

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

November 21, 2018



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Timothy A. Reeves, Sr., Elected VACo President for 2018-2019

The membership of the Virginia Association of Counties elected Wythe County Supervisor Timothy A. Reeves, Sr., as 2018-2019 President during VACo's 84th Annual Conference in Bath County. Reeves and other newly elected officers started their terms at VACo's Annual Business Meeting on November 13.

Reeves succeeds King and Queen County Supervisor Sherrin C. Alsop and becomes the second President from Wythe County. A.L. Porter served as VACo President in 1955. Reeves also is the first President from VACo's Region 12 since 1995, when William H.H. Blevins of Smyth County was at the helm.

"I am truly humbled and honored to be elected VACo President and to have the opportunity to serve the association," Reeves said. "I was born in Grayson County and have lived in Wythe County since 1979. I love my area of the Commonwealth, and I believe this is an important and hopeful time for Southwest Virginia. For us to succeed, we will need all Virginia counties to work together to meet our challenges."

Reeves was first elected to the Wythe County Board of Supervisors in 2011 as the Supervisor-At-Large. He has served as Chairman of the board since 2014. Reeves has served on the VACo Board of Directors for the past five years.



Reeves joined the U.S. Army after high school and became a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. He was honorably discharged from the Army with the rank of sergeant. Reeves then settled in Wythe County and attended Wytheville Community College. During this time, he also worked in manufacturing.

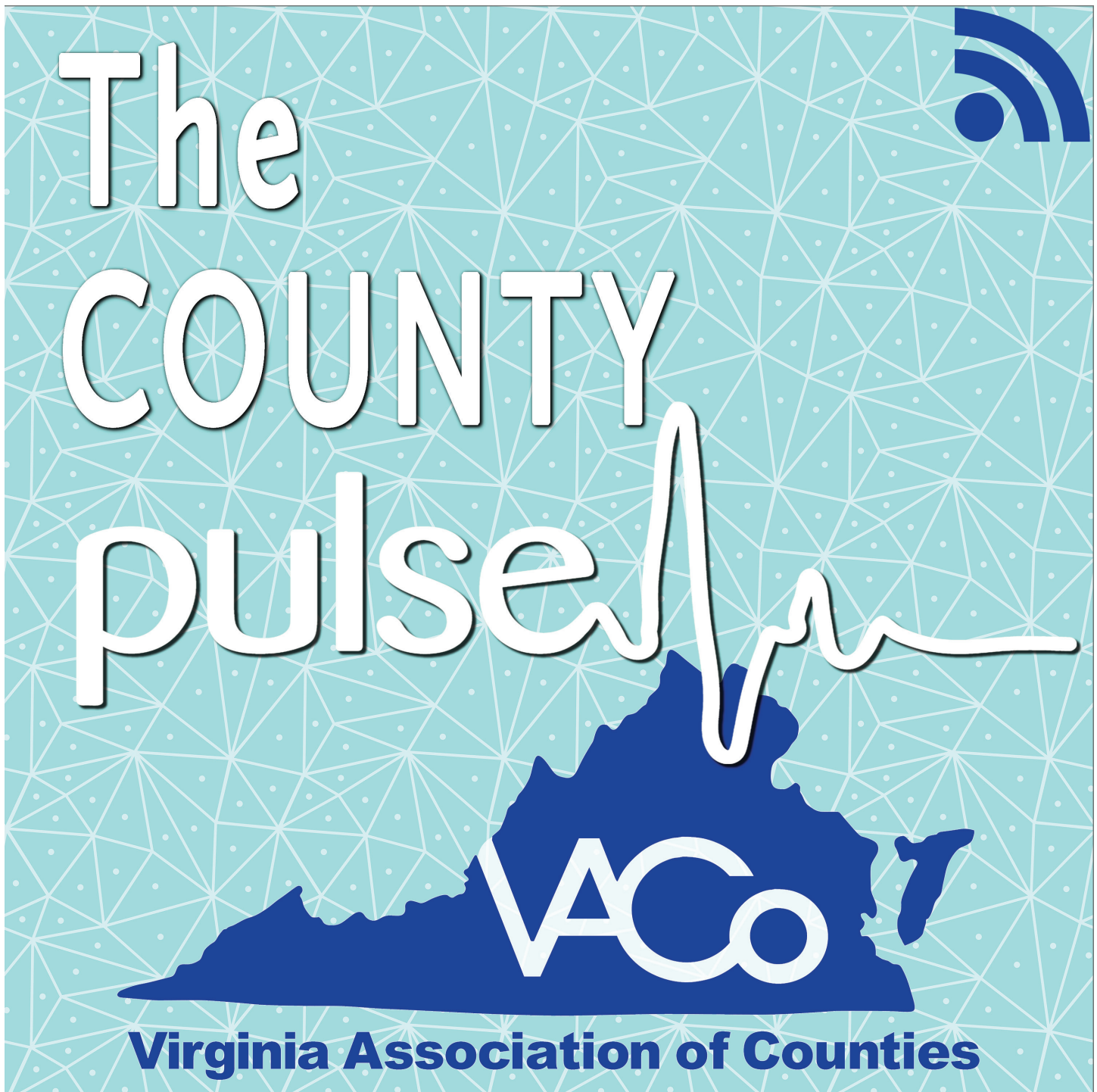
In 1985, Reeves joined the Virginia Department of Corrections as a correctional officer and narcotics dog handler until his retirement in 2009. While in retirement, Reeves worked part-time with the Wythe County Sheriff's Department and managed his own beef cattle operation.

Reeves has been married to Debra Reeves for 35 years and together they have two sons -Timothy, a U.S. Naval Officer who is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and is currently serving as the Chief Engineering Officer of the USS Paul Ignatius, DDG117, and their youngest son Robert, a field representative with Boone Tractor/New Holland in Wythe County, VA.

"Over the past few years, VACo has emphasized meeting its members where they live and work," Reeves said. "VACo's regional meetings are one example. I've learned so much by listening to what other counties are facing and how they worked to solve their issues. I plan to focus much of my attention on equal taxing authority, K-12 education funding, and economic development. I feel Virginia counties will benefit greatly as we make strides on these three issues."

"Tim is an even-keeled leader who has lived and experienced many of the issues Southwest Virginia faces today," VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said. "He has a good grasp on the pulse of the region. Tim understands the importance of uniting all Virginia counties to work for the common good. We are excited to have Tim as our next President."

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



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

[VACo County Pulse Podcast](#)

Transition to “Next Generation” NG9-1-1 with VITA’s Steve Marzolf

Steve Marzolf, VITA’s Integrated Services Program Director, explains the Commonwealth’s plan to assist local governments with the migration to Next Generation NG9-1-1 technology. This podcast includes important information about the timetable and state funding available for each of the 123 Public Safety Answering Points operated at the local level.

Body-Worn Camera Workgroup Prepares Recommendations

A workgroup convened by the Compensation Board to review the issue of body-worn cameras and their effect on the workloads of Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices has concluded its meetings and the final report is in the process of drafting and approval. [As reported in a recent County Connections article](#), the creation of this workgroup was directed by language in the 2018 Appropriations Act; language in the Senate-passed version of the budget would have required localities using body-worn cameras for law enforcement to fund new Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys at a ratio of one attorney per 50 cameras in use. After local governments objected to this one-size-fits-all mandate, the study directive was included in the final budget as a compromise.

