

# **VACo's Preliminary 2019 Legislative Program**



**October 16, 2018**

1 **2019 Draft Legislative Program**  
2 **Virginia Association of Counties**

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42 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND**  
43 **PLANNING**

44  
45 **Priorities**

46  
47 **Broadband**

48 VACo urges the Commonwealth and the Federal Government to assist  
49 communities in their efforts to deploy universal affordable access to the internet  
50 for all areas, particularly in underserved and rural areas. Additionally, VACo  
51 opposes mandates that limit or restrict local land use authority for the siting of  
52 telecommunications infrastructure or result in a negative fiscal impact to county  
53 budgets.

54  
55 **Proffers and Growth Management Tools**

56 VACo supports changes to the conditional zoning law to allow greater flexibility  
57 in the application process for determining fiscal impacts.

58  
59 VACo also supports legislation that grants localities additional tools to adequately  
60 meet increasing needs for public services driven by new development without  
61 burdening current residents with the cost of new growth through increased real  
62 estate taxes. Such additional tools may include broad impact fee authority for all  
63 counties, and adequate public facilities provisions.

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65 **Positions**

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67 **Land Use**

68 VACo supports maintaining local authority to plan and regulate land use and  
69 opposes any legislation that weakens these key local responsibilities.

70  
71 **Regulation of Home-based Businesses**

72 VACo opposes any legislation that limits or restricts local authority to regulate  
73 home-based businesses, including short-term rentals regardless of whether  
74 services or goods are purchased through an online hosting platform.

75  
76 **Affordable and Workforce Housing**

77 VACo supports maintaining federal and state funding and appropriate incentives  
78 to assist localities in fostering affordable housing, as well as workforce housing  
79 for employees such as teachers and first responders.

80  
81 **Economic Development**

82 VACo supports economic development policies and programs that bolster local  
83 and regional development efforts by maintaining state funding and granting  
84 additional funding and authority to promote local and regional initiatives. This  
85 includes the provision of adequate funding for the Agriculture and Forestry  
86 Industries Development Fund (AFID); the Commonwealth Opportunity Fund;

87 and the operations of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP).  
88 VACo also supports state funding for Virginia’s planning district commissions  
89 and local cooperative extension offices, which play key roles in addressing  
90 regional challenges.  
91

92 **Impacts of Federal and Military Facilities**

93 VACo supports maintaining federal and state funding and technical assistance to  
94 mitigate the impacts on counties affected by federal budget cuts and to sustain  
95 current and future federal facilities in Virginia. VACo supports state and local  
96 partnerships that work to prevent encroachment and non-compatible land uses  
97 next to military installations. VACo also supports workforce training and  
98 retraining for programs that support defense activities in Virginia.  
99

100 **Maintain Public Sector Role in Onsite Sewer Program**

101 VACo supports an onsite sewage program at the Virginia Department of Health  
102 (VDH) that protects public health and the environment in all regions of the  
103 Commonwealth. The Commonwealth should give special focus to addressing the  
104 challenge of failing septic systems and allow localities authority to develop and  
105 implement policies that support the state’s program. VACo supports the private  
106 sector providing onsite sewage system design, installation and repair services, as  
107 long as the services can be provided at affordable rates and in a timely manner,  
108 and as long as VDH continues to provide these direct services as well.  
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110 **Siting of Transmission Lines**

111 VACo supports requiring utilities to seek input from localities and property  
112 owners before any actions to construct, modify or enlarge transmission facilities.  
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# EDUCATION

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## Priority

### **Education Funding**

VACo urges the General Assembly to provide full state funding for public education, including the Standards of Quality (SOQ) as recommended by the Board of Education, where these recommendations coincide with prevailing local practice, targeted incentive programs, capital and maintenance support, and teacher salaries.

Full state funding should be achieved without reduction to other parts of state public education budgets or to other core services. Changes to school security and high school graduation standards will require additional resources to implement and those costs must be adequately funded by the state. VACo supports additional state resources and additional funding options for localities for capital and school construction costs.

