

# COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the  
Virginia Association of Counties

June 1, 2018



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## The Budget Impasse Ends



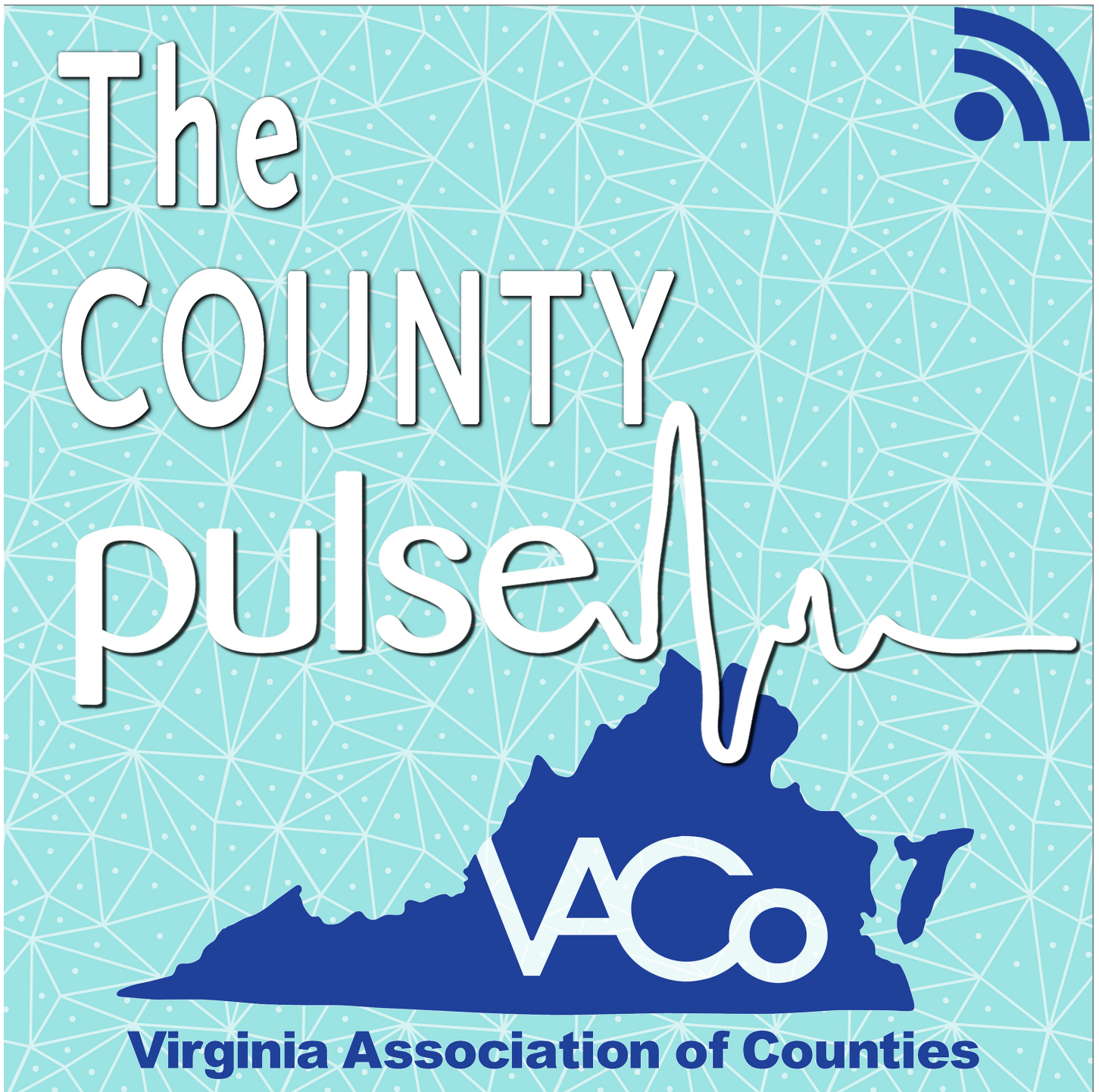
After lengthy floor discussion, the Senate passed FY 2018 “caboose” and 2018-2020 biennium budgets in the early evening of May 30. The House subsequently voted to accept the Senate’s amendments, which eliminated the need for a conference committee. The budget bills are now before the Governor, who indicated in a statement that he would be acting promptly to review them for any necessary technical fixes. With the major sticking point between the two chambers – Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act – settled, and the end of the fiscal year approaching, final resolution of the budget process is expected to be swift.

The budgets approved this week contain authorization for the expansion of Medicaid eligibility to individuals with incomes up to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level and direction for the state to apply for a demonstration waiver from the federal government to implement the Training, Education, Employment and Opportunity Program (TEEOP), which would require able-bodied adult Medicaid enrollees of working age to participate in certain employment, training, education, or other community engagement activities. By accepting the additional federal funds associated with Medicaid expansion, the biennium budget “frees up” state funds that currently support services such as inmate health care, allowing additional resources to be available for a variety of local government priorities, such as K-12 education.

Below is a preliminary overview of key elements of the budgets approved this week. VACO will provide a more detailed analysis in the near future.