The workgroup met three times in person and local government representatives and Commonwealth's Attorneys held an additional discussion via conference call. Commonwealth's Attorneys participating in the workgroup were adamant throughout the discussions that prosecutors have an ethical duty to review all footage captured by body-worn cameras that may be used as evidence in a trial or may be exculpatory for the defendant, a view that was supported by the Virginia State Bar's ethics counsel and a member of the Court of Appeals of Virginia. In jurisdictions using body-worn cameras for law enforcement, even routine traffic stops may generate several hours' worth of footage which must be reviewed, and Commonwealth's Attorneys argued that the volume of footage makes complying with their ethical obligations difficult. Local representatives on the workgroup emphasized that the discussion of workload within Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices must include the state's failure to fund the Compensation Board-approved staffing standards for the last ten years, which has been mitigated in many localities by local funding of additional positions, as well as local salary supplements. Local representatives articulated the view that any further discussion of locally-funded positions should be contingent on the state meeting its obligations first, and that a more detailed study is needed to support any particular ratio of cameras to attorneys, suggesting that a moratorium on any further deployment of body-worn cameras while such a study was undertaken would be appropriate.

Although all parties are in agreement that the state must fund the existing staffing standards, Commonwealth's Attorneys were not willing to forego a requirement for additional staff beyond the existing standards, arguing that some offices are not owed any more staff in accordance with the staffing standards, but are struggling to keep up with the additional workload generated by body-worn camera footage. Likewise, they were not willing to support further study of the issues surrounding body-worn camera use without additional staff being provided in the near-term.

In an effort to avoid last session's Senate-approved language being reintroduced, the workgroup's compromise recommendations involve several elements:

- State funding for full staffing in accordance with the state-adopted staffing standards will be a top priority recommendation. The House Appropriations Committee included funding 25 percent of full staffing standards as a priority item in the list presented to members at the Committee retreat last week.
- Localities currently using body-worn cameras will have the ability to work with their respective Commonwealth's Attorneys to come to an agreement on the need for additional staff. Localities considering deploying the cameras should meet with their Commonwealth's Attorney in advance to talk through the implications for the locality and the prosecutor's office.
- If the locality and the Commonwealth Attorney fail to agree, the mandated staffing ratio would take effect (Commonwealth's Attorneys on the workgroup amended the ratio from 1 attorney per 50 cameras, which would have been required under the 2018 Senate budget language, to 1 attorney per 75 cameras). The ratio would take into account local support for additional staff that have already been provided to address body-worn camera-related workload.
- A more detailed study would be undertaken, and the proposed staffing ratios would be revisited at the conclusion of the study.

The workgroup report is being drafted by Compensation Board staff and is scheduled to be presented to the Compensation Board for its approval on November 28.

Transition to “Next Generation” NG9-1-1 will increase operating costs for counties



As Virginia migrates from analog to digital technology for 9-1-1 service calls, each locally-administered emergency call center will need to complete certain infrastructure upgrades. While the state is paying the capital costs for replacement and upgrades (including connectivity upgrades such as installation of fiber), it is expected that most of the 123 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) programs will need to significantly increase their monthly operation payments. Preliminary estimates of the change in monthly recurring costs show a statewide increase of more than \$6 million per year.

To help localities with the increase in expense, the [9-1-1 Services Board](#) will cover the increases in monthly operation payments for the first 24 months after the next generation service becomes operational for each PSAP program.

[This Excel spreadsheet](#) from the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) provides the estimated transition costs (capital and operating) for each PSAP based on the [Fairfax County contract](#) awarded to AT&T for completing the migration to NG9-1-1. The estimated changes in monthly recurring costs are included in the fourth sheet of the file under the name “MRC Summary.”

VITA staff cautions that these estimates are based on preliminary survey data and several factors may result in modified estimates. For example, actual recurring costs for the Fairfax County contract are proving less than estimated based on the newly installed service by AT&T. Additionally, VITA has identified some errors in population data that will result in changes to the final cost estimates.

It is important to note that each PSAP may choose to enter into the AT&T contract or bid for an alternative vendor. If a PSAP chooses another vendor, the equipment must be compatible with AT&T technology.

For additional information on NG9-1-1 deployment, visit <https://www.vita.virginia.gov/integrated-services/psc-9-1-1-services/ng9-1-1-deployment>.

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

Visit Henrico County and the Cox Road Water Tank

FAST FACTS

Two million gallons
of water capacity

Elevated steel tank

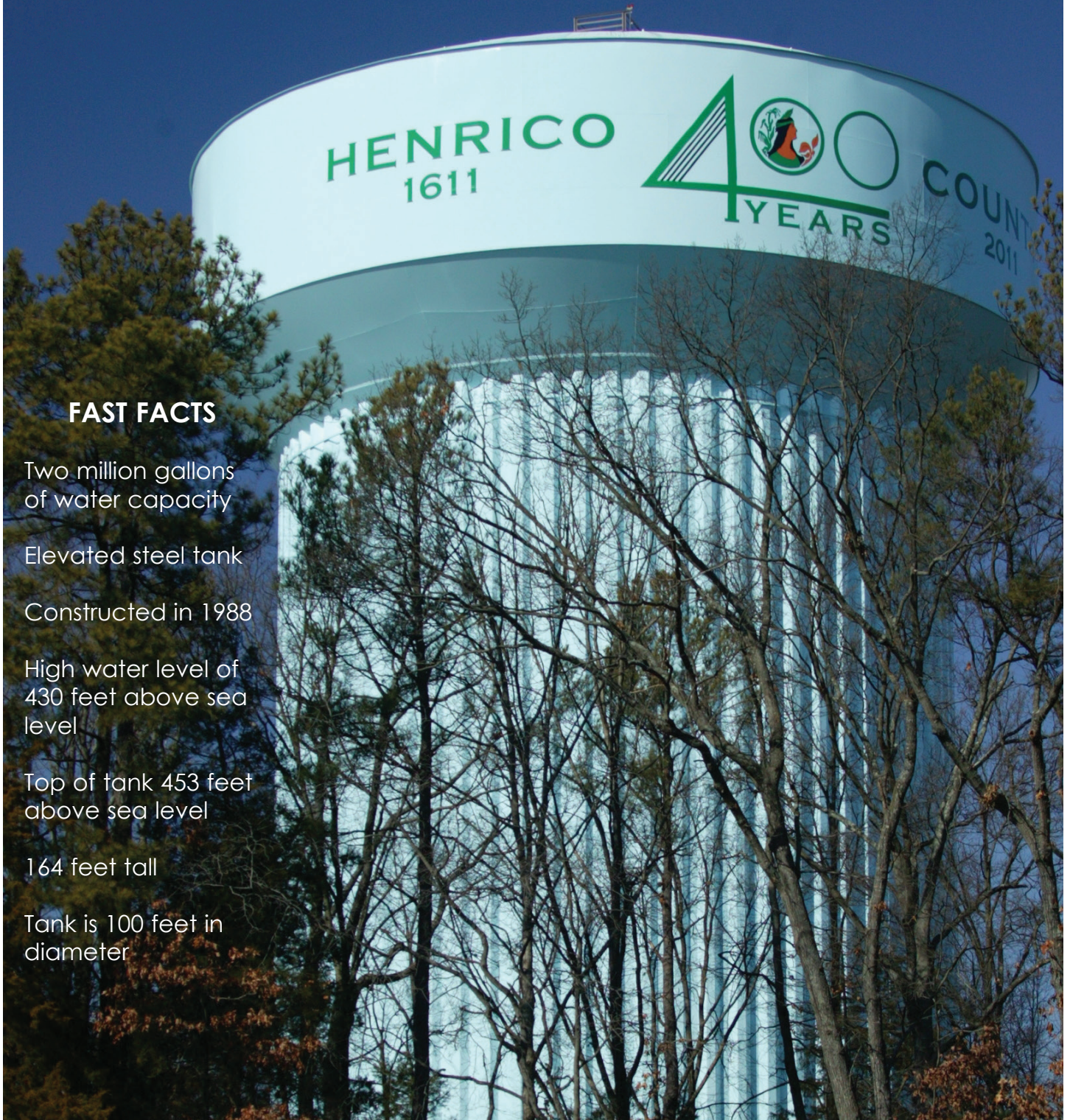
Constructed in 1988

High water level of
430 feet above sea
level

Top of tank 453 feet
above sea level

164 feet tall

Tank is 100 feet in
diameter





Mark Your Calendars



2019 VACo County Government Day In Partnership with VAPDC's 50th Anniversary



January 31, 2019

Omni Richmond Hotel

100 S 12th Street | Richmond, VA 23219

[Omni Room Reservation Form](#) | [Registration Form](#) | [Register Online](#)

The Virginia Association of Counties invites county officials to VACo County Government Day on January 31, 2019 at the Omni Richmond Hotel.

