

# COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the  
Virginia Association of Counties

July 17, 2019



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## County Officials' Summit

**August 15 | [Registration Form](#) | [Book Your Group Rate By July 25](#)**

The 2019 VACo County Officials' Summit is on the horizon and will soon bring you another dynamic political discussion. This year we turn our gaze to the state legislature and examine the policy goals of each party as they vie for control of the General Assembly.

We look forward to hearing from representatives of the House and Senate as they share their respective visions with County Supervisors, administrators and staff. The [agenda](#) also includes Rockingham County Supervisor Billy Kyger and Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay speaking about "Bridging the Urban/Rural Divide," and sharing the importance of all counties, regardless of size or location, working together.

[Register online today](#) and join your peers in Richmond on Thursday, August 15, 2019, for VACo's County Officials' Summit. The legislative portion of the event runs from 8:30am to 12:30pm. Lunch is provided with event registration.

VACo Steering Committee Meetings will follow the lunch hour, with the first block of meetings beginning at 1:30pm and the second block at 3:15pm.

VACo's Board of Directors Meeting will take place at 9am on Friday, August 16.

There is a [special group rate](#) reserved for VACo Members at the Delta Hotels Richmond Downtown. The deadline to reserve at the special rate is July 25.

Interested in sponsoring the Summit? [Click here for more information.](#)

**VACo Contact:** [Angela Inglett](#)



Welcome to the VACo Communications Shop Podcast. The Shop is open for a discussion on local government communications with host Gage Harter and guests.



[Listen to Episode 4](#) | Crisis Communications | Miriam Dickler | Rebel Tree, LLC



[Listen to Episode 3](#) | VACo's Approach to Writing | Katie Boyle & Jeremy Bennett



[Listen to Episode 2](#) | Public Speaking | Jeremy Bennett & Angela Inglett



[Listen to Episode 1](#) | The Communications Shop Grand Opening | Joe Lerch

## Joint Subcommittee Discusses Status of State Training Centers, Settlement Agreement with US Department of Justice

On July 8, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) Commissioner Hughes Melton [briefed](#) members of the Joint Subcommittee to Consult on the Plan to Close State Training Centers, outlining the state's progress in complying with the 2012 Settlement Agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice and providing an update on the scheduled closure of the Central Virginia Training Center. The state has invested significant resources in complying with the provisions of the Settlement Agreement, but additional costs remain in order for the state to achieve full compliance and exit the Agreement in 2021, a goal outlined by Commissioner Melton in his presentation.

Under the Settlement Agreement, which resolved an alleged violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Virginia must rebalance its system of services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to prioritize community-based services, rather than relying on care provided at the state's training centers. The Settlement Agreement requires individuals to be served in the most integrated setting appropriate to meet their needs, consistent with their informed choice. Virginia opted to close four of its five training centers in order to direct resources toward community-based care. Southside Virginia Training Center closed in 2014, followed by Northern Virginia Training Center in 2016 and Southwest Virginia Training Center in 2018. Most residents of these centers opted for living arrangements in group homes, where services are provided through redesigned Medicaid waivers. Southeastern Virginia Training Center is planned to remain open, with a capacity of 75 beds to serve individuals whose needs cannot be met in the community.

Central Virginia Training Center (CVTC), which is scheduled to close by June 2020, still houses 45 individuals, of whom 24 have identified homes or are making final decisions on their choice of provider. Nine individuals are still in discussions with DBHDS about an appropriate placement. There have been concerns throughout the process of closing CVTC about whether individuals with high-level medical needs can be appropriately cared for in the community, and Joint Subcommittee members were particularly concerned about whether proposed alternatives to CVTC would offer a comparable level of care. Twelve CVTC residents could be served in an intermediate care facility (ICF) on the property under a proposal submitted under the Public-Private Education and Infrastructure Act (PPEA) to DBHDS last fall. DBHDS is in the process of reviewing the proposal, which, as outlined in Commissioner Melton's presentation, would reuse two buildings on the site, one for the ICF and one for an eight-bed children's residential crisis stabilization unit. Uncertainty remains about reuse of the property, which includes buildings that will likely require special precautions to abate or raze due to their age and expected contamination with asbestos. In addition, approximately \$25 million in bonds related to earlier renovations on the property remain outstanding.

The state continues to make progress in complying with the terms of the Settlement Agreement, according to Commissioner Melton, but needs to expand its crisis services, improve its use of integrated settings, and work on quality assurance and risk management. The most recent report to the United States District Court for the Eastern District by the Independent Reviewer appointed to monitor the state's progress notes that the state has exceeded its requirements for the creation of home and community-based services waiver slots, which allow individuals to live in community-based settings with appropriate supports. The Independent Reviewer's [June 2019 report](#) cites day support and residential service capacity as areas for improvement, as well as case management and the state's ability to serve individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities in crisis in home or community-based settings.

