

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

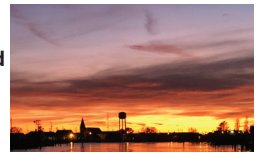
November 20, 2019



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Thank you
for making
the Annual
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Stephen W. Bowen Elected VACo President for 2019-2020

The membership of the Virginia Association of Counties elected Nottoway County Chairman Stephen W. Bowen as 2019-2020 President during VACo's 85th Annual Conference in Bath County. Bowen and other newly elected officers started their terms at VACo's Annual Business Meeting on November 12.

Bowen succeeds Wythe County Chairman Timothy A. Reeves, Sr., and becomes the second President from Nottoway County. C.S. Hooper, Jr., served as VACo President in 1970.

"I am humbled and honored to be elected VACo President and to have the opportunity to serve the association," Bowen said. "I was born and raised in Nottoway County on a tobacco farm where I developed a passion for mechanics. I graduated from Newport News Shipbuilding Apprentice School as a Journeyman Welder and later became a Master HVAC and Plumber Technician. I like working with my hands and fixing things. This will be my approach as VACo President."

Bowen parlayed his technical skills into a career in hospital facility operations. During his more than 30-year tenure at Piedmont Geriatric Hospital, Bowen learned the importance of government decisions and how they impact hospitals and health care for Virginians.

Bowen was first elected to the Nottoway County Board of Supervisors in 2008 to represent the Burkeville area where U.S. Route 360 meets U.S. Route 460 – the "Crossroads of Virginia."

Bowen also serves on the Nottoway County Planning Commission, the Nottoway County Planning Council, the Piedmont Geriatric Association, and the Piedmont Regional Jail Authority. Bowen actively supports VACo's mission and is a proud graduate of the 2012 Certified County Supervisors' program. He has served as Chairman of the VACo Nominating Committee and the VACo Economic Development and Planning Steering Committee.

Bowen enjoys his church, Pisgah Baptist, and has served many years as Chairman of the Deacons, Sunday School Director and President of the Lunenburg/Nottoway Gideons. Bowen loves working on the family farm with his three adult children, wife of 31 years and granddaughter.

"These are exciting and challenging times for Virginia's Counties," Bowen said. "Legislatively, we are fighting to get equal taxing authority, more state education funding, and connecting underserved and unserved areas with broadband. I will continue to fight for these necessary and vital goals. I look forward to this opportunity and can't wait to get started."

"Steve has a passion for public service and understands the different governing dynamics around the state," VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said. "He has a strong understanding of County issues and believes in our legislative program. We are excited to have Steve Bowen as our next President."





WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

10am – 3pm | Tuesday, December 3, 2019
LM Meeting Room | Libbie Mill Library
2100 Libbie Lake East Street | Henrico, VA 23230
[Agenda](#) | [Online Registration](#) | Cost: \$10

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Name: _____

County: _____ **Email:** _____

Professional Title: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Cost: \$10

Charge Options: **VISA** **MasterCard** **American Express** **Discover**

Name on Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ **Total to be Charged:** _____

Signature: _____

State Board of Elections Moves Forward with Plans for Early Voting, Election Security Standards

The State Board of Elections took action on November 18 on two significant initiatives stemming from legislation enacted in 2019 – the implementation of “no-excuse” absentee voting and the establishment of security standards for local information technology systems that interact with the state’s voter registration system. Both efforts will require additional resources for localities to implement; VACo will continue to advocate for state assistance to counties in elections administration.

No-Excuse Absentee Voting

Legislation that passed in 2019 authorizes voters to cast absentee ballots in person during the week prior to the election (from the second Saturday preceding the election through the Saturday immediately preceding the election) without needing to provide one of the statutory excuses for voting absentee, beginning with the November 2020 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 2019 legislation also directs the State Board to report on its plans for implementation, to include recommendations for any additional legislation that might be needed. In preparing the draft report, which was approved by the State Board on November 18, the Department of Elections held several meetings with stakeholders, including VACo; VACo encouraged the Department to take a flexible approach to implementation that would allow localities to establish satellite voting locations in a manner that best fits locality needs.

Among the report’s key recommendations are the following:

- The report does not recommend that the state dictate the placement of satellite early voting locations (such as by requiring a certain number of satellite locations per number of registered voters). It does suggest transferring the authority to establish satellite locations from the local electoral board (as provided in the 2019 legislation) to the local governing body, similar to the local governing body’s existing authority to establish polling places by ordinance.
- The report recommends the establishment of public notice requirements in the event of a change in satellite locations; these requirements would be more flexible than the notice requirements for a change in a polling place and would permit notice to be made via the locality’s website or a newspaper of general circulation.
- The report recommends that legislation be adopted to require some uniformity in the hours of operation for satellite voting locations, whether by requiring all the satellite locations within a locality to have the same hours of operation, or by requiring the same hours of operation for all satellite locations statewide.
- The report recommends expanding the “no-excuse” absentee period to 45 days in order to minimize voter confusion (under the 2019 legislation, prospective absentee in-person voters need an excuse from 45 days before the election until two Saturdays before the election, and an excuse would still be required for absentee voting by mail at all times).

VACo’s comments to the State Board expressed appreciation for the Department’s willingness to consider local governments’ perspective in drafting the report, and for the flexibility provided to localities in establishing satellite locations. VACo noted that extending the “no-excuse” absentee period during the 2020 session may be challenging for some counties, as localities have used the additional time afforded by the 2019 legislation’s delayed enactment to plan and budget for one week of early voting and may have to revise these plans in a compressed time period in order to accommodate 45 days of early voting. Accommodating even the eight days of early voting envisioned in the 2019 legislation will require additional resources from localities that need to establish satellite locations, which must be equipped with pollbooks and voting machines and staffed by officers of election.

