, and corporate income tax. Individual income tax withholding, representing 63 percent of GF revenue, grew 4 percent in October and has also grown 4 percent on a year-to-date basis, outpacing the annual forecast of 1.8 percent. Sales and use tax collections grew 9 percent in October and have increased by 4.5 percent on a year-to-date basis, well ahead of the forecast of 2.8 percent growth. Sales tax collections had underperformed in FY 2017 and had been lagging the forecast earlier in FY 2018, so October's robust performance, following healthy growth in September, is an encouraging sign.

The Governor will present his FY 2018 "caboose" budget and his proposed budget for the upcoming biennium on December 18. The biennium budget will incorporate GF revenue projections based on recommendations by the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates, which will meet on November 20.

In his discussions with VACo's Board of Directors and the Finance Steering Committee at VACo's annual conference, Secretary Brown was cautiously optimistic about the upcoming budget. He pointed to continued strength in revenue collections as a positive development, but noted that there are several elements of uncertainty complicating efforts at future planning, including whether the national economy is overdue for a downturn and the possibility of another round of federal sequestration in the future.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

State revenue projections expected to cover major expenses with little to spare for other high priorities

Last week the [House Appropriations](#) and [Senate Finance](#) Committees held their annual retreats in preparation for the 2018 legislative session. Amid cautions about Federal spending and uncertainty on how long the current economic recovery will continue, both bodies received positive news about available revenues for the current fiscal year (FY 2018) and the upcoming biennial budget of FY 2019-2020 that will need to be approved come March. Starting with a base budget of the current year, there will be more than \$1.6 billion in additional revenues over the next biennium. However, most of these additional resources will be needed to cover mandatory increases in Medicaid and K-12 Education Funding due to rebenchmarking. Additionally, both committees indicated they will seek to bolster cash reserves, primarily through deposits to the state's rainy-day fund, which will be at \$282 million by the end of the current fiscal year.

In [opening remarks](#) House Appropriation Chair Delegate Chris Jones noted that "When you add all of this together, it would appear that revenues may fall short of meeting our mandatory and high priority spending requirements. So, difficult decisions will continue to be the norm." In his [remarks](#), Senate Finance Co-Chair Senator Tommy Norment observed that due to these constraints "As always, priority will be the order of the day."

Questions remain as to whether the legislature may act to raise additional revenues to meet needs. This could include some form of expansion of Medicaid to secure additional federal funding. Additionally, anemic sales tax collections continue to generate discussion on potential reforms to reflect shifts from brick and mortar to online sales, as well as a shift from manufacturing to service-oriented businesses.

The next step in the process will be the introduction of the new two-year budget by Gov. McAuliffe on December 18 to the money committees. At that time, we can expect updated revenue projections.

VACo Contact: [Joe Lerch, AICP](#)

VACo Releases 2018 Legislative Program

After months of steering committee meetings, lively debate and participation through the association's legislative process, VACo adopted its [2018 Legislative Program](#). The Legislative Program is organized according to VACo's Steering Committees.

VACo membership identified "Increased Education Funding" as the overarching legislative priority for the 2018 General Assembly Session.

VACo's overarching legislative priority is:

To assure each child in Virginia a quality education necessary for his or her success, VACo calls upon the Governor and General Assembly to fully fund the Standards of Quality as recommended by the Board of Education, where these recommendations coincide with prevailing local practice, as well as the Standards of Accreditation.

The provision of a quality education for all Virginia's children is the most important function of state and local government. The infusion of K-12 funding provided in the 2016 General Assembly session and the additional dollars supplied in 2017 were steps in the right direction toward restoring the state's partnership with localities in fulfilling this critical mission. However, when adjusted for inflation, state direct aid per-pupil spending on public education in FY 2018 is less than funding levels in FY 2006. With increased educational mandates, increased numbers of students, increased numbers of students with special needs, and state policy changes that decreased education funding, local school divisions have had to eliminate important academic programs, cut instructional and support staff, and increase class sizes, despite strong local efforts to improve efficiencies in public education.



Virginia Association of Counties
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Richmond, VA 23219



[VACo's 2018 Legislative Program](#) also addresses other priorities in the realms of Economic Development and Planning, Education, Environment and Agriculture, Finance, General Government, Health and Human Services, and Transportation.

