

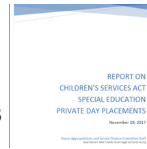
COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

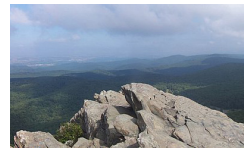
December 5, 2017



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**VIRGINIA
CHAMBER**
THE VOICE OF BUSINESS

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AQUALAW

Virginia Improves Ranking on Forbes.com “Best States for Business” List



Governor Terry McAuliffe announced on November 28 that Virginia was ranked fifth on Forbes.com's 2017 "Best States for Business" list, an improvement over its rankings in 2015 (when it ranked seventh) and 2016 (when it ranked sixth). Forbes.com rates states in six categories to establish the overall ranking: business costs, labor supply, regulatory environment, economic climate, growth prospects, and quality of life. Virginia scored particularly well in the labor supply, regulatory environment, and quality of life categories, ranking third, second, and eighth, respectively. Forbes calculates labor supply rankings based on high school and college attainment, net migration, population growth, union representation, and the proportion of 25 to 34-year-olds within the state's population. States' regulatory environments are scored based on rankings from several sources, including Moody's bond ratings; analyses by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University of labor regulations, insurance coverage requirements, tort liability, and the state's debt obligations; and an index by Pollina Corporate Real Estate measuring tax incentives and economic development efforts. Quality of life is determined based on cost of living, crime rates, commute times, and health measures such as air pollution, among other factors.

Virginia's scores were lower in the business costs and economic climate categories (29th and 33rd, respectively). Business costs are determined by a "Cost of Doing Business" index generated by Moody's Analytics and an analysis of business taxes produced by the Tax Foundation. Factors in the calculation of economic climate include unemployment rates, growth in jobs, income, and gross state product, and the number of large companies with headquarters in the state.

The full list is available at <https://www.forbes.com/best-states-for-business/list/>.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

83rd Annual Conference Recap



[Thank you
Partners and
Sponsors Video](#)

83rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

November 12-14 | Bath County

“Communications | Engagement | Knowledge | Success”

Education Videos

[CONCURRENT SESSIONS PRESENTATIONS AND VIDEOS](#)

Special Events Videos

[THE ROANOKE COUNTY HONOR GUARD PRESENTS THE COLORS](#)

[DR. BOB HOLSWORTH VIDEO | Analysis of the 2017 Virginia Elections](#)

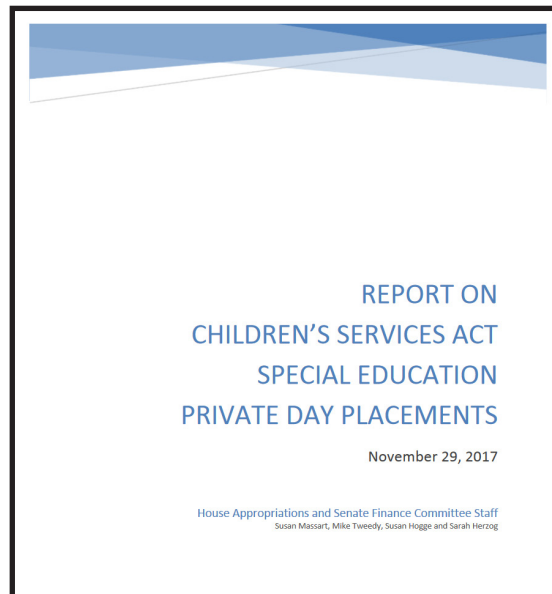
[MARY BIGGS' FINAL SPEECH AS PRESIDENT VIDEO](#)

[SHERRIN ALSOP'S FIRST SPEECH AS PRESIDENT VIDEO](#)

[GO GREEN AND SUPERVISORS' CERTIFICATION AWARD PRESENTATIONS](#)

[NACo PRESIDENT ROY CHARLES BROOKS SPEECH VIDEO](#)

Joint Subcommittee for HHR Oversight Discusses CSA Private Day Placements; Mary Biggs Offers Testimony on Behalf of Local Governments



The Joint Subcommittee for Health and Human Resources Oversight received briefings on November 29 on the issue of private special education day placements funded through the Children's Services Act (CSA). This meeting was a continuation of discussions on this topic that have been underway for the last several years; most recently, staff to the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees were tasked by budget language with examining options to "better manage the quality and costs" of private day educational placements. Decisions about these placements are made by Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams in local school divisions, and the costs, which are shared by the state and localities on a sum-sufficient basis, have risen substantially in recent years.