Governor Ralph Northam has been invited to speak. VACo staff will report on legislation affecting local governments, then county officials are encouraged to go to the Capitol to participate in committee meetings and lobby state legislators. In the evening, county officials are strongly encouraged to invite their state legislators to dinner.

VACo Recognizes Graduates of the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program



The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) and the Virginia Cooperative Extension recognized the 13th graduating class of the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program on November 13 during VACo's 84th Annual Conference in Bath County.

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

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

Norman G. Dill | Albemarle County | [Photo](#)

Kenneth Adam Kidd | Bland County | [Photo](#)

Robert McCraw | Carroll County

Christopher McDonald | Virginia Association of Counties | [Photo](#)

Thomas H. Sayre | Warren County | [Photo](#)

Jerry R. Townsend | Prince Edward County | [Photo](#)

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

"Congratulations to our newest graduates on completing one of VACo's premier educational programs," VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said. "We now have more than 75 graduates from more than 40 counties since the program's first class in 2006. I was proud to join the ranks of other graduates in 2016, and I can attest that this is a master's degree level program. I encourage more supervisors to participate in this unique educational program."

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

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

For more information about the County Supervisor Certification Program, contact [Angela Inglett](#) at ainglett@vaco.org or 804.343.2504.

VACo Recognizes Winners of Go Green Program



The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2018 Go Green Awards, a program designed to encourage implementation of specific environmental policies and practical actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and save local governments money.

The winning counties are:

Albemarle County | [Photo](#)
Arlington County | [Photo](#)
Chesterfield County
Henrico County
Louisa County | [Photo](#)
Montgomery County | [Photo](#)
Prince George County | [Photo](#)
York County | [Photo](#)

This is the 10th year VACo has participated in the program, which is generously supported and sponsored by Moseley Architects.

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

Visit www.GoGreenVA.org for more information.

House Select Committee on School Safety Finalizes Recommendations

The House Select Committee on School Safety met on November 14 in Harrisonburg to finalize its recommendations for the upcoming 2019 General Assembly Session. Speaker Kirk Cox, who created the Select Committee earlier this year, offered a set of recommendations as a priority list for the Committee's endorsement; these recommendations were culled from a longer list submitted by three subcommittees in September. Speaker Cox characterized the priority list as representing consensus recommendations that stood a realistic chance of being funded; the balance of the recommendations submitted by subcommittee members will be included as an addendum to the Select Committee's final report, expected to be completed by December 15.

Priority recommendations adopted by the Select Committee are grouped into two main categories: counseling and mental health, and training and school security. Staff from the Division of Legislative Services, working with House Appropriations Committee staff, developed cost estimates for several recommendations, although the fiscal impact for some items could not be determined until they are further refined. House Appropriations Committee Chairman Chris Jones suggested that appropriators would likely work during the General Assembly session to develop an overall funding amount that could be made available for school safety enhancements, presumably after major decisions regarding overall available revenues are settled.

Major recommendations in the "Counseling and Mental Health" category include the following:

- Realign school counselors' responsibilities so that the majority of their time is spent providing direct student services; additional staff positions would be funded (possibly through the Standards of Quality) to assume some of the counselors' current administrative duties. Depending on how this realignment is structured, additional local funding could be required. Eliminating the cap on the number of support positions that are recognized in the Standards of Quality, a longstanding priority for local governments, was not included in the priority list of recommendations, but is expected to be included in the report's appendix, as is a recommendation to lower the ratio of school counselors to students.
- Implement a statewide mental health and suicide prevention tip line.
- Require that mental and emotional health be included in family life education programs.
- Establish a Commission on Student Mental Health.
- Amend the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act to allow community services to be provided to juveniles before they are brought before a court. This item will need to be monitored to determine the effect of adding a new population to the existing funding stream, which has been reduced significantly since it was instituted.

Major recommendations in the "Training and School Security" Category include the following:

- Prioritize funding to the Center for School and Campus Safety to provide training to education and law enforcement professionals, implement a statewide school climate survey, and maintain a catalog of best practices.
- Require annual school-wide training on safety procedures.
- Prioritize funding for the School Resource Officer Grants Program to fund 44 additional School Resource Officer Positions.
- Require all school divisions receiving funding through the School Resource Officer Grants Program to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with local law enforcement to set out expectations for school resource officers.
- Allow retired law enforcement officers to serve as school resource or school security officers without affecting their retirement benefits.
- Increase funding for grants to school divisions through the Public School Security Equipment Grant Program.
- Require the inclusion of local school divisions in public safety voice communications systems.
- Move June primary elections from the second to the third Tuesday in June and make the November election day a student holiday.
- Require school boards to collaborate with local fire departments to ensure that security enhancements comply with building and fire codes.
- Require school crisis and other emergency response plans to be developed and reviewed collaboratively by school boards and local public safety agencies.

The Committee also adopted several recommendations for localities and school boards, including encouraging localities to enter into mutual aid agreements for emergency services and recommending that localities include public safety staff and other professionals with experience in school safety audits in school design and security planning. The full list of priority recommendations is available at [this link](#).

VACo's recently-concluded annual conference included a breakout session on school safety, featuring House Education Committee Chairman Steven Landes and Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova, with the conversation moderated by Stafford County Chairman Meg Bohmke. A recording of the session is available at [this link](#).

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#) and [Jeremy Bennett](#)

Mental Health Study Continues Work; Standards for Care in Jails Contemplated



A possible new funding formula for Community Services Boards (CSBs) and standards for the provision of mental health care in local and regional jails are two major issues under discussion by the Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century, which met earlier this month to continue developing recommendations in advance of the upcoming General Assembly Session.

The Joint Subcommittee's System Structure and Financing Workgroup has recommended that the Joint Subcommittee request that the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) undertake a detailed study of the current method of allocating state funds to CSBs, with an eye toward developing an alternative method of distributing funding. An advisory panel to the workgroup has recommended that such a study determine the best method to incorporate factors such as demographics, Medicaid usage, and local ability to contribute funds, and suggested that the legislature might consider whether a potential new funding formula should be applied only to new funding, rather than disrupting the provision of services by reallocating existing allocations. The workgroup is also reviewing potential changes to the relationship between the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and the local CSBs, to determine whether regional DBHDS offices might provide better oversight of CSB operations. Meanwhile, DBHDS is also examining whether grouping CSBs into regional structures would enhance their ability to provide the full array of services contemplated in the STEP-Virginia plan by the statutory deadlines; some services are already delivered on a regional basis in some areas. In addition, DBHDS is contemplating modifications to the performance contracts between the Department and the CSBs, to include developing outcome measures and exploring other state-supervised, locally-administered service delivery, such as the relationship between the state Board of Education and local school divisions, as a potential model for enhancing the Department's oversight authority.