- Provides \$131.4 million for the state’s share of a three percent salary increase for SOQ-recognized instructional and support positions, effective July 1, 2019, contingent on revenue projections for FY 2019 and FY 2020 remaining consistent with revenues assumed in the 2018 Appropriations Act when the 2019 budget is developed.
- Provides funding for a two percent salary increase for state-supported local employees, effective July 1, 2019, also contingent on stable revenue projections.

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Guests share the legislative pulse of Virginia Counties with host Dean Lynch. Click on the link below to listen to our first episode. Thank you for listening to the County Pulse Podcast.

**[VACo County Pulse Podcast](#)**

Host Dean Lynch interviews Katie Boyle on the state budget situation.

# The Intersection of Teacher Shortage and Equity



The State Board of Education’s Committee on Evidence-Based Policymaking met during the Special Session to discuss trends in teacher quality data, challenges in recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers, and how divisions are incorporating best practices in equity in schools.

Last year, Governor McAuliffe signed [Executive Directive 14](#) to address Virginia’s growing teacher shortage, reaching over 1,000 unfilled positions, by issuing emergency regulations giving colleges and universities the option to offer undergraduate teaching majors. Discussed in a previous County Connections [article](#), Governor Northam signed [HB 1125 \(Landes\)/SB 349 \(Peake\)](#) during the 2018 session to address teacher shortage through streamlining licensing requirements and codifying the undergraduate teaching major option for colleges and universities. The bills also provided pathways for alternative licensure for the top two critical shortage areas.

The Virginia Department of Education reports that the number of unfilled positions dropped to 935 in the 2017-2018 school year. To view regional data on teacher shortages across the Commonwealth, please click [here](#).

Also included in the report was a snapshot of data from October 2017 revealing that the top three critical shortage teaching endorsement areas across the state were special education, elementary education preK-6, and middle education grades 6-8. The data reviewed the aggregate total number of unfilled teaching positions, positions filled by provisional licensees, and the number of those teaching outside of their academic subject areas. The report also described regional trends regarding the percentage of properly licensed and endorsed teachers, the number of provisionally licensed individuals, and the number of provisional licenses in the critical shortage areas.

Additional data indicated a rise in endorsements added by testing to Virginia teacher licenses, which means that teachers passed Praxis assessments based on experience or areas of study. This past year, the number of endorsements rose from 1,256 to 1,825. Of the total endorsements, 333 were in English as a Second Language (ESL) and 225 were in Algebra I.

The State Board of Education aims to address teacher shortage issues that align with equity goals. Though changes in the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) no longer require the Commonwealth to submit an equity plan, the Board is considering establishing a framework for equity that school divisions may utilize.

Because the classroom demographic is changing, equity is becoming an issue that divisions need to address. Pathways mentioned include re-evaluating the Standards of Quality to fit the needs of the students (ie. funding for non-instructional positions like school counselors) and providing more state support for such positions to meet the wraparound needs of students. The Board also will be evaluating their authority to take action regarding alternative teacher endorsements and testing for special education and other shortage areas, targeting discretionary education resources for equity purposes, and better educating the legislature on issues facing school divisions today.

**VACo Contact:** [Khaki LaRiviere](#)



## 2018 Presidential Initiative: Healthy Virginia Counties



By Sherrin Alsop  
VACo President

### June Focus - Nutrition

This month we will be exploring nutrition as a major building block of health. Having enough to eat is clearly a major factor in overall well-being, and we all know the importance of eating a balanced diet with plenty of nourishing elements, such as fresh fruits and vegetables. Unfortunately, too many of our neighbors in Virginia are going hungry, or are under-nourished. Hunger and poor nutrition are often interlinked, with people who struggle to afford enough to eat often limited to inexpensive but poor-quality food.

The consequences of an inadequate diet can be serious and far-reaching; health experts have demonstrated links between food insecurity and poor educational performance, obesity, and premature mortality. (“Food insecurity” – defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as “the disruption of food intake or eating patterns because of lack of money or other resources,” – is the term used by many policy experts to characterize the experience of many Americans who do not have consistent access to affordable, nutritious food.) In this article, we will explore the current state of food insecurity in Virginia; in the next edition of *County Connections*, we will look at how Virginia counties are tackling this problem.

One important tool available to Virginia counties is the [Summer Food Service Program](#). As you may have seen in the last several newsletters, No Kid Hungry Virginia held a conference call with First Lady Pamela Northam and City of Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney on May 24 to discuss how Virginia communities can take better advantage of this program to help address the problem of childhood hunger over the summer months. If you were not able to be on the call, please see the recap (which includes a link to the recording) on page 7.

#### What does food insecurity look like in Virginia?

**Food Insecurity:** As part of its County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) estimates food insecurity rates by county, using a model constructed by Feeding America (this model uses survey responses about residents’ ability to obtain enough food to meet their needs in addition to information on poverty rates and other demographic data; detailed information on the model’s methodology is available in the [“Map the Meal Gap” Technical Brief](#)). In 2015, rates in Virginia localities varied from four percent to 28 percent; the county breakdown in Virginia is available at [this link](#). [Virginia’s Plan for Well-Being](#) includes this measurement of food insecurity as part of its goal for healthy eating and physical activity. In 2013, 11.9 percent of Virginia households were food-insecure for some part of the year; in 2015, that

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## Visit Dinwiddie County and the Robert and Betty Ragsdale Community Center

In May 2007, the family of the late Robert and Betty Ragsdale graciously donated the old sewing factory in McKenney, VA, to the Dinwiddie County Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department. The family's wish was to see the building revitalized for the purpose of serving the community.

