

# COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the  
Virginia Association of Counties

December 20, 2018



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## Governor Northam Presents Budget Proposal



Governor Northam presented his proposed amendments to the 2018-2020 biennium budget to the House Appropriations, House Finance, and Senate Finance Committees on Tuesday, December 18. The Governor described his proposal as meeting three major goals: shoring up the state's reserves, investing in shared priorities, and meeting known obligations, such as the revised Medicaid forecast. The Governor's budget invests significant dollars in K-12, VACo's top legislative priority, as well as in other areas of major importance to county governments.

The introduced budget assumes ongoing revenue growth due to overall strength in Virginia's economy as well as short-term revenues associated with the effect of changes to the federal tax code enacted in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) in 2017. Following the Governor's presentation, Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne briefed money committee members on the development of the revenue assumptions in the introduced budget. Secretary Layne reported on meetings during the fall of the Joint Advisory Board of Economists and the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates (GACRE), which help to develop the revenue forecasts incorporated in the introduced budget. In November, GACRE members recommended a forecast of 2.6 percent growth in FY 2019 (ahead of the current 1.5 percent forecast) and 3.7 percent growth in FY 2020, based in part on revenue collections to date. This forecast was revised to assume an additional \$70 million per year in payroll withholding, as well as the effects of several policy changes incorporated into the budget: expected collection of \$82.5 million in FY 2020 in sales and use tax from remote sellers; conformity with federal income tax provisions; making the Earned Income Tax Credit fully refundable; and increasing the threshold at which retailers are required to submit sales tax collections early at the end of the fiscal year, in addition to several minor changes. As a result, the budget assumes total revenue growth of 5.7 percent in FY 2019 and 3.0 percent in FY 2020. Secretary Layne's presentation is available at [this link](#).

Director of the Department of Planning and Budget Daniel Timberlake [provided an overview](#) of major spending and savings items in the budget, making a distinction between one-time spending or other shorter-term investments and ongoing spending commitments. Since the majority of the revenues projected to be generated by the effect of conformity with the federal income tax code result from federal tax provisions that expire in 2025, the introduced budget directs those revenues toward short-term items, including investments in broadband expansion through the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative, deposits to the Revenue Reserve Fund, and funding for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund. Other major spending items, such as salary increases for SOQ-recognized positions and funding for additional school counselors, are funded with ongoing revenues.

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# JLARC Report on Foster Care Released



The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) received a report on Virginia's foster care system from its staff at its meeting on December 10. JLARC directed its staff to undertake the study in September 2017. Although Virginia places children in foster care at a lower rate than any other state, the report was critical of the performance of Virginia's foster care system, both at the state and local level, for those children who are removed from their homes.

The report notes that the population of children in foster care in Virginia is changing, with a higher proportion of children being placed in care due to parental substance abuse, and a higher proportion of younger children being placed in care, including a 21 percent increase between 2013 and 2018 in the number of children younger than five in foster care. The report found that some local departments of social services struggle to comply with certain requirements, such as ensuring that children receive monthly visits from caseworkers and required health screenings and services. The report also found that both local departments and the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) could improve efforts to place children with relatives, to recruit non-relative foster parents, and to achieve permanency for children, whether by reuniting them with their birth parents or by terminating parental rights to allow for adoptions to proceed. High caseloads limit caseworkers' ability to meet requirements for children in care as well as to recruit foster parents, and the report points out that recruitment and retention of caseworkers -- major challenges in local departments -- contribute to this issue.

The report makes 34 recommendations to improve aspects of the system, including local practices and state oversight. Several key recommendations include:

- Require VDSS to develop a statewide strategic plan for recruiting foster families.
- Require VDSS to review each case of a child who is placed in congregate care and require the local department to pay all costs associated with the placement if it is found that the placement is not justified by the child's needs and the local department does not take reasonable steps to find a family-based placement.
- Require VDSS to review cases of children who have been in foster care for more than 36 months; require VDSS to report on lengths of stay in foster care by locality.
- Require VDSS to establish a caseload standard for foster care caseworkers, which would be periodically reviewed, and to notify local boards of social services when caseworkers carry caseloads in excess of these standards.
- Amend state statute to specify conditions under which VDSS should intervene in local departments to address problems with foster care services.

This issue is likely to be a topic of legislative interest during the upcoming General Assembly session. An emergency regulation clarifying the authority of the Commissioner of Social Services to step in when a local department is unable to provide public assistance and social services has been approved by the Governor (this authority exists in statute but no regulation had been promulgated). The state is also working to implement recent changes in federal law governing foster care funding, which will allow federal funding for foster care prevention services under certain circumstances, and will limit federal funding for certain congregate care placements; VACo is participating in this effort.



Story by Staff Reports  
The Gazette-Virginian

Photos by Doug Ford  
The Gazette-Virginian

*Halifax County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Mark Lineburg presents incoming Halifax County Administrator Scott Simpson and his family with gifts welcoming them to the county.*

*Pictured (left to right) - Lineburg, Preston Simpson, Scott Simpson, Vaughan Simpson and Shannon Simpson*



## Simpson tapped as new Halifax County administrator

Veteran Smyth County Assistant Administrator and Engineer Scott R. Simpson has been tapped as Halifax County's new county administrator, filling the vacancy created when former County Administrator Jim Halasz resigned effective July 31.

Simpson is a Florida native who has worked for the past 15 years in Smyth County in rural Southwest Virginia starting out as a county engineer and spending the past eight years in the dual role of county engineer and assistant county administrator.

He will assume his duties as county administrator here beginning Feb. 1 working closely with Interim County Administrator Dan Sleeper during the transition period. Supervisors have extended Sleeper's contract through Jan. 31.

Joined by supervisors, Board Chairman Dennis Witt made the announcement Friday morning introducing Simpson to the media and others in attendance at the county administration building.

While at Smyth County, Simpson acted as he construction manager for the county's 84,000 square foot courthouse renovation/expansion project and planned and constructed many water and sewer systems.

Other tasks of Simpson's included direct involvement in the county operating budget, economic development, grant writing, departmental oversight and creative problem solving.

The project came in \$4 million under budget, according to Simpson.

Supervisors said they narrowed the applicant pool down to their top four choices for interviews before voting to make Simpson the next county administrator.

