

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

June 19, 2019



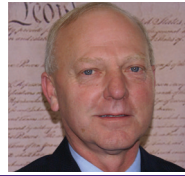
Welcome to the County Pulse! Jim Regimbal joins host Katie Boyle to talk finance and tax issues... Page 2



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Orange County Vice Chairman Jim Crozier steps into the VACo Spotlight... Page 4



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JLARC Examines CSB Funding, STEP-VA Implementation



Photo from Fairfax County YouTube

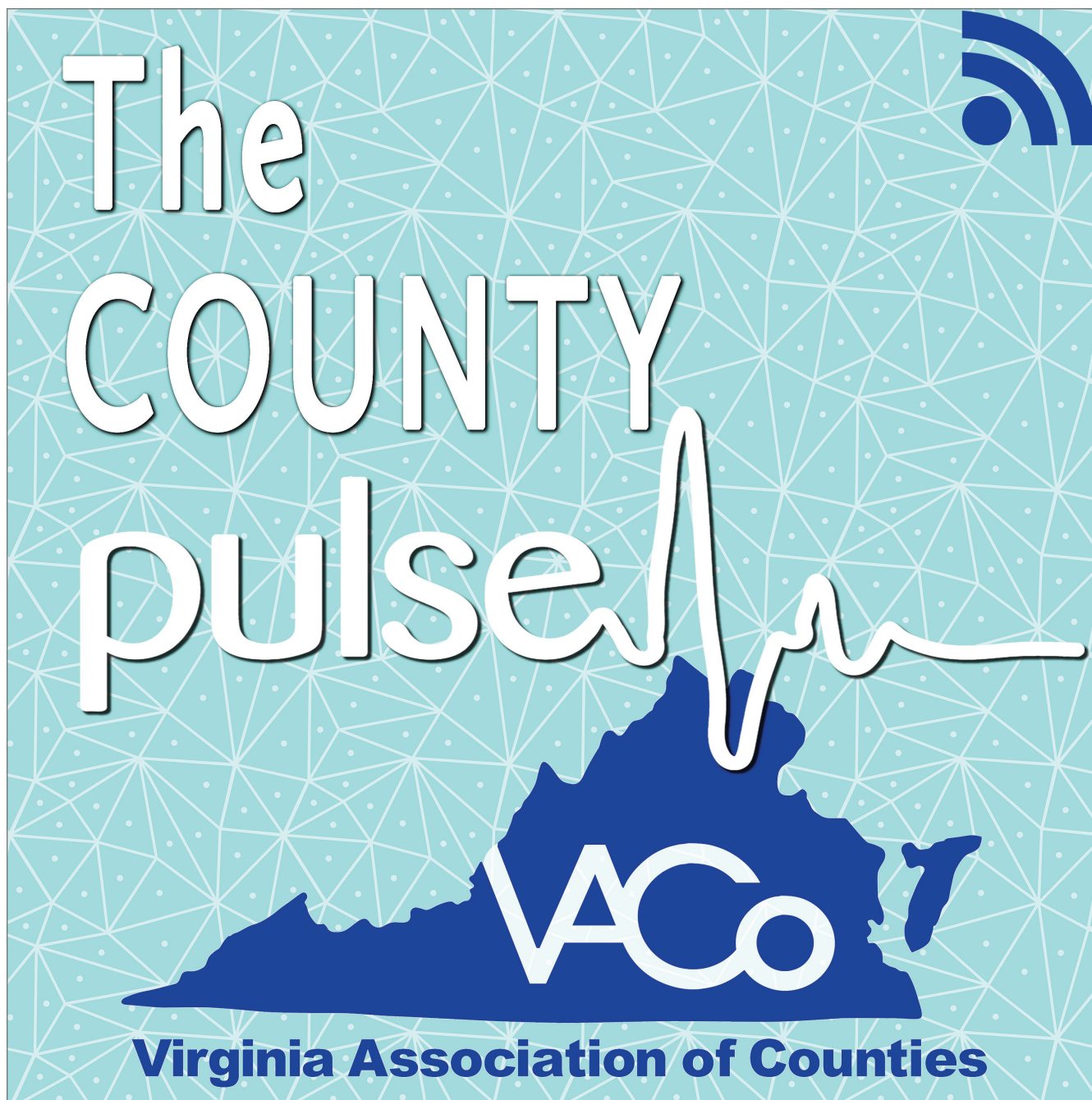
As part of its enhanced role in evaluating health and human resources programs, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) received two reports on June 17, both dealing with aspects of the state's publicly-funded behavioral health system. JLARC staff [reported](#) on the implementation to date of the System Transformation, Excellence and Performance (STEP-VA) initiative, which, when complete, will establish a standard array of services at each Community Services Board (CSB). JLARC staff also briefed Commission members on [a review](#) of the current system for funding CSBs, which was undertaken at the request of the Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century.

CSB Funding

JLARC staff discussed the complexity of the current funding structure for CSBs, pointing out that CSBs receive the majority of their funding from Medicaid reimbursements, state General Funds, and local contributions. The report notes that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) allocates the majority of the state General Funds to the individual CSBs based on historical funding levels, which often reflect funding models that were developed in the past to support particular services or initiatives. JLARC staff note that DBHDS does not take Medicaid reimbursements, which can vary among CSBs, into account when allocating state funding.

The report also points out that DBHDS does not factor local ability to pay into its methodology of distributing state General Funds, unlike other state-local funding formulae, such as the Local Composite Index, used to determine state and local shares for funding the K-12 Standards of Quality, or the funding formula for local health departments. Currently, Virginia law provides that the state's contribution to a CSB may not exceed 90 percent of the CSB's total state/local funding; the CSB is required to obtain the remaining 10 percent, which is typically provided by the local governing body. Should the local match be revised so that it varied based on local ability-to-pay, such a change would create "winners" and "losers" among localities in the absence of additional state funding to hold CSBs harmless.

JLARC Continued on Page 12



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

[VACo County Pulse Podcast](#)

A Conversation about Economic Trends with Jim Regimbal

Katie Boyle talks with Jim Regimbal of Fiscal Analytics, Ltd., about key components of the budget adopted in 2019 and major economic factors shaping the next biennium budget.