VACo Contact: [Joe Lerch, AICP](#)

VACo SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Q4. What do you see as the greatest challenges and opportunities facing Washington County in the next 10 years?

AM: Economic development continues to be a challenge and was mentioned as a concern by other counties in Regions 12 and 13 at our Regional VACo meeting this past June. We are not able to offer the incentives here in Southwest Virginia that counties in NOVA are able to offer and it hurts our chances of landing companies. While it is certainly a challenge, I also see economic development as one of our largest opportunities. We have a lot to offer in Washington County and our County Administrator and Economic Development Director have worked diligently to improve how we market Washington County to prospective businesses. We have also entered into a partnership with the City of Bristol, VA as part of the GO Virginia initiative. While Washington County hasn't been as hard hit by the decline in the coal industry as other counties in Southwest Virginia, we definitely have felt and are continuing to feel the ripple effects. Like others in Southwest Virginia, our challenge is finding new and different ways to help companies and individuals recover, be successful and stay in our region.

Q5. You graduated from VACo's Certified Supervisors program this month and you're also a graduate of LEAD Virginia. What elements of these programs have been most relevant to your work as a member of the Board of Supervisors?

AM: I enrolled in VACo's Certified Supervisors program at the encouragement of Joe Straten, a former Supervisor here in Washington County. Joe emphasized that the program would help me better understand all the roles required with being a Supervisor, from leadership to county planning to budgeting. The class has given me a much better understanding of these roles and made me more confident in my knowledge and practice of the position. In addition, the opportunity to network with Supervisors from other counties is invaluable. The discussions that ensued in our classes helped us all feel better equipped to perform our roles as Supervisors, and also helped us understand the similarities and differences in our respective counties. LEAD Virginia was also a very worthwhile experience. I am a huge believer in networking and meeting people outside your most immediate circle of contacts. LEAD Virginia allowed me to form personal and professional relationships with others from across the Commonwealth. It also gave me the opportunity to experience what life is like in other counties as compared to Washington County, particularly in the areas of health care, education and economic development.

Q6. What are the "must-do" activities for a first-time visitor to Washington County?

AM: Everything! I am biased toward our arts and culture scene and outdoor recreation because they are things I personally enjoy and love about Washington County. But more specifically...**ARTS AND CULTURE:** Barter Theatre...William King Museum of Art...The Arts Depot...Me and Little Tree...Heartwood...Holston Mountain Artisans. **OUTDOOR RECREATION:** The Virginia Creeper Trail...The Appalachian Trail...South Holston Lake...The Channels...Backbone Rock...Hidden Valley Lake...Adventure Mendota...The Salt Trail. **HISTORY:** The Abingdon Muster Grounds...The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail...Sinking Springs Cemetery...The Martha Washington Inn and Spa...Fairview...White's Mill. **FOOD:** The Tavern...Rain Restaurant...128 Pecan...Mojo's Trailside Café...Harvest Table...Wolf Hills Brewing...The Damascus Brewery. As you can see, a visitor should plan to spend a few days to experience everything there is to do in Washington County! The best thing about Washington County is that we know who we are and we love who we are. We embrace our culture and heritage and each of our towns has its own unique personality.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)



The Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) issued technical bulletins related to accounting for intragovernmental transactions and assigning assets to component reporting entities.

In Technical Bulletin 2017-1, Intragovernmental Exchange Transactions, FASAB provides guidance to help federal reporting entities determine whether intragovernmental arrangements are exchange transactions.

Technical Bulletin 2017-2, Assigning Assets to Component Reporting Entities, clarifies which component entity should report an asset.

