

# Capitol Contact

## Virginia General Assembly

Virginia Association of Counties • 1207 E. Main Street, Suite 300 • Richmond, VA 23219  
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Thursday, January 11, 2018

## Virginia General Assembly Convenes

The General Assembly convened on January 10 for the first day of the 2018 session. Newly-elected delegates were seated, the House adopted amendments to its rules, and members unanimously elected Delegate Kirk Cox as the 55<sup>th</sup> Speaker of the House. Both the House and Senate adopted the procedural resolution setting out the schedule for consideration of legislation during the session.

With both chambers now organized and House members expected to be appointed to committees today, General Assembly committees will now begin to meet and consider legislation (the Senate is in the middle of its four-year term and committee members have already been appointed). The deadline to “pre-file” legislation was January 10 at 10 a.m.; in even-numbered years, legislators may pre-file an unlimited number of bills and resolutions. After this deadline, members may file bills until the afternoon of Friday, January 19, but delegates are limited to five bills and senators are limited to eight bills. (After this deadline, members must receive unanimous consent to introduce legislation.) As of the end of the day on January 10, 2,036 bills and resolutions had been filed. VACo staff are reviewing these bills for potential impact on local governments.

In addition to filing bills, legislators are also considering and submitting amendments to the 2016-2018 “Caboose” and 2018-2020 Biennium Budgets. These amendments are due by the end of the day on Friday, January 12. VACo staff are working with members to submit a number of budget amendments and will report on these amendments in an upcoming Capitol Contact.

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

# Governor McAuliffe Delivers His Final State of the Commonwealth Address

Governor Terry McAuliffe was thankful Wednesday night as he discussed his past four years in his last State of the Commonwealth address to lawmakers.

The Governor thanked First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe, Lieutenant Governor and Governor-Elect Ralph Northam and Attorney General Mark Herring.

“I loved every minute working with Ralph and Mark, and I know they will continue that great work alongside (Lieutenant Governor-Elect) Justin Fairfax over the next four years,” Governor McAuliffe said.

The Governor also thanked his Cabinet and entire team, including Finance Secretary Ric Brown, who will soon retire after 47 years of state government service. He recognized the 110,000 Virginia State employees for their hard work. He said, “we are also fortunate for having the greatest first-responders, law enforcement, National Guard, active-duty military and veterans in the nation right here in Virginia.”

As Governor McAuliffe reflected on his legacy, he touted his economic development accomplishments. He said that over the course of his term...

- The State’s unemployment rate fell from 5.4 percent to 3.7 percent
- There are more than 200,000 more jobs than in 2014
- Personal income is up 12.3 percent
- Tourism revenues have grown by 2.2 billion
- Virginia has attracted more than \$20 billion in new capital investment

Governor McAuliffe even announced another project – Service Center Metals will invest \$45.2 million to expand its manufacturing operation in Prince George County, which will create 58 jobs. Virginia successfully competed against Indiana for the project.

But the Governor said the power of second chances defined his proudest moment in office.

“Many of you have heard me tell the story of standing on the steps of this building and ending more than 100 years of disenfranchisement and racial discrimination,” he said. “Since then, my team has worked with all three branches of government to finalize a process that we have used to restore the (voting) and (other civil) rights of more than 173,000 Virginians, more than any governor in the history of the United States of America!”

Governor McAuliffe added that over the years he's met with hundreds of men and women whose rights were restored and that they represent a story of hope for a better life.

"That is what citizenship looks like at its very best – and we should work together to encourage more of it, not less," Governor McAuliffe said.

Governor McAuliffe leaves office Saturday when his successor Ralph Northam will be sworn in.

[Watch Governor McAuliffe give the State of the Commonwealth address](#)

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

## **Speaker Cox Announces Assignments to Standing Committees of the Virginia House of Delegates**

### ***PRESS RELEASE FROM SPEAKER KIRK COX***

Virginia House of Delegates Speaker Kirk Cox on Thursday announced the standing committees of the Virginia House of Delegates for the 2018-2019 General Assembly Session. Pursuant to House Rule 15, all committee members are appointed by the Speaker, who also designates the Chairman and Vice Chairman of each committee.

