

Capitol Contact

Virginia General Assembly

Virginia Association of Counties • 1207 E. Main Street, Suite 300 • Richmond, VA 23219
www.vaco.org • 804.788.6652



Thursday, January 10, 2019

Virginia General Assembly Convenes



The General Assembly convened on Wednesday, January 9, marking the start of the 46-day session with reflections on the longstanding tradition of representative government in Virginia. This year represents the 400th

anniversary of the establishment of the House of Burgesses, the predecessor of the modern House of Delegates. The moments of reflection were a brief pause in an otherwise full day, as legislators submitted bills in advance of their 10 a.m. pre-filing deadline, both chambers adopted the procedural resolution setting out the schedule for the session, newly-elected delegates were appointed to committees, and committees began to hear budget presentations and bills.

In advance of the session convening, VACo President Tim Reeves met with key legislative leaders this week to discuss priority issues for local governments, including counties' ability to generate necessary revenue to meet community needs in the same manner that cities and towns are afforded.

As always, many bills affecting various aspects of county operations will be considered this session. As of the evening of January 9, more than 1,800 bills and resolutions had been pre-filed, and more can be expected in advance of the January 18 regular filing deadline. Legislators are also working this week to draft and submit budget amendments, which are due by the close of business on Friday, January 11. VACo staff are working with patrons to submit a package of budget amendments that address county priorities, as well as reviewing legislation for potential effects on local governments.

A central question of the 2019 session will be how Virginia reacts to changes in federal tax policy enacted in late 2017. The result of these policy discussions will determine how much revenue is available to state budget writers as they craft amendments to the biennium budget adopted in 2018. In the budget Governor Ralph Northam introduced in December, he proposed to use short-term revenue that is expected to be generated by changes in taxpayer behavior in response to the federal law for several limited-term spending priorities and for assistance to low-income taxpayers. House Appropriations Committee Chairman Chris Jones outlined his approach at the Committee's meeting on the afternoon of January 9, indicating that the House budget will remove the additional revenues assumed in the Governor's budget from federal tax reform and additional sales tax collections from online sellers and instead construct a budget based on revenues assumed in the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates (GACRE) forecast in November. The GACRE forecast incorporates revenue growth from underlying economic factors but does not include revenue derived from tax policy changes. He suggested that if the House Finance Committee adopts tax changes that would generate additional revenues, those resources could be added to the budget later in the process to address priority items that are not able to be funded within the revenues assumed in the GACRE forecast.

The day concluded with Governor Northam's State of the Commonwealth address, which he delivered to a joint session of the House and Senate. The Governor saluted bipartisan agreements in the 2018 session and outlined his priorities for 2019, including a commitment to achieving universal broadband coverage, investments in K-12 education and workforce development, and improvements to early childhood education. He signaled a willingness to

negotiate on tax policy changes, and drew a contrast between “the Virginia way” of civility and bipartisanship and the current climate of national politics.

[Watch Governor Northam deliver the State of the Commonwealth address](#)

With only a few weeks before “crossover,” committees will be busy working through lengthy dockets, and the tax policy issues are expected to be taken up early in the session in order to guide subsequent budget deliberations. The 2019 Session is scheduled to adjourn *sine die* on Saturday, February 23.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Speaker Cox Announces Changes to Standing Committees of the Virginia House of Delegates

PRESS RELEASE FROM SPEAKER KIRK COX

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

(**BOLD** indicates new member to committee)

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

Cole (Chairman), Ransone (Vice Chairman), Ingram, Jones (of Suffolk), Landes, O’Quinn, Rush, Fowler, Adams (of Pittsylvania), Leftwich, **Head, McGuire**, Sickles, Rasoul, Lindsey, Price, Boysko, VanValkenburg, Guzman, Turpin, Tran, Convirs-Fowler