VACo supports the current practice whereby all year-end funds appropriated to the school divisions by the locality revert to the locality, retaining discretion with the governing body to evaluate and approve the reallocation of year-end fund balances.

## Positions

### **Charter Schools**

VACo opposes legislation that removes authority from local school boards and divisions to establish charter schools.

### **Childhood Development and School Readiness**

VACo supports efforts to increase at-risk children's access to high-quality, enriching learning environments, including more resources and flexibility for localities participating in programs like the Virginia Preschool Initiative and Head Start.

### **Composite Index Calculation**

VACo supports legislation to adjust the calculation of the Local Composite Index for public school funding by directing the Department of Education to adjust its funding calculations for the local ability to pay by using the use-value assessment of real property, in localities that have adopted use-value taxation.

### **Critical thinking Skills**

VACo supports changes to educational programs and standards that rely less on standardized testing and more on critical thinking skills.

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**Funding Support Personnel**

VACo supports full restoration of budget cuts, including the elimination of the funding cap on support positions, and full reinstatement of the Cost of Competing Adjustment “COCA” for support staff. In addition to meeting its obligations to fully fund instructional staff, the Commonwealth should meet its obligation to fully fund K-12 support staff.

**Library System**

VACo supports maintaining the level of funding of financial aid to the library system at levels budgeted for FY 2019 and FY 2020.

**School Safety and Security**

VACo supports efforts to improve school safety and preparedness including establishing a Statewide School Safety Drill, for students, teachers, administrators, law enforcement, and other staff to engage in active shooter drills. VACo supports the development of model policies to provide guidance on active shooter drills and updates to school safety plans and drills. VACo supports dedicated state funding to improve school security for both capital and operational costs including funding that would serve as an incentive for local school divisions to hire additional Resource Officers, School Protection Officers, or other security personnel and measures.

**Special Education Regional Tuition Reimbursement Program**

VACo supports enhancing local capacity to serve children with high-level support needs in the least restrictive environment, including regional special education programs. VACo supports local flexibility in the structure of such programs. If a new model for the distribution of funding for special education students with intense support needs is implemented, such a model should be phased in gradually, with state dollars provided to enable school divisions that would otherwise experience reductions in funding to continue to meet federal maintenance of effort requirements.

**Teacher Shortage**

VACo urges the General Assembly to approve and fund strategies addressing the teacher shortage in the Commonwealth. VACo supports a targeted approach to teacher shortage by prioritizing areas in critical need, as recommended by the Virginia Department of Education. VACo supports using district-level data to determine how to best fill shortage gaps, especially in hard-to-staff divisions. VACo supports reducing burdens on the teacher workforce in the Commonwealth. VACo supports programs aimed at reducing student debt for teaching in public schools.

**Workforce-Ready Students**

VACo supports changes in curriculum and funding that will increase the number of students leaving the K-14 system with workforce ready credentials. VACo supports incorporating career and technical education curriculum at the elementary school level. VACo supports high school students earning academic

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credit for participating in an internship, apprenticeship, credential and other work programs. VACo supports innovative models for schools to give academic credit for students that earn industry workforce skills through certifications, or licensure from an approved education or training provider. VACo supports establishing partnerships to strengthen the school-to-workforce pipeline in a variety of ways including guaranteed employment opportunities with local businesses and learning opportunities shared between local community colleges and high schools.

PRELIMINARY

# ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

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## Priority

### **Water Quality Improvement Funding**

VACo supports effective partnerships across all levels of government as well as adequate financial and technical assistance from the federal and state governments to improve water quality. VACo supports improved water quality but opposes strategies that penalize local governments by withdrawing current forms of financial assistance or imposing monitoring, management, or similar requirements on localities without providing sufficient resources to accomplish those processes. VACo opposes the imposition of a state fee, tax or surcharge, on water, sewer, solid waste, or any service provided by a local government or authority.