In all, supervisors considered about 20 applicants, and they whittled that down to four, whom they interviewed, then down to two, according to Board Chairman Dennis Witt.

"Scott was one of our top two when we finished with all of our evaluations, and he was our choice," said Witt. "His background in Virginia is excellent, and his engineering background is a bonus, and his eight years as assistant administrator in Smyth County was a positive. His references were all positive."

Witt said he feels the top issues facing the county involve the IDAs, followed by school facilities, particularly the high school.

"Then after that we have to finish the courthouse," said Witt. "He didn't come to the table saying he had all the answers, so we'll work together, in a collaborative way."

One of the things, board members found most appealing about Simpson is that he shares this area's rural values.

"He will bring those assets to the job here," ED-1 Supervisor J. T. Davis said noting the incoming administrator has spent more than a decade working and living in Smyth County that has a population of 32,000 compared to Halifax County's population of 35,000.

In addition, he has been responsible for handling Smyth County's as well as the county's school finances and is familiar with attracting economic development prospects to a rural area.

"He comes here with a lot of building blocks to handle being a county administrator," Davis said, adding, "He rose to the top on my list."

In addition to being from a rural background and culture, Simpson is an experienced county administrator with a demonstrated history of working in the government administration industry.

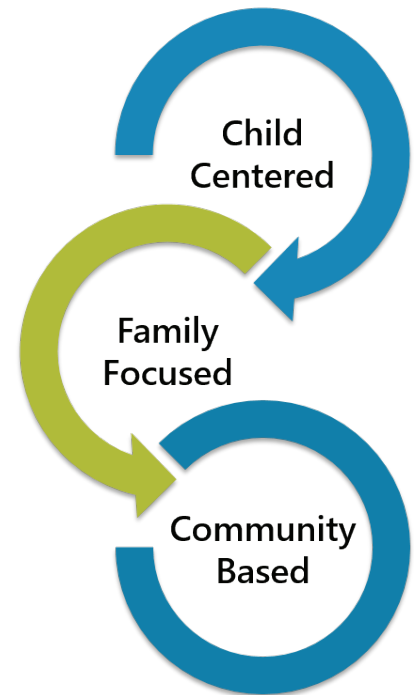
**SIMPSON Continued on Page 11**

# Children's Services Act Studies

## Move Forward

Several workgroups and other efforts to enhance elements of the Children's Services Act (CSA) have been undertaken this year, either at the direction of the General Assembly or the State Executive Council, and are in varying stages of completion.

**Private special education day placements:** Budget language directed the convening of a workgroup to develop proposed outcome measures for children receiving special education in private day placements funded through CSA. The workgroup, which included participation by VACo representative Christian Goodwin of Louisa County, wrestled with the issue of which metrics would provide a fair picture of student progress, given that children who require private day placements typically have high-level needs, as well as which data could be collected without requiring significant additional administrative effort. The workgroup developed a set of recommended metrics for consideration by the General Assembly, including graduation rates, attendance, a measure of individual student progress in certain key areas, standardized test scores, rates of return to public school, percentages of students suspended or expelled, incidents of use of seclusion or restraint, and results of parent and student satisfaction surveys. It is expected that the Department of Education will be the lead state agency in compiling the data, which may require additional work at the state level to allow for data sharing and reporting of the outcome measures, as well as possible promulgation of regulations to require the submission of data by private schools. The full report may be found [at this link](#).



Budget language also directed the Office of Children's Services (OCS) to contract for a study of rates paid to providers of private special education day placements. The contractor, Public Consulting Group, issued its [interim report](#) earlier this month, which includes a review of funding for private day placements in other states and a plan for completion of the project. The second portion of the report will include the results of a study of current costs for private providers and a recommended method for setting rates. As part of the consultants' work to gather information on provider costs, a survey has been distributed to providers requesting detailed information on personnel and other expenses; at the most recent meeting of the State Executive Council, providers expressed concern about the sensitivity of some of the information that has been requested and asked for additional time to respond to the survey. Public Consulting Group plans to hold a series of stakeholder meetings to discuss potential rate options that are developed in the course of the study before preparing a final report; a dedicated email address ([VADayRates@pcgus.com](mailto:VADayRates@pcgus.com)) has been established for stakeholders to communicate with the consultants working on the project.