Two Studies of Tax Appeals Underway



Two studies of appeals of local taxes are under consideration this summer, both directed by study resolutions enacted by the General Assembly.

Appeals of businesses' real and tangible personal property assessments

[HJ 98 \(Byron\)](#), which was passed by the General Assembly in 2018, directs the Department of Taxation to review the appeals process for businesses contesting assessments of real and tangible personal property. The resolution specifies particular proposals for the Department to evaluate regarding appeals to the Tax Commissioner of the valuation of machinery and tools, including whether the Tax Commissioner should be more involved in evaluating local valuations of property -- for example, by analyzing appraisals submitted by the taxpayer or local Commissioner. The resolution also directs the Department to review whether the taxpayer could determine the value of individual items of property subject to the machinery and tools tax by determining what percentage of the total appraised value of all machinery and tools at a plant is represented by the individual item of property. Although the resolution largely focuses on appeals of machinery and tools assessments, the study resolution contains language gesturing toward a broader reconsideration of the Tax Commissioner's authority to review local assessments, pointing out that under current statutes, the Tax Commissioner may not make a determination regarding the valuation or the method of valuation of property for any local taxes other than local business taxes. The Department is meeting with stakeholders to gather information and plans to hold a joint meeting with all stakeholders later in the year. A report is due by December 1.

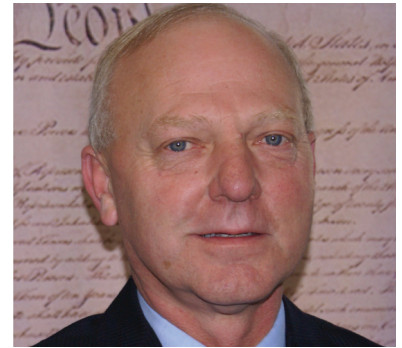
Appeals of real property assessments

In 2018, legislation was introduced by Delegate Keam regarding the judicial standard by which Boards of Equalization and circuit courts review assessments. The bills, which were carried over in the Senate, would have provided that the taxpayer would not have to prove that the assessment was the result of manifest error or disregard of controlling evidence on the part of the assessor. Delegate Keam held a meeting with stakeholders in the fall, at which local representatives reiterated concerns about changing this long-standing aspect of the appeals process. Delegate Keam opted for a different approach in 2019, introducing [HJ 687](#), which, in its initial form, would have requested the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Virginia Supreme Court to study potential options for a tax court system in Virginia. VACo took no position on this version of the resolution; however, it was significantly broadened in the Senate to add a review by a joint legislative subcommittee of streamlining procedures for appealing local tax assessments. As the resolution emerged from conference, the Small Business Commission was tasked with undertaking this broader study.

The Commission held its first meeting to discuss the issue on June 18. After Division of Legislative Services staff provided an overview of recent legislative history on the issue, Deputy City Attorney Adam Melita of the City of Norfolk further explained the appeals process, which includes opportunities for the taxpayer to seek adjustments to an assessment at the administrative level as well as at the local Board of Equalization. Both options are free to the taxpayer and do not require legal counsel. In 2017, of the approximately 3.2 million taxable parcels in the state, 20,777 were the subject of administrative appeals; 10,472 of these appeals were resolved in favor of the taxpayer. At the Board of Equalization level, 4,637 cases were filed, of which 2,341 were resolved in favor of the taxpayer. Eighteen cases were appealed to Circuit Court; the taxpayer prevailed in seven of these cases.

Given the small volume of appeals considered at the Circuit Court level, Commission members expressed some skepticism about the merits of pursuing a stand-alone tax court. It is anticipated that further discussion of the appeals process will take place at a subsequent meeting.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

**VACo
SPOTLIGHT****James P.
Crozier****Orange County
Vice Chairman**

Q1. You were a firefighter for 30 years before serving on the Board of Supervisors. What do you think are the most pressing issues in public safety at the local level?

Jim Crozier: *I believe managing expenses while providing a highly trained fire & rescue workforce is without a doubt number one. In order to do this, we have to work closely with our sheriff's office to assist them in their mission. We also must strive to find a sustainable volunteer workforce in our volunteer fire companies by assisting with recruitment and training so that we can integrate all of our services for the benefit of all our citizens. I believe funding will be the biggest challenge as public safety costs continue to escalate.*

Q2. It's often said that working as a first responder is like being part of a family because of the strong relationships and trust the job builds. How do you approach building relationships as an elected official?

JC: *I try to approach this much in the same manner, with a team approach. It is very important for everyone to remember that local government is here to serve our constituents, not to grow empires and serve ourselves. Cultivating good interpersonal relationships is key to good service delivery and long-term cooperation.*

Q3. You also served on the Economic Development Authority before running for the Board of Supervisors. What are your economic development goals for the County?

JC: *We as a county need to maintain the focus on our economic development plan for the Germanna Wilderness Area as a benefit for the entire county. What this will do is allow for other areas of the county to maintain the rural atmosphere that so many enjoy. In doing so, we will be able to maintain individuals' taxes at lower rates and capitalize on increased retail, commercial and industrial growth.*

Q4. Orange County has made a significant local commitment to ensuring affordable broadband access in rural areas. What are some of your lessons learned from that project?

JC: *One must always be open-minded in anything to do with new initiatives, broadband being a true example. Whenever you deal with a project like this, there are many hurdles, ranging from easements to technology constantly changing, which truly changes from day to day. You must listen to constituents, contractors, tech professionals, and even nay-sayers. You must constantly visit the reasons that you are doing a project like this, because many times people work very hard to put roadblocks in the way to sidetrack your progress. With all the previous being said, anything worth doing is not easy.*

Q5. Orange County recently hosted VACo's Region 7 meeting at Montpelier, the home of James Madison. What are the other must-see places for a first-time visitor to Orange County?

JC: *Once again James Madison's Montpelier. Historic Downtown Orange, including James Madison Museum of Orange County Heritage. The Market at Grelen, which includes trails as well as pick your own vegetables and fruits. Historic Downtown Gordonsville, including the Exchange Hotel and Civil War Museum and the stores of downtown Main Street. Orange County Wineries, including Barboursville, Horton Vineyards, Reynard Florence Vineyard, Honah Lee Vineyard, Hammerstone Cellars, and Chateau Merrillanne. The Germanna Foundation, including a visit to the ruins of Fort Germanna.*

Q6. In your view, what are the biggest challenges and opportunities facing Orange County in the next ten years?