Security Standards

At the November 18 meeting, the State Board also adopted security standards for the local technology systems that interact with VERIS, the state voter registration system. Authority to establish these standards was incorporated in legislation enacted in 2019; at the request of VACo and VML, language was added to the legislation requiring consultation with a workgroup of local IT professionals in developing the standards, as well as general cost estimates for their implementation. This workgroup met throughout the summer to discuss proposed standards, which address IT governance, physical security, password management, training, and incident response, among other areas. The standards as adopted by the State Board may be found in the [Board’s meeting packet](#) beginning on page 74.

Detailed information on the implementation of the new standards will be provided by the Department of Elections in the near future. As a first step, localities were asked earlier this fall to conduct two self-assessments by the end of the year in order to establish a baseline, which will shape local elections security plans. The Department of Elections recognizes that it will be difficult for localities to be in full compliance with all standards by fall 2020, and plans to use the results of the self-assessments to assist localities to the extent Department resources allow, such as by providing templates for required policies or other in-kind assistance.

VACo Recognizes Graduates of the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program



The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) recognized the 14th graduating class of the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program on November 12 during VACo's 85th Annual Conference in Bath County.

The Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program provides training to enhance the leadership and decision-making skills of county supervisors in the Commonwealth.

The nine graduates ([Group Photo](#)) of the 18-month certification program are:

Robert F. Babyok, Jr. | Louisa County | [Photo](#)

Floyd M. Brown, Jr. | Prince George County | [Photo](#)

James P. Crozier | Orange County | [Photo](#)

Amy H. DuBois | Mathews County | [Photo](#)

Garland H. Hamlett, Jr. | Charlotte County | [Photo](#)

Kay M. Pierantoni | Charlotte County

Cindy C. Shelton | Stafford County | [Photo](#)

Marlene J. Waymack | Prince George County | [Photo](#)

Robert S. Westbrook | Lancaster County | [Photo](#)

The Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program was created to provide VACo members with an opportunity to learn how to more effectively lead their communities.

"Congratulations to our newest graduates for completing one of VACo's premier educational programs," VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said. "We now have close to 90 graduates from more than 40 counties since the program's first class in 2006. I was proud to join the ranks of other graduates in 2016, and I can attest that this is a master's degree level program. I encourage more supervisors to participate in this unique educational program."

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

For more information about the County Supervisor Certification Program, contact [Dean Lynch](#).

Visit Accomack County and Tangier Island



Tangier, dubbed the “soft crab capital” of the nation, is a unique island located in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay. If you would like to see an unspoiled fishing village with quaint, narrow streets, then take a step back in time and visit Tangier Island today!

The people of Tangier, who speak with a lingering trace of Elizabethan accent, are warm, friendly and proud of their island. They live here because they like the lifestyle and have no desire to live on the mainland.

Spend some time on Tangier. Visit by air or sea. Stay for the night in one of the delightful bed and breakfasts, or take a day-trip on one of the ferries. An experience on Tangier Island will stay with you for years to come. It might be small in population, but the people of Tangier have a great love of the Chesapeake Bay and each other.



On your visit to Tangier Island you can enjoy one of the many award winning Tangier Island Restaurants, or spend the night in some of the oldest homes on the Island by booking a room in a Bed and Breakfast. There are numerous gift shops and craft stores to make your visit memorable. You can also explore the Tangier Island museum to take a step back in time and relish in the diverse history of hard work that comes from living on a remote Island.

SOURCE: tangier-island.com



Mark Your Calendars



VA-CHAMBER FOUNDATION

10TH ANNUAL VIRGINIA ECONOMIC SUMMIT

DECEMBER 6, 2019 | RICHMOND

PERSPECTIVES ON VIRGINIA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

Join us as we celebrate the CNBC rankings of Virginia as the #1 State for Business.



Arthur Brooks
Professor, Harvard Kennedy School and Business School; President Emeritus, AEI



The Honorable Tim Kaine
U.S. Senate (VA)



Lisa Sturtevant, PhD
Chief Economist Virginia REALTORS

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Why Virginia? A Perspective From Virginia's CEOs

Outlook on 2020: A Political Perspective On The State and National Landscape

Looking Ahead: Future State and National Economic Trends

Shaping Virginia's Future: A Perspective From Economic Development Thought Leaders

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**COUNTY
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Advocacy · Engagement · Action