The Criminal Justice Diversion Workgroup is continuing its discussion on the provision of mental health services within local and regional jails. Members expressed support for requiring the Board of Corrections to develop standards for the provision of these services, and are continuing discussions about whether service provision should be the responsibility of the CSBs. The Joint Commission on Health Care, which met later the same week, has also recommended pursuing legislation to require the Board of Corrections to adopt health care standards. VACo submitted written comments to the Joint Commission on Health Care reminding members that localities are currently funding the majority of health care services in jails and advocating for greater support from the state to meet these needs, and made similar public comments to the Criminal Justice Diversion Workgroup. Regardless of whether CSBs are ultimately mandated to provide services within jails, workgroup members are interested in improving the "handoff" between the CSB and jail staff when a current CSB client is incarcerated, and between the jail staff and the CSB when an inmate is preparing to be released into the community.

The Joint Subcommittee will meet in early December to finalize its recommendations for the 2019 Session.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Money Committee Retreats Offer Preview of Top 2019 Issues; State General Fund Revenues Continue Growth in October



Both the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees held their annual pre-Session retreats last week, discussing the state of the national economy, revenue projections for the remainder of the biennium, major budget pressures, and priority spending items. Staff to both committees expect additional revenues to flow into Virginia's coffers in the remainder of FY 2019 and in FY 2020, but legislators will have to contend with several major claims on those revenues, notably an unexpected adjustment to the Medicaid forecast, as well as a variety of priority spending items identified by the committees. Legislators also must grapple with whether to revise Virginia's tax code to address changes in federal tax policy incorporated in last year's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and how to amend Virginia's sales and use tax statutes in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.* case.

House Appropriations staff project an additional \$602.1 million in General Fund (GF) revenues above the forecast contained in the 2018 Appropriations Act, based on continued strength in the main sources of GF revenues: withholding and nonwithholding income taxes and sales taxes. Senate Finance staff also expect growth in excess of the 2018 forecast, estimating an additional \$727.8 million in GF collections over the course of the biennium. These projected additional revenues do not include the effect of federal tax policy changes. Governor Northam provided more good news when he reported on November 14 that October, although not a significant month for revenue collections, continued the trend of growth in major revenue sources. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, GF revenues are up 4.5 percent, bolstered by continued strength in individual income tax collections (both withholding and nonwithholding). Sales tax collections fell by 1.7 percent, but remain ahead of the forecast on a fiscal year-to-date basis.

Staff to both committees identified a series of major funding commitments that will need to be addressed in the 2019 session, including the revised Medicaid forecast, which will require an additional \$462.5 million over the biennium; expected increases in inmate medical costs; economic development incentives; and state costs for the response to Hurricane Florence. Additional priorities discussed by House Appropriations include shoring up Virginia's cash reserves and a number of items of interest to local governments, such as funding the statutory ratio of 1 sheriff's deputy per 1500 people in localities where the sheriff is responsible for law enforcement, funding 25 percent of positions required by the Compensation Board staffing standards but not currently funded, providing additional support for the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative, and supporting operations at state parks. Senate Finance's priority list also includes school safety initiatives, higher education programs such as the New Economy Workforce Credential Grant program, and a potential reinsurance program to help bring down the cost of health insurance purchased through the individual market. Both committees received an update from Stephen Moret, President and CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, on Virginia's selection for half of Amazon's HQ2 project, which is expected to generate substantial tax revenue for the state but also entails funding commitments.

Presentations from House Appropriations are available at [this link](#); presentations from Senate Finance are available at [this link](#). The Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates will meet on November 19; the Governor will present his budget, which will include any adjustments to the official revenue forecast, to the money committees on December 18.

2018 VACo Annual Conference

Thank You



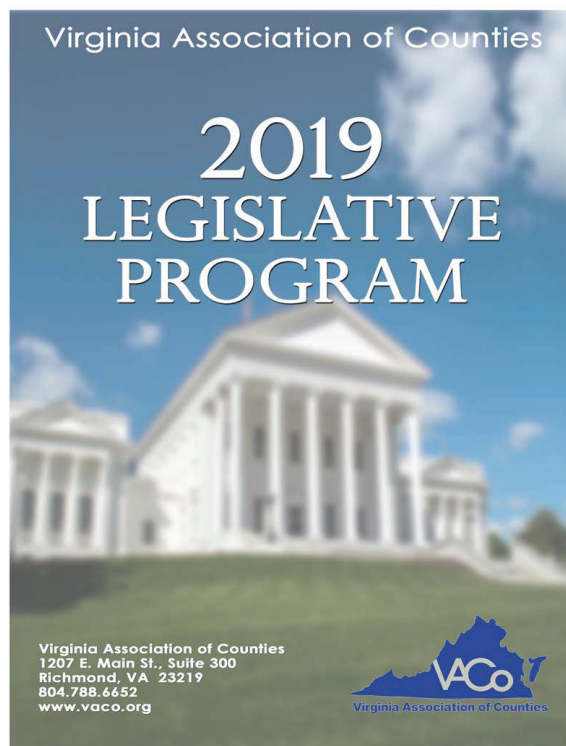
Thank you for making the VACo 84th Annual Conference a success! The Theme **“Commonwealth of Opportunities: Preparing Counties for the Future”** was felt throughout the 2.5 days. Thank you to 2018 Conference Planning Committee Chair, Jeff McKay, Fairfax County Supervisor, and all of the committee members for their guidance, ideas and attention to detail.

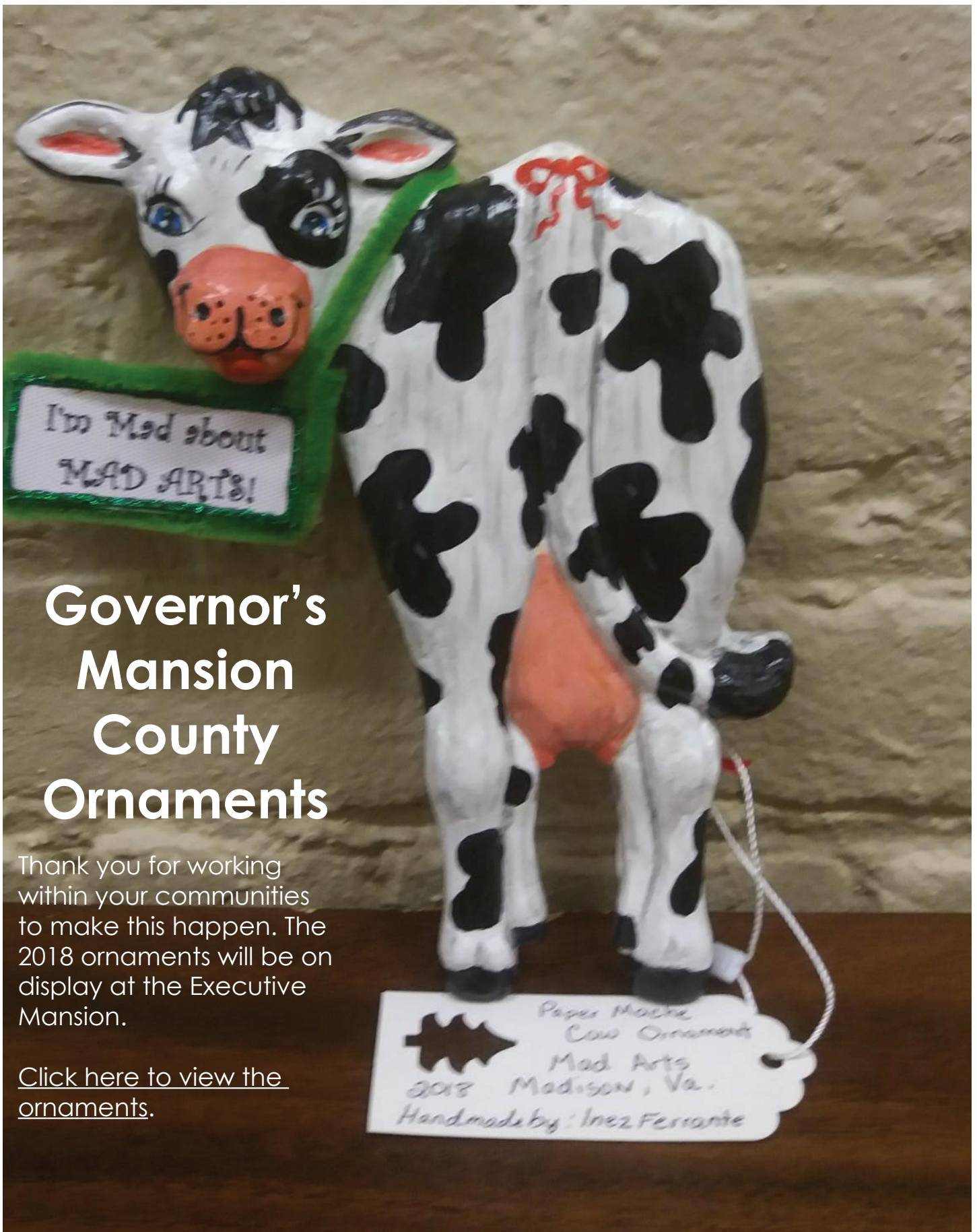
[Check out our 2018 Annual Conference Recap page](#) to download presentations and watch videos of the sessions.