After several years of strategic planning, a ground-breaking ceremony was held on Friday, April 24, 2015, and an architect's rendering was revealed on "Coming Soon" signage. Then on May 2, 2017, Dinwiddie County celebrated the grand opening of the community center.

[Click here to read a news story about the opening of the community center.](#)

[Click here for more information about the community center.](#)



# Mark Your Calendars

## VACo Regional Meetings



VACo is excited to start the 2018 Regional Meetings season. We visited Westmoreland County on May 22 and Dinwiddie County on May 30. We will travel to Albemarle County on June 14 for the Region 5 Meeting. Regional Meetings are held annually to give local elected officials, county administrators, and legislators an opportunity to discuss challenges and offer solutions.

[Region 5](#) | June 14 | Albemarle County | [Agenda](#)

VACo greatly values these meetings and offers sponsorship opportunities. [Sponsor one meeting or the entire season.](#)

VACo held 7 Regional Meetings covering 9 Regions during our 2017 season. These meetings offered VACo members, legislators, state agency leaders and staff an opportunity to learn from each other. They helped steer VACo in the development of the legislative program. [Check out our recaps of each 2017 Regional Meeting.](#)

VACo Contact: [Angela Inglett](#)



# First Lady Northam and Mayor Stoney Host Call on Summer Food Service Program

**Summer Meals  
Local Government Toolkit**

Summer is a critical time for children's academic and physical well-being. Children are at a higher risk for hunger during the summer when they lose access to school meals, threatening their cognitive and physical development. **Summer Meals Programs** can bridge the hunger gap by providing free, nutritious meals to kids where they live, learn, and play when school is not in session.

Municipalities are essential partners in the effort to expand access to each and every child in need. We need your help to make sure that all kids, teens, and families know about summer meals and benefit from the programs this summer.

On average, **15%** of kids who receive free or reduced-price lunches get a summer meal.

**What are Summer Meals?**  
They are free meals provided to kids and teens 18 years old and younger during the summer months. Sponsoring organizations receive federal reimbursements to serve these meals and snacks. Summer meals sponsors can be schools, camps, governmental entities, and private non-profit organizations.

In Virginia, the majority of students who receive free or reduced-price lunches during the school year do not receive a summer meal. A large part of the problem is awareness. According to a national survey of low-income families, less than 40 percent of families knew where to find a summer meals site. Your municipal administrators are trusted community members who can help increase program awareness.

This toolkit outlines easy action steps and provides templates to grow awareness, helping to increase the number of children who access summer meals.

Brought to you by:

Click on the flyer to see the entire [Local Government Toolkit](#).

First Lady of Virginia Pamela Northam and City of Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney kicked off Memorial Day weekend with a discussion of the ways local elected officials can get involved in the [Summer Food Service Program](#) (SFSP). This program works to ensure that children receive meals during the summer months, when many children who otherwise would benefit from school breakfast and lunch often go hungry. The SFSP is administered in Virginia by the Department of Education (VDOE), which is accepting applications for participation until June 15, 2018.

First Lady Northam noted that 3.7 million meals were served last year at 1500 sites, and reminded participants of the importance of good nutrition to children's developing brains. Mayor Stoney discussed efforts to promote the SFSP in Richmond, including collaborations with local nonprofit and faith-based communities and a collective effort by many city agencies, including the parks and recreation department, police department, libraries, and transit system.

Even with strong local efforts underway, the SFSP does not reach as many children as it could. Sarah Steely, Program Manager for No Kid Hungry Virginia, reported that only an estimated 15 percent of Virginia children who receive free or reduced-price lunch during the school year participate in the summer meals program. She offered several suggestions for local officials who would like to get involved:

- Learn more about the program. A local government toolkit is available [here](#).
- Visit a summer meals site, which can help to raise awareness about the program.
- Promote the text number – students and families can text “FOOD” or “COMIDA” to 877-877 to receive a list of meal sites nearby. This number could be publicized through social media as well as in places such as community health centers, libraries, and grocery stores.
- Celebrate the program through media interviews or special events.