JC: *The work to intelligently develop our Germanna Wilderness Area Plan in the Route 3 corridor while maintaining our rural western side of the county. Continuing the build-out of our rural broadband network. Managing public safety expenses while providing the best possible quality services to our constituents. Expanding our Digital Citizens Initiative is something else that will help continue positive engagement.*

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Visit Orange County and James Madison's Montpelier



There's So Much To Do

At the home of the Father of the Constitution, you don't have to be a history buff to have a great time at Montpelier. With 2,650 acres to explore, there's plenty for visitors of all ages! With history, trails, gardens, spectacular views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and some of the best BBQ this side of Kansas City, you'll need more than a quick trip to take in all Montpelier has to offer. Bring your family, bring your friends, and explore the lifelong home of James Madison.

SOURCE: www.montpelier.org





Mark Your Calendars



Become a Certified Supervisor



SIGN UP TODAY! | [The Supervisors' Certification Brochure](#)

VACo is pleased to offer the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program, an educational opportunity for county supervisors who wish to enhance their knowledge of governance, and effectively and efficiently lead their communities.

Since its inception in 2005, more than 75 supervisors, representing more than 40 counties, have completed this training program, earning their credentials as a certified county supervisor.

Of greater importance, each supervisor has gained the insight, perspective, and confidence needed to address the challenges and opportunities that constitute the governance challenge.

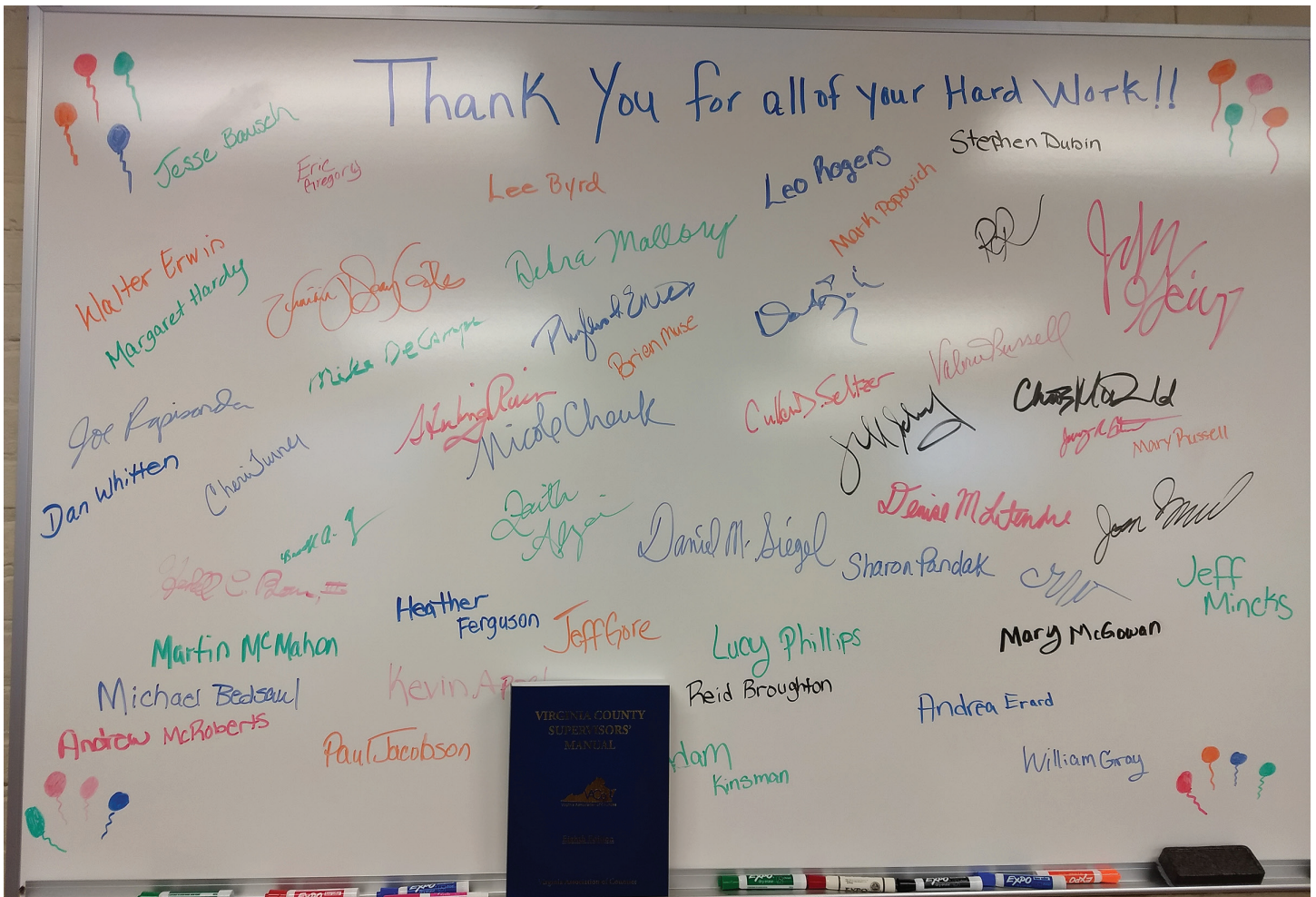
**[Inventing Your County's Future:
The Role of Community Planning](#)**

[Registration Form](#) | [Register Online](#)

Opening Session | September 6
Albemarle County

Closing Session | November 1
VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | August 27



A celebration honoring the 45 contributors to the 2019 edition of the Virginia County Supervisors Manual took place in the training center of VACo’s headquarters on June 5. “We had a great turnout, and we wanted to properly thank them for their contribution to this great resource for local officials,” said Phyllis Errico, VACo General Counsel.

“We wanted to thank each and every contributor in person for the outstanding work on this publication,” said Dean Lynch, VACo Executive Director. “We bring copies to every regional meeting and VACo event, and they are just selling like hotcakes.”

The 2019 VACo Virginia County Supervisors Manual was the result of a partnership with the law firm of Sands Anderson, which also worked on the 2006 version of the Supervisors Manual.