Commissioner Melton made a similar assessment of the state's crisis system in his briefing, noting that the state needs to enhance its community-based crisis stabilization capacity. The state currently offers the Regional Education Assessment Crisis Services Habilitation (REACH) program, which provides crisis assessment and intervention for individuals with developmental disabilities who are at risk for homelessness, incarceration, or hospitalization; the Independent Reviewer points out that REACH services are taxed by increasing numbers of individuals in crisis. Enhanced mobile offerings are needed, as well as crisis stabilization programs to provide short-term supports to children. Commissioner Melton suggested in his presentation that a comprehensive crisis system that invests in prevention and aims to serve people closer to home, in addition to being an element of the Settlement Agreement, would dovetail with two other major initiatives underway at DBHDS: implementation of STEP-VA, which includes a crisis services component, and efforts to address the overcrowding at state hospitals.

Commissioner Melton told the Joint Subcommittee that the state is working towards exiting the Settlement Agreement in 2021, which would require achieving full compliance with the components of the Agreement in 2020 and maintaining compliance for a full year. DBHDS is currently working with the Court and the Department of Justice on agreed-upon indicators for the remaining elements of the Agreement. Joint Subcommittee members strongly encouraged Commissioner Melton to provide estimates of expected costs for compliance to the legislature as soon as possible. Legislators plan to discuss the issue further at a future meeting of the Joint Subcommittee on Health and Human Resources Oversight, which consists of members from the "money committees" and has a broad mandate to review the Medicaid program and the operations of agencies within the Health and Human Resources secretariat.

**VACo Contact:** [Katie Boyle](#)

## Preliminary Figures for FY 2019 State General Fund Collections Indicate Revenue Surplus



Governor Northam announced late last week that the state appears to have concluded FY 2019 with a General Fund revenue surplus of approximately \$778 million. The additional revenues are largely attributable to growth in nonwithholding income tax collections, which increased by 14.5 percent. In contrast, revenues from payroll withholding – traditionally the mainstay of the state General Fund -- appear to have lagged the forecast of 3.8 percent growth, with 3.6 percent growth. Sales tax collections similarly underperformed the forecast of 3.7 percent growth, increasing by 3.4 percent.

An estimated \$450 million of the additional revenues will be set aside for one-time individual income tax refunds of up to \$110 for single filers and \$220 for joint filers. These payments are intended to mitigate the effects on Virginia taxpayers of changes to the federal income tax code that encouraged use of the standard deduction rather than itemization in filing federal income tax returns; Virginia’s standard deduction is less generous than the federal standard deduction, but must be claimed if a filer claims the standard deduction on his or her federal return. Refunds are planned to be issued in October 2019.

The Governor will be providing more detailed information on FY 2019 revenues to the “money committees” on August 20. It is anticipated that the Governor may also offer at that time some preliminary indications of items that will be priorities for the Administration in compiling its proposed 2020-2022 biennium budget, which the Governor will propose in December. Virginia received a welcome accolade earlier in the week with the [announcement](#) that it had returned to the top ranking in CNBC’s annual “America’s Top States for Business” report. Virginia had held the top spot in 2007, 2009, and 2011, and was ranked third in 2018. The state scored “A” or “A-Plus” rankings in the categories of workforce quality (weighted most heavily in the rankings), education levels, and overall business friendliness.

Unemployment remains low in Virginia, although it increased by 0.1 percentage point in May (from 2.9 to 3.0 percent), [according to the Virginia Employment Commission](#). Total nonfarm employment declined slightly between April 2019 and May 2019 (by 0.1 percent, representing 3,200 jobs), but increased by 32,000 jobs (0.8 percent) between May 2018 and May 2019. National jobs figures bounced back in June after a disappointing May; [the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported](#) an increase in total nonfarm payroll employment of 224,000 in June, with the national unemployment rate at 3.7 percent. At the June meeting of the Federal Reserve’s Federal Open Market Committee, members voted to make no changes to the federal funds rate, but signaled an openness to a rate cut in the future, which is anticipated to take place at the Committee’s meeting at the end of July, [according to news reports](#). The Committee’s June statement pointed to general positive economic trends in job growth, unemployment, and household spending, but noted that “indicators of business fixed investment have been soft.”

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)





Visit Roanoke County

One of the great treasures of Virginia's Blue Ridge is Explore Park, an 1,100-acre destination at Milepost 115 of the Blue Ridge Parkway and situated along the Roanoke River in Roanoke County. Many people enjoy mountain biking (even with kids), some enjoy a stroll along one of the trails, and still others visit for the historic buildings. Shucks, some are so smitten with the park that they discover it's the perfect setting for a wedding.