House Appropriations and Senate Finance staff began research on the topic this summer, including conducting interviews with stakeholders, in advance of a November 1 deadline to report their findings. Due to the complexity of the issue, staff has requested additional time to work on a number of outstanding questions identified during their [preliminary research](#), and will continue the study in 2018.

Several representatives of interested parties were invited to offer brief testimony to the Joint Subcommittee; Mary Biggs, VACo's Immediate Past President and a member of the State Executive Council for CSA, provided a perspective from local governments and suggested several avenues for research in the months ahead. She reminded the Joint Subcommittee about localities' significant contributions to CSA and to public education in general, noting that local governments share the concern about rapidly increasing costs for private placements. She reiterated VACo's opposition to any changes to the structure of CSA that would limit the state's participation.

She encouraged the development of metrics to determine what progress children in private day placements are making, both in academics and in managing challenging behaviors. Some of these metrics, particularly regarding behavior, could potentially be included as goals in the IEP process so that students, parents, and providers all know what benchmarks need to be met in order to transition back to the local school division. She also recommended that the state explore assisting localities with the contracting process, so as to help localities negotiate more favorable rates. She highlighted the potential for localities to make better use of CSA wrap-around funds, which could potentially assist in maintaining children in their local school divisions, if barriers to use of those funds were addressed. Lastly, she discussed the need for changes in the way the state supports local efforts to serve children with higher-level needs within local school divisions, whether through allowing CSA funds to be used within the schools in a targeted fashion or through creative approaches to regional collaboration.

The Joint Subcommittee also received testimony from representatives of private providers, CSA coordinators, special education administrators, and parents. VACo will continue its active engagement on this topic in 2018.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Chamber of Commerce releases updated business plan

At its 8th annual Virginia Economic Summit on December 1, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce released an update of its 2013 Blueprint Virginia plan. The update, [Blueprint Virginia 2025](#), was developed over the last year with more than 6,000 responses to an electronic survey and numerous regional briefings. The plan makes targeted recommendations in the areas of Workforce and Education, Business Climate, Transportation, Healthcare, Energy, Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship, Manufacturing, Environment, and Military and Veteran Affairs.

Some of the more than 240 recommendations will be of interest to VACo members, and include the following:

- Expand public-private partnerships and mixed delivery of the Virginia Preschool Initiative;
- Build significant and meaningful partnerships between the business community, K-12 schools, and higher education to support the implementation of Virginia’s high school redesign efforts (profile of a high school graduate, new high school graduation requirements, and opportunities for students to participate in work-based learning experiences);
- Support alternative and innovative models of education delivery with an appropriate incentive model and resources to help localities use them, including permitting the state to authorize charter schools, enhancing the use of virtual schools, and exploring other options for school choice;
- Support updating the Local Composite Index formula and provide the appropriate funding needed;
- Support replacement funding for the Capital Project Revenue bonds set to expire in Fiscal Year 2019 that support Virginia’s transit, rail, and freight programs;
- Evaluate and implement recommendations to improve the governance and operational challenges at Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to include identifying a long-term dedicated funding source for this critical economic development asset;
- Encourage collaboration on the development of innovative proposals, including funding models, to address issues such as access to behavioral health services and substance use disorder treatments (e.g. opioids);
- Support the expansion of telehealth services and other evolving technology to improve access and control costs;
- Increase financial support for public-private partnerships with existing internet service providers to facilitate broadband deployment in unserved areas;
- Support a more uniform and streamlined process for the approval of small and traditional cell facilities that can support 5G and small cell networks;
- Work with the governor and General Assembly on a comprehensive review of Virginia’s tax system, including identifying targeted tax changes for Virginia’s manufacturers; and
- Promote continued investment in water quality infrastructure projects in regional and locally owned wastewater treatment facilities.