A recording of the call is available at [this link](#). For more information, please contact Sarah Steely at [sarah.steely@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:sarah.steely@doe.virginia.gov) or 570.854.5023.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

**Story Continued from Page 1**

- Provides funding to support the cost of increasing the entry-level pay for sworn deputy sheriffs (grades 7 and 8) by \$871, effective February 1, 2019, also contingent on stable revenue projections.
- Includes an increase in the Supplemental Lottery Per Pupil Amount of \$43.4 million in FY 2019 and \$48.1 million in FY 2020 (funds represent a combination of additional lottery revenue, additional General Funds, and funding redirected from several proposals in the introduced budget, including “no loss” funding for schools that would otherwise lose state funding in FY 2019 relative to FY 2018 and funds to provide a full-time principal in each elementary school).
- Provides additional funding for the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) for the following:
  - Increasing the per-pupil amount from \$6,125 to \$6,326
  - Assisting school divisions with incentives for provisionally-licensed preschool teachers to obtain full licensure (priority for awarding grants is to be given to hard-to-staff schools and schools with the highest number of provisionally licensed VPI teachers)
  - Professional development and training for VPI classroom teachers
  - Conducting classroom observations and developing assessments to determine the quality of all VPI classrooms.
- Provides an additional \$2 million GF each year (for a total of \$4 million per year) to the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative to support the extension of broadband networks by the private sector in unserved areas; language directs the Department of Housing and Community Development to develop appropriate criteria and guidelines for the use of the funding provided to the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative.
- Increases funding for GO Virginia by \$5 million in FY 2019 and \$10 million in FY 2020, for a total of \$29.5 million in FY 2019 and \$34.5 million in FY 2020; increases eligible minimum grant amounts and directs the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board to develop a framework and guidelines to facilitate broadband assessments, planning and projects.
- Includes language and funding for the Compensation Board, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Juvenile Justice to implement recommendations of a workgroup convened in 2017 at the direction of the General Assembly to streamline the process of enrolling inmates in Medicaid. VACo worked with a coalition of stakeholder to advocate for these improvements, which will assist in allowing Medicaid to cover inpatient care for eligible inmates in local and regional jails.
- Retains the proposal in the introduced budget for a study of rates paid to special education private day programs through the Children’s Services Act, to include recommendations for implementing a rate-setting structure. Language imposes a two percent cap on growth in rates paid by localities to providers of private day special education services, effective July 1, 2019 (rates paid in FY 2020 would not be able to increase more than two percent over the rates paid in FY 2019). Language directs the creation of a workgroup to identify and define outcome measures to assess students’ progress in private day placements.
- Retains \$5.9 million in each year in the introduced budget to complete the phase-in of same-day access to mental health screenings at Community Services Boards (CSBs), and \$3.7 million in FY 2019 and \$7.4 million in FY 2020 to fund primary care screening at CSBs, as required by the STEP-VA plan adopted by the 2017 General Assembly. Provides an additional \$15 million in FY 2020 to begin phasing in an expansion of outpatient mental health and substance abuse services and \$2 million in FY 2020 to begin phasing in an expansion of detoxification services, also as required by the STEP-VA plan.
- Provides \$20 million for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund in FY 2019.
- Retains proposed increases to HB 599 funding for localities with police departments included in the introduced budget (\$6.6 million in FY 2019 and \$13.8 million in FY 2020).
- Directs the Executive Secretary of the Compensation Board to convene a working group to investigate the effects of body-worn camera use by law enforcement on the workloads of Commonwealth’s Attorneys’ offices.
- Appears to divert \$2 million per year in expected savings from the telecommunications relay contract that is funded from the Communications Sales and Use Tax Trust Fund to the state General Fund. VACo is requesting that the Governor eliminate this provision.



# LEAD VIRGINIA ANNOUNCES 2018 CLASS MEMBERS

## *Connecting Leaders to Shape Virginia's Future*



Lead Virginia, the statewide leadership program now entering its fourteenth year of educating Virginia's leaders about the issues most relevant to the Commonwealth, has announced its 2018 class members. VACo's Director of Government Affairs Katie Boyle (second row, third from the left) is a member of the 2018 class.

The 55 class participants are 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.

Lead Virginia's 2018 curriculum centers on the key themes of economy, education, and health and cultivates a statewide perspective by examining the technology, economic development, demographics, transportation/growth management, and quality of life issues impacting the Commonwealth in each of the regional sessions.

Lead Virginia kicked off its 2018 Program with a successful Opening Session, a three-day event held in Williamsburg, Virginia in mid-April. The Class also just completed its first regional session, exploring Southern Virginia on May 17 – 19, 2018.

"Each year Lead Virginia draws an impressive brain trust of talent and expertise to its program," says Lead Virginia's President and CEO Susan Horne, "As class members explore the diversity of the Commonwealth and discover how relationships build valuable social capital, a deeper appreciation for Virginia's leadership challenges and mutuality of interests begins to emerge. The Commonwealth of Virginia is better served by leaders who understand the landscape in which they live and work."

The 2018 schedule will consist of seven sessions throughout the state. The leaders participating will visit Southern Virginia, the Roanoke Valley, Northern Virginia, Southwest Virginia, Hampton Roads, and Central Virginia in upcoming months. The class program will conclude with a final session and graduation dinner and awards program in Richmond, November 15-17, 2018.

### **About LEAD VIRGINIA**

Lead Virginia was incorporated as a charitable and educational organization in March 2005. The organization 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. 2018 Lead Virginia sustaining sponsors include Altria, Bon Secours Richmond Health System, Newport News Shipbuilding, and Washington Gas. Additional major supporters include Cox Communications, Dominion, Union Bank & Trust, Claude Moore Foundation, Mary Morton Parsons Foundation, Virginia Business, Columbia Gas, and Wells Fargo. For more information, visit [www.leadvirginia.org](http://www.leadvirginia.org).