### **Hydraulic Fracturing**

VACo supports a stringent state regulatory program for hydraulic fracturing (or “fracking”) that addresses the potential to tap into natural gas reserves in ways that protect public and private groundwater supplies and preserve local government authority to regulate and/or ban this type of mining activity through their land use ordinances. VACo supports transparency efforts that require the disclosure of all chemicals and chemical mixes used in the fracking process prior to their use.

## Positions

### **Aquifer Protection**

VACo supports initiatives by the state to assure adoption of actions to reduce high chloride concentrations and loss of artesian head pressure in Virginia’s aquifers. VACo also supports a review of regulations and supports education initiatives that promote reclamation of water on a local level for industrial and irrigation uses to offset future demands on all ground and surface water used for human consumption.

### **Biosolids**

VACo supports an effective statewide regulatory program governing land application of biosolids. Such a program should not infringe upon the authority of local governments to monitor compliance. VACo supports the ability of local governments to propose amendments to biosolids permits as they are considered by DEQ.

### **Conservation**

VACo encourages targeted initiatives to facilitate the protection of land for conservation purposes. VACo supports the creation a Purchase of Development Rights program that provides state funding for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and participation incentives for landowners. Such programs preserve



317 prime soils for food production and protect important forest land and  
318 environmentally sensitive areas in the Commonwealth.

319  
320 VACo supports voluntary state and federal conservation programs, including the  
321 United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Environmental Quality  
322 Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program, to assist  
323 producers with the implementation of best management practices.

324  
325 **Dam Safety**

326 VACo supports programs that keep downstream owners and developers aware of  
327 potential inundation zones. VACo also supports sufficient state and federal  
328 funding for the repair and maintenance of dams.

329  
330 **Energy**

331 VACo supports renewable energy policies and energy efficiency measures that  
332 reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lessen dependence upon foreign sources of  
333 energy. VACo supports legislation that encourages renewable energy production  
334 through the implementation of Renewable Portfolio Standards. VACo supports  
335 creative financing mechanisms that enable localities to implement their own  
336 renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. VACo supports maintaining  
337 local zoning authority regarding renewable energy facilities and other utility  
338 projects to protect agricultural and other local considerations. Finally, VACo  
339 supports responsible policies that enable coal and natural gas extraction,  
340 processing, and transport while protecting agricultural interests and natural  
341 resources.

342  
343 **Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds**

344 VACo supports funding for, and the complete implementation of, the Virginia  
345 Invasive Species Management Plan. VACo supports an amendment to the term,  
346 “noxious weeds,” enabling additional invasive plants to be considered for  
347 regulation. All programs and proposals should be evaluated for their commercial  
348 impact, allowing no more than a negligible impact on Virginia’s agricultural  
349 industry. Finally, VACo supports requiring better state prevention and  
350 mitigation practices.

351  
352 **Large Utility Projects**

353 VACo supports the provision of adequate direction and resources for the state to  
354 improve monitoring and enforcement of Erosion and Sediment Control and  
355 Stormwater requirements by entities constructing large-scale utility projects. The  
356 state should conduct a review of the annual standards, specifications, and  
357 construction general permit requirements to determine adequate protection of  
358 water quality and natural resources.

359  
360 **Non-Point Source Pollution**

361 VACo supports a well-financed state program to address non-point source runoff  
362 from agricultural operations. The program should encourage implementation of  
363 priority best management practices (BMPs) such as nutrient management

364 planning, use of cover crops, continuous no-till farming and development of  
365 forested riparian buffers and livestock stream exclusion.

366

### 367 **Predator Control**

368 VACo urges state and federal agencies to support the agricultural industry by  
369 allowing farmers and producers sufficient flexibility when protecting livestock  
370 against predatory animals. VACo encourages the USDA Wildlife Services Division  
371 and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to allow  
372 producers access to the predator control tools required for the continuation of  
373 effective livestock production. VACo also supports USDA's Livestock Indemnity  
374 Program and the financial relief it provides to producers who have lost livestock  
375 to the attacks of federally protected predators.