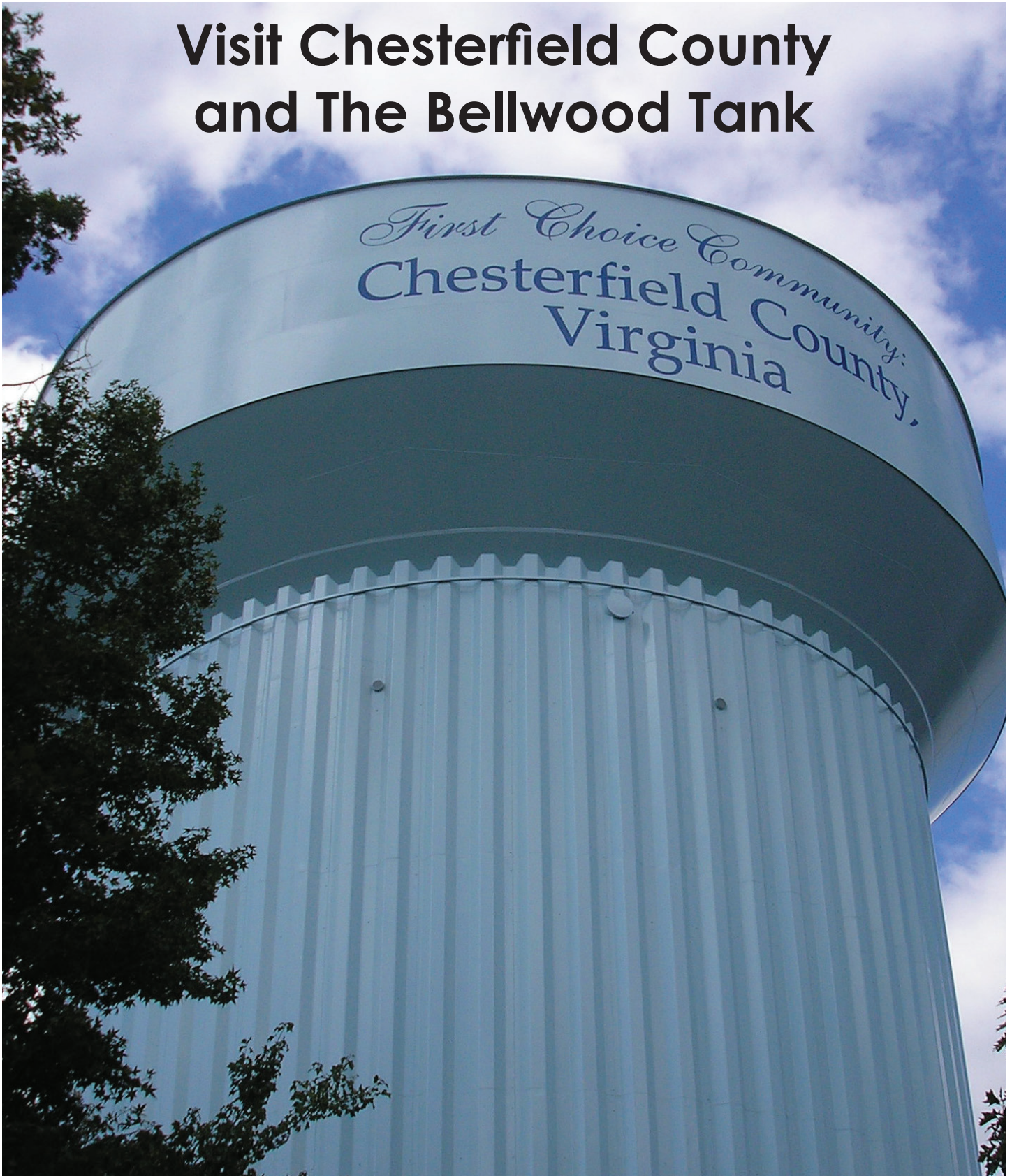
**Mandatory uniform assessment instrument:** OCS convened a workgroup during the summer to develop a consolidated policy for administration of the required assessment instrument (the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment, or "CANS"). Issues with CANS documentation have been a common element in many state audits of local CSA offices, and the goal of the workgroup, on which VACo also was represented, was to consolidate and clarify guidance regarding use of the CANS. A draft policy was released for public comment in September, and the policy was adopted by the State Executive Council at its meeting on December 13. The adopted policy may be found at [this link](#).

**Utilization management:** The State Executive Council directed OCS to convene a workgroup to identify best practices in meeting Community Policy and Management Teams' statutory mandate to review data on usage of CSA-funded services. OCS staff and workgroup members, including SEC member and VACo Past President Mary Biggs, have developed an online dashboard that compiles key data elements on usage of services, demographics, and spending in one user-friendly site, which was shared with the SEC on December 13. OCS staff plan to hold pilot training sessions with several volunteer CSA offices in the coming months on how the dashboard may be used to review service delivery and inform decisions about future program offerings.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)



# Visit Chesterfield County and The Bellwood Tank



The Bellwood Tank is located on Norcliff Road and services a portion of the northeastern section of Chesterfield County. The 2 million gallon water tank was constructed in 1987 at an elevation of 280 feet. The style for this water tank is a hydro pillar.



## Mark Your Calendars



**2019 VACo County Government Day In Partnership  
with VAPDC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



**January 31, 2019**

Omni Richmond Hotel

100 S 12th Street | Richmond, VA 23219

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

**Deadline for room reservations is January 11**

**VACo Members - Please reserve your rooms as soon as possible**

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 will be the keynote speaker.** 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.



NEWS FROM OUR  
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



*SERCAP's Indoor Plumbing & Rehabilitation Project in Fluvanna County before (left) and after photos.*

## SERCAP's Housing Department Completes Collaborative IPR Project in Fluvanna County!

By Lauren Mason  
SERCAP Planning Manager

Recently, SERCAP's Housing Department completed an Indoor Plumbing & Rehabilitation (IPR) collaborative project in Fluvanna County, VA. IPR is a program, funded by the Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD), that assists low-income homeowners whose homes either completely lack indoor plumbing facilities, have no indoor bathroom, or have a failed septic system. DHCD has designated six (6) Regional IPR Providers in Virginia, who qualify clients and provide housing rehabilitation services to ensure that all construction work meets Housing Quality Standards (HQS), and that all funds are spent appropriately. [SERCAP](#) is the IPR Regional Provider for region five.

For this IPR Project, the client, a low-income disabled gentleman, was referred to SERCAP back in September 2017 by the Fluvanna Housing Foundation, after he experienced difficulty with his well and septic system. Due to the run-down condition of the house, and the client's qualification as Extremely-low Income under the HUD Income Guidelines, the project qualified as a Substantial Reconstruction under the IPR Program. However, the cost estimates for the project far exceeded the DHCD's cost limits for a Substantial Reconstruction through IPR.

Fortunately, SERCAP's Housing Department was able to work with 1) the agency's Loan Fund to secure a Project Reinvest Loan of \$10,500 through FAHE, 2) the Essential & Critical Needs Program to secure a Grant of \$2,500, and 3) was able to access additional agency funds in order to pull together the total \$108,618.98 needed to complete the project. The client moved into his new home at the beginning of September 2018, nearly a year after he first contacted SERCAP, and is very satisfied with his new home. However, this is just one example of how stagnant program cost limits and increasing construction costs are making it more and more difficult to fund IPR Projects and eradicate indoor plumbing issues in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

***\*SERCAP's Housing Program is primarily made possible through the Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development's (DHCD) Indoor Plumbing & Rehabilitation (IPR) Program, through County Funds (Budget Appropriations) from counties across the Commonwealth of Virginia, and through Program Income Funds from the IPR Program. Additionally, all of SERCAP's programs in Virginia are leveraged by support from the Virginia Budget Appropriation, granted by the Virginia General Assembly and administered by DHCD.***



NEWS FROM OUR  
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



## Accountable care organizations: Transforming care delivery to support members and increase cost savings.

For over a decade, Aetna has been focusing on transforming the health care delivery system. Members are at the center of Aetna's accountable care organizations, with the goal of improving health by providing access to high-quality, effective, patient-centric care.