“The commitment of the Sands Anderson team to this project was second to none, they have the expertise and commitment to local government and were great partners in this project,” Errico said.

In addition to VACo and Sands Anderson, over 20 local government attorneys from jurisdictions throughout the Commonwealth contributed their time and expertise to the manual. The manual’s contributors were recently honored by the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia who awarded the coveted Special Projects Award to each contributor.

The Manuals are available for sale at each VACo event and online.

[Order Form](#)

[Order Online](#)

VACo Contact: [Phyllis Errico, Esq., CAE](#)

Region 6 Counties Discuss Workforce Development, Transportation, and More in Warren County



Warren County hosted representatives from Region 6 at the Virginia Inland Port on June 10 for a robust conversation on issues of shared concern. In welcoming attendees, Warren County Chairman Daniel Murray highlighted the importance of the Virginia Inland Port to the region in alleviating traffic congestion and expediting the flow of goods throughout the East Coast.

Former Culpeper County Administrator Frank Bossio discussed an innovative project designed to address the need for skilled workers in high-tech manufacturing. New Pathways Tech, Inc. is a nonprofit organization working in partnership with Germanna Community College to assist students in attaining the fundamental skills and credentials required to pursue careers in advanced manufacturing. The project was spurred by Culpeper County's concern about current and future transitions in the global economy associated with the rise of automation and a "mismatch" between available jobs and job-seekers' skill sets. In addition to the capital investments made by Culpeper County, donations by corporate partner DMG Mori allow students to learn on cutting-edge machinery. Mr. Bossio explained that program administrators hope to serve more students in the future as the program demonstrates its successes.

Following discussion with Mr. Bossio about his presentation, attendees participated in a roundtable discussion of top issues in their respective counties. Major issues discussed included implementation of the recently-enacted funding package for Interstate 81 improvements, as well as potential changes to the structure of that legislation to address congestion on Interstate 66; revisions to address unintended consequences of the 2016 legislation limiting the use of proffers; concerns about large-scale solar installations; the importance of broadband access in underserved and unserved areas; concerns about how nutrient credit banks are used to meet requirements in water quality regulations; costs of inmate health care; and potential additional tools for regional economic development.

VACo is grateful to all attendees who participated in the meeting and extends special thanks to Warren County for hosting.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Elections Initiatives Under Way; Funding Remains Critical Need



Elections administration and security are topics of increasing attention at the state and federal levels, and there are several efforts underway in Virginia to implement major elections initiatives enacted this session.

The increasing complexity of elections administration, coupled with limited state support, often makes this critical function a challenge for localities. During the 2019 session, VACo worked with the Chairs and members of the House and Senate Privileges and Elections Committees to introduce budget language that would have established a workgroup to examine the funding of elections in Virginia, including relative shares of state and local support and opportunities for cost-saving efficiencies. Although the language was not included in the state budget, VACo anticipates that this issue will be a component of its advocacy efforts in the upcoming session.

At the federal level, NACo recently convened a small working group on elections administration and security and plans to work more extensively on these issues as the topic is increasingly under discussion in Congress. As NACo staff explained at a meeting with several state associations of counties earlier this spring, previous federal efforts to provide funding to support elections administration have been largely channeled to states, although many states vest localities with substantial responsibility to administer elections, as is the case in Virginia. NACo plans to encourage federal policymakers to include local governments in future election policy reform efforts. VACo has provided NACo with information on the structure and funding of elections administration in Virginia to assist in this advocacy work.

Cybersecurity

Legislation was introduced in 2019 at the request of the Administration to direct the State Board of Elections to establish standards for the security of the state’s voter registration system (VERIS), to include the technology used in individual localities to connect to VERIS. The legislation was intended to respond to concerns about the security of voter databases, which have been widely reported in the national media. During the session, VACo advocated for the state to engage in meaningful consultation with the local experts who administer the systems that connect with VERIS before mandating any standards for these systems. VACo and VML worked with the Administration and the bill patrons to include a requirement for the State Board to convene a workgroup of local government information technology professionals to consult on the development of the standards, and to develop cost estimates for their implementation. Additional language in the bill requires the State Board to convene a standing advisory group of IT professionals and general registrars to consult on any future updates to the standards.

Earlier this spring, the Virginia Association of Local Government Information Technology Executives (VALGITE) recruited volunteers for the workgroup from among its membership, and the workgroup held its initial meeting earlier this month. It is expected that the workgroup will complete its meetings in October in advance of the State Board’s consideration of proposed standards in December. VACo is appreciative of these professionals’ willingness to commit substantial time to provide their expertise on this issue.

No-excuse in-person absentee voting

Another major change to election administration was enacted in 2019 after many years of discussion of similar proposals. Under legislation that was approved this session, beginning with the November 2020 general election, voters will be able to vote by absentee ballot in person, without needing to provide an excuse, for the week prior to the election (between the second Saturday preceding the election and the Saturday immediately preceding the election). Absentee in-person voting for voters who qualify under the existing list of excuses will be available from the 45th day preceding the election until the beginning of the “no-excuse” period. The State Board is tasked with reporting to the General Assembly and the Governor on its plans to implement the legislation; as part of the planning process, the Department of Elections held several meetings this spring with the leadership of the Voter Registrars Association of Virginia and the Virginia Electoral Board Association, representatives from VACo and VML, and interested localities. VACo has advocated for a flexible approach to implementation that will allow local options to manage logistics for the “no-excuse” period before the regular election day.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

JLARC Examines Data Center and Manufacturing Incentives

As part of its June 17 meeting, JLARC submitted a [report](#) on the impact and effectiveness of certain state economic development incentives. The report focused on 11 incentives designed to promote data center and manufacturing (especially semiconductor production) growth and well as reducing pollution and promoting green jobs. JLARC made seven recommendations to improve the effectiveness of these programs.

Between FY 2010 and FY 2017, Virginia spent \$558.52 million on targeting data centers and certain manufacturers. Of that amount, the largest (\$417.47 million) was spent on a [data center retail sales and use tax exemption](#). In return for making at least \$150 million in capital investments and creating 50 new jobs (25 new jobs in an unemployment distressed/enterprise zone) in a Virginia locality, eligible companies may use the exemption on the purchase or lease of computer equipment and enabling software for the processing, storage, retrieval or communication of data, including servers, mainframes, network infrastructure, and data storage hardware.

