

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

April 1, 2020



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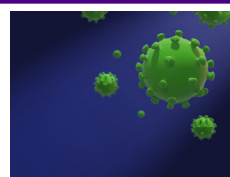
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VACo is Still Here



Photos are from events held last
year to early February this year.

[Click here to enlarge photo](#)

Dear VACo Family,

We live in strange times. It feels as if every time I turn on the TV, get on my computer or pick up a newspaper, I'm greeted with constant reminders at how different things are every day. But despite all the change in the world, despite all of the new challenges that have arisen with COVID-19, and despite our daily lives being thrown into disarray, VACo is still here.

Every day, VACo continues to operate in the same, high-caliber manner that we've come to expect over the years. Despite the chaos swirling about us, VACo is working tirelessly to ensure that "business as usual" is not merely a catch phrase. Even now, staff is continuing to work to organize and plan for future conferences, including our 2020 Annual Conference. They're still hard at work developing curricula for the Certified Supervisors classes, and they're continuing to organize future seminars on a variety of topics, such as solar energy and land use. And with just 11 days remaining before the Governor must act on bills that have been sent to his desk, VACo is still actively ensuring that our legislative priorities are achieved.

Beyond business as usual, however, VACo has stepped up and joined the frontlines of the fight against COVID-19. Over the course of the last several weeks, VACo staff has continuously engaged with our state and federal governments, spending countless hours on the phone with the White House, the Governor's Office, the National Association of Counties (NACo), and numerous other local, state and federal officials. This allows us to not only be as informed and up to date as possible on the status of state and federal responses to COVID-19, but it also ensures that the needs of our counties are widely known, respected, and acted upon.

It should come as no surprise that VACo continues to press forward despite these uncertain times. Our organization was conceived in the depths of the Great Depression – resiliency is in our DNA. Whatever the future may bring, whatever may be in store in the days and weeks and months ahead, VACo will still be here, working for you.

In this time of adversity, please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you, your families, and your communities. We may be 95 counties, but we remain one family.

Wishing you all the best in these trying times,

Stephen W. Bowen
President | Virginia Association of Counties



VACo asked its Premier Partners to share a recent experience with a County that demonstrates the value of their work. Below is a story from **The Berkley Group CEO Drew Williams**. Thank you [The Berkley Group](#) for your work with Virginia Counties.

When Sussex County was faced with the challenge of changing leadership and department vacancies, the Board of Supervisors turned to The Berkley Group to provide assistance in a variety of ways. The Berkley Group's innovative Executive Transition Assistance (ETA) Program helps localities by placing seasoned, experienced local government managers to fill executive roles. For Sussex, Executive Managers Larry Hughes and Bart Nuckols stepped in immediately to serve as Interim County Administrator and Planning Director. The ETA program also offers executive search services. Sussex realized the value of having a professional search performed to find their next County Administrator. Our process is tailor-designed to not only find the right qualifications, but the right fit with the community and organization.

Through our exclusive Auxiliary Town Hall (ATH) Program, The Berkley Group is able to step in to assist with daily operations. When Essex County's Planner/Zoning Administrator position became vacant, the County worked to fill the position in-house. After a failed search, the County turned to The Berkley Group. The ATH Program was the perfect fit. We were able to place an Interim Planning Director onsite while we conducted a search for a new Planning Director as a Berkley employee. The County banks the overhead and gets the depth and resources of a company providing back of the house support.

Local government is changing – who is your partner? Our staff brings over 500 years of local government experience. Put that experience to work for you.



Also, read how The Berkley Group helped Hanover County with hiring its next County Administrator. (Page 3)

VACo Contact: [Karie Walker](#)

John A. Budesky hired as next Hanover County Administrator



The Hanover County Board of Supervisors has appointed John A. Budesky as the next County Administrator. Mr. Budesky, who currently serves as the Goochland County Administrator, will replace Cecil R. “Rhu” Harris, Jr. who announced his retirement last November after 35 years with the County and 15 years as County Administrator. During its meeting on Wednesday, March 25, the Board unanimously approved an employment agreement with Mr. Budesky.