#### **PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS**

Cole (Chairman), Ransone (Vice Chairman), Ingram, Jones (of Suffolk), Landes, Hugo, O'Quinn, Rush, Fowler, Adams (of Pittsylvania), Habeeb, Leftwich, Sickles, Rasoul, Lindsey, Price, Boysko, VanValkenburg, Guzman, Turpin, Tran, Convirs-Fowler.

#### **COURTS OF JUSTICE**

Bell (of Albemarle) (Chairman), Habeeb (Vice Chairman), Kilgore, Cline, Gilbert, Leftwich, Adams (of Pittsylvania), Campbell, Collins, Miyares, Watts, Toscano, Herring, Hope, Mullin, Bourne, Simon, Carroll Foy.

#### **EDUCATION**

Landes (Chairman), Bell (of Staunton) (Vice Chairman), Cole, Pogge, Robinson, Yancey, Davis, Leftwich, LaRock, Helsel, Collins, McGuire, Tyler, Bulova, Keam, Bagby, Bourne, Boysko, Hurst, VanValkenburg, Turpin, Rodman

## **GENERAL LAWS**

Peace (Chairman), Gilbert (Vice Chairman), Wright, Knight, Helsel, Hodges, Bell (of Staunton), Leftwich, Morefield, Davis, Fowler, Miyares, Ward, Bulova, Carr, Torian, McQuinn, Aird, Hope, Murphy, Price, Jones (of Norfolk).

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Yancey (Chairman), Hugo (Vice Chairman), Garrett, Davis, Austin, LaRock, Pillion, Adams (of Pittsylvania), Collins, Bloxom, Miyares, Thomas, Ward, McQuinn, Carr, Filler-Corn, Plum, Bagby, Murphy, Jones (of Norfolk), Delaney, Reid.

## **FINANCE**

Ware (Chairman), Pogge (Vice Chairman), Orrock, Byron, Cole, Hugo, Cline, Fariss, Fowler, Bloxom, Freitas, Brewer, Watts, Keam, Filler-Corn, Kory, Sullivan, Heretick, Lindsey, Ayala, Jones (of Norfolk), Carter.

## **APPROPRIATIONS**

Jones (of Suffolk) (Chairman), Landes (Vice Chairman), Ingram, Poindexter, Peace, Knight, Garrett, Stolle, Rush, Robinson, Head, Pillion, Torian, Sickles, James, Carr, McQuinn, Aird, Tyler, Krizek, Bell (of Loudoun), Hayes.

## **COUNTIES, CITIES AND TOWNS**

Ingram (Chairman), Stolle (Vice Chairman), Marshall, Poindexter, Morefield, Wilt, Hodges, Webert, Austin, Campbell, McGuire, Thomas, Herring, Heretick, Boysko, Bell (of Loudoun), Krizek, Mullin, Hayes, Guzman, Reid, Roem.

## **COMMERCE AND LABOR**

Kilgore (Chairman), Byron (Vice Chairman), Ware, Hugo, Marshall, Cline, Bell (of Albemarle), Habeeb, O'Quinn, Yancey, Ransone, Webert, Ward, Keam, Filler-Corn, Kory, Lindsey, Bagby, Toscano, Heretick, Mullin, Bourne.

## **HEALTH, WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS**

Orrock (Chairman), Garrett (Vice Chairman), Bell (of Albemarle), Peace, Pogge, Bell (of Staunton), Stolle, Helsel, Hodges, Edmunds, Head, Campbell, Sickles, Hope, James, Levine, Price, Aird, Hayes, Rasoul, Delaney, Rodman.

## **AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Marshall (Chairman), Poindexter (Vice Chairman), Ware, Wright, Orrock, Knight, Edmunds, Wilt, Morefield, Ransone, Fariss, Bloxom, Plum, Bulova, James, Torian, Keam, Lopez, Sullivan, Adams (of Richmond City), Gooditis, Rodman.

## **MILITIA, POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

Cline (Chairman), Wright (Vice Chairman), Morefield, Edmunds, Wilt, Webert, Fariss, O'Quinn, Head, Rush, Freitas, Brewer, Tyler, Kory, Lopez, Simon, Rasoul, Bell (of Loudoun), Levine, Adams (of Richmond City), Carter, Carroll Foy.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Robinson (Chairman), Adams (of Pittsylvania) (Vice Chairman), Byron, LaRock, Pillion, Campbell, Freitas, Peace, Head, Brewer, McGuire, Thomas, Watts, Plum, Lopez, Simon, Hurst, Ayala, Gooditis, Tran, Convirs-Fowler, Roem.