[CLICK HERE TO SEE LEAD VIRGINIA 2018 CLASS MEMBERS](#)

## VACo Region 2 Meeting tackles issue of providing internet access to rural areas



Close to 50 county officials kicked off the start of VACo's regional meeting schedule at Westmoreland State Park on the evening of May 22. Rob Jones with the recently formed [Virginia Rural Broadband Coalition](#) and King and Queen County administrator Tom Swartzwelder led an interactive discussion on overcoming the obstacles to providing affordable, high-speed internet access to citizens in areas where service is unavailable or unreliable. Where telecommunications and cable companies do not provide service, counties are creating public-private partnerships to get what are known as the "last mile" customers connected to the information superhighway. The benefits to counties include the recruitment and retention of businesses who depend on reliable internet access. Additionally, access to the internet is necessary for both education and workforce development. One example is the [King and Queen County Wireless Service Authority](#) that utilizes existing County infrastructure consisting of four public safety radio towers to "backhaul" data to and from the internet via wireless connections to homes and businesses.

VACo, in partnership with the Rural Broadband Coalition, will be asking for additional state funds for eligible projects with the capacity to scale up services beyond current federal minimum high-speed internet standards. Additionally, both organizations will also seek to address a problematic Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reporting requirement that overstates service provided by commercial carriers. Specifically, Virginia needs to provide a more accurate definition of unserved or underserved areas so that state and federal grants and loans will be made available to eligible geographic areas. These definitions translate into more accurate mapping of broadband availability that reflects both available Internet speeds and access service across the state.

Attendees also discussed other top issues and priorities including economic development, state assistance for education funding, unfunded mandates, and the need to loosen existing state rules on conditional rezonings (aka the "proffer law") for counties to adequately address impacts to public facilities by new residential development.

Also highlighted were recent changes in state law that allow counties on the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and the Eastern Shore greater flexibility in administering stormwater regulations so as to reduce the costs to both local government and business while still maintaining and improving water quality.

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

## VACo Regions 1 & 4 Meeting brings local leaders from Accomack County to Charlotte County for robust discussions



VACo traveled to Dinwiddie County on May 30 for its second 2018 Regional Meeting. Around 60 local government leaders from 11 counties attended the joint meeting of VACo Regions 1 & 4. Also in attendance were representatives from VACo Sponsors: the Berkley Group, VACORP, VACo/VML Finance, and NORESCO. The meeting was held at the beautiful Robert and Betty Ragsdale Community Center, which is featured on Page 5 of this newsletter. All attendees were invited to tour the Community Center, and to observe just how important this facility is to Dinwiddie County residents. If you haven't yet visited the Robert and Betty Ragsdale Community Center – it's well worth the trip!

The meeting kicked off with each elected official sharing their most pressing issue. With such a large and diverse group of attendees from throughout these two regions, policy discussions were insightful and ranged from solar facility placement, to rural broadband expansion, to workforce readiness, trash disposal, and economic development, just to name a few.

Erik Johnston, Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD), shared information about economic development programs and resources available to counties in Virginia. Attendees gained information about state and federal programs such as the "Opportunity Zones" project, the Virginia Main Street Program, Community Development Block Grants, and the Go Virginia project. Johnston, a VACo staff alum, also answered questions about broadband's connection to economic development and the most logical and economically sound way to connect the very rural areas with broadband access. Thank you, Erik, for making time to speak with us.

While General Assembly members spent a heavy day working through the budget debate, Senator Frank Ruff, representing portions of Regions 1 & 4, still took time to travel to Dinwiddie County to be with our Members. Senator Ruff shared his perspective of the budget negotiations and the debates in Richmond, and engaged in a Q&A with several local leaders about additional legislative concerns. A big thank you to Senator Ruff for his time on such a busy day.

After hearing from the Senator, the meeting was adjourned, but attendees stayed to talk with each other. We thank Dinwiddie County for being such a wonderful host, and look forward to the summer with more Regional Meetings ahead.

VACo Contact: [Angela Inglett](#)

**Story Continued from Page 4**

figure had dropped to 11.2 percent. The Plan's goal is to reduce that rate to 10 percent by 2020.

The [Virginia Food Access Network](#), created by the Commonwealth Council on Bridging the Nutritional Divide, contains a wealth of resources for counties. "Story maps" on childhood hunger and access to nutrition contain data layers that allow mapping of factors such as percentages of children who are food-insecure and participation in federal nutrition programs by locality. These maps can be found by clicking the "Data Stories" menu at the top of the main webpage, or by scrolling down on the main webpage until you see the maps.

**Limited access to healthy food:** RWJF measures this component of community health as the percentage of the population that earns a low income (defined as an annual income of 200 percent of the federal poverty level or less) and does not live near a grocery store (in rural areas, living more than ten miles from the store and in non-rural areas, more than one mile). Data from 2015 is available at [this link](#); although RWJF calculates the overall rate in the state at a relatively low 4 percent, there is significant variability among jurisdictions.