2019 VACo Annual Conference



COUNTIES COMING TOGETHER

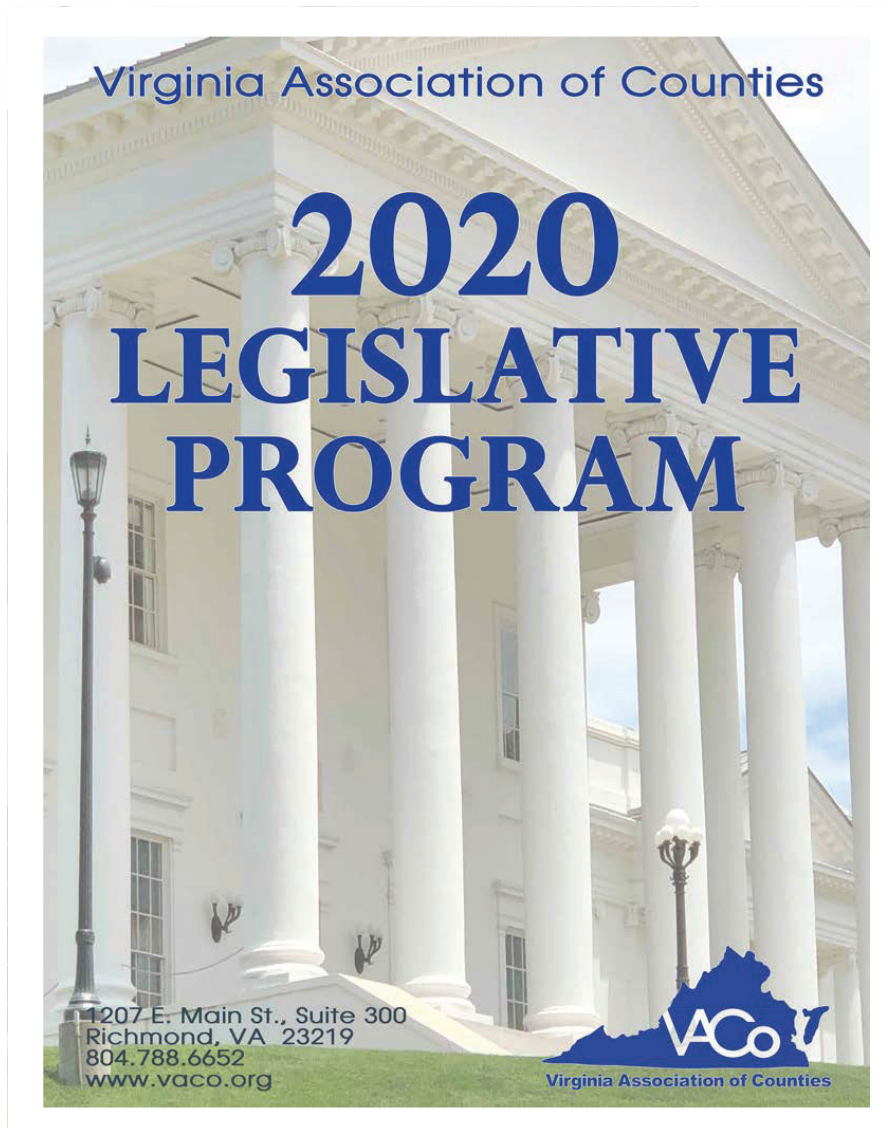
November 10-12, 2019 | Bath County

It was indeed an exceptional Annual Conference. Thank you attendees, exhibitors, partners, sponsors, legislators and speakers for making the few days we were together memorable.

We hope your Annual Conference experience will benefit your community and make Virginia and her Counties stronger. We look forward to seeing you again soon at one of VACo's education events.

[Annual Conference Recap](#) | [Annual Conference Concurrent Sessions](#)

VACo Releases 2020 Legislative Program



After months of steering committee meetings, lively debate and participation through the Association’s legislative process, VACo adopted its [2020 Legislative Program](#). The Legislative Program is organized according to VACo’s Steering Committees.

[VACo’s 2020 Legislative Program](#) addresses other priorities in the realms of Economic Development and Planning, Education, Environment and Agriculture, Finance, General Government, Health and Human Services, and Transportation.

VACo Contact: [Chris McDonald, Esq.](#)

State General Fund Collections Continue Strength in October; “Money Committees” Meeting This Week



Governor Northam announced last week that state General Fund (GF) revenues continued to demonstrate “solid growth” in October. Total GF collections increased by 9.6 percent in October, and on a fiscal year-to-date basis, total revenue collections have grown by 8.5 percent, comfortably ahead of the forecast of 1.2 percent growth. Individual income tax withholding collections have increased by 5.7 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, outpacing the forecast of 4.2 percent growth; this continued steady growth is welcome given that withholding collections narrowly missed their forecast in FY 2019. Nonwithholding collections continue to outperform the annual estimate, with collections up 20.7 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis; however, October is not a significant month for nonwithholding collections, and Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne strongly cautioned both House Appropriations and Senate Finance during his presentations in October that there is significant uncertainty about how nonwithholding collections will perform during the all-important final quarter of FY 2020. Sales tax collections in October, reflecting September sales, also continued to perform well, growing by 8 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis.

Governor Northam followed the positive revenue report with an additional piece of good economic news for the Commonwealth on November 19, [announcing](#) that Virginia’s seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate has dropped to 2.6 percent. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that between October 2018 and October 2019, total seasonally-adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 0.7 percent statewide, reflecting a gain of 29,600 jobs, with increases in employment in nine of the state’s ten metropolitan areas.

This week the “money committees” are holding their annual retreats, which provide an opportunity for members to receive briefings on general economic conditions and topics that are expected to play major roles in budget deliberations in the upcoming legislative session. Members of the House Appropriations and House Finance Committees met November 19 and 20, and the Senate Finance Committee will hold its retreat later this week. House Appropriations staff, although expressing similar concerns about the uncertainty surrounding individual income tax nonwithholding collections, expect FY 2020 GF revenue growth of 3 percent; under these projections, the state would conclude FY 2020 with \$428 million in additional revenues to address approximately \$90 million in agency-identified needs. Due to continued uncertainty about the possibility of an economic slowdown in the near future, staff recommends depositing any surplus FY 2020 revenues not otherwise required for the current fiscal year into the state’s cash reserves. (The budget outlook presentation may be found at [this link](#).)

Appropriations staff expect similarly modest but steady growth in GF revenues in the upcoming biennium, projecting growth of 3.1 percent in FY 2021 and 3.4 percent in FY 2022. Mandatory spending items identified by staff total \$2.15 billion over the biennium and include expected commitments such as growth in the Medicaid forecast, growth in the Children’s Services Act, rebenchmarking of the Standards of Quality, funding of Medicaid waivers associated with the state’s settlement with the Department of Justice, and costs associated with inmate medical care. High-priority spending items identified include funding for Commonwealth’s Attorneys’ staff, election security positions at the Department of Elections, additional deputy court clerks, broadband investments, workforce development, and potential deposits to the Water Quality Improvement Fund; this list totals \$662 million over the biennium.