VACo Contact: [Vicky Steinruck, CPA](#)

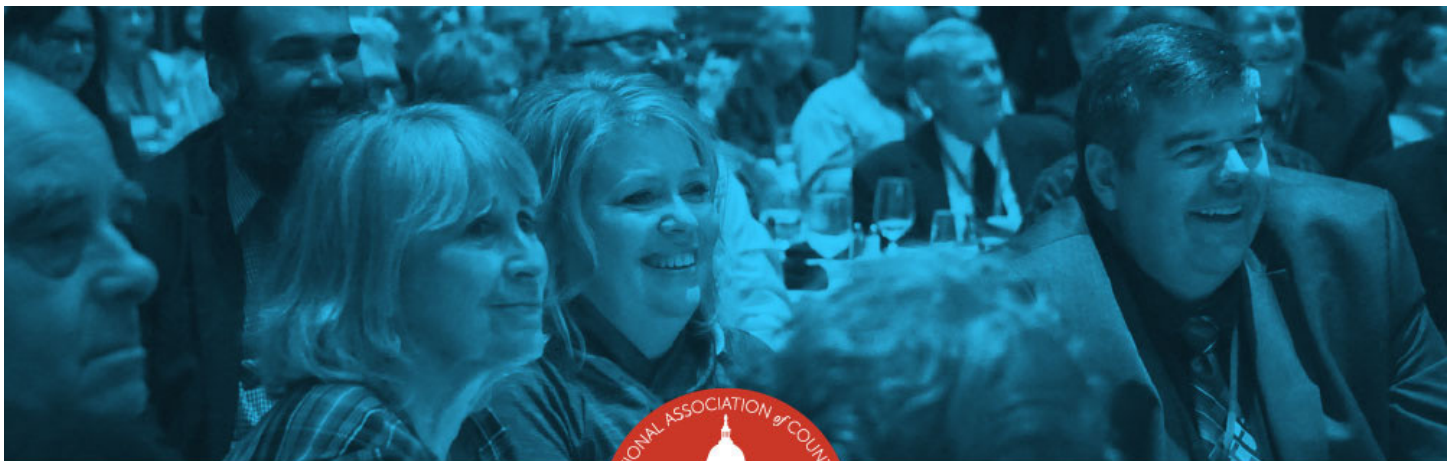
NACo Releases Analysis of House and Senate Tax Reform Proposals

Major areas of importance to counties are under discussion as Congress continues deliberations on tax reform, including the deductibility of state and local taxes and the tax-exempt status of private activity bonds and advance refunding bonds. The House has passed HR 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and the Senate Finance Committee completed its markup of the Senate's version on November 16, with passage by the full Senate possible by the end of the month.

The two bills have significant differences, notably in their treatment of the state and local tax deduction. The House bill eliminates the deduction for income and sales taxes, but retains the deduction of up to \$10,000 in property taxes per tax filer. The Senate bill eliminates the deduction entirely. NACo has released a side-by-side comparison of the two bills as they currently stand; this document can be found [on NACo's website](#).

Additional resources are available at NACo's Action Center on tax reform (<http://www.naco.org/advocacy/action-centers/tax-reform>). Additional information on the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction is available on the website of Americans Against Double Taxation, a coalition in which NACo is participating (<http://www.americansagainstdoubletaxation.org/>). VACo will continue to work closely with NACo as tax reform discussions continue.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)



MARCH 3 - 7
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D.C.



www.NACo.org/Leg

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Registration is Open for the 2018 NACo Legislative Conference

MARCH 3-7, 2018 | WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL | WASHINGTON, D.C.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) [Legislative Conference](#) brings together over 2,000 elected and appointed county officials to focus on federal policy issues that impact counties and our residents. This event is a can't-miss opportunity to elevate the county voice at the national level. Attendees will participate in second-to-none educational sessions, interact with federal officials and descend on Capitol Hill, delivering the message that federal policies matter to counties and counties matter to America!

2018 Virginia Agritourism Conference



Agritourism in Virginia's New Economy

Save . . . Wednesday & Thursday, March 21 & 22, 2018

You will want to be with us . . . Two days filled with fresh ideas on a variety of hot topics including:

- Event planning, equestrian practices, legal, liability
- Marketing, zoning, building the dream, financing, land conservation, and farm safety
- **Tours of local agritourism farms** offering tips and tricks to make your agritourism business a success in the ever-evolving creative economy

Registration information coming soon!