376

### 377 **Southern Rivers Watershed**

378 VACo supports continued funding for the Southern Rivers Watershed  
379 Enhancement Program to improve water quality in non-Chesapeake Bay  
380 watersheds.

381

### 382 **Stormwater Programs**

383 VACo supports state funding that enables local governments to fully satisfy the  
384 resource and funding needs associated with local stormwater management  
385 programs. VACo supports legislation that proposes creative and cost-effective  
386 stormwater management practices. VACo supports initiatives that clarify and  
387 modernize stormwater regulations and permitting processes, including measures  
388 that makes permitting more efficient, reevaluates the fee structure system, and  
389 allows for considerations of factors such as long-term maintenance costs. VACo  
390 supports legislation that proposes innovative solutions to facilitate compliance  
391 with stormwater standards in ways that promote economic development while  
392 achieving water quality goals.

393

### 394 **Onsite Wastewater Systems**

395 VACo supports legislation ensuring that potential buyers of real property are told  
396 about the type, size and maintenance requirements and associated costs of the  
397 wastewater systems on the property prior to the signing of the initial sales  
398 contract and the recordation of engineered systems plat and deed at the time of  
399 sale.

400

### 401 **Uranium Mining**

402 VACo supports continuation of a moratorium on uranium mining and milling  
403 within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

404

### 405 **Technical Assistance**

406 VACo supports robust state funding for entities that provide critical resources  
407 and technical assistance to localities in their efforts to comply with  
408 environmental policies and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to,  
409 organizations such as the Virginia Cooperative Extension and Planning District  
410 Commissions (PDCs).

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**Water Supply Planning**

VACo supports appropriations adequate to ensure full funding by the state for the ongoing development and implementation of state-mandated water supply plans. VACo does not support overly burdensome permitting processes or applications for water usage.

PRELIMINARY

# FINANCE

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## Priorities

### **Local Finance**

VACo supports the authority of county governments to levy and collect revenue from local business taxes.

### **Equal Taxing Authority**

VACo supports granting counties equal taxing authority to that enjoyed by cities and towns to enact local excise taxes without referendum, such as the authority to adopt a local meals tax without referendum and to levy and collect a tobacco tax.

## Positions

### **Funding for State Mandated Positions and Jails**

VACo urges the Commonwealth to meet its full funding obligations and provide flexibility in the use of state funds for compensation of constitutional officers and state-supported local employees.

VACo requests that jail per diem funding in the 2018-2020 biennial state budget be increased to levels that better represent the costs of housing inmates, and be adjusted for inflation in the future so that payments keep pace with rising costs. The current rates of \$4 per day for local-responsible inmates and \$12 per day for state-responsible inmates are inadequate and represent an underfunded mandate on counties. The Compensation Board estimated a total average daily cost of operating local and regional jails at \$85.17 per inmate in FY 2016, of which \$46.16 was contributed by localities.

Additionally, VACo requests that the state fully fund four quarters of per diem payments in the introduced budget and pay the medical costs of inmates using a cost-effective program jointly funded at the federal and state levels. VACo supports streamlining the process of eligibility determination and enrollment for inmates who may qualify for Medicaid. If the state mandates that mental health assessments be conducted for inmates of local and regional jails who appear to be suffering from mental illness, based on an initial screening, within 72 hours of that screening, the state must provide funding to support the necessary staffing to conduct such assessments.

VACo supports reinstating state payments (PILT) to counties that mitigate the impacts of state correctional and behavioral healthcare facilities on county revenue.

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**Implementation of Medicaid Expansion**

VACo supports full state funding for the local costs associated with Medicaid expansion, including local eligibility workers and case managers.

**Modernization of Communications and Sales Tax Structure**

VACo supports updating the Communications Sales and Use Tax (CSUT) to ensure that it reflects the modern telecommunications landscape, which has evolved since the CSUT took effect in January 2007.