The Joint Advisory Board of Economists (JABE) met on October 17, and the Governor’s Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates (GACRE) will meet November 25; these recommendations will be factored into the revised revenue forecasts that will be presented to the money committees on December 17 along with the Governor’s proposed biennium budget.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Sets FY 2021-2022 Employer Contribution Rates for Political Subdivisions



On November 19, the Benefits and Actuarial Committee of the VRS Board met to review actuarial results for political subdivision retirement plans, the Virginia Local Disability Program (VLDP), Local Health Insurance Credit (HIC), and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB). As with the State and Teacher plans, the recent lowering of the System's assumed rate of return (ROR) from 7.0% to 6.75% resulted in the actuarial staff mostly recommending increases in employer contributions for the various plans. Employer contribution rates will vary by political subdivision, but in aggregate, the average contribution rate will increase from 7.60% to 8.33%.

As previously [reported](#), VRS uses the actuarial valuations for employer contribution rate setting on odd years in advance of the next biennium. The more conservative forecast for ROR had the biggest impact in the recommendation to raise employer contribution rates. Even though over 60% of local political subdivision plans have a funded status greater than 90%, with more than 35% of plans funded at over 100%, \$3.3 billion in aggregate unfunded liabilities remain. The recommended increases reflect changes in funding policy from 2013 that seek to amortize unfunded liabilities and improve the long-term fiscal health of the System.

The Health Insurance Credit contribution rates for constitutional officers, social service employees, and general registrars were recommended for approval at 0.36%, 0.38%, and 0.39% respectively. The contribution rates for VLDP Teachers and VLDP Political subdivisions were recommended for approval at 0.47% and 0.83% respectively. These rates represent modest decreases for HIC rates and modest increases for VLDP.

Contribution rates for political subdivisions participating in the LODA Fund were recommended at \$695.18 per eligible full-time-employee (FTE). This represents a decrease from the previous rate of \$705.77 per eligible FTE mainly due to a decrease in Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) healthcare premiums. However, these costs are expected to rise in subsequent years and such changes will likely be reflected in future rate setting.

Each political subdivision will receive its valuation and contribution rate from VRS in January, based on its individual experience and population covered. Final contribution rates will be available at the conclusion of the 2020 General Assembly and will take effect on July 1, 2020 for FY 2021-2022. Despite the recent contribution rate increases resultant from the changed ROR, over the past ten years average employer contribution rates (including the defined contribution component) for local political subdivisions have been decreasing. This indicates the long-term health of these plans and the long-term savings resultant from pension reform. More information on VRS rate setting can be found [here](#).

Lastly, the most recent edition of VRS Member News was released and can be read [here](#). Among other content, this edition includes a feature on VRS members in Mathews County, returning to work after retirement, and financial literacy resources.

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

2019 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia

On November 14, the Virginia Board of Education ([VBOE](#)) met and reviewed their annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the condition and needs of public schools in Virginia. In addition to detailing VBOE’s proposed revisions to the Standards of Quality (SOQs), the report provides a useful overview of the state of K-12 education across the Commonwealth. The report highlights many of the challenges school divisions face as well as the extraordinary efforts made by localities to ensure that an educational program of high quality is continually maintained.

VBOE is required by [code](#) to submit an annual report by December 1 that includes but is not limited to, a complete listing of the current SOQs and changes recommended by VBOE, an overview of the accreditation status of schools, and reporting requirements of local school divisions. The recent revisions to the SOQs prescribed by VBOE, the process in which they were prescribed, and their potential fiscal impact has been covered in detail [elsewhere](#). However, some of the statistics mentioned in the report are worthy of mention.

The SOQs set the minimum educational requirements to be provided by local school divisions and funded by a combination of state and local school resources. The local share is determined by the Composite Index Formula (LCI) which is adjusted so that the statewide average local share is 45 percent and the statewide average state share is 55 percent. While this occurs for SOQ funded responsibilities, the cost sharing formula does not reflect the actual prevailing costs of maintaining a high standard K-12 education system.

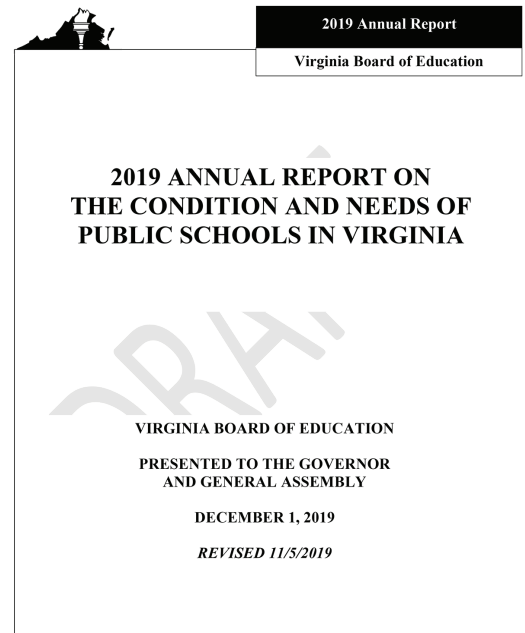
The VBOE report recognizes that local governments are funding a disproportionate share of the cost of K-12 education in Virginia. Every locality in Virginia funds its share of K-12 responsibilities in excess of the minimum standards as prescribed by the SOQs. In fact, the majority of public school funding in Virginia, 51 percent, is from localities. The state contributes 42 percent of public school funding, with seven percent from federal sources. In FY 2017-2018, Virginia localities invested \$4.2 billion above the required local effort for SOQ programs. These figures reflect the eight percent decrease in state support in real dollars since the 2009-2010 school year.

Despite the decrease in state funding, during the same period the total student population across the state increased by 5 percent, or 54,114 students, from 1,235,062 students in 2008-2009 to 1,289,176 students in 2018-2019. Furthermore, the number of economically disadvantaged students, English Learners, and students with certain disabilities has increased disproportionately. Economically disadvantaged students, (I.e. students who 1) are eligible for Free/Reduced Meals; 2) receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); 3) are eligible for Medicaid; or 4) identify as either migrant or experiencing homelessness) increased by 31 percent or 121,684 students. The number of English Learner students increased by 23 percent or 20,138 students and now represent eight percent of the total student population. Students identified with autism increased by 131 percent or 13,363 students, while students identified in the other health impairments disability category increased by 34 percent or 8,862 students. Additional resources are needed to ensure that these students achieve equitable and successful educational outcomes.