Accountable care organizations are integrated networks of hospitals, doctors' offices and other health care facilities that get paid by an insurer based on the quality and effectiveness of care their patients receive. Aetna has over 500 accountable care organization arrangements across its Commercial and Medicare lines of business.

Aetna's accountable care organizations have seen broad successes. At 4 in every 5 accountable care organizations, members were more successful in managing chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease, than members who did not participate in a similar care model.<sup>1</sup>

Members of Aetna accountable care organizations also saw an average savings of \$29.25 per month from June 2015 to June 2016.<sup>2</sup> And an October 2017 study of Aetna accountable care organizations found there were lower costs for emergency room, inpatient and physician visits in 2016.<sup>3</sup>

Accountable care organizations take a proactive approach to health care. Rather than waiting until members visit a doctor's office, care teams use technology and digital tools to connect with them in between appointments. The arrangements allow clinicians to have more information about a patient when they visit, including if they're regularly filling prescriptions or the results of recent tests.

In 2016, Aetna launched Aetna Premier Care Network Plus, a plan focused on simplifying health care access and services for members by putting many high-performing accountable care organizations together in a common network. Members can then easily find in-network providers that provide high-quality care in 47 of the largest communities coast to coast.

<sup>1</sup>12 months through June 2016 versus 12 months through June 2015. Market comparison includes all attributed non-value-based contract members. Results exclude individual, student health and coordination of benefits. Results differ due to differences in time periods and adjustments.

<sup>2</sup>Compared to broad Aetna network plans. Actual results may vary; savings may be less when compared to other value-based or narrow network plans.

<sup>3</sup>Inaugural ACO Product Evaluation Study results, October 2017, for members with 2016 effective dates. Six-month baseline period prior to ACO effective date and six-month study period after ACO effective date

**BUDGET Continued from Page 1**

The following is a preliminary analysis of major spending items of importance to local governments.

**K-12 Education**

- \$39.9 million NGF in FY 2019 and \$30.4 million NGF in FY 2020 to reflect increased estimated Lottery proceeds allocated to funding for the At-Risk Add-On and Supplemental Lottery per Pupil Allocation
- \$87.6 million GF in FY 2020 for a two percent salary increase for funded Standards of Quality instructional and support positions, effective July 1, 2019. This is in addition to the existing three percent increase effective the same date.
- Increases GF support for school employee retirement by \$80 million to free up Literary Fund dollars for school construction loans.
- \$36.0 million GF in FY 2020 for modified school counselor staffing ratios (1:500 to 1:375 in elementary school, 1:400 to 1:325 in middle school, and 1:350 to 1:300 in high school) with an intent to provide additional funding in subsequent fiscal years to achieve a ratio of 1:250 for all public schools.
- \$9.6 million GF in FY 2020 for the Virginia Preschool Initiative Plus program to replace the loss of federal funding through the expiration of funds in the Preschool Development Grant.
- Several Direct Aid spending reductions, including
  - \$20.4 million GF in FY 2019 and \$34.8 million GF in FY 2020 to reflect updated student enrollment projections.
  - \$9.7 million GF in FY 2019 and \$2.8 million GF in FY 2020 to reflect updated cost of Special Education Regional Tuition based on updated enrollment data.
  - \$2.5 million GF in FY 2019 and \$3.6 million GF in FY 2020 to reflect updated cost of Remedial Summer School and English as a Second Language SOQ programs based on updated enrollment data.

**Compensation**

- \$40.2 million GF in FY 2020 to provide a one percent bonus for full-time state employees and state-supported local employees, effective December 1, 2019. Retains current provisions in the 2018 Appropriations Act for the state share of a two percent salary increase for state-supported local employees, effective July 1, 2019, as well as funding for a two percent salary increase for state employees, effective June 10, 2019.
- \$8.1 million GF in FY 2020 to support an increase in the retiree health insurance credit benefit for public safety personnel. Increases the health insurance credit for sheriffs and deputies from \$1.50 to \$5.00 per month for each year of service.

**School Safety**

- \$427,630 GF in FY 2020 at the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to expand training for school resource and security officers.
- \$515,630 GF in FY 2020 for DCJS to continue to administer an annual School Climate Survey and analyze school safety data.
- \$720,630 GF in FY 2020 for DCJS to develop a case management tool for school threat assessments and to expand technical assistance and training available for threat assessment team members.
- \$1.3 million GF in FY 2020 to provide funding and positions at DCJS to expand agency capacity to provide training and technical assistance related to school safety.
- \$280,000 GF in FY 2020 to enable DCJS to continue to provide active shooter training to schools and communities.
- Language increasing the division cap for School Security Equipment grants from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

**Workforce Development**

- \$4.0 million GF in FY 2020 for the New Economy Workforce Credential Grant program to support an additional 1,800 individuals annually to earn a workforce credential. Language limits eligibility for the program to students with family income at or below \$50,000 per year and provides that no more than 25 percent of grant funds may be used in one occupational field.
- \$5.5 million GF in FY 2020 for 79 authorized career navigator positions across the community college system.
- \$8.0 million GF in FY 2019 to integrate workforce case management systems across state agencies.
- \$124,635 GF in FY 2019 and \$1.9 million in FY 2020 to develop and implement a strategic workforce dashboard to provide tools and information on labor market conditions, workforce program outcomes, and projected employment growth or decline.

**Commerce and Trade**

- \$20.0 million GF in FY 2019 to provide additional support for the Virginia Business Ready Sites program.

**BUDGET Continued on Page 10**

**BUDGET Continued from Page 9**

- \$46.0 million GF in FY 2020 to increase funding to \$50 million for the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative to supplement costs to extend broadband to areas currently unserved by a broadband provider.
- \$10.0 million GF in FY 2020 to provide financing of the development of a public/private partnership program for energy efficiency and renewable energy loans for both private and local government properties and entities.
- Provides \$14.5 million GF in FY 2019 and \$4.5 million GF in FY 2020 for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund. The Trust Fund provides loans for affordable housing-related projects and grants for targeted efforts to reduce homelessness.