These recommendations will serve as a guide to the Virginia Chamber of Commerce’s legislative agenda and [annual Legislative Report Card](#).

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.

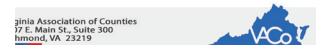
VACo’s overarching legislative priority is:

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.

[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](#)



Visit Augusta County and Humpback Rock



Humpback Rock is a massive greenstone outcrop near the peak of Humpback Mountain with a summit elevation of 3,080 feet (940 m). The rock is so named for the visual effect of a “hump” it creates on the western face of the mountain. Humpback Rock, along with a well maintained trail and visitors’ center, is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Waynesboro in Augusta County and Nelson County.

Located six miles (10 km) south of the northern entrance to the Blue Ridge Parkway, Humpback Rock stands out from many other mountain summits in the Blue Ridge due to its exposed rocky summit, in contrast to the heavily vegetated peaks of surrounding mountains.

As is the case for most of the surrounding mountains, such as Old Rag Mountain, Humpback Rock is underlain by an enormous granite formation, created during the Grenville Orogeny on the ocean floor about a billion years ago. About 400 million years after the Grenville Orogeny during the Catoctin Formation, basaltic magma was deposited, forming a layer of greenstone over the granite. Over time, sand and rock sedimented on the ocean floor forming quartzite and sandstone deposits. Finally sedimentation of shells and skeletons of foraminifera resulted in deposition of a layer of limestone. Approximately 700 million years after the Grenville Orogeny, the Iapetus Ocean began to close resulting in the Alleghenian Orogeny where slabs of granite and rock were transported westward and eventually thrust up over the limestone bed around it, forming Humpback Rock and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

SOURCE: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humpback_Rock



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 Associate Member SPOTLIGHT 

This month's spotlight is on AquaLaw.



FIRM PROFILE

AQUALAW is a 13-member team dedicated to advising and representing counties, cities, towns, and authorities on water, wastewater and stormwater matters, including:

- *Interjurisdictional Water & Wastewater Agreements & Other Utility Contracts*
- *State & Federal Permits for Reservoirs, Water Withdrawals & Transmission Pipelines*
- *State & Federal Permits for Wastewater Discharges & Reuse of Reclaimed Water*
- *Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) Permits, Programs & Plans*
- *Cost-Effective Strategies for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Compliance*
- *Day-to-Day Counseling on Utility Operations, Compliance & Reporting*
- *Defense & Resolution of State & Federal Enforcement Actions*
- *Local Ordinances for Water & Sewer Service and for Stormwater Management*
- *Development & Defense of Water & Sewer Rates & Charges*
- *Development & Defense of Stormwater Utility Fee Systems*
- *Related Litigation*

AQUALAW brings strong water industry knowledge and cutting-edge legal and regulatory experience from a broad, national practice with deep Virginia roots, including:

- *Our nationwide work for local government utilities in over 12 different states in 2017 alone*
- *20+ years of service to the VA Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (VAMWA)*
- *10+ years of service to the VA Municipal Stormwater Association (VAMSA), and*
- *Similar experience serving local governmental associations in NC, SC, WV and MO*

AQUALAW is a nimble and responsive Virginia-certified “Small, Women, and Minority-Owned” (SWAM) business. With easy-to-establish and maintain on-call arrangements, we pride ourselves on being readily-accessible, long-term team members to help safeguard your utility operations and add strategic and practical value in a cost-effective manner.

We are proud to support VACo and Counties across the Commonwealth. Thank you for the privilege.

CONTACT

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VDOE Releases 2018-2020 Local Composite Index



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has released its biennial update of the Composite Index of Local Ability-to-Pay. Calculated using a locality's true value of real property, adjusted gross income, and taxable retail sales, this index, also referred to as the Local Composite Index or LCI, determines a school division's ability to pay educational costs fundamental to the Virginia's Standards of Quality (SOQ's). Put more simply, the LCI determines the state and local division's share of costs for K-12 education.

The 2018-2020 LCI saw 47 school divisions' values decrease (meaning less local funding will be required) and 79 divisions' values increased. Eight divisions' values remained capped, and one division's value remained the same as 2016-2018.