The revisions to the SOQs [prescribed](#) by VBOE specifically request that the General Assembly remove the recession era cap on state aid to support positions. Removal of the “support cap” would yield \$371.6 million in additional state funding to localities to help pay for positions currently funded entirely by local effort. VACo continues to urge the General Assembly to provide full state funding for public education in accordance with VBOE recommendations where such recommendations coincide prevailing local practice.

[The full annual report can be found here.](#)

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



New contract with Dominion Energy to purchase electricity will save counties money



Dominion EnergySM

The Virginia Energy Purchasing Governmental Association (VEPGA), a joint powers association of more than 170 local government entities (including 37 counties), has signed a new contract to purchase electricity from Dominion Energy for the period August 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022. While an Agreement in Principle was reached earlier this year, the final contract language was executed in late October and is in effect as of August 1, 2019.

Unlike residential and commercial customers, electricity rates for government entities are not regulated by the State Corporation Commission (SCC). VEPGA, created in 2002 pursuant to authority provided in the Virginia Code, negotiates multi-year electricity contracts with Dominion Energy on behalf of its members. Analysis by VEPGA consultants estimates savings to VEPGA members (in the aggregate) of millions of dollars each year.

According to VEPGA, the new agreement ... *achieves approximately \$32.55 million in savings over the contract term, as compared to Dominion's original offer. It also provides for up to \$10 million in credits beginning in 2022, contingent on Dominion's spending over the contract term on "Grid Transformation" activities authorized by 2018 state legislation and approved by the Virginia State Corporation Commission.*

This [overview](#) of the contract is posted on the VEPGA website. The contract documents are posted on the VEPGA website at <http://vepga.org/contract-materials/>.

VEPGA and Dominion Energy will hold regional meetings later this year to provide members additional details on the contract. VACo will provide information on the meeting dates and locations when they become available

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

JOIN OUR TEAM



Virginia Association of Counties

Education Programs and Business Development

Statewide association seeks a dynamic individual with experience or interest in educational programming and business development. This position will involve planning relevant and robust educational programs and training for association members as well as working with business partners of the organization. Knowledge or experience in local, state and federal government or business associations a plus. Strong analytical, organizational and interpersonal skills important. Flexibility and ability to work under time constraints and deadlines, and to perform multiple tasks is required.

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university and relevant experience required. Please provide resume, writing sample, references and salary requirements to the Virginia Association of Counties. Applications must be received by December 9, 2019.

Virginia Association of Counties
1207 E. Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219
vrussell@vaco.org

GOVERNOR'S EMS AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT THE 40th ANNUAL VIRGINIA EMS SYMPOSIUM

The 2019 Governor's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Award winners were announced at the 40th Annual Governor's EMS Awards Ceremony in Norfolk, Virginia. These awards, given in Governor Ralph Northam's name, recognize outstanding EMS providers and organizations from across the Commonwealth for their demonstrated level of excellence and dedication to the EMS system.

Presented in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Office of Emergency Medical Services' Annual EMS Symposium, the awards ceremony caps off the week-long training event. The largest EMS training event in the Commonwealth and one of the largest in the nation, this year's symposium welcomed more than 1,700 participants. The symposium offers each participant the opportunity to earn up to 26 hours of continuing education credits for recertification as an EMS provider via more than 400 class sessions.

"We celebrated our 40th anniversary of the Virginia EMS Symposium this year, which marked a monumental milestone for this event! It highlighted the reason why we continue to bring this training opportunity to our providers year after year. It is because of their commitment to the EMS profession, their conscientiousness to maintaining their education and their dedication to saving lives," said Gary Brown, director, Virginia Office of EMS. "I am honored to recognize all of the 2019 Governor's EMS Award nominees and winners for their excellence in the field and thank them for their tireless efforts!"

The VDH Chief Deputy Commissioner for Public Health and Preparedness Dr. Parham Jaber, who also attended the Governor's EMS Awards ceremony, said, "I feel privileged to be in the presence of such an outstanding group of individuals, who selflessly devote their lives to protecting the health and well-being of all people in Virginia. Congratulations to this year's award winners and thank you for your continued service to Virginia's EMS System."

The 2019 Governor's EMS Award winners are:

- The Governor's EMS Award for Excellence in EMS – Byron Andrews, III, Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad, Alexandria Fire Department
- The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding EMS Administrator (The Kent J. Weber Trophy) – Anne Marsh, Arlington County Fire Department
- The Governor's EMS Award for Physician with Outstanding Contribution to EMS (The Frank M. Yeiser Trophy) – Dan Avstreich, MD, FACEP, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department
- The Governor's EMS Award for Nurse with Outstanding Contribution to EMS – Janet McCoig, BSN, RN, Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center
- The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding EMS Prehospital Educator – Brian McIntosh, Chesapeake Fire Department, Tidewater Community College and Portsmouth Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services
- The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding EMS Prehospital Provider – Christopher Adams, Lynchburg Fire Department
- The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Health and Safety – Rappahannock EMS Council's Critical Incident Stress Management Team – Therapy Dogs and Clergy Volunteers
- The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS for Children Samuel Bartle, MD, VCU Health
- The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding EMS Agency – York County Department of Fire and Life Safety
- The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Telecommunication – Virgil "JR" Powell, Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center
- Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Emergency Preparedness and Response (The James A. Nogle, Jr. Trophy) – Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System

An additional award is presented at the ceremony to recognize the outstanding contributions to EMS by a high school senior. This is a scholarship award provided by the Virginia Office of EMS in conjunction with the State EMS Advisory Board. This year, two extraordinary high school seniors were selected:

- The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS by a High School Senior (The Dr. Carol Gilbert \$5,000 Scholarship) – Colton Allison, Harrisonburg Rescue Squad and Zoie Sadler, Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad in Northumberland County



Governor’s Environmental Excellence Awards

Governor’s Environmental Excellence Awards – Applications Due December 5

Virginia counties are eligible to apply for the [Governor’s Environmental Excellence Awards](#), an annual program to recognize successful and innovative efforts that improve Virginia’s environment. The program is administered by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). There are four broad categories of awards with multiple Gold, Silver and Bronze level award winners for each category along with some applicants earning Honorable Mention.