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

Don't forget to sign up for a [2019 Steering Committee](#). Forms can be found in your conference bags or [online](#). They are due by December 15. Your 2018 committee appointment does not automatically roll over; you must sign up each year. [Sign up now](#) to make sure you get all committee information as soon as it is released!

Thank you, again, for participating in the 2018 VACo Annual Conference. Consider joining the [Conference Planning Committee](#) to help shape the 2019 Annual Conference!





Governor's Mansion County Ornaments

Thank you for working within your communities to make this happen. The 2018 ornaments will be on display at the Executive Mansion.

[Click here to view the ornaments.](#)

PRESS RELEASE



VACo Welcomes Jeremy Bennett



RICHMOND (October 29, 2018)—The Virginia Association of Counties is pleased to announce that Jeremy R. Bennett will join the team on November 16 as Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. Bennett comes to VACo after serving as Government Relations Specialist at the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA). He also previously worked in Congress for Representative Don Beyer (VA-08), Representative Dan Maffei (NY-24), and Representative Kathy Hochul (NY-26).

“Jeremy brings outstanding federal government experience, having worked for several U.S. Representatives,” VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said. “He also recently gained valuable local government experience working with Virginia’s school boards. With the General Assembly around the corner, we’re excited to have Jeremy on board. He gives our members another talented advocate fighting for their interests.”

In his role at the VSBA, Bennett represented the legislative interests of the organization in the General Assembly and Congress, including direct lobbying of legislators, testifying, and tracking and advocating on more than 300 bills per session.

“I am thrilled and honored to have been selected for this position and look forward to advancing the interests of Virginia’s Counties to help serve the citizens of the Commonwealth,” Bennett said.

Bennett graduated with honors from Colgate University with a Bachelor of Arts in History. Bennett enjoys visiting communities and historic sites across the state and spending his free time in the great outdoors.

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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For more information

Gage Harter
804.343.2502
gharter@vaco.org

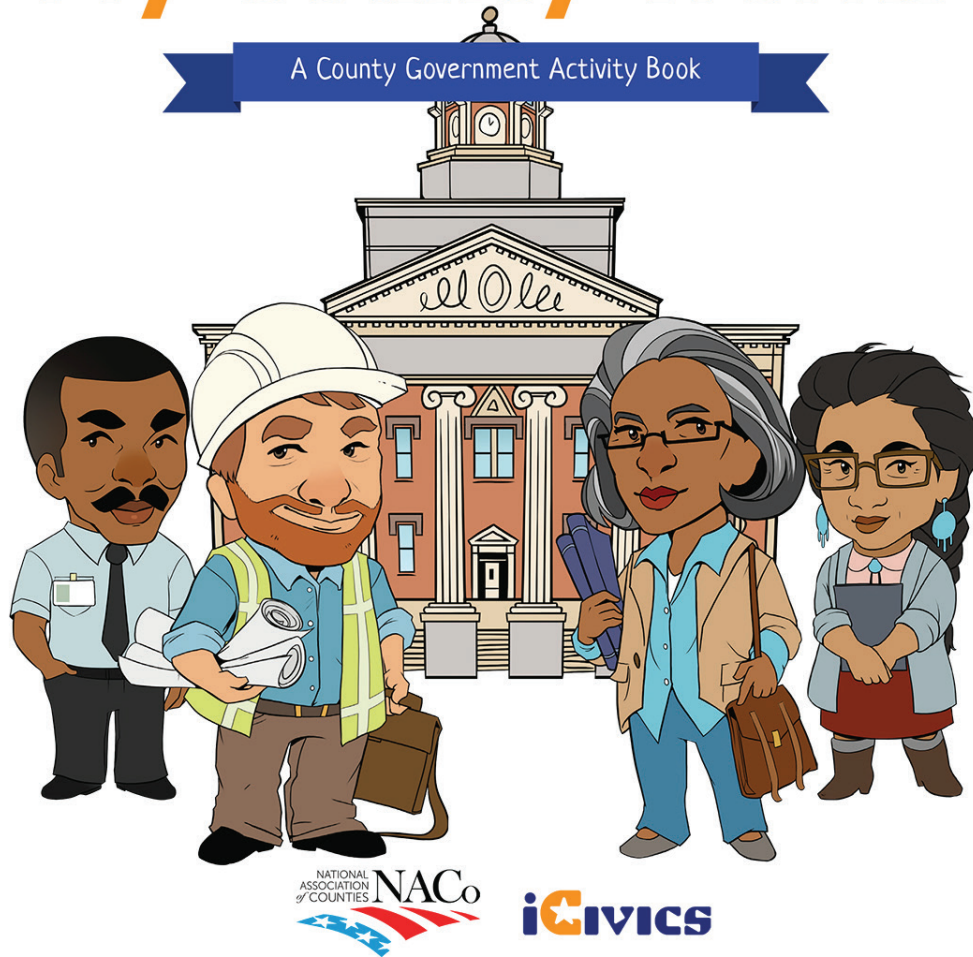
Virginia Association of Counties

1207 East Main Street
Richmond, Va. 23219
www.vaco.org



My County Works

A County Government Activity Book



NACo and ICivics have partnered together to create a comprehensive educational program that teaches students about the importance of local government. This much-needed resource will help students in any educational setting gain a solid understanding of the roles, duties, and challenges of local governance. NACo's [program](#) includes an educational video [game](#), a set of [courses](#) geared toward middle and high school students, an interactive [workbook](#) for elementary-aged constituents, and classroom [tips](#) for county officials and teachers.

This program will help parents, teachers, and county officials establish a strong foundation of knowledge in younger citizens and encourage their ongoing engagement and interaction with county government. Please take time to review these resources and reflect on how your county is working to ensure that its children understand their local government, and their future potential within it. The children of your county will grow up one day. What role will you play in helping them to grow up to be knowledgeable, engaged, and passionately involved in their local institutions?

[Click here to read the My County Works - A County Government Activity Book](#)

Virginia County Supervisors' Manual Eighth Edition



Release date and pre-order
information will be announced in
upcoming issues of County Connections.

SANDS
ANDERSON

VACo Committee Interest Form



VACo seeks county supervisors and executive staff interested in serving on steering and operational committees. The steering committees consider proposals from member counties for inclusion in VACo's legislative program.