JLARC staff estimated that the impact of this exemption to the state's economy during this period was the creation of 155 jobs, \$26.5 million in state GDP, and \$14.6 million in personal income per each \$1 million of incentive. The return on investment (ROI) to the state for this incentive is estimated to be 72 cents on the dollar.

Virginia currently hosts 159 data centers making use of the exemption and is the largest data center market in the nation. Though most of these centers are located in Northern Virginia, the state is witnessing an expansion to other regions. Recent data centers to call the state home include Facebook in Henrico County and Microsoft in Mecklenburg County. Benefits to localities of these centers include an infusion of well-paying jobs (a minimum of 1.5 times the annual average local wage), and the ability to collect property taxes on the often-massive facilities.

JLARC also spent significant time examining Semiconductor Custom Grants. Semiconductors are electronic chips or circuits made of silicon and are essential to all computerization. Virginia has historically used custom grants to provide economic incentives ranging between \$30 million to \$500 million to land companies such as Micron Technology in Manassas and QTS in Henrico County.

JLARC staff estimated that the impact of these grants to the state's economy during this period was the creation of 67 jobs, \$21.9 million in state GDP, and \$13.3 million in personal income per each \$1 million of incentive. The ROI to the state for this incentive is estimated to be 72 cents on the dollar.

JLARC also reviewed several incentives designed to reduce pollution and promote green job creation, but found their impacts to be negligible and recommended that two of them be eliminated. Staff recommended the following actions be taken by the General Assembly:

- Further reduce or remove the minimum job creation requirement in distressed areas or enterprise zones for the data center exemption.
- Require all data centers to report employment levels, capital investment, and tax benefit information to VEDP.
- Require a work group to examine Virginia's infrastructure and other policies affecting data centers to identify (1) actions needed to maintain Virginia's competitive position and (2) whether opportunities exist to reduce reliance on the sizable exemption without adversely affecting industry growth.
- Eliminate the Green Job Creation Tax Credit and Biodiesel and Green Diesel Fuel Producers Tax Credit.

The full report and recommendations from JLARC can be accessed [here](#). VACo supports economic development policies and programs that bolster local and regional development efforts by maintaining state funding and granting additional funding and authority to promote local and regional initiatives, including the provision of adequate funding for the operations of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), which administers the incentives in coordination with the Department of Taxation.

VACo Contact: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)

State General Fund Revenues Continue Growth in May, Likely to Meet FY 2019 Forecast



State General Fund revenues continued to follow a positive trajectory in May and appear to be on target to meet the FY 2019 forecast. Governor Northam announced last week that May collections were up 22.5 percent relative to last May, and have grown 7.9 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis. In his [briefing for the House Appropriations Committee](#) on June 17, Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne explained that most of the growth is attributable to strong nonwithholding income tax collections. Withholding collections are slightly ahead of the forecasted growth of 3.8 percent on a year-to-date basis, growing 3.9 percent through May. Sales and use tax collections turned in a strong performance in May, growing by 9.7 percent, and year-to-date growth of 4 percent is ahead of the annual forecast of 3.7 percent growth. Secretary Layne noted that there has been an almost 14 percent increase in payments resulting from use taxes, which would include remote sellers who will be required to collect and remit these taxes beginning July 1 under legislation enacted this session in response to the *Wayfair* decision.

The annual forecast for total GF revenue growth contained in the budget signed by the Governor in May is 3.3 percent; however, as part of its response to federal tax policy changes enacted in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the 2019 General Assembly directed that individual income tax refunds of up to \$110 for individuals and \$220 for married filers be issued in October 2019. In order to provide the full amount of these refunds, GF revenue growth must generate an additional \$450 million above the 3.3 percent growth in the forecast. May's strong revenue numbers suggest that the state is on track to meet these estimates. Prior to the issuance of the refunds, the Governor is required to certify the amounts collected that are attributable to the individual tax policy changes in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to the General Assembly on or before September 1; if amounts are not sufficient to cover the full amount of the refunds, the refunds will be pro-rated. The Department of Taxation expects to issue the refund checks between October 1 and October 15.

Key economic indicators for Virginia continue to show positive signs, as Virginia's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate remained low at 2.9 percent in April, [according to the Virginia Employment Commission](#), and Virginia's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment increased by 1.1 percent in April relative to April 2018. In conversation with the Appropriations Committee members, Secretary Layne emphasized the importance of investments in access to broadband as a way to ensure that all regions of the Commonwealth can share in the state's overall prosperity.

The most recent national jobs report was somewhat disappointing, as the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) reported earlier this month that total nonfarm payroll employment grew by 75,000 jobs in May after a much stronger showing in April; however, the national unemployment rate remains low at 3.6 percent. Key areas of uncertainty include tensions in the trade arena and questions about how the federal debt ceiling limit will be addressed later this year.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

JLARC Continued from Page 1

JLARC staff note that under the existing funding structure, local support for CSBs varies. Some localities struggle to provide the required local matching funds, and in these cases, DBHDS may grant a waiver to the CSB instead of reducing state funding; some localities far exceed the required 10 percent contribution, with local shares ranging as high as 88 percent. The report suggests revisiting the statutory cap on state funding to specify that the locality, rather than the CSB, is responsible for contributing the 10 percent match, as well as limiting the issuance of waivers. VACo has historically advocated to preserve the Department's ability to grant waivers, as some localities struggle to fund core services within their limited taxing authority. In earlier discussions of localities' contributions to the behavioral health system, VACo has also pointed out that local governments make significant commitments to behavioral health in addition to their contribution to their CSBs, such as local support for services funded through the Children's Services Act and local spending on behavioral health care in local and regional jails.

JLARC staff suggest that CSB funding could be allocated by different methods, each with advantages and drawbacks. Formula funding typically relies on data indicating communities' need for services and generally allows for budget predictability from year to year. Although some CSB programs are funded through formulae now, switching to a formula basis for all funds would likely also create winners and losers among CSBs in the absence of increased state funding. The report suggests that a gradual phase-in of a new funding formula would also mitigate effects on CSBs. Reimbursement models use state funds to pay providers based on services provided, similar to a fee-for-service model used in some insurance programs. Grant-based models fund specific projects and thus meet identified community needs, but can require significant administrative work.