Communities with limited access to nutritious food are often referred to as "food deserts." A Food Desert Task Force led by representatives of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University conducted a study and produced a report in January 2014; that report examined access to healthy food in several localities selected to represent a variety of rural and urban areas and concluded that food deserts existed in both rural and urban areas, including "pockets of low food access and food insecurity" even in areas with greater resources overall. The report cited a strong connection between food deserts and poverty and emphasized the barriers posed by lack of access to reliable transportation in reaching grocery stores. The report is available at [this link](#).

**Obesity:** The percentage of Virginia adults who are overweight or obese is a component of Virginia's Plan for Well-Being; in 2014, 64.7 percent of Virginia adults fit into that category. That rate had fallen to 64.1 percent in 2015; the Plan's target is to reduce the rate to 63 percent by 2020. Adult obesity rates by county are available through RWJF at [this link](#); this metric (which is more narrowly defined than in the Plan for Well-Being) indicates that adult obesity rates range from 18-45 percent in Virginia counties. Childhood obesity is of particular concern, as the Centers for Disease Control reports that children who are obese are more likely to be obese as adults. The Annie E. Casey Foundation [reports](#) that 27 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in Virginia in 2015-2016.

In my next column, I'll be sharing information about some innovative approaches that Virginia counties have taken to this problem. You can find links to the resources in this column on the [Healthy Virginia Counties page](#) on VACo's website.



## Register now! Schedule available for NACo's Annual Conference

The [NACo Annual Conference & Exposition](#), July 13–16, is the largest meeting of county elected officials and staff from across the country. Participants from counties of every size unite to shape NACo's federal policy agenda and exchange proven practices to improve residents' lives, maximize the efficiency of county government and hone leadership skills for the future.

**REGISTER TODAY! Early-bird rates expire May 31.**

[REGISTER TODAY](#) | [VIEW SCHEDULE](#)

# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Go Green Virginia Challenge

**By Denise Nelson  
The Berkley Group**

The 2018 Go Green Virginia Challenge applications open with special significance this year: it's the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this home grown program to promote environmental stewardship among local governments.

Early on, VACo partnered with the Virginia Municipal League (VML) that created the program in 2007 to encourage implementation of specific environmental policies and practical actions that reduce emissions and save local governments money. The program includes a variety of best practices that local governments can adopt across their operations to conserve resources and minimize negative impacts to the community. This home grown program was tailored to address issues and opportunities relevant to Virginia's local governments. The advisory panel includes subject matter experts from public sector professionals, elected officials, planning and design consultants, and industry representatives.

The voluntary program includes questions related to community involvement, energy efficiency, renewable energy, procurement, land use / transportation, environmental stewardship, water stewardship, waste management, employee incentives, and resiliency. The challenge includes 97 questions and opportunities for extra credit. At typically 5 points per question, there's a total of 565 points available. Counties addressing enough questions to earn 100 points are recognized as a "Green Government." Counties can view the questions and enter the friendly competition at [www.GoGreenVA.org](http://www.GoGreenVA.org).

### **Start early!**

The deadline for submission is October 5, 2018.

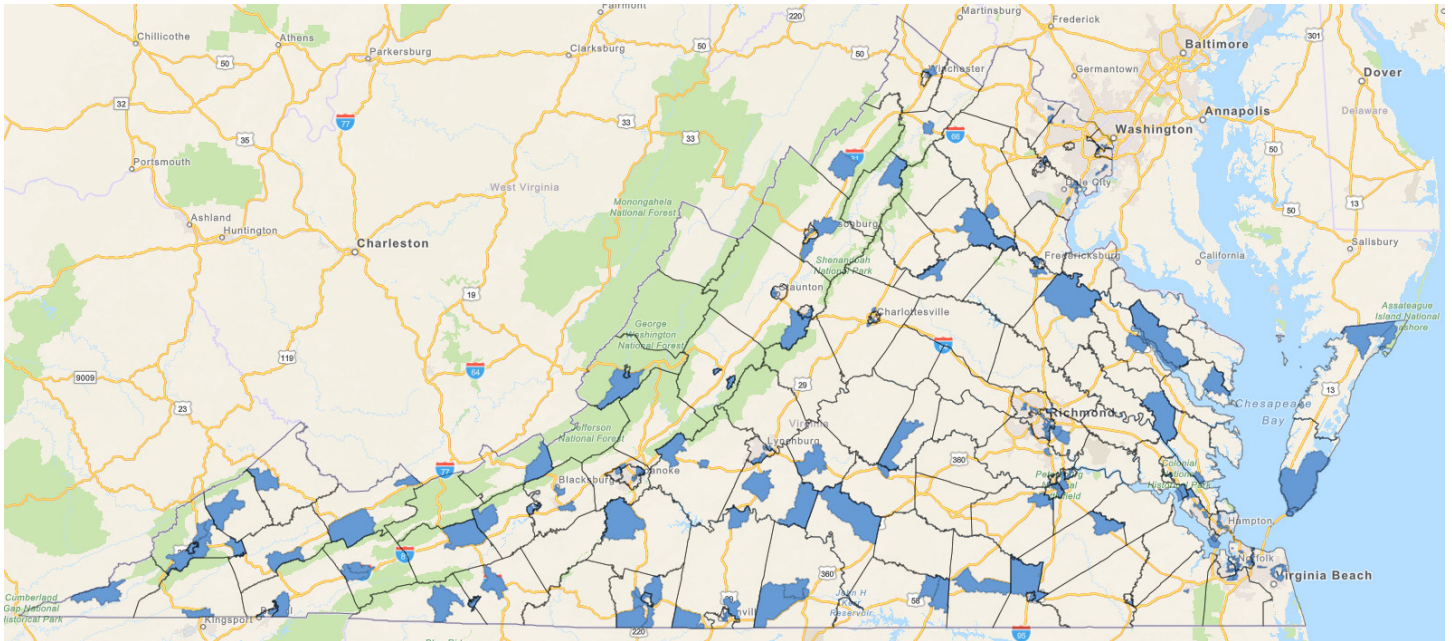
VACo presented the 2017 Go Green Virginia awards to 7 member counties at the 83rd annual conference in Bath County. The video of the Go Green and Supervisors' Certification Awards is available at <https://youtu.be/sDil8OrC62w>. "The seven winning counties represent a growing group of localities that believe in taking innovative steps to reduce energy usage and promote sustainability," VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said. Congratulations to all of the past Green Government counties (listed below).