To view the 2018-2020 Local Composite Index and learn more about the data and formula, please visit the official [VDOE Composite Index of Local Ability-to-Pay website](#).

VACo Contact: [Chris McDonald](#)



2018 County Government Day at the General Assembly

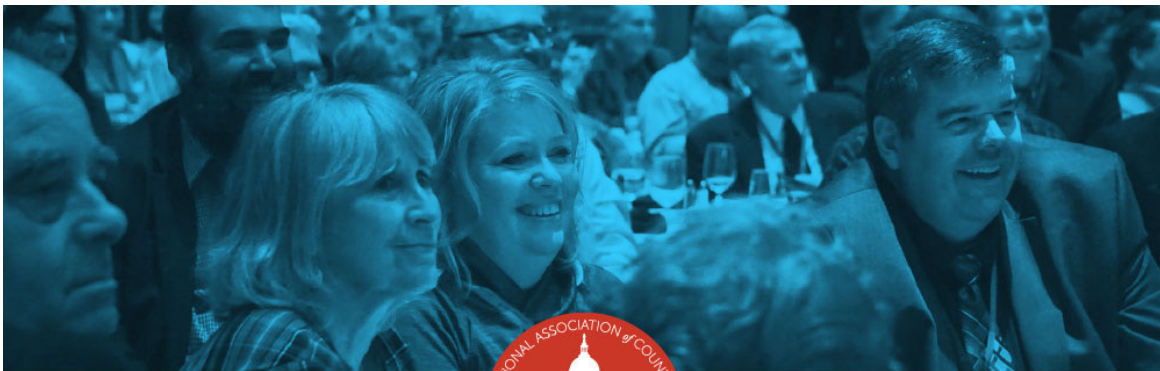
February 8, 2018 | Omni Richmond Hotel
[Registration Form](#) | [Register Online](#) |
[Book Online Omni Richmond Hotel](#)

Mulligan Proceeds Benefit the Bath County Christmas Mother

What is a mulligan, you might ask? A mulligan is an opportunity for a "do-over" in golf. Hit a bad shot? Use a mulligan and replay that stroke.

VACo is happy to report that due to the generosity of the golfers at this year's VACo Annual Golf Tournament, we were able to raise \$220 for the Bath County Christmas Mother. The Christmas Mother Program has been providing clothes, household items, food and fuel assistance during the holiday season to those who are in need for more than two decades.

Thank you, golfers!



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



www.NACo.org/Leg

REGISTER NOW

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!

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CONTACT:**

Susan Horne
President & CEO
Lead Virginia
(804) 644-5323
shorne@leadva.org

LEAD VIRGINIA ANNOUNCES ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2018 CLASS

Connecting leaders to shape Virginia's future

RICHMOND, Va. (December 5, 2017) – Lead Virginia, the statewide leadership program now entering its thirteenth year of educating Virginia's leaders about the issues most relevant to the Commonwealth, is now in the process of accepting applications for their 2018 class.

Alumni of the program are comprised of senior-level executives in business, education, non-profit and government agencies throughout the Commonwealth. They are experienced, recognized leaders within their professions who are seeking to bolster a shared vision of active community involvement and stewardship across Virginia. A complete list of the class participants is enclosed.

About LEAD VIRGINIA

Lead Virginia was incorporated as a charitable and educational organization in March 2005 and is patterned after similar models of statewide leadership programs across the nation. Led by a board of directors composed of business, education, government, non-profit and community leaders from across Virginia, Lead Virginia uses a proven model for developing a statewide network of leaders by engaging academic, business, civic and government advisors to educate class members on the wide range of key issues in Virginia. 2017 sponsors of the program include Altria, Bon Secours Health Systems, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Dominion Resources, Union Bank & Trust, Claude Moore Foundation, Virginia Business, Columbia Gas, Washington Gas and Wells Fargo.

To apply or for more information visit <http://leadvirginia.org/apply.aspx>

#



Register Now for NACo's 2018 Health & Justice Forum

Join the National Association of Counties (NACo) and your peers **January 17–19** in Shelby County (Memphis), Tenn., for a [**Forum on the Intersections of Health and Justice**](#).