The report notes that certain fundamental questions must be answered before the state opts for any of these funding models. It suggests that the General Assembly contemplate the degree to which state funding should support a standard array of services provided in all CSBs or services tailored to individual communities' needs. The report's other recommendations deal with Medicaid revenues, suggesting that DBHDS calculate revenues that CSBs should be collecting from Medicaid and private insurance payments and determine whether CSBs are maximizing Medicaid reimbursements.

STEP-VA Implementation

STEP-VA was enacted in 2017 and seeks to establish a statewide set of services to be offered at all 40 CSBs. As currently specified in statute, the nine "steps" are required to be initiated by July 1, 2021. Thus far, the first step, same-day access to behavioral health assessment, has been fully implemented, and CSBs are preparing to implement the second step, primary care screening, in July. The remaining seven steps include outpatient behavioral health services, peer/family support, and veterans' services, among others.

JLARC's report notes that same-day access has required significant work to implement, including the services of a consultant contracted by DBHDS, but has largely met its goal of reducing wait times for assessments. CSBs are concerned about their ability to provide timely follow-up services, however, and JLARC staff suggested further exploration of whether the CSBs are offering same-day access during sufficient hours and in enough locations to meet local needs.

Primary care screening will be implemented in two phases. The first, which involves taking blood pressure and calculating body-mass index for adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbance, will begin in July. The second phase, which expands these screenings to all behavioral health consumers, is of more concern to CSBs, as it will significantly increase the number of screenings and follow-up assistance that will be required. JLARC staff suggest implementing this second phase as a pilot program before instituting it in all CSBs.

The report advocates for delaying the initiation of the remaining steps by one year in order to ensure that funding is distributed in a manner that factors in demand for services as well as individual CSBs' capacity, and that requirements and performance measures are fully vetted before funding is allocated. JLARC staff encouraged the General Assembly to improve DBHDS's capacity to oversee the programs and communicate with CSBs, perhaps by appropriating some funding for administrative costs.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Meeting and News Bulletin



On June 7, VACo staff attended the VRS Board of Trustees' final meeting of FY 2019. On the [agenda](#), the Board heard reports from Chief Investment Officer Ronald Schmitz, who detailed how recent uncertainty around global economic output impacted May's equity markets. Turbulence and systemic risk metrics are up, but not as high as they were in the fall of 2018, which precipitated the turbulent month of December. Taking that into account, VRS still expects to come close to hitting their target rate of return of seven percent by the end of June as gains in the month of June have already recovered two thirds of May's decline in the equity markets and risk factors have not reached levels of high concern.

VRS Director Patricia Bishop detailed the Agency's response to the recent tragedy in Virginia Beach, which included immediate communication with the locality and answering questions regarding VRS benefits to victims of felonious assault and Virginia Education Savings Trust (529) accounts for impacted children. VRS's Audit and Compliance Committee also reported on a clean bill of health for the Agency's management.

The VRS Board of Trustees July meeting has been cancelled and the Board is currently scheduled to convene again on September 19 in Richmond. Contribution rates for VRS employers are established every two years in advance of the biennial budget and will be based on a report on the actuarial valuation for VRS that will be published later this year. Lastly, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) will meet on July 15 to give its annual report on VRS.

In the [latest](#) monthly publication from VRS, the Agency highlighted how county employees in Prince George County plan for retirement, previewed the coming auto-escalation feature for Hybrid Retirement Plans effective January 1, 2020, and provided an [overview](#) of enacted legislation and budget language relevant to VRS including the extension of the [K-12 critical shortage program](#) to July 2025, among other features. An archive of past bulletins and a link to subscribe to future news bulletins can be found [here](#).

VRS serves 706,045 total members, retirees, and beneficiaries and has 460 participating political subdivisions. The system paid out \$4.8 billion in retirement benefits last year and generated a 7.5% return on investments. The fiduciary net position of the trust fund is \$81.2 billion and as based on assets, is the 19th largest among public and private pension systems in the United States. The funded status of the State, Teacher, and Political Subdivisions plans was 76.3%, 74.5%, and 89.3%, respectively.

VACo Contact: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)

The deadline to register for the Utility-Scale Solar Seminar is Thursday, June 20. Register Today!



Utility-Scale Solar:
A VACo Seminar

Don't Miss this Opportunity!

Knowledge is the most important power source behind your community's decision-making process, so join us as we examine the implications of solar development in the Commonwealth. Explore the fiscal impacts of state-mandated tax exemptions; Discuss solar's place in the framework of land use planning; and Engage with your peers about their unique experiences. You will learn from the experts and your colleagues, gaining the tools necessary to effectively advocate on your county's behalf.

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

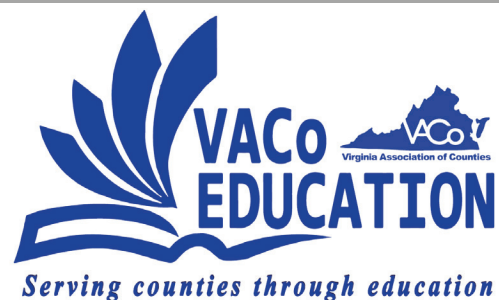
[DOWNLOAD REGISTRATION FORM](#)

Utility Scale Solar:
A VACo Seminar

June 27, 2019
10 AM - 3 PM

Robert & Betty Ragsdale
Community Center

20916 Old School Road
McKenney, VA 23872



Registration Deadline: June 20, 2019



Brenda Parson appointed Greenville County Administrator



By Mark Mathews
Independent-Messenger

Reprinted with permission
[Link to original story](#)

PHOTO COURTESY OF
GREENSVILLE COUNTY

For nearly three and a half months Brenda Parson has served as interim County Administrator following Dave Whittington's retirement from the position in January. Parson is interim no more.

On Monday, April 29, the Greenville County Board of Supervisors voted 3-0, with William Cain abstaining, to promote Parson to the position full time.

"I look forward to working with the Board and serving the citizens of Greenville County," Parson said. "I've enjoyed my time working for Greenville County."

Parson is no stranger to the workings of the Greenville County Administration office. She has worked for the County for nearly 30 years.

In 1989 Parson was hired as the Director of Finance, a position she held for more than 22 years for the County before being promoted to serve as Assistant County Administrator in February of 2012.