VACo opposes any further diversion of Communications Sales and Use Tax Trust Fund dollars beyond the uses already specified in statute. These revenues should be held in trust for localities and not diverted for general state purposes. Currently, funds from the Communications Sales and Use Tax Trust Fund are taken “off the top” for the Department of Taxation’s costs to administer the tax, the telephone relay center operated by the Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and any franchise fees owed to localities. Language adopted in the 2018-2020 biennium budget provides for an additional diversion of funds to the state General Fund from assumed savings in the telephone relay contract; these funds would otherwise flow to localities.

VACo supports revising sales and use taxes to address modern patterns of consumption, such as online purchases. Any statutory changes enacted in light of the Supreme Court decision eliminating the requirement for physical presence for collection of sales and use taxes must include the ability for local option sales taxes to be collected from remote sellers in addition to state sales taxes.

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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## Priorities:

### **Local Authority**

VACo supports relaxation of the Dillon Rule and legislation maintaining and enhancing local authority and autonomy in matters including land use, revenue measures, procurement and other issues of local concern. VACo supports extending powers currently granted to some local governments to all local governments. VACo opposes legislation that erodes local authority.

### **Unfunded Mandates**

VACo opposes unfunded mandates and shifting fiscal responsibility for existing programs by the Commonwealth from the state to localities. When funding for a mandated program is altered, the mandate should be suspended until full funding is restored. When legislation with a cost to localities is passed by the General Assembly, the cost should be borne by the Commonwealth, and the legislation should contain a sunset clause providing that the mandate is not binding on localities until funding by the Commonwealth is provided.

## Positions

### **Collective Bargaining for Public Employees**

VACo opposes any effort to mandate collective bargaining for public employees.

### **Election Costs and Districts**

VACo supports legislation that would decrease the costs of elections to localities. These costs include primaries, voting equipment, personnel and voting places. Cost reduction solutions include requiring parties to pay for primary elections, having one date for primary elections, using printed ballots, establishing countywide voting places and other similar measures. The state should provide adequate funding to localities for optical scan and other voting equipment and registrar costs. VACo also supports legislation to minimize or eliminate Split Voting Precincts. Additionally, VACo supports a streamlined process to address situations in which census boundaries do not align with locally drawn or commonly adhered to boundaries.

### **Ethics Reform**

VACo supports common sense efforts to strengthen Virginia's public ethics and conflicts of interest laws that are applicable and practical at the local level.

### **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**

VACo opposes changes to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act that would impose additional burdens on localities.

596 **Grievance Hearings**  
597 VACo supports legislation authorizing localities to use an administrative hearing  
598 officer and existing grievance panels and procedures, and opposes the mandate of  
599 a three-member panel. VACo also supports providing immunity to local  
600 government employees, officers, volunteers, administrative hearing officers and  
601 panel members for claims arising out of participation in personnel grievance  
602 procedures.  
603

604 **Interoperability**  
605 VACo supports the state’s goal that agencies and their representatives at the local,  
606 regional, state and federal levels be able to communicate using compatible  
607 systems to respond more effectively during day-to-day operations and major  
608 emergencies. Local governments require dedicated federal and state funding  
609 sources to achieve this goal.  
610

611 **Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1)**  
612 VACo supports the Commonwealth’s transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-  
613 1) in a way that does not unfairly burden localities, financially or otherwise.  
614

615 **Pretrial Services**  
616 VACo supports increased funding for and expansion of pretrial services.  
617

618 **Public Notice, Public Hearing and Public Procurement**  
619 VACo supports legislation to reduce required newspaper advertising for public  
620 notices, public hearings and public procurement including legislation to give  
621 localities the option to use electronic or other forms of notification as an  
622 alternative to newspaper advertising.  
623

624 **Public Safety – Body Worn Cameras**  
625 VACo supports maintaining the ability of local governments to adopt policies and  
626 practices regarding body worn cameras that reflect local needs and fiscal realities.  
627

628 **Sovereign Immunity**  
629 VACo opposes any substantive change in local governments’ present defense of  
630 sovereign immunity. VACo opposes bringing counties under the Virginia Tort  
631 Claims Act.  
632

633 **State Assistance for Police Departments**  
634 VACo supports increasing state assistance for police departments through “599”  
635 Aid to Localities. This funding is designed to equalize state funding between  
636 counties in which the sheriff department provides law enforcement and those  
637 cities, counties and towns with a police department.  
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# HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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## Priority

### **Health and Human Resources Funding**

VACo supports transparent state policies and funding to ensure the Commonwealth’s at-risk families have access to high quality and appropriate services. The Commonwealth should provide full funding to localities and their state administrative entities for state-mandated human services and provide the necessary program flexibility to enable localities to provide comprehensive and case-tailored services.