**Health and Human Resources**

- Adjusts Children's Services Act appropriation by \$5.9 million GF per year to account for expected reduction in growth in use of services; deletes outdated language capping the amount of administrative funds that may be received by an individual locality at \$50,000.
- Requires additional oversight of the Medicaid forecasting process.
- Directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to monitor the impact of Medicaid expansion on Community Services Boards and authorizes the Department to allocate up to \$7 million in special funds at the end of the fiscal year to replace GF reductions in the event that new Medicaid revenues fall at least ten percent short of the expected GF savings included in the current budget.
- Provides \$1.6 million GF per year for naloxone kits, which are used to reverse opioid overdoses.
- Provides \$256,248 GF in FY 2020 to establish a State Overdose Fatality Review Team.
- Provides \$459,258 GF in FY 2019 and \$661,288 GF in FY 2020 to fund growth in Early Intervention/Part C.
- Provides \$9 million GF in FY 2020 for Community Services Boards to provide crisis services for children and adults.
- Provides \$2.5 million GF in FY 2020 to continue jail mental health pilot projects; language allows DCJS to expand the number of pilot sites based on its assessment of progress.
- Adjusts foster care and adoption payments in accordance with salary increases for state employees; funds a position at the Virginia Department of Social Services to facilitate recruitment of foster parents, and provides funding for staff at VDSS to implement the new federal Family First Prevention Services Act.

**Natural Resources**

- Appropriates the mandatory deposit of \$74 million GF in FY 2020 to the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) and provides an additional \$20 million GF in FY 2019 and \$15 million GF in FY 2020.
- Provides \$50 million GF in FY 2020 for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) in addition to the \$20 million already in FY 2019.
- Provides \$267,853 GF in FY 2020 for dam safety grants to local governments and private owners of dams.
- Provides \$5.5 million GF in FY 2019 and an additional \$5.5 million GF in FY 2020 for the Virginia Land Conservation Fund.
- Provides \$1.5 million NGF in FY 2019 and \$750,000 NGF in FY 2020 to support land acquisition for state parks and \$651,431 NGF in FY 2019 and \$7.7 million NGF in FY 2020 to support land acquisition for Natural Area Preserves.

**Transportation**

- Provides \$75 million GF in FY 2019 to the Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank; language provides that a portion may be used for startup costs associated with I-81 improvements.

**Reserves**

- Deposits \$235 million GF in the new Revenue Reserve Fund in FY 2019 as required by the 2018 Appropriations Act; provides an additional \$504 million GF in FY 2019 and \$50 million GF in FY 2020. Language allows balances in the Fund to exceed two percent of total GF revenues for the prior fiscal year and sets out purposes for which the Governor may appropriate moneys from the Fund.
- Appropriates the mandatory \$263 million GF deposit to the Revenue Stabilization Fund in FY 2020.

**Other Items**

- Eliminates the transfer of \$2 million from the Communications Sales and Use Tax Trust Fund to the General Fund in FY 2020. VACo had requested that the Governor eliminate this action from the budget, which set a worrisome precedent for future diversions from the Trust Fund.
- Provides \$723,420 GF in FY 2020 to address workload issues in Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices due to the use of body-worn cameras.
- Appropriates \$3 million in federal Help America Vote Act funds in FY 2020 for election security enhancements.
- Provides \$607,500 GF in FY 2020 for training programs for local election officials.
- Provides \$1.5 million GF in FY 2019 for outreach activities regarding the 2020 Census.
- Provides \$5.9 million GF in FY 2020 for costs associated with the presidential primary.



**SIMPSON Continued from Page 3**



*Smyth County Assistant Administrator Scott Simpson is the new Halifax County Administrator. Simpson (third from left) poses with Halifax County Supervisors following the announcement. Pictured (left to right) - Hubert Pannell, Dennis Witt, Simpson, Garland Ricketts, Stanley Brandon, and W. Bryant Claiborne.*

Skilled in land development, budgeting, agriculture, land surveying and construction, he is a strong engineering professional who brings a Master of Public Administration with a focus on public administration and policy from Columbia Southern University to his new position here.

He and his wife, Shannon, a licensed interior designer, have a 13-year-old son, Preston, and an 8-year-old daughter, Vaughan.

Simpson said that what drew him most to Halifax County was its similarities with Smyth County.

"Smyth County has 32,000 residents, Halifax has a little over 35,000 residents," said Simpson. "Our two budgets are within 10 percent of each other, and our school population is within 10 percent."

Simpson felt considering those similarities, he felt comfortable in his move from assistant county administrator to county administrator in a somewhat larger county.

Challenges facing Halifax County are similar to those facing Smyth County and other rural communities, Simpson pointed out.

"Broadband and cell phone service are important items, and one thing I want to strive for is the improvement of the quality of life for the citizens, not only to be able to go shopping, it's cell phones and broadband and the ability to work from home," Simpson said. "I think those are some of the larger problems where we can get in and find a solution."

Other challenges include the ongoing courthouse project.

"We want to keep that within budget and not let that grow exponentially, and the next item that I think the county is facing is proposed upgrades at the high school," said Simpson. "From a financial standpoint, that's a huge burden for the county, and I'll try to blend the need versus the affordability as one of the largest challenges."

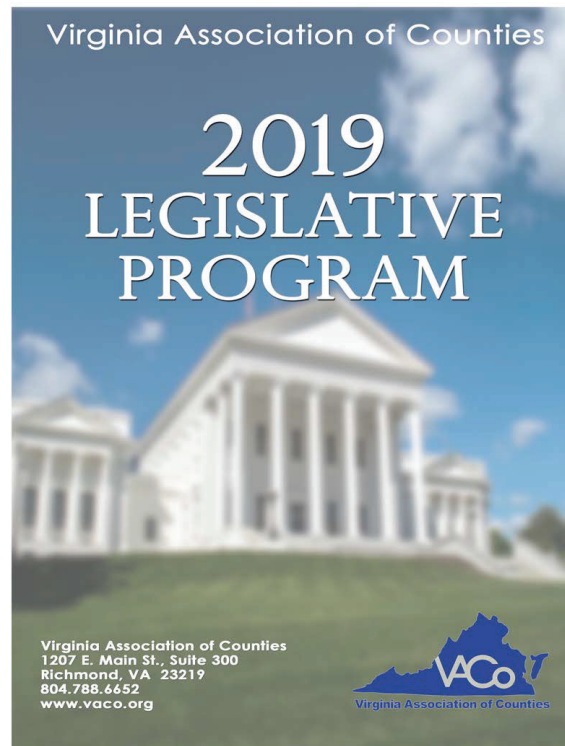
ED-6 Supervisor Stanley Brandon agreed Simpson is a good fit for Halifax County.