## **Go Green Past Winners**

**Albemarle County** (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)  
**Arlington County** (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)  
**Chesterfield County** (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)  
**Clarke County** (2011)  
**Culpeper County** (2011)  
**Fairfax County** (2009, 2010)  
**Franklin County** (2009)  
**Frederick County** (2011, 2013)  
**Gloucester County** (2010)  
**Hanover County** (2009, 2010, 2011)  
**Henrico County** (2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017)  
**James City County** (2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017)  
**Loudoun County** (2009, 2010, 2012)  
**Louisa County** (2015, 2016, 2017)  
**Prince George County** (2016, 2017)  
**Prince William County** (2009, 2012)  
**Roanoke County** (2009, 2010, 2011)  
**York County** (2009, 2013, 2014, 2016)



# Governor designates areas in 60 counties for investment under new tax incentive program



The Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 includes a new revitalization tool that incentivizes investments into low-income census tracts by allowing investors to defer tax on prior capital gains, so long as the gains are reinvested in a Qualified Opportunity Fund. Each qualifying fund is created to invest in eligible properties located within a designated "Opportunity Zone." Under the provisions of the law, each Governor can designate approximately one quarter of all low-income census tracts for investment. After soliciting input from local officials, the Northam administration designated [212 census tracts in 60 counties and 32 cities](#) as Opportunity Zones. This [interactive map](#) provides the location of the qualifying census tracts within each jurisdiction. Later this year the U.S. Treasury department will formalize the rules governing the qualifying of both the funds and properties within Opportunity Zones.

This new program provides an opportunity for counties to work with local financial institutions, as well as outside investors, in developing potential projects for reinvestment. Additionally, the tax incentive may be leveraged with other state and federal economic development programs such as GO Virginia, Enterprise Zones, and historic tax credits to maximize revitalization in targeted areas.

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will post updates on the guidelines and rules governing the program as they become available. These should include eligible types of investment such as those in real property and businesses. For more information go to [DHCD - Opportunity Zones](#).

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

## VACo's Legislative Summary

The [Legislative Summary](#) details the actions of the 2018 General Assembly and information on legislation of interest to counties. This edition contains links to bills through the General Assembly's Legislative Information System. Also included in the document are studies and statistics of importance to counties. A budget analysis will be provided in a later version of the Legislative Summary when a budget is passed.



# GO Virginia Grant Webinar



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR  
**GROWTH &  
OPPORTUNITY**  
IN EACH REGION



On **July 10 from 9am-11am**, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will host a How-to-Apply Webinar for the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund (GO Virginia) for the per capita and competitive grants. Attendance is open to the public and free.

The webinar will provide an introduction to the GO Virginia program design and the funding priorities for each region. The webinar will also provide a step-by-step overview of the application process, project requirements and best practices. Following the how-to-apply presentation, there will be a Q&A session and an opportunity to discuss prospective projects and collaborations with DHCD staff.

To register, please click this [link](#). For questions regarding registration or the GO Virginia program, contact Jordan Snelling at [jordan.snelling@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:jordan.snelling@dhcd.virginia.gov) or 804.371.7029.

# Become a Certified Supervisor



**SIGN UP TODAY!** | [The Supervisors' Certification Brochure](#)

The Virginia Association of Counties, in partnership with Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension, offers Virginia's county supervisors an opportunity to enhance their capacity to effectively and efficiently lead their respective counties by participating in the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program.

Since its inception in 2005, 70 supervisors representing more than 40 counties spanning from Bath County and Highland County in the west to Stafford County and Richmond County in the east have completed the training program and have earned their credentials as a certified county supervisor. Of greater importance, each supervisor has gained the insight, perspective and confidence needed to address the issues and opportunities that constitute the governance challenge in the 21st century.

The Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program, originally designed by a cross-section of county supervisors and appointed officials in 2005 and subsequently reviewed and reaffirmed in 2009, features a five course curriculum. The format used with each course is designed to maximize learning and student engagement. Each course begins with a six-hour classroom session that is topically driven and reflective of the subject matter being covered. Following the classroom session is an eight-week home study session. Each course participant is assigned relevant articles and books, and completes assignments drawn from the readings on a weekly basis. One or more essays are also assigned during this portion of the course. The third and final course component of each course is a concluding six-hour classroom session.

A variety of topics are discussed during the closing session including a review of the books read and the assignments completed by each class member. Each course is designed to provide the participant with a solid understanding of the subject or topic being examined. Faculty from Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension, VACo staff and local government practitioners from across the state serve as the program's core faculty. Each course is designed to address fundamental learning objectives which, in turn, challenge traditional thinking while highlighting best practices models that can enhance governance at the local level.

## **Governance in the 21st Century** **The Role of Leadership**

**Opening Session** | June 1 | Albemarle County

**Closing Session** | August 3 | VACo Training Center

**Registration Deadline** | May 16

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

## **Managing While Leading**

**Understanding Your Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities**

**Opening Session** | September 7 | Albemarle County

**Closing Session** | November 2 | VACo Training Center

**Registration Deadline** | August 20



# 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).



**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES** | Fauquier County | Posted May 29



**SENIOR REAL ESTATE APPRAISER (COMMERCIAL)** | Fairfax County | Posted May 29



**FINANCE STAFF SPECIALIST III** | Westmoreland County | Posted May 25



**OFFICE SPECIALIST III** | New Kent County | Posted May 25



**MARKETING & EVENTS COORDINATOR** | Town of Dayton | Posted May 24



**GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN** | Town of Dayton | Posted May 24



**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** | Town of Dayton | Posted May 24



**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER** | New Kent County | Posted May 24



**EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR E/T** | Halifax County | Posted May 23



**TRANSPORTATION PLANNER/LONG RANGE PLANNER** | Culpeper County | Posted May 22



**SENIOR PROGRAM ASSISTANT** | Montgomery County | Posted May 22



**WASTEWATER OPERATOR TRAINEE** | New Kent County | Posted May 22



**PART - TIME CUSTODIAN** | New Kent County | Posted May 22



**TEMPORARY PART - TIME HUMAN RESOURCES & OFFICE ASSISTANT** | New Kent County | Post May 22



**PART - TIME REFUSE SITE ATTENDANT** | New Kent County | Posted May 22



**ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHAL** | Pittsylvania County | Posted May 30



**BUILDING INSPECTOR** | Fauquier County | Posted May 30



**DEPUTY DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD - CLINICAL OPERATIONS** | Fairfax County | Posted May 29



**DEPUTY DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD - ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS** | Fairfax County | Posted May 29



**PROCUREMENT  
MANAGER** | New Kent County |  
Posted May 22



**SYSTEMS ARCHITECT** |  
Montgomery County | Posted May 22



**POLICE CHIEF** | City of  
Galax | Posted May 22



**DIRECTOR OF  
FINANCE** | Williamsburg-James City  
County Public Schools | Posted May  
22



**PAYROLL & HUMAN  
RESOURCES MANAGER** | Essex  
County | Posted May 22



**DEPUTY COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR** | Essex County |  
Posted May 22



**BUILDING OFFICIAL** |  
Carroll County | Posted May 21



**SEASONAL LIFEGUARD  
(OUTDOOR)** | James City County |  
Posted May 21



**PUBLIC WORKS &  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
DIRECTOR** | Fairfax County | Posted  
May 21



**ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM  
COORDINATOR** | Shenandoah County  
| Posted May 21



**TAX COMPLIANCE  
SUPERVISOR** | Chesterfield County |  
Posted May 21



**SMALL BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT** |  
Chesterfield County | Posted May 21



**LIFEGUARD** | James City  
County | Posted May 18



**WATER DISTRIBUTION  
APPRENTICE** | James City County |  
Posted May 18



**INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
TECHNICIAN** | James City County |  
Posted May 18



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
INSPECTOR I/II/III** | James City  
County | Posted May 18



**PARK RANGER** | James  
City County | Posted May 18



**APPLICATION SUPPORT  
ANALYST** | James City County | Posted  
May 18



**COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR** | James City County  
| Posted May 17



**COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR** | Charlotte County  
| Posted May 15



**LIBRARY BRANCH  
MANAGER** | Montgomery - Floyd  
Counties | Posted May 15



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
| Greater Williamsburg Partnership  
| Posted May 14



**POLICE CHIEF PROFILE  
DUTIES** | Town of Warrenton | Posted  
May 14



**HUMAN RESOURCES  
GENERALIST** | Goochland County |  
Posted May 14



**BUDGET ANALYST** |  
Fauquier County | Posted May 11



**SECURITY SPECIALIST/  
CYBER SECURITY ANALYST** |  
Montgomery County | Posted May 11



**WASTEWATER  
COLLECTION APPRENTICE** | James  
City County | Posted May 11



### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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**President-Elect:** Tim A. Reeves | Wythe County  
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**Director of Technical Services:** John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA  
**Administrative Secretary:** Valerie M. Russell  
**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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County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

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