## Positions

### **Aging/Long-Term Care**

VACo supports efforts that allow seniors to remain at home in a safe and secure environment. VACo urges the General Assembly to provide sufficient funding for companion services, in-home services, and home delivered meals.

### **Behavioral Healthcare**

VACo supports continued funding by the Commonwealth sufficient to allow Community Services Boards (CSBs) to meet adequately the charge of providing services through a community-based system of care. State support must adequately enable CSBs to provide the additional services mandated by the General Assembly to be phased in over the next several years, as well as any additional requirements that may be added, such as a requirement to provide behavioral health treatment in local and regional jails. VACo supports the ability of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to waive local matching requirements for CSB funding for localities experiencing financial hardships. Realignment of the behavioral health funding structure to incentivize community-based treatment rather than use of state hospitals will require additional state dollars and must not rely on local funding to backfill unanticipated costs for hospitalization.

VACo supports the creation of additional Medicaid waiver slots to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community, more than 12,000 of whom were on a wait list as of January 2018.

### **Children’s Services Act**

VACo supports monitoring the implementation of policies by the State Executive Council that provide guidelines for public participation in its process of developing and adopting policy.

VACo supports equitable cost-sharing between the state and localities for the costs involved in the placements of children in residential treatment facilities for non-educational reasons. VACo opposes proposals to limit state participation in



688 funding services for children and youth who are mandated to be provided with  
689 special education and foster care services.

690  
691 VACo supports enhancing the ability of local school divisions to serve children  
692 with disabilities in their neighborhood schools, to include flexibility in use of  
693 state pool funds to serve children with high-level needs in local or regional  
694 programs tailored to meet those needs, and additional support for special  
695 education wraparound services to help support children in their communities.

696  
697 VACo supports the development of outcome measures to track students' progress  
698 in private day placements. VACo supports state assistance to localities with  
699 contracting for CSA services as well as a study of the potential benefits of  
700 establishing a rate-setting structure for educational services funded through CSA.

701  
702 **Early Intervention**

703 VACo supports sustainable funding for Part C Early Intervention, which is an  
704 entitlement program that provides services for Virginia's infants and toddlers.  
705 VACo requests that the General Assembly continue to increase state general  
706 funding to address growth in caseloads. Underfunding this entitlement program  
707 puts pressure on local revenues to fill funding gaps for this mandated service.

708  
709 **Emergency Medical Transportation**

710 VACo supports policies to protect consumers who require air ambulance services.  
711 VACo opposes proposals that would add additional legal and administrative  
712 burdens on local first responders regarding decisions about methods of  
713 transportation in emergency situations.

714  
715 **Group Homes**

716 VACo encourages the state to enforce appropriate regulation of group homes to  
717 ensure protection of residents' health and safety.

718  
719 **Healthcare**

720 VACo supports continued state funding for dental care, school nurses and  
721 preventive services and maternal and child health programs offered through local  
722 health departments and local school systems. VACo encourages the state to  
723 prepare for emergency health services access to care and to develop and fund  
724 incentives that would alleviate the nursing shortages felt in many communities.