COURTS OF JUSTICE

Bell (of Albemarle) (Chairman), Leftwich (Vice Chairman), Kilgore, Gilbert, Adams (of Pittsylvania), Campbell (of Smyth), Collins, Miyares, Ransone, **Campbell (of Rockbridge)**, Watts, Toscano, Herring, Hope, Mullin, Bourne, Simon, Carroll Foy

EDUCATION

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

GENERAL LAWS

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

TRANSPORTATION

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

FINANCE

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

APPROPRIATIONS

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

COUNTIES, CITIES AND TOWNS

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

COMMERCE AND LABOR

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

HEALTH, WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

MILITIA, POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Wright (Chairman), Morefield (Vice Chairman), Edmunds, Wilt, Webert, Fariss, O'Quinn, Rush, Freitas, Brewer, **Campbell (of Smyth), Campbell (of**

Rockbridge), Tyler, Kory, Lopez, Simon, Rasoul, Bell (of Loudoun), Levine, Adams (of Richmond City), Carter, Carroll Foy

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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

RULES

Cox (Chairman), Gilbert, Landes, Kilgore, Ware, Jones (of Suffolk), Orrock, Knight, Ingram, Austin, **Marshall**, Plum, Carr, Ward, Torian, Bagby, **Filler-Corn**

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Key Dates for 2019 General Assembly Session

In accordance with the [procedural resolution](#) adopted by the House and Senate on January 9, key dates for the 2019 General Assembly Session are as follows:

- **January 9:** General Assembly convenes at noon. Bills that are “prefiled” must be submitted by 10 a.m. House bills affecting the Virginia Retirement System or creating or continuing a study must be filed before adjournment of the House; a similar deadline applies to Senate bills. The House and Senate will meet in Joint Assembly, typically at 7 p.m., for the Governor’s “State of the Commonwealth” address.
- **January 11:** Budget amendments from General Assembly members must be submitted to the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by 5 p.m.
- **January 18:** All bills must be filed by 3 p.m. (bills may be introduced after the deadline by unanimous consent)
- **February 3:** House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees report their respective budgets by midnight.
- **February 5:** “Crossover” deadline for each chamber to complete work on legislation originating in that chamber (except for the budget bills)
- **February 7:** Deadline for each chamber to complete work on its budget

- **February 13:** Deadline for each chamber to complete work on the other chamber's budget and appoint budget conferees; also the deadline for each chamber to act on revenue bills from the other chamber and appoint conferees.
- **February 18:** Deadline for committee action on bills
- **February 23:** Scheduled adjournment *sine die*
- **April 3:** Reconvened session to consider gubernatorial amendments and vetoes

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Advocate for your locality at VACo County Government Day

In Partnership with VAPDC's 50th Anniversary



January 31, 2019 | Omni Richmond Hotel

100 S 12th Street | Richmond, VA 23219

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

Join us at VACo County Government Day on Thursday, January 31! This is our day to advocate on behalf of Counties at the 2019 General Assembly Session.

The event kicks off with a box lunch at noon as Governor Ralph Northam takes the podium. We're excited to learn more about how the Governor's legislative agenda will strengthen Virginia's communities. In addition, VACo staff will provide legislative reports on the major issues facing Counties in the 2019 General Assembly Session. Attendees will then meet with their General Assembly representatives.

- 930am** VACo Board of Directors' Meeting
- 11am** Registration
- Noon** Governor Ralph Northam | VACo Staff Reports
- Afternoon** Visit Capitol and Lobby Legislators
- Evening** Make plans to take your state legislators to dinner

For information on how to reach your representatives, see the [Virginia House of Delegates](#) and the [Senate of Virginia](#) member websites. Find information about VACo's positions in the [2019 Legislative Program](#). We will distribute our VACo County Government Day Bulletin at the event.

We encourage all Counties to participate in the legislative process - listen to reports about the issues and speak with your representatives about your County's concerns.

Register for the event at [VACo County Government Day Online](#) or fax the [Registration Form](#) to 804.788.0083.

VACo Contact: [Angela Inglett](#)