Award categories include:

Sustainability Program: DEQ considers environmental sustainability as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the environmental resource needs of future generations. This category is intended to provide recognition to organizations or facilities that can document the success of their sustainability program by providing evidence of:

- A culture of environmental sustainability;
- Recent accomplishments related to reducing their environmental footprint; and
- A commitment to future sustainability-oriented actions.

Environmental Project: This category is intended to recognize activities or processes implemented by a facility or organization within the past five years that are directed at a single goal to improve the environment beyond what is required by regulation. Examples include, but are not limited to, projects aimed at reducing waste generation, water consumption or pollutant releases, increasing water reuse, green infrastructure, or use and access to clean energy; and adapting to the impacts of a changing climate.

Land Conservation: This category is intended to recognize exemplary land conservation work within the Commonwealth. Examples include outstanding land conservation easement or fee simple acquisition projects that permanently protected lands with high conservation values to the development of an integrated prioritized land conservation plan for an organization or agency region of coverage.

Virginia Outdoors Plan Implementation: This category is intended to recognize outdoor recreation accomplishments meeting the 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan goals and objectives. Awards will be directed in three categories: trail development, public access to waterways including water trails, and other recreational uses and scenic resource recognition. In 2019 county winners included; Prince William County, Roanoke County and Chesterfield County. Information on previous winners can be found on the [Award Winners page](#).

Applications are due by COB 12/5/19. The Department of Environmental Quality will be happy to assist you with your application. Questions should be directed to Meghann Quinn at 804-698-4021 or Meghann.Quinn@DEQ.Virginia.gov.

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



Celebrate 50 Years of County Innovation

Applications are now open for the National Association of Counties (NACo) [2020 Achievement Awards!](#) Join us in celebrating 50 years of county innovation by applying today.

Since 1970, the NACo Achievement Awards have recognized outstanding county government programs and services. Through a non-competitive application process, noteworthy programs receive awards in 18 categories that cover a vast range of county responsibilities. By participating, your county can earn national recognition.

The 18 "best of category" winners will be recognized on stage at the 2020 NACo Annual Conference in Orange County/Orlando, Fla., and all winners will be recognized in the program book and online. We also provide a customizable press release for you to share the good news with the media and county residents.

We encourage all counties, parishes and boroughs to apply.

EARLY BIRD APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 9, 2020 (save \$25 off the application fee)

FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 30, 2020

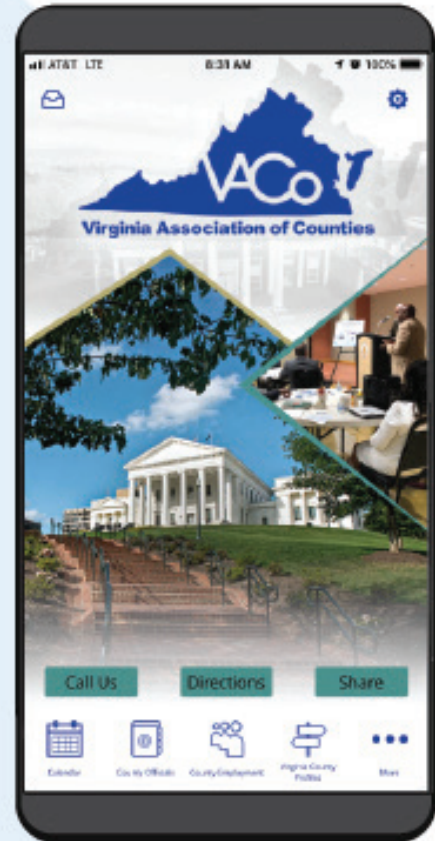
Please view the [online brochure](#) or email awards@naco.org with any questions about this year's application process.



APPLY NOW

DOWNLOAD

our new app



The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) mobile application is a valuable tool for County officials and staff to better serve their communities. With the VACo mobile app, users can easily stay informed about issues important to Counties with many features, including:

- * VACo Events Registration and Info
- * VACo Member Directory
- * Legislative News and Alerts | Capitol Contact
- * VACo Chat
- * County Pulse Podcast
- * Employment Opportunities

Downloading the app is easy...

- Scan the QR Code or search "Virginia Assn of Counties" from the iTunes or Google Play Store
- Opt-in for VACo Push Notifications to receive important VACo alerts
- For access to the most features, request an account with your email and a password
- Once your account is approved, members will have access to all the features.

2020 FINANCE FORUM

JANUARY 6, 2020

10AM - 3:30PM

LOCATION: DELTA HOTELS RICHMOND DOWNTOWN



Fee - \$90 thru Dec. 1
Dec. 2 & after - \$100

Cosponsored by **VACo and VML**

VACo County Supervisors' Forum

March 20-21, 2020 | Omni Richmond Hotel



The Forum: Virginia Association of Counties offers the County Supervisors' Forum to supervisors and county board members to focus on critical issues facing counties today: financial responsibilities, schools, economic development, transportation, environmental protection, intergovernmental relations, legal issues and more. An overview of county government and the work of county supervisors is covered.

Who should attend: Newly-elected and incumbent supervisors/county board members, chief county administrative officers and other government managers will come away with information they need to steer their locality forward.

Registration Details: The registration fee for County Officials is \$350 which covers conference materials, a 2019 Virginia County Supervisors Manual, Friday dinner and Saturday lunch. Spouses/guests (non-County Officials) who wish to attend the Friday evening dinner may register for \$60. Those who have already purchased a 2019 Supervisors' Manual may register for \$275 but must bring their manual with them to the Forum.