A relatively recent addition to Explore Park is camping and overnight lodging, and there are now more opportunities than ever to get outside and be one with nature. From the usual RV and primitive tent sites to brand new amenities like pod cabins and canvas tents, it's highly likely your ideal camping experience can be had at Explore Park in Roanoke.

Camping at Explore Park is available all year with December through March considered "off season" for the rate schedule. All primitive and tent sites are closed during the off season with the exception of two sites. Camping at Explore Park is provided by two vendors: Blue Mountain Adventures and Don's Cab-Inns.

**Pod Cabins**

Arch shaped and reminiscent of a Hobbit house (just not in the side of a hill), the pod cabins (pictured at the top of this post) are more spacious than you might imagine. Heat and air are provided for the four-person shelter, and there's also a microwave, refrigerator, and coffee maker inside. Linens are not included but can be rented.

**Yurts**

Yurts have grown in popularity and are perhaps the finest accommodation at Explore Park. Complete with a bathroom, each yurt sleeps up to six people thanks to a queen bed and a three-level double bunk bed. You'll feel fine in the summer with air conditioner provided, and there's a kitchenette with coffee maker, refrigerator, and microwave. Linens are not provided but may be rented.

**SOURCE**

[VisitRoanokeVa.Com](http://VisitRoanokeVa.Com) | Casey L. Higgins



and stay in a Pod Cabin or a Yurt





# 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

# The 2019 VACo County Officials' Summit

AUGUST 15, 2019

DELTA HOTELS RICHMOND DOWNTOWN



## HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE 2019 VACO COUNTY OFFICIALS' SUMMIT?

Join us on August 15, 2019, as we dive into dynamic discussions with representatives from the General Assembly, discover more about the common challenges of rural and urban counties, and deliberate the policy goals and positions of each VACo Steering Committee.

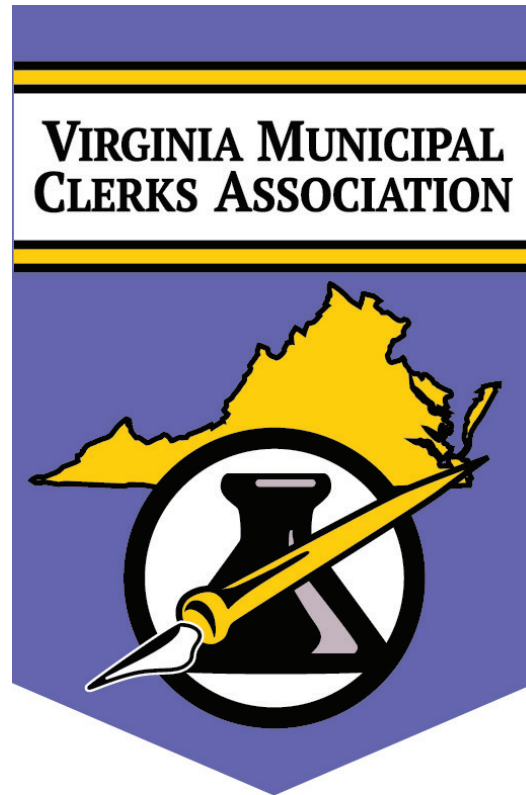
The Summit is a must-attend-event for every VACo Member, providing context for November's elections and important insight about how this year's electoral issues may impact your locality. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to learn more about political decisions facing our Commonwealth.

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!**

Visit [VACo's website](#) to learn more about the event's agenda, download the [registration form](#), or reserve accommodations at the Delta Richmond Downtown through VACo's [special group rate](#).

Please be aware that VACo's group rate expires on July 25th.





# Annual Institute and Academy

October 9 – 11, 2019

Virginia Beach

[www.vmca.com](http://www.vmca.com)

The Virginia Municipal Clerks Association will hold its Annual Institute and Academy October 9 – 11, 2019 in Virginia Beach. A Pre-Institute and Academy Workshop, (The Power of “Yes, And” – Improving Communication Through Improv Comedy, facilitated by David Webster) will be held October 8, 2019. In addition to the Pre-Institute and Academy, clerks may also participate in an Athenian Leadership Society Dialogue on Saturday, October 12, 2019 facilitated by Dr. Jane Long, IIMC Education Director and VMCA Clerk Libby Hume, MMC, from Cape Charles. For additional information regarding these events, please visit [www.vmca.com](http://www.vmca.com).



## Deadline for public notice to apply for state broadband grants August 6: Deadline to apply September 3



The Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) has announced that \$19 million in grants in FY 2020 will be made available to local governments (includes towns, cities, counties, economic and industrial development authorities, broadband or wireless authorities, planning district commissions, etc.) to extend broadband service to currently unserved areas. To be eligible the local government must include a private-sector provider as a co-applicant.