Sponsored by

USDA Rural Development
Virginia Agribusiness Council
Virginia Association of Counties
Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia FAIRS
Virginia Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services
Virginia Farm Bureau
Virginia State University
Virginia Tech
Virginia Tourism Corporation

*For more information
contact Martha A. Walker
walker53@vt.edu or call 434.766.6761*

Legislative Liaison

VACo seeks a dynamic individual with experience in government relations. Knowledge of local, state and federal government processes, including legislative, executive and regulatory required. Strong analytical, oral advocacy and writing skills and a willingness to cover various aspects of governmental relations required. Ability to define problems and collect relevant information to recommend policy solutions. A proven ability to conceptualize, interpret and articulate positions or ideas.

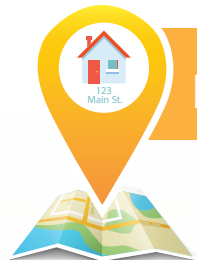
Experience in government affairs and public policy analysis and processes desired. Preference for local or state government experience, particularly within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Demonstrated understanding of local government operations and policies. Flexibility and ability to work under time constraints and deadlines, and to perform multiple tasks.

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with course work that includes public administration, political science, communications, policy analysis or a related field required. Please provide resume, writing sample, references and salary requirements to the Virginia Association of Counties. Applications must be received by December 1, 2017.

Virginia Association of Counties
1207 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219
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Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)



Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Operation

What is LUCA? The U.S. Census Bureau aims to count everyone living in America during the 2020 Census. To count everyone in your community accurately, we have to know where to count them. We work with tribal, state, and local governments who know where housing changes are taking place. LUCA is the only opportunity for your government to review the Census Bureau's address list for your area.



Dear VACo Members -

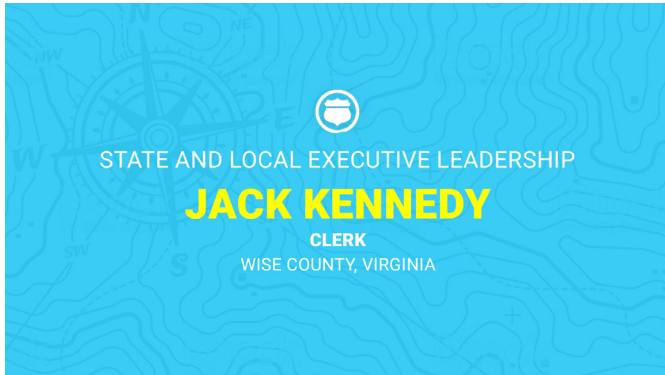
LUCA registration packets were sent to the highest elected officials in Virginia in late July. A reminder was sent last month, and the **deadline to register is December 15, 2017.**

You can find an interactive map of which cities, towns, counties, and tribal areas have registered in the state at the following link: <https://storymaps.geo.census.gov/arcgis/apps/MapTools/index.html?appid=bf0af1d97f30421caa1b5d51f80ff825>.

The above graphic is a LUCA timeline that along with various other LUCA resources and information can be found at the following link: <https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/luca.html>.

Another handy link is the Virginia Employment Commission's page on LUCA: <http://www.vec.virginia.gov/luca>.

Congratulations on Wise County being awarded a State & Local Leadership Award and Innovation Center of Excellence as a Top 10 Finalist in Data and IT Innovators in Route Fifty Navigator Awards



Ten winners were announced on November 15 in a ceremony in Charlotte, NC, during the National League of Cities' annual City Summit at the Mint Museum.

One of the Commonwealth's very own, Wise County, was recognized as the best in the category of State and Local Leadership! Congratulations, **Jack Kennedy**, in your efforts in having your county being recognized as using innovation to promote economic development growth!

Also, congratulations, **Nelson Moe, Judy Marchand-Hampton** and **Tony Wood** on the *Innovation Center of Excellence* being recognized as a Top 10 Finalist in the category of Data and IT Innovators and one of the best in promoting innovative strategies to increase government efficiency or to reduce government costs for needed services!

It's one thing to dream up a great idea. It's another thing to figure out how to implement it successfully.

The road from conceiving a great idea to successfully implementing it requires ingenuity and innovation from many teams and individuals. In the second annual Navigator Awards, Route Fifty honors these individuals and teams who either work in or with state, county and municipal governments in the United States. Individuals and teams have demonstrated their ability to implement a great idea that improves public sector services and the communities they serve. Nominations, reviewed by the Route Fifty editorial staff, were judged on three measurements: *innovation, implementation* and *outcomes*.