In the past seven years Parson has been instrumental the County's budget preparation and capital improvement projects, as well as serving as a liaison between the Board of Supervisors and County officials.

Parson earned her B.A. from Mary Baldwin College in Business Administration and Management.

Historic Promotion Within Prince George County Police Department



Chief Keith Early is honored to announce the promotion of Captain Eric Young to the rank of Major. Effective July 1, 2019, Young will serve the personnel of the Police Department and the community of Price George in the role of Deputy Chief of Police.

Major Young has more than 27 years of law enforcement experience. He began his career with the Prince George County Police Department as a communications officer in 1992. Subsequently, Young attended the 39th Basic Law Enforcement Class at the Crater Criminal Justice Training Academy. He graduated as the top honor student in December 1992. Since graduation, Young has served as a patrol officer, instructor, juvenile officer (JCOPPS), detective, and supervisor. Major Young was first promoted in May 2001 to the position of sergeant. As a sergeant, he supervised the operations of Vice & Narcotics as well as General Investigations. In January 2006, Young was promoted to the position of captain. In this role, he has commanded both the Operations Division and the Support Services, Division. Also, Major Young has served Prince George County in the role of Interim Police Chief.

Major Young holds a Police Science degree from John Tyler Community College, and he is also a graduate of the 249th FBI National Academy and the National Criminal Justice Command College sponsored by the Virginia State Police and the University of Virginia.

Major Young will assume his new role as Prince George County Police Department's first-ever Deputy Chief of Police.



Prince George residents within five road miles of 11800 Moody Road are encouraged to contact their insurance company as the County has officially opened Station 7 on Route 10 and Moody Road. Some homeowners could see significant decreases in their annual premiums.

The 10,300-square foot fire and ems station went in-service on June 9 with an Engine, an Ambulance, and a Tanker to begin improving service delivery to that part of the County.

“We are excited to expand our partnership between our career and volunteer responders with this combination station allowing us to work together, train together, and live together to ensure we can provide the best response possible to our citizen’s needs” said Owens.

While the focus of this station is to protect the citizens, there have also been components to protect emergency response personnel. This is the first fire and EMS station in the Commonwealth of Virginia that has a detoxification room designed to expel and excrete the toxic carcinogens encountered while battling fires, from the bodies of firefighters. With roughly 15 minutes of use, this system will not only limit the smell of smoke on a firefighter’s skin but it reduces the likelihood of taking those contaminants to clean parts of the station or to the firefighters’ homes and their family members.

The implementation of this detoxification unit is now the second phase of the department’s cancer mitigation program with a goal of reducing exposure to cancer causing agents.

This station also has a state of the art alerting system that will notify responders quicker than before and get them heading towards the response vehicles while seeing and hearing the incident information.



The NACo Annual Conference & Exposition is the largest meeting of county elected and appointed officials from across the country. Participants from counties of all sizes come together to shape NACo’s federal policy agenda, share proven practices and strengthen knowledge networks to help improve residents’ lives and the efficiency of county government.

REGISTRATION

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

HOUSING AND TRAVEL



American Evolution Forum on the Future of Representative Democracy July 30-August 1, 2019 | William & Mary | Williamsburg, VA

Join American Evolution, in partnership with William & Mary, for a dynamic thought-provoking forum on the future of representative democracy. Confirmed speakers include prominent political, academic and cultural leaders from around the country who will highlight the historic impact of democratic ideals on our nation and its impact on the world. Panel discussions and talks will focus on current and important issues such as entrepreneurship and democracy; global challenges; individual liberties; and civic engagement.

[Complete details](#) – including a list of confirmed speakers - and registration information is below. The event is free and open to the public, but does require advance registration.

For more information about the American Evolution Forum on the Future of Representative Democracy and the 2019 Commemoration visit AmericanEvolution2019.com/AEForum.

We hope to see you at the Forum!

Nominations sought for VACo Jefferson Cup

VACo seeks nominations for this year’s Jefferson Cup Award to be presented at the November 10-12 Annual Conference. Please submit nominations to Dean Lynch at dlynch@vaco.org.

[Click here for a list of Jefferson Cup recipients.](#) Below is a brief history of the Jefferson Cup as well as criteria for award recipients.

On October 25, 1964 at The League of Virginia Counties Executive Board Meeting - The Committee that had been appointed by President Stuart T. DeBell of Fairfax County to study methods and procedures for recognizing outstanding programs, contributions and achievements in local government, reported. The Committee recommended the establishment of an award for outstanding contributions and achievements in local government to be made at the discretion of an Awards Committee in a presentation at the Annual Meeting. The Committee further recommended that the Jefferson Cup suitably engraved to set on a wooden base be adopted as the award. The award was to be called THE JEFFERSON CUP AWARD.



Former longtime Fairfax County Supervisor Gerry Hyland receives the Jefferson Cup in 2015.

Criteria established for award recipients

1. Any individual who has made an outstanding contribution to local government may be a recipient of the Award.
2. Any local government which has participated in an outstanding local government activity may be a recipient.
3. The Award is to be made at the Annual Meeting of VACo but may not necessarily be made each year.
4. Nominations are to be made to the Awards Committee by August 15 of each year prior to the Annual Meeting.
5. Any additional rules, regulations, standards can be adopted by the Awards Committee.



GASB issued an implementation guide that is designed to assist state and local government financial personnel, *Implementation Guide Update -2019*. Included in the guide are:

- Derivative instruments
- Disaster-related, expenditure driven grants
- Irrevocable split-interest agreements
- Post-employment benefits
- Tax abatement disclosures
- Transfers of capital assets within a financial reporting entity

It also includes amendments to previously issued implementation guidance.

VACo Contact: [Vicky Steinruck, CPA](#)

VACo's Legislative Summary



The [Legislative Summary](#) details the actions of the 2019 General Assembly and information on legislation of interest to counties. This edition contains links to bills through the General Assembly’s Legislative Information System. Also included in the document are studies and statistics of importance to counties.

EARLY REGISTRATION
EXTENDED TO JUNE 15!