725  
726 **Local EMS Involvement**

727 VACo supports increased local involvement in state EMS planning to ensure  
728 statewide needs are met.

729  
730 **Prevention Services**

731 VACo supports increased state general funding for community-based service  
732 programs. VACo recognizes programs such as Healthy Families, Comprehensive  
733 Health Investment Project (CHIP) of Virginia, Smart Beginnings, and Resource  
734 Mothers as important models and requests that the General Assembly provide

735 additional funding for these home- and community-based activities. Investments  
736 in programs that ensure a strong start for children can help reduce the need for  
737 costlier interventions later in life.  
738

739 **Substance Abuse**

740 Efforts to address substance dependency must be comprehensive and  
741 coordinated with localities. The state should develop and support evidence-based  
742 prevention initiatives and should continue to improve access to treatment.  
743

744 **Telehealth**

745 VACo supports the use of electronic information and telecommunications  
746 technologies to support long-distance clinical health care, patient and  
747 professional health-related education, public health and health administration.  
748 Flexibility in the delivery of these services is essential in meeting the needs of  
749 residents.  
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PRELIMINARY

# TRANSPORTATION

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## Priorities

### **Transportation Funding**

VACo supports a study to examine the causes for declining growth in transportation revenues and to develop recommendations to grow revenue over time to meet increasing demands for new construction and maintenance for existing transportation infrastructure. Such a study must address the secondary road needs of counties throughout the Commonwealth, as such funding has been vastly reduced over the past 10 years.

VACo supports changes to simplify the Smart Scale process for allocating transportation funds to reduce time and costs to prepare and review applications.

VACo supports adequate funding levels to maintain existing transit capital state match rates which are projected to decline starting in 2021 due to the depletion of transportation bonds.

In 2018 the legislature enacted a dedicated funding solution for Metro that came largely through reallocation of existing revenues, at the expense of other significant transportation projects throughout Northern Virginia. To address this issue, VACo supports legislation that (1) provides additional regional dedicated sources that follow the WMATA Compact funding formula; and (2) gives localities the authority to create dedicated funding sources for operating and capital expenses for WMATA contributions.

## Positions

### **Local-State Cooperation**

VACo is committed to the protection of local government authority to regulate land use. This authority must be recognized by Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) when evaluations are conducted to determine the consistency between local transportation plans and the Commonwealth's transportation priorities. VACo also opposes the reduction of local control that is associated with the CTB's process of designating Corridors of Statewide Significance and the implementation of Arterial Preservation. Additionally, VACo supports additional flexibility within the VDOT project approval process and standards to be responsive to localities' individual needs.

823 **Devolution of Secondary Roads**  
824 VACo opposes legislative or administrative initiatives that would transfer to  
825 counties the responsibility for the construction, maintenance or operation of new  
826 and existing roads.

827  
828 **Highway Tolls**  
829 VACo opposes the installation of toll facilities on Virginia’s interstate highways  
830 until the Commonwealth Transportation Board has thoroughly reviewed and  
831 assessed the components of a long-term capital improvement program, has  
832 identified and compared all available funding alternatives and has adopted a  
833 proposal that matches capital improvements with realistically available funding  
834 sources.

835  
836 **Maintenance Priorities**  
837 VACo supports a requirement imposed upon VDOT to implement a notification  
838 plan with the local governing body to establish maintenance priorities.

839  
840 **Parking**  
841 VACo supports general authority for counties to adopt ordinances regulating,  
842 including prohibiting, the parking of boats, RVs, utility trailers, campers, etc. on  
843 subdivision streets.

844  
845 **Rail Enhancement Fund**  
846 VACo supports authority for counties to approve Rail Enhancement Fund  
847 projects funded by the state and constructed within their jurisdictions.

848  
849 **Railway Crossings**  
850 VACo supports efforts to safely improve mobility issues on roads that cross  
851 railway lines.

852  
853 **Road Construction and Maintenance**  
854 VACo supports legislation that would prohibit VDOT from requiring localities to  
855 administer any transportation project without the consent of the local governing  
856 body.

857  
858 **Truck Size and Weight**  
859 VACo opposes any legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight beyond  
860 the current federal standards, thereby stressing the capacity of the  
861 Commonwealth’s road systems and putting highways, roads and bridges at risk of  
862 increased damage or deterioration.

863