## **RULES**

Cox (Chairman), Gilbert (Vice Chairman), Landes, Kilgore, Ware, Jones (of Suffolk), Orrock, Knight, Ingram, Habeeb, Austin, Plum, Toscano, Carr, Ward, Torian, Bagby.

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

## **Local Government Administration**

VACo is tracking general government legislation that may impact localities.

[SB 14 \(Petersen\)](#) changes current law to require that only the county attorney or if there is no county attorney, the county clerk receive service for an action against a local official. Currently, section 8.01-300 of the Code of Virginia requires in an action against a supervisor, county officer, employee or agent of the county board that each supervisor be served in addition to the county attorney or clerk if there is no attorney. The bill is assigned to [Senate Courts of Justice Committee](#).

[SB 108 \(Lucas\)](#) provides that an order of publication for the enforcement of a lien for taxes owed on real property that has a value of \$50,000 or less need be published only once. Under current law, it is required to be published at least once a week for two successive weeks. The bill further provides that for property that has a value of \$10,000 or less, the court may order an alternative form of and forum for publication that will reasonably provide notice of such lien to all interested parties. The bill also provides an alternative notice and forum publication for properties valued at \$10,000 or less. The bill is assigned to [Senate Courts of Justice Committee](#).

**VACo Contacts:** [Khaki LaRiviere](#) and [Phyllis Errico, Esq., CAE](#)

## **Law Enforcement Conduct Standards**

VACo is monitoring criminal justice bills that may impact localities.

[SB 196 \(Locke\)](#) requires the Criminal Justice Services Board (Board) adopt statewide professional standards of conduct for certified law enforcement and jail officers by July 1, 2019. The bill adds that the Board shall decertify an officer based on serious misconduct in violation of those standards. Serious misconduct will be defined in the standards of conduct, which will become effective no later

than July 1, 2019. The bill also has a delayed effective date of October 1, 2019. The bill is assigned to [Senate Courts of Justice Committee](#).

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

## Key Dates for 2018 General Assembly Session

The Joint Rules Committee met on December 18 to adopt the procedural resolution that will set out the [schedule](#) for the 2018 General Assembly session. Although the procedural resolution will be considered by the full House and Senate in January, typically it is agreed upon without amendments. Key dates in the procedural resolution are as follows:

- **January 10:** General Assembly convenes at noon. Prefiled legislation must be submitted by 10 a.m.; this is also the last day to file bills dealing with the Virginia Retirement System or legislation creating or continuing a study.
- **January 12:** Budget amendments by General Assembly members must be submitted by 5 p.m.
- **January 19:** All bills must be filed by 3 p.m.
- **February 13:** Crossover (deadline for legislation to pass its chamber of origin)
- **February 18:** The Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees must report their respective budgets.
- **February 22:** Deadline for each chamber to complete work on its budget
- **March 5:** Deadline for committee action on legislation
- **March 10:** Scheduled adjournment *sine die*
- **April 18:** Reconvened session to consider the Governor's amendments and vetoes

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

# Advocate for your locality at VACo County Government Day



**February 8, 2018 | Omni Richmond Hotel**

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

This is our day to advocate for counties at the 2018 General Assembly Session. Join us for VACo County Government Day on Thursday, February 8!

Registration opens at 11 a.m. and the event kicks off with lunch at noon. Governor-Elect Ralph Northam has been invited to speak on issues that affect counties. VACo staff will provide legislative briefs before inviting all present to meet with their General Assembly representatives that afternoon.

For information on how to reach your representatives, see the [Virginia House of Delegates](#) and the [Senate of Virginia](#) member listings websites. Find information about VACo's positions in the [2018 Legislative Program](#). We will distribute our VACo County Government Day Bulletin at the event.

We encourage all counties to participate in the legislative process - listen to briefs about the issues and speak with your representatives about your County's concerns. The VACo County Government Day event should conclude around 1:30 p.m.

Register for [VACo County Government Day online](#) or by faxing in a [registration form](#) to 804.788.0083. Register early and get involved in the legislative process.

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