2019 RESILIENT VIRGINIA CONFERENCE | JULY 18-19, 2019



DARDEN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS | UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA | CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

Resilient Virginia is pleased to announce the **2019 Resilient Virginia Conference**, which takes place on July 18–19 at the Darden School of Business, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia. [Register today for Early Registration rates!](#) The 2019 Resilient Virginia Conference provides a unique forum to inform, educate, and activate communities across Virginia about the benefits of resiliency planning. This two-day conference will highlight the roles of Virginia’s rural and urban areas in addressing community challenges they face from increased disruption by extreme weather events, as well as national security risks, and on-going concerns related to economic and community health. In addition, we will provide participants the opportunity to engage in workshops that focus on in-depth learning on key resiliency topics.

Audience and Benefits

Resilient Virginia brings together participants from state and local governments, local and national businesses, and representatives from higher education and community organizations to learn about a diverse array of resiliency topics — ranging from resilient building and infrastructure design, resiliency in emergency management planning, health and equity concerns, economic opportunities, and the role of ecosystems and agricultural practices in mitigation. Participants will:

- Gain insights into Virginia’s resiliency initiatives;
- Hear about resiliency progress in Virginia jurisdictions and in neighboring states;
- Engage in networking with resiliency businesses, government representatives, universities, and community organizations; and
- Take away tools that can be used for resiliency planning in their own communities.

Theme and Topics

This year’s theme, *Connecting Rural and Urban Communities for a Resilient Future*, highlights the roles of Virginia’s rural and urban communities in addressing efforts to address challenges they face from increased disruption by extreme weather events, climate change, national security risks, and on-going economic and community health concerns. The conference will address a diverse array of resiliency topics, ranging from:

- resilient building and infrastructure design,
- transportation and energy systems that lower carbon emissions,
- resiliency in emergency management planning,
- health and equity concerns,
- economic opportunities, and
- the role of ecosystems and agricultural practices in mitigation.

For detailed information about the conference agenda, speakers, registration, lodging, and more, please visit the [conference website](#).

VACo and **OPTUMRx** Team Up To Offer Prescription Savings Card -- **FREE TO VIRGINIA COUNTIES** --



VACo prescription discount cards are available at no cost to Virginia counties. To order your free cards, contact us with the number of cards required & shipping address to have them mailed to your county.

Bring the card to your favorite pharmacy every time you fill a prescription. Show the card to the pharmacist along with your prescription and ask for a discount on your prescription. You may save up to 75% on your prescription medications.

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Contact Valerie Russell: vrussell@vaco.org or call 804.788.6652

Virginia Association of Counties | 1207 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219

VIRGINIA COUNTY SUPERVISORS' MANUAL

EIGHTH EDITION, 2019

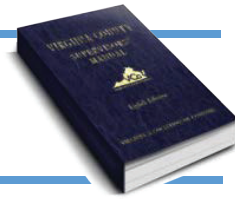


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**Virginia County Supervisors' Manual
8th Edition - NEW FOR 2019**



The Eighth Edition (2019) of VACo's *Virginia County Supervisors' Manual*, is now in stock. The Supervisors' Manual is the number one resource on the framework of county government and the responsibilities of the county board.

ORDER YOUR ALL-NEW VOLUME NOW

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Questions? Call 804.788.6652.



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).



COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION MANAGER | Prince William County | Posted June 19



PROJECT MANAGER/PROJECT INSPECTOR | Albemarle County | Posted June 19



LEGAL ASSISTANT: COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY'S OFFICE | Albemarle County | Posted June 19



WATER PRODUCTION APPRENTICE / SPECIALIST I / SPECIALIST II | James City County | Posted June 18



DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Bedford County | Posted June 18



DEPUTY TOWN MANAGER | Town of Woodstock | Posted June 18



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - RECRUITMENT | Clarke County | Posted June 14



FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALIST | Montgomery County | Posted June 14



CUSTODIAN I | James City County | Posted June 14



BENEFITS PROGRAM SPECIALIST I/II | James City County | Posted June 14



DATA ANALYSIS TECHNICIAN | James City County | Posted June 14



LIBRARIAN II - ADULT PROGRAMING | James City County | Posted June 14



DEPUTY SHERIFF | Cumberland County | Posted June 13



ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTOR I/II/III | James City County | Posted June 13



ROANOKE SENIOR STORMWATER ENGINEER FIELDS OPERATIONS MANAGER - CIVIL ENGINEER II | City of Roanoke | Posted June 13



DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL LANDFILL | Stafford County | Posted June 11



DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM | King George County | Posted June 11



COMBINATION INSPECTOR | Madison County | Posted June 10



BUILDING OFFICIAL |
Madison County | Posted June 10



BUSINESS TAX ASSESSMENT SUPERVISOR |
Chesterfield County | Posted June 10



ADMIN SERVICES COORDINATOR | James City County |
Posted June 7



INSTRUCTOR I/II/III SPECIAL INTEREST (ARC) | James
City County | Posted June 7



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | James City County |
Posted June 7



MAIL COURIER | James
City County | Posted June 7



RECREATION LEADER (CHILD WATCH) | James City County
| Posted June 7



ASSISTANT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR/PLANNER |
Amherst County | Posted June 7



UTILITY OPERATOR |
Montgomery County | Posted June 6



Town of Ashland PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR | Town of Ashland | Posted
June 6



PROGRAM EVALUATION MANAGER | Loudoun County | Posted
June 6



CARROLL COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Carroll County |
Posted June 5



COUNTY ATTORNEY |
Louisa County | Posted June 4



INTERN/EMERGENCY SERVICES OFFICE | Montgomery
County | Posted June 4



DSS - DIVISION DIRECTOR/SERVICES | Spotsylvania
County | Posted June 4



DSS - DIVISION DIRECTOR /BENEFITS | Spotsylvania
County | Posted June 4



DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES | Spotsylvania
County | Posted June 4



DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES | Spotsylvania
County | Posted June 4



COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST II | Fairfax County |
Posted June 3



SENIOR COMMUNITY SPECIALIST (PLANNER IV) | Fairfax
County | Posted June 3



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS | City of Fredericksburg |
Posted June 3



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS - UTILITIES | City of
Fredericksburg | Posted June 3



ASSISTANT COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY I OR II | Gloucester County | Posted May 31



LIFEGUARD | James City
County | Posted May 31



PROJECT COORDINATOR (I OR II) | Albemarle County | Posted
May 31



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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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