They also provide direction to the VACo staff on policy issues arising from legislative and state agency studies. Steering committee members from VACo's 13 regions are selected to serve.

The operational and ad-hoc committees are responsible for helping direct the staff in the activities, programs and functions of VACo.

Attendance will be expected of committee members at the VACo Annual Meeting, and other committee meetings during the year. VACo asks that committee members or the counties they represent assume responsibility for travel arrangements and costs associated with attending committee meetings. Appointments are made each year by the president of VACo. If you are interested in being considered for an appointment, complete this form and return it by **December 31, 2018** to VACo--Attention: **Valerie Russell**, 1207 East Main Street, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219-3627, fax 804.788.0083, or scan and email to vrussell@vaco.org.

County officials who already serve on committees need to submit this form by December 31 to be reappointed to a committee in 2019.

name _____

title _____ county _____

address _____

phone _____ email _____

STEERING COMMITTEES

_____ Economic Development and Planning

_____ Education

_____ Environment and Agriculture

_____ Finance

_____ General Government

_____ Health and Human Resources

_____ Transportation

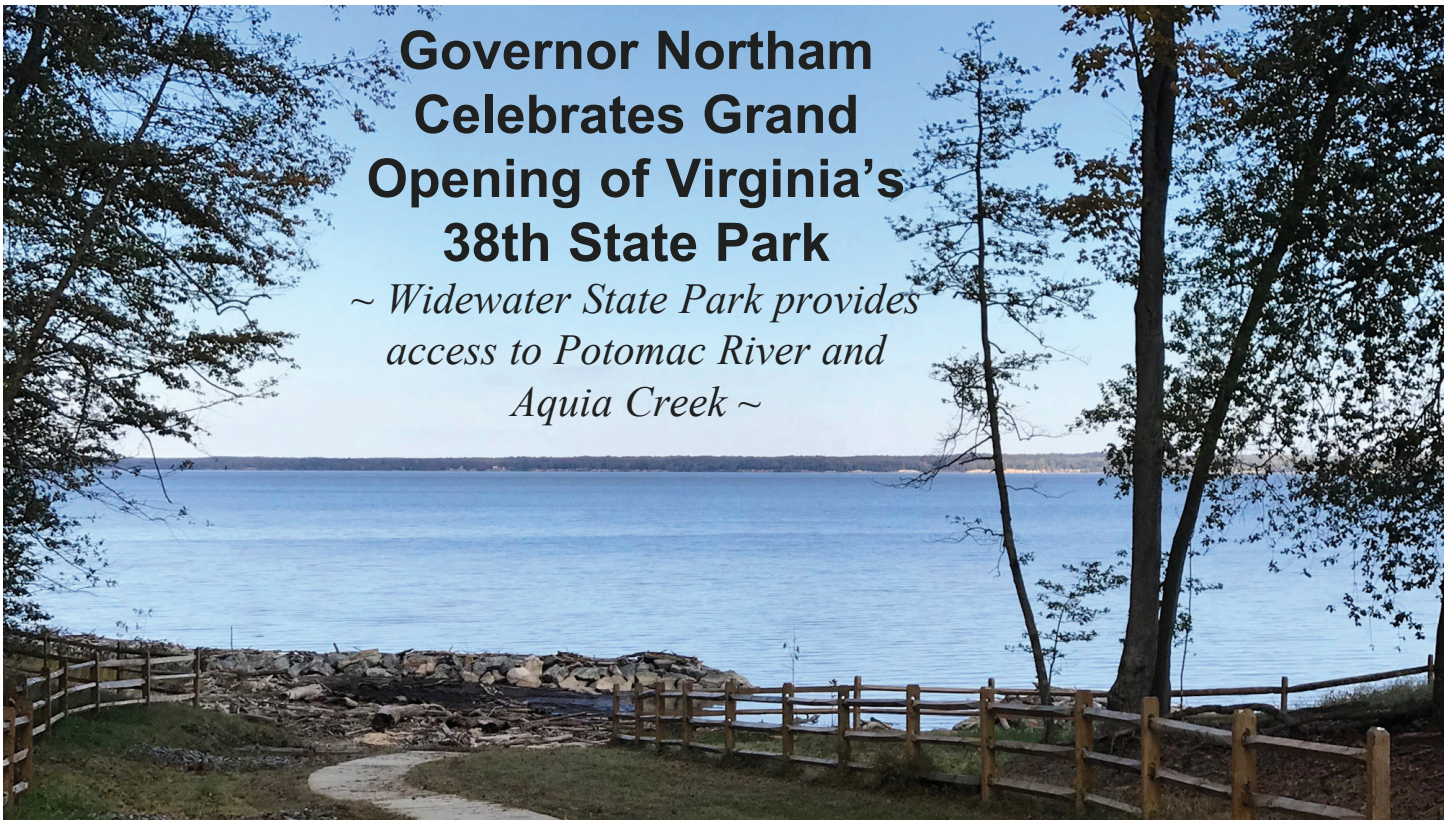
OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

_____ Budget and Finance

_____ Conference Planning

_____ Nominating

_____ Communications Committee



Governor Northam Celebrates Grand Opening of Virginia's 38th State Park

*~ Widewater State Park provides
access to Potomac River and
Aquia Creek ~*

Governor Ralph Northam today officially opened Widewater State Park in Stafford County, the Commonwealth's 38th state park. Widewater State Park covers 1,100 acres, including two miles of water frontage along the Potomac River and Aquia Creek.

"Virginia's state parks attract millions of visitors each year, serving as affordable vacation destinations and adding to the economic vitality of the communities where they are located," **said Governor Northam**. "With the dedication of this new state park we build upon Virginia's legacy of conservation and environmental stewardship and expand opportunities for the public to experience our Commonwealth's natural beauty and renowned system of state parks."

The property was originally purchased by Dominion Energy as a site for a proposed power plant. The property was later approved for development of 700 residential units, a resort conference center and extensive infrastructure. Dominion sold the property for \$1 million less than the assessed value in 2013. The Trust for Public Land and Stafford County assisted in the transaction.

"The development of a low-impact state park on waterfront property significantly reduces the possibility of increased water quality degradation," **said Secretary of Natural Resources Matthew Strickler**. "More than 73,000 acres of Virginia are protected as state parks, and only a small fraction of the property is ever improved or developed. We are pleased that this land will be protected for generations to come."

Funding for the \$6.1 million property was from Virginia Public Building Authority bonds and a federal appropriation of \$225,000 secured by Virginia's congressional delegation through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program.

"This has been a long journey, from purchasing the property to adding nearly \$7.5 million in improvements—roads, buildings and other infrastructure," **said Clyde Cristman, Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), which manages Virginia State Parks**. "So many partners have contributed along the way to make this park a reality."

"State parks host 10 million visitors each year," **said Virginia State Parks Director Craig Seaver**. "Widewater State Park allows us to provide water access in one of the most heavily populated areas of Virginia while maintaining the serenity people expect when they visit one of our 38 state parks."

"We have had a wonderful working relationship with DCR on our beautiful Crow's Nest Natural Preserve," **said Stafford Board of Supervisors Chairman Meg Bohmke, Falmouth District**. "We are delighted that Governor Northam came to Stafford to help us kick off our next partnership and we are grateful to the Commonwealth of Virginia for helping us to preserve this incredible resource."

For more about Virginia State Parks, visit www.VirginiaStateParks.gov.

High resolution park images available [here](#). Park b-roll available [here](#).

Virginia Association of Counties

PREMIER PARTNER

SPOTLIGHT SERIES

VACo Members - Learn about VACo's Partners and how they can help Counties save money and become more efficient. Contact Executive Director Dean Lynch at dlynch@vaco.org for more information.