This event will bring together county leaders from across the country to learn from each other and from experts on prevention, intervention, reentry and other issues involving county health and justice systems. Sessions will include:

- Whole-Family and Whole-Community Approaches to Improving Health and Preventing Justice System Involvement
- Sharing Data Between the Justice System and Service Providers to Address Needs and Target Treatment
- Counties Taking Action Against the Opioid Epidemic
- Paving a Path to Successful Community Reintegration
- Optional tours of the National Civil Rights Museum and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and
- Much more!

NACo's housing block will close **December 22** or when rooms sell out, so make your reservation now! More hotel information is below.

There is a \$100 registration fee for all attendees. [CLICK HERE FOR FULL AGENDA AND TO REGISTER](#)

For more information or questions please contact Olivia Nedd, Program Associate for Justice and Health, at 202.942.4205 or onedd@naco.org.

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).



GLOUCESTER COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES | Gloucester County | Posted December 1



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ESVA | Accomack County and Northampton | Posted December 1



SHELVER CLERK | James City County | Posted December 1



WEB AND PUBLICATIONS SPECIALIST | James City County | Posted December 1



HUMAN RESOURCE GENERALIST I | City of Chesapeake | Posted December 1



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE | City of Manassas | Posted December 1



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE | City of Williamsburg | Posted December 1



CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER | Campbell County | Posted November 29



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MANAGER | Powhatan County | Posted November 29



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | Pittsylvania County | Posted November 28



FLEET MANAGER | City of Charlottesville | Posted November 22



ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN | James City County | Posted November 22



LIFEGUARD | James City County | Posted November 22



PERMIT TECHNICIAN | James City County | Posted November 22



BUILDING CODE OFFICIAL | Nelson County | Posted November 21



BUILDING INSPECTION - PLAN REVIEW TECHNICIAN - PLUMBING/MECHANICAL | Hanover County | Posted November 21



BUILDING INSPECTION - PLAN REVIEW TECHNICIAN - ELECTRICAL | Hanover County | Posted November 21



HUMAN RESOURCES TECHNICIAN | Montgomery County | Posted November 21



PLANNER | The Berkley Group | Posted November 21



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | Town of Ashland, VA | Posted November 21



TOWN MANAGER |

Town of Christiansburg, VA | Posted November 20



CODE ENFORCEMENT

OFFICER | Botetourt County | Posted November 15



ASSISTANT

VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCATE | Westmoreland County | Posted November 15



SENIOR PROJECT

MANAGER | Chesterfield County | Posted November 20



ENGINEER I - CIVIL/

ENVIRONMENTAL | City of Galax | Posted November 15



MARKETING & BUSINESS

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR | Bedford County | Posted November 15



DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF

PUBLIC UTILITIES | Hanover County | Posted November 20



SOCIAL SERVICES

DIRECTOR | City of Galax | Posted November 15



PROJECT COORDINATOR |

Fauquier County | Posted November 9



OFFICE MANAGER -

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | Hanover County | Posted November 20



ANIMAL SHELTER

DIRECTOR | Orange County | Posted November 15



BENEFIT PROGRAM

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



UTILITY STATION

ATTENDANT | Hanover County | Posted November 20



TEMPORARY PART

TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | Pittsylvania County | Posted November 15



SENIOR ACCOUNTANT |

Fauquier County | Posted November 9



FULL-TIME & PART-TIME

TRANSIT BUS OPERATORS | James City County | Posted November 17



TEMPORARY FULL

TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | Pittsylvania County | Posted November 15



RECORDS MANAGEMENT

SYSTEMS ANALYST | Albemarle County | Posted November 9



NURSE PRACTITIONER |

James City County | Posted November 17



SPECIALIST III PUMP

DIVISION MAINTENANCE MECHANIC | City of Harrisonburg | Posted November 15



ASSISTANT CITY

ATTORNEY | City of Lynchburg | Posted November 8



COUNTY MANAGER

| Pasquotank County, NC | Posted November 15



BUSINESS TAX

SUPERVISOR | City of Charlottesville | Posted November 8



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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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