"I think it's going to be a good fit coming from Southwest Virginia and coming east a little bit," said Brandon. "Hopefully, he'll have more opportunity to broaden his horizons and spread his wings, and I think he brings a lot to the table."

"What we have to offer in the community is a good fit for his family as well, so we're excited about it," Brandon added. "It's apparent he's doing some good things at his previous location, and we're looking forward to a prosperous and successful future here under his leadership as county administrator."

"I think in listening to Mr. Simpson, he's very much up to the challenge as anyone we'd taken a look at, and I think he understands the needs of Halifax," added Brandon. "One of the things that really caught my eye is addressing the needs for broadband. If we're able to take care of those needs, I believe it will propel us forward."

# VACo Releases 2019 Legislative Program



After months of steering committee meetings, lively debate and participation through the Association's legislative process, VACo adopted its [2019 Legislative Program](#). The Legislative Program is organized according to VACo's Steering Committees.

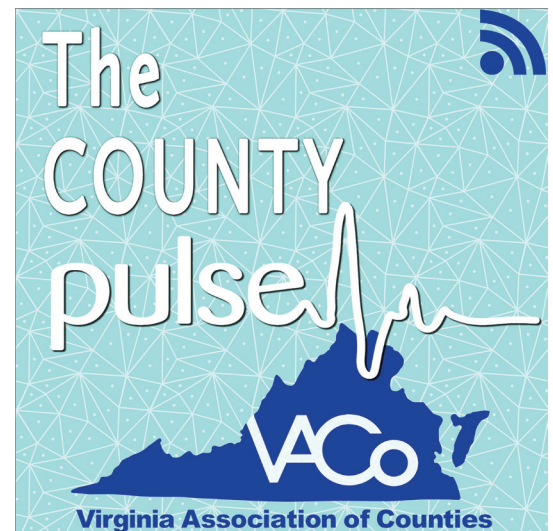
[VACo's 2019 Legislative Program](#) addresses other priorities in the realms of Economic Development and Planning, Education, Environment and Agriculture, Finance, General Government, Health and Human Services, and Transportation.

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

## WELCOME TO THE COUNTY PULSE!

Guests share the legislative pulse of Virginia Counties with Host Dean Lynch.

[Click here](#) to listen to the VACo County Pulse Podcast.





# ORDER NOW: Virginia County Supervisors' Manual Eighth Edition 2019



**PRE-ORDER  
NOW**

Pre-orders are being taken now for the updated Virginia County Supervisors' Manual, Eighth Edition 2019. We hope to have them in by the late January/early February 2019 time frame.



**ORDER FORM**

**SANDS  
ANDERSON**





**Dear Valued Participant,**

Earlier this year we announced that U.S. Communities was purchased by OMNIA Partners. The OMNIA Partners, U.S. Communities and National IPA teams have been working closely and expeditiously over the last few months to outline the combined organization and what this means for our participants.

OMNIA Partners continues to make significant resource investments to bring additional value to you and your organization. We believe it is important to continuously communicate with you about key initiatives and the progress for each.

Here are a few of those initiatives:

**The Lead Agency Solicitation Process.** As a critical component of our approach, we will continue to use the lead agency contracting model. We will also continue to support all existing agreements and anticipate that all current solicitations will remain active. Future solicitations will be issued by a government entity or educational system utilizing the best practices in public procurement.

**The OMNIA Partners Teams.** The integration of the two organizations has resulted in additional resources that will better position us to support our public agency participants.

- **Account Management.** We offer the largest Account Management team in cooperative purchasing. The Regional Managers (formerly Program Managers for U.S. Communities) assist you in your cooperative strategy. Download the new territory mapping and contact information [here](#). This team will work with our awarded suppliers to drive further value for the state and local government and K-12 education markets. Additionally, we will continue to deploy a Higher Education team solely dedicated to the unique college and university market.
- **Partner Development.** This team works with the leadership teams of our supplier partners to establish strategic initiatives and serves as the liaison to all the OMNIA Partners resources.
- **Marketing and Training.** The combined organization also has the largest and most experienced marketing team in cooperative purchasing. In addition, OMNIA Partners has invested additional resources into the public sector training program. This unique program offers a strategic approach to educating awarded supplier teams on public procurement and cooperative purchasing.
- **Relationship Specialists.** A new investment for OMNIA Partners, this team will expand our capacity to serve more public agencies. **Contracting.** The contracting team of public procurement practitioners offers unprecedented expertise to you. They will serve as the liaison to the lead agencies for contract administration.