About Route Fifty

Route Fifty connects the people and ideas advancing state and local governments across America by enabling them to share best practices and innovative solutions to key challenges. Produced by Government Executive Media Group of Atlantic Media, Route Fifty is the award-winning digital and events media brand covering news, technology, innovation and best practices in state, county and municipal governments across the United States.

New Announcement!!! #RFNavAwards and @GTPublicSector

1. **Fostering Innovation and Economic Development in Appalachia** (Announced on 9/15/2017)
<http://www.routefifty.com/insights/cards/2017-navigator-award-finalists-state-and-local-executive-leadership/2/?oref=rf-cards-continue> for the announcement and supporting content about Wise County and why it received the Top Award in the State and Local Executive Leadership category.

2. **A Team Enhancing Virginia's Agility to Meet Agency Demands for New Tech and Services**
<http://www.routefifty.com/insights/cards/2017-navigator-awards-finalists-data-and-it-innovators/8/?oref=rf-cards-next-nav> for the announcement and supporting content about the Innovation Center of Excellence (ICE) being one of the 10 finalists in the Data and IT Innovators category.

More details about the fifty finalists chosen across five categories can be reviewed at <http://www.routefifty.com/feature/finalists-2017/?oref=rf-search-listing>.

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).



LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

| Virginia Association of Counties |
Posted November 7



FULL-TIME & PART-TIME

TRANSIT BUS OPERATORS | James City County | Posted November 17



NURSE PRACTITIONER

| James City County | Posted November 17



COUNTY MANAGER

| Pasquotank County, NC | Posted November 15



CODE ENFORCEMENT

OFFICER | Botetourt County | Posted November 15



ENGINEER I - CIVIL/ ENVIRONMENTAL | City of Galax |
Posted November 15



SOCIAL SERVICES

DIRECTOR | City of Galax | Posted November 15



ANIMAL SHELTER

DIRECTOR | Orange County | Posted November 15



TEMPORARY PART

TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | Pittsylvania County | Posted November 15



TEMPORARY FULL

TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | Pittsylvania County | Posted November 15



SPECIALIST III PUMP

DIVISION MAINTENANCE MECHANIC | City of Harrisonburg | Posted November 15



ASSISTANT

VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCATE | Westmoreland County | Posted November 15



MARKETING & BUSINESS

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR | Bedford County | Posted November 15



PROJECT COORDINATOR

| Fauquier County | Posted November 9



BENEFIT PROGRAM

SPECIALIST I/II | James City County |
Posted November 9



SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

| Fauquier County | Posted November 9



RECORDS MANAGEMENT

SYSTEMS ANALYST | Albemarle County |
Posted November 9



ASSISTANT CITY

ATTORNEY | City of Lynchburg |
Posted November 8



BUSINESS TAX SUPERVISOR | City of Charlottesville
| Posted November 8



TAX COMPLIANCE AUDITOR | Chesterfield County |
Posted November 6



HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER | New Kent County |
Posted November 6



FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALIST | Montgomery County |
Posted November 6



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS | Stafford County | Posted
November 6



SENIOR HR ANALYST
| Prince William County | Posted
November 6



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
| Mercer County, WV | Posted
November 6



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC UTILITIES | City of Richmond | Posted
November 3



DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY |
Powhatan County | Posted November
3



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND OTHER CAREER OPPORTUNITIES | James City County
| Posted November 3



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR & TRANSPORTATION PLANNING TEAM COORDINATOR
| Richmond Regional District
Commission | Posted November 3



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR |
Fluvanna County | Posted November 2



DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM | City of Buena Vista |
Posted November 2



CENTER DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES | City of
Alexandria | Posted November 1



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
| Charlottesville-UVA-Albemarle
County ECC | Posted October 31



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER | City of Bristol | Posted
October 31



DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | Albemarle County |
Posted October 31



ZONING OFFICER |
Warren County | Posted October 30



DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION | City of Buena
Vista | Posted October 30



ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE/CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL | King William County |
Posted October 30



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR | King
William County | Posted October 30



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE |
King William County | Posted October
30



GROUNDSKEEPER I/II |
James City County | Posted October 27



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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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