The registration deadline is March 6. To register, mail this form along with a check or charge authorization to VACo, 1207 East Main Street, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219, or fax to 804.788.0083.

Hotel Reservation Details: Lodging costs are not covered in either registration fee. The Forum is held at the Omni Richmond Hotel, 100 South 12th Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Room rates start at \$147 (single room occupancy). To reserve a hotel room, call 804.344.7000 by March 3, 2020, with this code: **VACo Supervisors Forum** or reserve a room at this [Omni Richmond Hotel link](#).

Refund Policy: Requests for registration refunds are honored if received by March 6, 2020. Substitutions are allowed in the event a supervisor is unable to attend. For more information, call VACo at 804.788.6652.

Name _____

County _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ Supervisors' Email _____

Guest Name for Dinner _____ Add \$60 _____

Late fee March 7 & after and at the door: \$375 (with Supervisors' Manual) or \$300 (without manual)

TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE CHARGED: \$ _____ Check Enclosed _____

Charge Options: VISA American Express MasterCard

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Card Holder's Name _____

Card Holder's Signature _____



VACo FAX NUMBER: 804.788.0083



2020 VACo VML VAPDC Local Government Legislative Day

FEBRUARY 6

Omni Richmond Hotel | 100 S 12th Street | Richmond, VA 23219

VACo-VML-VAPDC invites local government officials to **VACo-VML-VAPDC Local Government Legislative Day** on **Thursday, February 6, 2020** at the **Omni Richmond Hotel**. Keynoting the event will be Governor Northam (invited). Advocates representing the state associations will report on legislation affecting local governments; then local government officials are encouraged to go to the Capitol to participate in committee meetings and lobby state legislators. In the evening, officials are strongly encouraged to invite their state legislators to the VACo-VML-VAPDC reception.

Officials who need to stay overnight at the **Omni Richmond Hotel** can get a special room rate of \$162. For reservations, call 804.344.7000 **by January 17, 2020** with the following code: **Local Government Legislative Day** or reserve a room at this [Omni Richmond Hotel link](#).

REFUND POLICY: Requests for registration refunds are honored if received by **January 24, 2020**. Substitutions are accepted at any time. For more information, call VACo at 804.788.6652.

REGISTRATION FEES - Deadline is January 24th		
<u>Circle One</u>	<u>Until Jan. 24</u>	<u>LATE (Jan. 25 and after & at the door)</u>
A. DAY BRIEFINGS ONLY	\$ 50 PER PERSON	\$ 60
B. RECEPTION ONLY	\$ 70 PER PERSON	\$ 80
C. DAY BRIEFINGS <i>and</i> RECEPTION	\$115 PER PERSON	\$ 135

AGENDA	
9 AM	Respective Board of Directors Meetings
11:00 AM	Registration
11:30 AM	Lunch
12 NOON	Program
Afternoon	Visit Capitol and lobby legislators
5:30 PM	Reception

REGISTRATION

The following people will attend on **February 6, 2020**. Accompanying this form is a check for the total amount due or a charge authorization.

Name _____ Title _____ Total: \$ _____

Name _____ Title _____ Total: \$ _____

Mailing Address _____

Organization (County/City/Town/Company) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Special Accommodations _____ Vegetarian lunch? _____

Charge Options: VISA MasterCard AMX Discover EXP. DATE ____/____

TOTAL TO BE CHARGED: _____ CARD NUMBER: _____

NAME ON CARD: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

EMAIL FOR CREDIT CARD RECEIPT: _____





VACo and the Center for Rural Virginia
2020 Rural Caucus Reception

Wednesday, February 5 | Omni Richmond Hotel | 5:30 to 8:00 pm

REGISTRATION FORM

*** REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 27 ***
\$75 per person thru January 27
\$90 per person January 28 & after | \$90 At the Door
*Room block at the Omni Richmond closes January 17

The 2020 Rural Caucus Reception is an evening of collaboration and discussion on the issues that impact rural Virginia. Attendees acquire a healthy understanding of matters affecting rural Virginia and their possible solutions as well as make personal connections across the region. Registration fee includes two drink tickets; heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Name _____ Title _____

Name _____ Title _____

Name _____ Title _____

County or Organization _____

Mailing address _____

Contact Phone _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

My guest's name is _____ (Add \$75)
Leave blank if no guest.

Total enclosed _____ (\$75 per person) LATE FEE: \$90 per person after
January 27th and at the door.
Make checks payable to: Virginia Association of Counties or VACo.

CHARGE OPTIONS: _____ VISA _____ American Express _____ MasterCard _____ Discover

TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE CHARGED: \$ _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____ MONTH YEAR

Print cardholder's name as it appears on the card _____

Authorized Signature _____

Optional for credit card receipt: List a 2nd email address if a second person needs a copy of the receipt.

Register today by faxing this completed form with credit card information to 804.788.0083 or mail with a check to: Virginia Association of Counties, 1207 East Main Street, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219.

*Hotel Information

Officials can stay overnight at the Omni Richmond Hotel with special rates from \$162. For reservations, call 1.800.THE.OMNI by January 17, 2020 with the following code: VACo/VML Local Government Day or make reservations online at this Omni Richmond Hotel link.

Refund Policy

Requests for registration refunds are honored if received by 10 am on January 27, 2020. Substitutions are accepted at no additional cost. For questions, please call VACo at 804.788.6652.

Room Block Deadline is January 17, 2020 ***Event Registration Deadline is January 27, 2020***

VACo FAX NUMBER IS 804.788.0083

VACo County Board Chairpersons' Institute

February 7-8, 2020

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



The Institute: Virginia Association of Counties offers the County Board Chairpersons' Institute to Board Chairs to focus on the specific roles of that position, including meeting management, internal and external communications, work relationships, leadership, and goal setting. An overview of county government and the work of county supervisors is also covered.