VACo Premier Partner Spotlight Podcast

Enterprise Fleet Management

Host Dean Lynch speaks with Enterprise Fleet Management's Eddy Simon, Account Executive, and Kate Quinn, Area Sales Manager. Listen to how Enterprise Fleet Management can help counties save thousands of dollars with its hands-on management, award-winning technology, and the infrastructure and expertise of Enterprise, the world's largest fleet operator.

Stafford Devises a Strategic Plan to Take the County into the Future

When people start to think about what Stafford County will look like in 2040, all sorts of ideas and thoughts come to mind. The tricky part is taking the time to create a meaningful path on which to build upon for the future. Over the summer, Stafford's Board of Supervisors came together to do just that for our community.

"The Strategic Plan lays a foundation for our County well into the future, and allows us to focus on how we allocate your resources over the next three years, and, more importantly, the long-term," said Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Meg Bohmke.

While Stafford's 2040 vision incorporates several strategic priorities as a part of its overall message, the Board simplified the desired state into a vision statement that Stafford is "where heart, home and a healthy business environment come together in one community!"

Stafford's first Strategic Plan provides short-term steps that can be taken over the next three years to position the County for success within the seven overall strategic priorities: Healthy Growth; Dedicated and Responsive Public Safety Team; Quality Educational Opportunities; Responsive Transportation; a Vibrant and Exciting Business Community; the Heartbeat of Recreation, History and Culture; and Organizational Excellence.

"These priorities are important to our community," said Bohmke. "A strategic plan is a vital planning document that communicates the County's priorities to our organization and the community on where we are heading along with the initiatives required to achieve our goals while responding to a changing environment."

Having an effective growth strategy is a big priority for Stafford. The Strategic Plan calls for directing growth into targeted growth areas and pushing infrastructure upgrades in those areas while protecting the County's open spaces and preserving its rural character.

The Strategic Plan includes several three-year public safety goals such as assessing all current facilities and determining what is needed now and in the future, and establishing a joint training facility. Moreover, this plan seeks to develop policies to discourage turnover for public safety staff and implement the Fire and Rescue Strategic Plan. Lastly, it provides for the implementation of the recommendations of the School Safety Task Force, a group charged with assessing and updating safety needs and readiness in the schools.

The Board continues its priority on Quality Educational Opportunities. The Strategic Plan calls for evaluating and securing the purchase of land to ensure that the County can meet the future needs of a growing student population. As well, there's a desire to develop partnerships within the community to enhance "education-to-employment" opportunities to fill identified gaps by business and government employers.

Transportation goes hand in hand with growth. The Plan calls for identifying transportation priorities, developing a reliable funding strategy for new transportation improvements and identifying transportation alternatives to reduce congestion.

The business priority calls for plans for the first phase of "Downtown Stafford," a true mixed-use development planned for the Stafford Courthouse area. Residents will be able to live in multiple types of housing in a walkable community convenient to restaurants, shopping and recreational opportunities. Other highlights include streamlining the permitting process and other regulatory processes to be more supportive of the business community and investment as well as implementing Stafford's Economic Development Strategic Plan in coordination with the Economic Development Authority.

The Strategic Plan calls for some exciting things in the next three years for boosting Stafford's recreational, historical and cultural assets. Highlights include identifying a location and funding stream for the Stafford County Museum and Cultural Center, investigating a public/private partnership to establish a multipurpose field house and more fully engaging the business community in sports tourism.

"The Strategic Plan gives us another tool to decide where to steer and prioritize resources for the many needs of our community in the present and the future. It also gives us identifiable action items on which we can measure our success," said Stafford County Administrator Tom Foley. "One of our biggest challenges is balancing the community needs alongside mandates and ongoing operations. By continuing the implementation of the County's Comprehensive Plan as well as a Five-Year Financial Plan, the Strategic Plan is the final piece to building a focused annual budgeting process."

In the area of Organizational Excellence, Stafford can already check off one of the items listed for the next three years in the Strategic Plan. Stafford announced last week that it received a third AAA bond rating. Plans also call for evaluating and enhancing employee recruitment, retention and staying competitive with compensation.

To view Stafford's Strategic Plan in its entirety, please visit www.staffordcountyva.gov/2040. You can also learn more about the County's Five-Year Financial Plan by viewing the presentation provided to the Board at www.staffordcountyva.gov.



VIP Hits Another Milestone...100 Participants!

The Virginia Investment Pool Trust Fund reached another milestone this week as our 100th participant joined. More and more local governments and authorities are taking advantage of the benefits of VIP's two short-term fixed income portfolios:

The AAAm-rated **VIP Stable NAV Liquidity Pool** – for an exceptional yield with no market volatility, and

VIP 1-3 Year High-Quality Bond Fund, a AA+f-rated portfolio for core balances that can be invested for one year or longer.

Both portfolios have a combined total of over \$1.5 billion in local government assets!

Are you taking advantage of VIP like an increasing number of your peers?

To learn more, or to open an account, please visit virginiainvestmentpool.org.

Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2018

For more information, contact:

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E-mail: budgetawards@gfoa.org

(Chicago, Illinois)--Government Finance Officers Association is pleased to announce that **Fauquier County, Virginia**, has received GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget.

The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual(s) or department designated as being primarily responsible for having achieved the award. This has been presented to **Office of Management and Budget**.

There are over 1,600 participants in the Budget Awards Program. The most recent Budget Award recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA's website. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

Government Finance Officers Association is a major professional association servicing the needs of more than 19,000 appointed and elected local, state, and provincial-level government officials and other finance practitioners. It provides top quality publications, training programs, services, and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management. The association is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, with offices in Washington D.C.

Washington, DC Office

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www.gfoa.org

Governor Northam Announces Amazon Selects Virginia for Major New Corporate Headquarters

~ Unprecedented state, local, and regional partnership lands project to result in at least 25,000 high-paying jobs ~

ARLINGTON—Governor Ralph Northam today announced that Amazon, Inc. will invest approximately \$2.5 billion to establish a major new headquarters in Virginia that will create more than 25,000 high-paying jobs over 12 years. The headquarters will be housed in a collection of new and renovated buildings located in National Landing, which includes portions of Pentagon City and Crystal City in Arlington County, Virginia and Potomac Yard in the City of Alexandria, Virginia. Amazon's initial growth is expected to be focused in the Crystal City and Pentagon City portions of National Landing.

Virginia successfully secured the project through an unprecedented state, local, and regional partnership after a 14-month competitive site selection process during which Amazon received 238 proposals from communities across North America. The economic benefits of the Amazon project will be shared throughout the Commonwealth and are expected to result in more than \$3.2 billion in new state general fund revenues over the 20-year incentive term with Amazon, after accounting for direct company incentives. In addition to the 25,000 direct jobs Amazon will create, the Commonwealth estimates the creation of more than 22,000 permanent, direct, and indirect jobs in Virginia.

"This is a big win for Virginia—I'm proud Amazon recognizes the tremendous assets the Commonwealth has to offer and plans to deepen its roots here," **said Governor Northam**. "Virginia put together a proposal for Amazon that we believe represents a new model of economic development for the 21st century, and I'm excited to say that our innovative approach was successful. The majority of Virginia's partnership proposal consists of investments in our education and transportation infrastructure that will bolster the features that make Virginia so attractive: a strong and talented workforce, a stable and competitive business climate, and a world-class higher education system."

"We are looking forward to joining the community and are excited to be creating high-paying jobs in Arlington," **said Holly Sullivan, Amazon Director of WW Economic Development**. "We believe that northern Virginia is a great place for our teams to keep inventing on behalf of our customers."