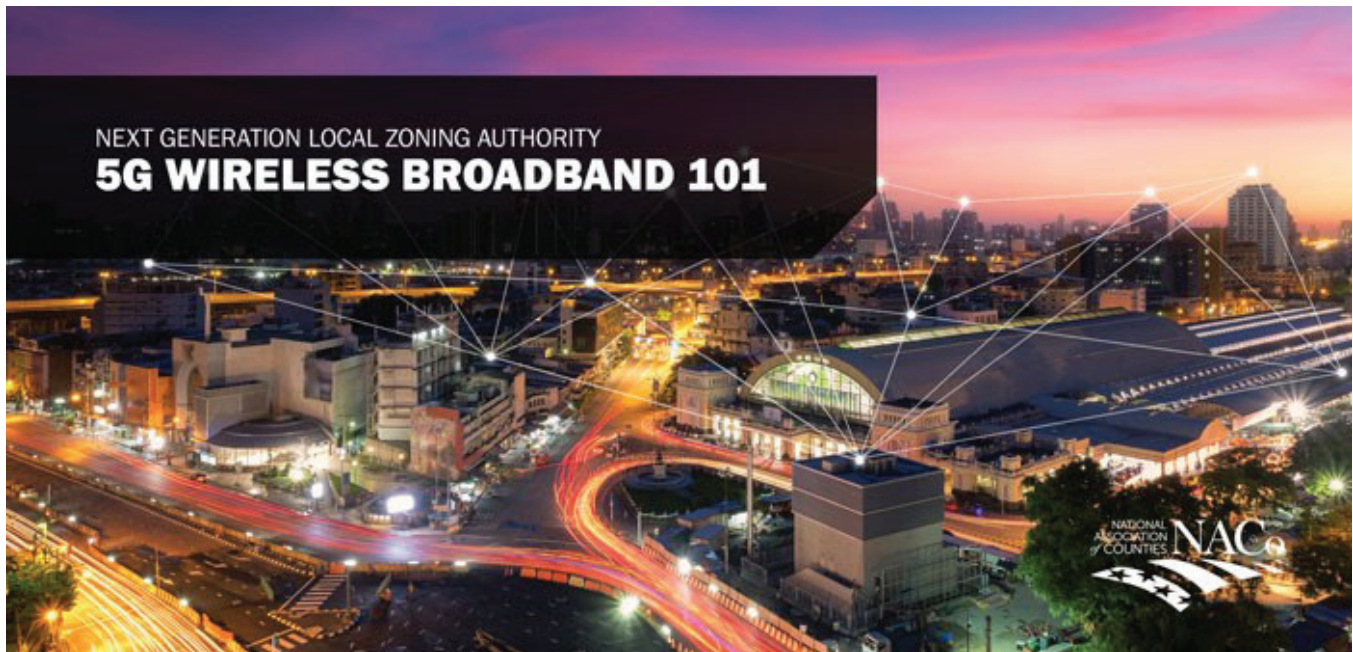
**Combined Registered Participants.** Effective immediately, registration systems for U.S. Communities and National IPA have been combined into one. Current participants for both U.S. Communities and National IPA have been combined into OMNIA Partners Public Sector. Therefore, you now have access to the contract portfolios of BOTH organizations with certain exceptions. If you have any questions, please contact your dedicated Regional Manager.

## **Plans for 2019**

- **The Brand:** In 2019, we will be rebranding U.S. Communities and National IPA as OMNIA Partners, Public Sector. There will be a transition period in which the U.S. Communities and National IPA logos are included with the OMNIA Partners logo. This will ensure the market has time to recognize the change as well as provide our suppliers time to update co-branded collateral.
- **One Consolidated Website:** The U.S. Communities and National IPA websites will be combined into one site in early 2019.
- **Enhanced Online Reporting.** The UConnect reporting system will be replaced with a new platform called OMNIA Partners Connect. This new system has been developed and testing has begun. We anticipate launching the site in phases and will communicate those details as we get closer to going live with this new tool.

While many top-level decisions and activities are underway, we know there is still a lot to do. First and foremost, we remain committed to driving contract value for you under the program. As we have more information we will be sure to communicate it to you. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns please let us know via [info@omniapartners.com](mailto:info@omniapartners.com).

**Ward Brown, COO** | OMNIA Partners



## NEW NACo PRESENTATION RELEASED: 5G Wireless Broadband 101

To help explain the new "5G" technology – and what it means for counties – NACo just released a new presentation on the county role in 5G wireless broadband deployment.

5G describes the next generation of mobile networks, which builds on today's 4G wireless broadband infrastructure. To construct 5G networks, telecommunications providers must install hundreds of thousands of 5G "small cell" devices, including many on public rights-of-way in communities across the country.

**VIEW PRESENTATION**

Counties will play a key role in the 5G deployment process as service providers navigate public property and rights-of-way. To help 5G advance, Congress and the Federal Communications Commission are considering federal action that could alter local zoning authority with respect to broadband deployment. Given these potential changes, this new report provides further details about 5G, why it matters to counties and how 5G rollout could impact county authorities and budgets.

For more information on NACo's 5G presentation contact:

**Arthur Scott**, Associate Legislative Director | [ascott@naco.org](mailto:ascott@naco.org) | 202.942.4230  
**Zach George**, Legislative Assistant | [zgeorge@naco.org](mailto:zgeorge@naco.org) | 202.661.8819



## 2019 Finance Forum

Tuesday, January 8, 2019 | 10am

Greater Richmond Convention Center | 403 N. Third Street | Richmond, VA 23219

[Register](#) | [Agenda](#)

The 2019 Finance Forum provides an excellent opportunity for local elected officials and staff to be brought up to date on key finance-related issues. Recommended attendees include: members of board of supervisors, city and town councils, managers and administrators, budget and finance officers, legislative liaisons, and other interested local government staff.

Cancellations must be submitted in writing by December 30, 2018.

Please contact Joni Terry at 804.523.8529 or [jterry@vml.org](mailto:jterry@vml.org) with questions.

### February 1-2, 2019

VACo Training Center | 1207 East Main Street | Richmond, VA 23219

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

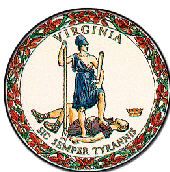
Calling all board chairs and vice chairs, VACo's 2019 Chairpersons' Institute is fast approaching! Hosted at the VACo Training Center on February 1-2, 2019, the Institute will offer an educational experience carefully tailored to the needs of community leadership.

Board chairs and vice chairs must be active leaders who encourage teamwork and manage conflict; they must be confident problem solvers as well as visionary leaders. While these skills cannot be developed overnight, the Institute provides a strong foundation upon which to build.

Developed by a committee of experienced county officials, the Chairpersons' Institute provides an opportunity to study practical strategies in critical areas like budgeting, communication, and goal setting. If you want to learn more about the structure and functions of county government, active leadership, communications, meeting management, decision making, and coalitions building, then this is the course for you.







COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**PUBLIC HEARINGS NOTICE**

**GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2018-2020 BIENNIAL  
STATE BUDGET**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS AND SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEES OF THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL HOLD REGIONAL PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2018-2020 BIENNIAL STATE BUDGET, AS FOLLOWS:

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2019**  
(Hearings begin at 10:00 a.m.)

- **Fairfax County** – Fairfax County Government Center  
(12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035)
- **Roanoke** – Virginia Western Community College, Whitman Theatre  
(3099 Colonial Ave., SW, Roanoke, VA 24015)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2019**  
(Hearings begin at 12:00 noon)

- **Hampton Roads** – Christopher Newport University, David Student Union (Newport News, VA 23606)
- **Richmond** – Science Museum of Virginia, Dewey Gottwald Center  
(2301 W. Leigh St., Richmond, VA 23220)

The purpose of the hearings is to receive comments on the Governor's proposed amendments to the 2018-20 biennial state budget. Those persons wishing to speak may register at each hearing site **no earlier than one hour prior** to the start of the hearing.