All applicants are required to issue a Public Notice detailing the proposed VATI project no later than Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at 5 p.m. Applicants must submit a copy of the Public Notice to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) at: [vati@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:vati@dhcd.virginia.gov). All notices will be posted by DHCD no later than Friday, August 9, 2019.

Applications are made through the DHCD Centralized Application Management System (CAMS) online web portal. For more information on CAMS go to <https://dmz1.dhcd.virginia.gov/camsportal/Login.aspx>

Final proposals are to be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on September 3, 2019.

For more information on VATI, including [Program Guidelines and Criteria](#) and an archived [How to Apply Webinar](#), go to <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/virginia-telecommunication-initiative-vati>.

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

## 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](mailto: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.



### 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.

Book your room for the Summit at Delta Hotels Richmond Downtown by the July 27<sup>th</sup> cutoff. Use this [online link](#) for the VACo group rate or call 1-844-781-7397 and tell them you are with the VACo County Officials group.



**County Officials' Summit**  
**August 15-16, 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.

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  
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**Contact Valerie Russell: [vrussell@vaco.org](mailto: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**

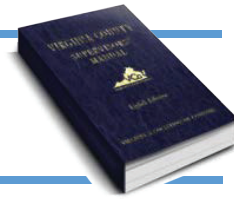


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\$75 EACH**

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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@vacounty.org).



**CIVIL ENGINEER I** | Town of Christiansburg | Posted July 11



**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING FOR LAND DEVELOPMENT & OPERATIONS** | Town of Christiansburg | Posted July 11



**ASSISTANT COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY I OR II** | Gloucester County | Posted July 10



**LIBRARY CLERK (PART TIME)** | Gloucester County | Posted July 10



**SOFTWARE ANALYST I OR II** | Gloucester County | Posted July 10



**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES** | Gloucester County | Posted July 10



**UTILITY FOREMAN** | Gloucester County | Posted July 10



**UTILITY MAINTENANCE WORKER OR TECHNICIAN UTILITY MECHANIC** | Gloucester County | Posted July 10



**CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE** | James City County | Posted July 12



**CUSTODIAN I** | James City County | Posted July 12



**TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT TECHNICIAN** | James City County | Posted July 12



**VICTIM ADVOCATE** | James City County | Posted July 12



**VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM ASSISTANT** | James City County | Posted July 12



**FIREFIGHTER-MEDIC** | New Kent County | Posted July 11



**PLANNING DIRECTOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR** | Essex County | Posted July 11



**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR/SUBDIVISION AGENT** | Northampton County | Posted July 11



**LIBRARY CLERK (WORK AS REQUIRED)** | Gloucester County | Posted July 10



**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR** | Gloucester County | Posted July 10



### CHEMIST I-III

Spotsylvania County | Posted July 10



AIRPORT GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE KEEPER PT | New Kent County | Posted July 10



### MAINTENANCE

SPECIALIST | Frederick County | Posted July 10



### LANDFILL TECHNICIAN

Frederick County | Posted July 10



### DEPUTY COUNTY

ADMINISTRATOR | Frederick County | Posted July 10



### FAMILY SERVICES

SPECIALIST | Montgomery County | Posted July 10



### FIRE & RESCUE SYSTEM

CHIEF | Prince William County | Posted July 9



### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OF FINANCE | Loudoun Water | Posted July 9



### UTILITY SPECIALIST

New Kent County | Posted July 9



### PLANNER

Westmoreland County | Posted July 8



### WATER DISTRIBUTION

APPRENTICE | James City County | Posted July 8



### ADMINISTRATIVE

COORDINATOR | James City County | Posted July 8



### SENIOR BUDGET &

ACCOUNTING ANALYST | James City County | Posted July 8



ACCOUNTANT | Isle of Wight County | Posted July 3



### FINANCIAL ANALYST

Isle of Wight County | Posted July 3



### PSYCHIATRIST

Hanover County | Posted July 3



### BUDGET SYSTEMS

SPECIALIST | Hanover County | Posted July 3



### CSA ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT PT | Amherst County | Posted July 2



### STORMWATER

ENGINEER/PLANNER | King George County | Posted July 2



### DEPUTY DIRECTOR

OF GO VIRGINIA & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | Department of Housing & Community Development | Posted July 2



### ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER | Roanoke County | Posted June 28



### PLANNER DIRECTOR/

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR | Essex County | Posted June 28



### COMMUNICATIONS

MANAGER | James City County | Posted June 28



### ADMINISTRATIVE

COORDINATOR | James City County | Posted June 28



### ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT | James City County | Posted June 28





### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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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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