"Amazon's selection of the Commonwealth for a major new headquarters is the result of tremendous state and local partnership, many years of fiscally responsible investments by our General Assembly, and collaboration with Virginia's neighbors in Washington, D.C. and Maryland," **said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball**. "This project will spur economic growth, diversify our economy, and help us grow and retain our much sought-after tech talent."

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) collaborated with Arlington County, the City of Alexandria, the General Assembly's Major Employment and Investment (MEI) Project Approval Commission, and hundreds of other local, regional, and state partners to secure the project for Virginia. Northern Virginia's proposal included four sites in the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax County, and Loudoun County. National Landing, the winning location, was proposed as a joint partnership between the City of Alexandria and Arlington County.

"I'm grateful to Governor Northam and his cabinet, the General Assembly's MEI Commission and their staff, Virginia's university leaders, our amazing local partners, our talented colleagues at VEDP, and many other Virginians for all they have done to make this possible," **said VEDP President and CEO Stephen Moret**. "Virginia's biggest employment growth opportunity in the years ahead will be in tech—from artificial intelligence to cloud computing to cybersecurity, and everything in between. The tech-talent pipeline investments that Governor Northam and the General Assembly are launching will position communities across the Commonwealth for healthier, more diversified economic growth."

The foundation of the cooperative pitch for Amazon's headquarters is a statewide investment program to double the annual number of graduates with bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science and closely-related fields, ultimately yielding 25,000 to 35,000 additional graduates over the next two decades in excess of current levels. The Commonwealth of Virginia, Arlington County, and the City of Alexandria have also committed funding for transportation investments to support mobility in the region. In addition to investments that will broadly benefit Virginians, the Commonwealth offered post-performance incentives that will be paid only after the company has produced new, qualifying jobs, resulting in net positive state revenue on day one.



Award Categories

Youth Volunteer
Adult Volunteer
Senior Volunteer
Family Volunteer
Corporation
Small Business
Faith-Based Organization
Educational Institution
Community Organization

**Winners will be honored
by the governor at a special
ceremony in the spring.**

<http://virginiasservice.virginia.gov/volunteering/governors-volunteerism-awards/>

**The deadline for
nominations is
December 25, 2018**



*Do you know someone who is always putting others first? How about an organization or business that never hesitates to help out whenever there's problem in the community? The **Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards** are presented in each of the categories listed on the left. The nine outstanding award winners represent the millions of generous Virginians who offer their time and talents to others each year. The Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism, the Virginia Service Foundation, and the Virginia Office on Volunteerism and Community Services are honored to assist the Governor in selecting and recognizing these volunteers.*



Governor's
Infrastructure Financing Conference
December 10-12, 2018 ■ Roanoke, Virginia



REGISTRATION | PROGRAM | LOCATION AND LODGING



The Hotel Roanoke and
Conference Center

You are invited to join Governor Ralph Northam at the statewide Governor's Infrastructure Financing Conference at The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, Roanoke, Virginia. The conference is designed to bring together government and private sector professionals in discussions that will help facilitate the planning and delivery of much-needed capital improvement projects across Virginia. The conference is being hosted by Governor Ralph Northam and the Virginia Resources Authority.

The conference will highlight state funding resources available for capital improvement projects focusing on the health and safety of communities. Particular emphasis will be given to funding resources aimed at promoting economic development and job-creation opportunities for Virginians, including tourism. Informative sessions highlighting various sources of funding, including private financing of public infrastructure, public-private partnerships, state and federal loans and grants, bank loans, etc. will be provided as well as the very basics of planning capital projects and developing financial policies that support capital improvement needs. Participants will have the opportunity to earn Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits as well.

In addition to attracting local and state elected and appointed officials, the Governor's Infrastructure Financing Conference may also attract public finance professionals such as bankers, financial advisors, accountants, and attorneys, as well as engineers, builders, consultants, and other professionals who assist local communities in planning and implementing capital improvement projects. This will allow attendees an opportunity to network with professionals who may be able to help with their infrastructure financing needs.

We hope that you will be a part of this exciting event.

For more information, please contact

Jean Bass | Virginia Resources Authority | 804.616.3441 | JBass@VirginiaResources.org

employment opportunities



The Virginia Association of Counties accepts employment ads in a PDF file or a link to a job site. Please include information for applying, and a link to other important information. Please do not fax your employment ad. VACo members are not charged for placing an employment ad. The cost is \$50 per ad for non-VACo members. VACo publishes the ad on its website and mobile app as well as the upcoming County Connections issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [Valerie Russell](mailto:Valerie.Russell@vacounty.org).



**CONSTITUENT & FOIA
LIAISON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION**
| Chesterfield County | Posted
November 16



**POLICE
ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST**
| Town of Culpeper | Posted November
16



**WEBSITE CONTENT
COORDINATOR** | Northampton
County | Posted November 16



**DIRECTOR
STORMWATER AND RESOURCE
PROTECTION DIVISION** | James City
County | Posted November 16



**PRETRIAL AND
PROBATION OFFICER I/II** | James
City County | Posted November 16



**WASTEWATER
FACILITIES APPRENTICE/SPECIALIST
I/SPECIALIST II** | James City County |
Posted November 16



**TRANSPORTATION
PLANNER/LONG RANGE PLANNER** |
Culpeper County | Posted November
15



**COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR** | Greene County |
Posted November 14



SHELVER CLERK | James
City County | Posted November 14



FINANCIAL ANALYST |
James City County | Posted November
14



**ACCOUNTING
TECHNICIAN I/II** | James City County
| Posted November 14



**RECREATION LEADER
(CHILD WATCH)** | James City County
| Posted November 14



CUSTODIAN Part Time |
New Kent County | Posted November
14



**WATER TREATMENT
PLANT TRAINEE** | Gloucester County
| Posted November 14



**CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER** | Stafford County | Posted
November 14



CITY MANAGER | City of
Franklin | Posted November 8



**BUILDING OFFICIAL/
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE OFFICIAL**
| Craig County | Posted November 7



**BENEFIT PROGRAM
SPECIALIST II** | Montgomery County |
Posted November 7



FRAUD INVESTIGATOR

| Montgomery County | Posted November 7



SHELTER ASSISTANT

| Montgomery County | Posted November 2



COMMUNICATIONS

OFFICER | New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority | Posted October 31



SENIOR APPRAISER |

Albemarle County | Posted November 6



ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR |

Gloucester County | Posted November 2



CHIEF OF ZONING &

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES | Fauquier County | Posted October 29



ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MANAGER | Albemarle County | Posted November 6



CIVIL ENGINEER I OR II |

Gloucester County | Posted November 2



ADMINISTRATIVE

COORDINATOR | Montgomery County | Posted October 29



SENIOR FINANCIAL

ANALYST | Spotsylvania County | Posted November 5



OFFICE ASSOCIATE IV |

Albemarle County | Posted November 2



CLERK TO THE BOARD

| Prince William County | Posted October 29



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

OF FISCAL MANAGEMENT | Bedford County | Posted November 5



COORDINATOR OF RESEARCH & PERFORMANCE

MANAGEMENT | Albemarle County | Posted November 2



TRANSIT MANAGER

| Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission | Posted October 26



BUILDING OFFICIAL |

Gloucester County | Posted November 2



DIRECTOR OF

TREATMENT OPERATIONS | Augusta County | Posted November 1



TRANSPORTATION/

REGIONAL PLANNER | Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission | Posted October 26



SENIOR FACILITIES

SPECIALIST (ELECTRICAL) | James City County | Posted November 2



PUBLIC WORKS

DIRECTOR | Fluvanna County | Posted October 31



DEPUTY SHERIFF | Essex

County | Posted October 26



PARK RANGER | James

City County | Posted November 2



LIFEGUARD (INDOOR) |

James City County | Posted October 26



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VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

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