Who should attend: New and incumbent County Board Chairs and Vice Chairs will come away with information they need to guide their Board through their leadership cycle.

Enrollment: Will be limited to 20 participants.

Conference Registration Details: The registration fee for County Officials is \$295, which covers conference materials, Friday lunch and dinner and Saturday breakfast. The fee for spouses and guests (non-County Officials) who wish to attend the Dinner & Reception is \$50. To register, mail or fax this form along with a check or charge authorization to VACo, 1207 East Main Street, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219. FAX: 804.788.0083

Hotel Reservation Details: Lodging costs are not covered in the registration fee. Lodging is available at the Omni Richmond Hotel, 100 S. 12th Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Room rates begin at \$147 (single). Reserve your room by calling 804.344.7000 with the following code: **Local Government Legislative Day** or reserve a room online [with this link](#).

Room reservations at the Omni Richmond Hotel must be made by **January 17, 2020**.

Refund Policy: Requests for registration refunds are honored if received by **January 27, 2020**. However, substitutions are accepted at any time. For more information, call VACo at 804.788.6652.

Name _____

County _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Mailing Address _____

Guest Name (Dinner & Reception) _____ (Add \$50)

Payment Method: Check ___ VISA ___ American Express ___ MasterCard ___

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Card Holder's Name _____

Authorized Signature _____



Please return with payment by **January 27, 2020:**
Virginia Association of Counties
1207 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627.

Credit card payments may be faxed to 804.788.0083.



VACo and **OPTUMRx** Team Up
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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

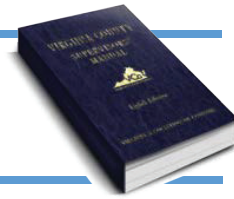


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\$75 EACH**

(SHIPPING IS INCLUDED)



**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.

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ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____
COUNTY (OR ORGANIZATION): _____
SHIPPING ADDRESS: _____
CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____
PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Manuals are \$75 per copy. Number of Copies _____.

Check enclosed for \$_____ Make payable to **VACo Services, Inc.**

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION:

Charge Options: _____ American Express _____ MasterCard _____ VISA

Card No: _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Email for credit card receipt: _____

Mail completed form to: Virginia Association of Counties
1207 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627

Or FAX credit card purchases to 804.788.0083

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).



EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT | Virginia Association of Counties | Posted November 20



DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS | City of Harrisonburg | Posted November 19



GENERAL REGISTRAR | King William County | Posted November 18



SENIOR PLANNER | City of Manassas | Posted November 18



WATERWORKS OPERATOR | Prince George County | Posted November 18



CAPITAL PROJECT COORDINATOR | Arlington County | Posted November 18



CHIEF OF EMERGENCY SERVICES | Isle of Wight County | Posted November 18



BUILDING & ZONING OFFICE MANAGER | Essex County | Posted November 14



PLANNER | Central Virginia Planning District Commission | Posted November 14



POLICE OFFICER (CERTIFIED) | Prince George County | Posted November 14



MANAGER VI, PLANNING | Prince George County | Posted November 14



FIRE MEDIC - FULL & PART TIME | Prince George County | Posted November 14



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (DCJS CERTIFIED) | Prince George County | Posted November 14



ASSISTANT COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY | Prince George County | Posted November 14



FINANCE DIRECTOR | City of Lexington | Posted November 13



DIRECTOR OF PLANNING | Albemarle County | Posted November 13



PLANT MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR | Town of Culpeper | Posted November 13



CHIEF OF FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES | King William County | Posted November 7



**HUMAN RESOURCES
GENERALIST** | Montgomery County |
Posted November 7



**POLICE OFFICER:
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER** | City of
Winchester | Posted November 6



HOUSING DIRECTOR |
Arlington County | Posted November 5



**DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT** | Augusta County |
Posted November 1



**TOURISM ASSISTANT
(PT)** | Montgomery County | Posted
November 1



CUSTODIAN I | James City
County | Posted November 1



PRN DENTAL ASSISTANT
| James City County | Posted
November 1



**CUSTOMER SERVICE
REPRESENTATIVE** | James City
County | Posted November 1



**PRN MEDICAL
ASSISTANT** | James City County |
Posted November 1



**DIRECTOR OF
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
DIVISION** | James City County | Posted
November 1



GIS TECHNICIAN |
Westmoreland County | Posted
November 1



TECHNOLOGY MANAGER
| City of Harrisonburg | Posted
October 31



TOWN MANAGER | Town
of Smithfield | Posted October 31



**ATHLETIC FIELD TURF
SUPERVISOR** | City of Harrisonburg |
Posted October 31



PURCHASING AGENT |
Gloucester County | Posted October 31



**HUMAN RESOURCES
ASSISTANT** | Gloucester County |
Posted October 31



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



**EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
II** | Surry County | Posted October 30



**DIRECTOR OF BUDGET &
MANAGEMENT** | Chesterfield County
| Posted October 28



**FAMILY SERVICES
SPECIALIST** | Montgomery County |
Posted October 28



COUNTY ASSESSOR |
Montgomery County | Posted October
25



DEPUTY COURT CLERK |
Montgomery County | Posted October
25



**DEPUTY COURT CLERK
- PART TIME/TEMPORARY** |
Montgomery County | Posted October
25



**APPLICATION SUPPORT
ANALYST** | James City County | Posted
October 25



**WASTEWATER
FACILITIES: APPRENTICE/
SPECIALIST I/II** | James City County |
Posted October 25

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

1207 East Main St., Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627



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VACORP: Chris Carey, Administrator, 888.822.6772

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

1207 East Main Street
Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627
Phone: 804.788.6652
Fax: 804.788.0083
www.vaco.org

County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

Editor: A. Gage Harter
804.343.2502