Speakers will be taken in the order of registration. Each person may register only one speaker at a time. Speakers are asked to limit their comments to three minutes or less. Speakers representing groups and organizations should consolidate remarks to reduce duplication. Persons unable to attend may comment in writing to either:

Delegate S. Chris Jones  
P.O. Box 406  
Pocahontas Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

**OR**

Senator Thomas K. Norment, Jr.  
Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.  
P.O. Box 396  
Pocahontas Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

*People with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations by calling (804) 698-7480. All requests for reasonable accommodations must be received by 5:00 p.m., Monday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Upon request, sign language interpreters will be provided at the specific locations as identified in this Public Hearing Notice.*

# VACORP to move into new headquarters in January



# VACORP

Effective January 14, VACORP's new address will be...

1819 Electric Road, Suite C | Roanoke, VA 24018

Email addresses, phone and fax numbers will remain the same.

VACORP acquired the former Allstate Building in Roanoke on June 12, 2017. The three-story office building is 165,808-square feet and sits in a campus-like setting on more than 20 acres. The facility features a cafeteria, gym and plenty of parking.

For more information, visit [www.vacorp.org](http://www.vacorp.org).

# 2018 VACo Annual Conference Thank You



Thank you for making the VACo 84<sup>th</sup> 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 31. 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!



# 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](mailto: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



**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.*

# 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).



**WATERWORKS  
OPERATOR APPRENTICE I/II/III/IV** |  
**James City County** | Posted December  
14



**CHIEF ACCOUNTANT  
- PAYROLL** | Albemarle County |  
Posted December 13



**CODE COMPLIANCE  
& BUILDING INSPECTOR** |  
Northampton County | Posted  
December 13



**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING  
AND LAND USE** | Lancaster County |  
Posted December 12



**FIRE PROTECTION  
CODE INSPECTOR I/II/III** | City of  
Alexandria | Posted December 12



**PUBLIC UTILITIES  
OPERATIONS MANAGER** |  
Shenandoah County | Posted  
December 11



**DEPUTY  
SUPERINTENDENT OF TRAFFIC** | City  
of Fredericksburg | Posted December  
11



**ENGINEERING PROJECT  
MANAGER (FT/PT)** | Fluvanna  
County | Posted December 7



**PUBLIC WORKS  
DIRECTOR** | Fluvanna County | Posted  
December 7



**PARK ADMINISTRATOR** |  
James City County | Posted December  
6



**TRANSIT BUS OPERATOR  
(PT)** | James City County | Posted  
December 6



**TRANSIT BUS OPERATOR  
(FT)** | James City County | Posted  
December 6



**RE-ENTRY  
COORDINATOR** | James City County |  
Posted December 6



**LIBRARIAN I (ADULT  
SERVICES)** | James City County |  
Posted December 6



**SYSTEM ANALYST/  
DEVELOPER I OR II** | Augusta County  
Services Authority | Posted December  
6



**ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR** | City of  
Bristol | Posted December 6



**DIRECTOR OF REAL  
ESTATE ASSESSMENT** | Roanoke  
County | Posted December 4





**PLUMBING/  
MECHANICAL NEW CONSTRUCTION  
MANAGER** | City of Alexandria |  
Posted December 4



**DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNICATIONS** | City of  
Harrisonburg | Posted December 3



**WATER COLLECTION  
APPRENTICE** | James City County |  
Posted November 30



**WATER DISTRIBUTION  
APPRENTICE** | James City County |  
Posted November 30



**INDUSTRIAL MECHANIC** |  
James City County | Posted November  
30



**KINSHIP NAVIGATOR** |  
James City County | Posted November  
30



**FAMILY SERVICES  
SPECIALIST I/II (CHILD PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES)** | James City County |  
Posted November 30



**ZONING  
ADMINISTRATOR** | Northampton  
County | Posted November 29



**SYSTEM/SOFTWARE  
ARCHITECT** | Montgomery County |  
Posted November 28



**CHIEF FINANCIAL  
OFFICER** | Williamsburg-James City  
County Schools | Posted November 28



**REFUSE SITE  
ATTENDANT PART-TIME** | New Kent  
County | Posted November 27



**PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR II – ADULT SERVICES**  
| Hanover County | Posted November  
27



**PLANNER** | The Berkley  
Group | Posted November 26



**FINANCIAL SPECIALIST  
III** | Fairfax County | Posted November  
26



**DIRECTOR OF  
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**  
| Shenandoah County | Posted  
November 26



**SMALL ENGINE  
MECHANIC** | James City County |  
Posted November 20



**FAMILY SERVICES  
SPECIALIST** | Montgomery County |  
Posted November 20



**ENGINEER** | City of  
Harrisonburg | Posted November 20



**UTILITY PLANNER** |  
Western Virginia Water Authority |  
Posted November 20



**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



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



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



### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**President:** Tim A. Reeves | Wythe County

**President-Elect:** Stephen W. Bowen | Nottoway County

**1st Vice President:** Jeff C. McKay | Fairfax County

**2nd Vice President:** Meg Bohmke | Stafford County

**Secretary Treasurer:** Donald L. Hart | Jr., Accomack County

**Immediate Past President:** Sherrin C. Alsop | King and Queen County

### **STAFF**

**Executive Director:** Dean A. Lynch, CAE

**General Counsel:** Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE

**Director of Administration and Finance:** Vicky D. Steinruck, CPA

**Director of Communications:** A. Gage Harter

**Director of Government Affairs:** Katie Boyle

**Director of Government Relations:** Chris J. McDonald, Esq.

**Director of Intergovernmental Affairs:** Jeremy R. Bennett

**Director of Local Government Policy:** Joe Lerch, AICP

**Director of Member Services:** Carol I. Cameron

**Director of Program Development:** Angela Inglett

**Director of Technical Services:** John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA

**Administrative Secretary:** Valerie M. Russell

**VACORP:** Chris Carey, Administrator, 888.822.6772

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

1207 East Main Street  
Suite 300  
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County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

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