Board Chair Aubrey Stanley said, “The Board is pleased that John is returning to Hanover County to serve as its Administrator. He already had a good reputation in Hanover and the Richmond region and has proven himself as the Goochland County Administrator. We look forward to his leadership of the County workforce in the implementation of the Board’s vision for Hanover County.”

The Board of Supervisors conducted a national search for the new county administrator, assisted by The Berkley Group, from Bridgewater, VA. The Berkley Group received 32 applications and interviewed thirteen candidates. It then assisted the Board in selecting three finalists for interviews with the Supervisors.

Mr. Budesky has served as the Goochland County Administrator since 2016. From 2013 to 2016, he was a Deputy County Administrator in Hanover responsible for finance and management services, including budget, accounting, purchasing, payroll, information technologies, internal audit, assessment, and general services. Mr. Budesky’s earlier public employment included service as City Manager of the City of Manassas, Executive Director of the Virginia Workers’ Compensation Commission, and County Administrator in New Kent County, Virginia. He started his local government management career in 1997 in Hagerstown, MD, serving as a county department head and then as assistant city manager. Mr. Budesky has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and a Masters of Public Administration degree from Virginia Tech. He is a member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the Virginia Local Government Management Association (VLGMA), a member of the board of directors of Leadership Metro Richmond, and an adjunct instructor in the Local Government Certificate and Masters of Public Administration programs at Virginia Tech.

“I am excited about being given the privilege of returning to Hanover County to serve its citizens,” Budesky said. “Although I have enjoyed my time in Goochland County and wouldn’t have considered any another position, Hanover holds a special place in my heart and with my family, and I couldn’t pass up the opportunity. I look forward to working with the Board of Supervisors and to building on the good record of the current administration for the betterment of the community.”

Mr. Budesky plans to assume his new role as Hanover County Administrator as soon as July 1 but no later than September 1.

April 1 is Census Day!



Invitations to participate in the 2020 Census have been sent and Virginians are strongly encouraged to respond online. Participation may also be done via telephone. (Paper forms will be sent to households that do not respond to the first invitation.) Responding on the Census website is user-friendly and takes only a few minutes. Below are some resources that counties may find helpful in encouraging residents to participate.

Responding to the Census

Most households received an invitation to respond to the 2020 Census earlier in March. These mailings include a Census ID code that can be used to respond online. Information from the Census Bureau about how to respond and who should be counted, including information in languages other than English, can be found at <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html>. Information on what residents should look for in the mail is at this link: <https://2020census.gov/en/mailings.html>. The link for responding to the Census is <https://2020census.gov/>.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census Bureau announced on March 28 that it would be suspending field operations until April 15 in order to protect its staff and the public. Adjustments to the field operations timeline (including delays in Census questionnaires being brought to non-responding households and Census Bureau staff providing assistance with Census response in public spaces such as libraries and community centers) may be found at <https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/operational-adjustments-covid-19.html>

Measuring our progress

The Census Bureau's Response Rates Map tool allows you to see response rates on a statewide basis, as well as by locality and by Census tract, and compares current response rates with rates for the 2010 Census. These statistics are updated daily. You can use this tool to see how your locality's response rate stacks up against those of your neighbors, and see whether certain areas within your county need additional outreach. The map can be found at https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html?utm_campaign=20200323msc20s1ccallrs&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

Educational resources

With schoolchildren at home, completing the Census can be a learning opportunity. The Census Bureau's "Statistics in Schools" materials provide some suggested activities for students of all ages and may be found at <https://census.gov/schools>.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)



Mark Your Calendars



Enter the 2020 VACo Achievement Awards



It's time for the 2020 Achievement Awards Program. Any county department is eligible to compete so ENTER NOW!

[Achievement Awards submission form](#)

All entries are required to be submitted in electronic form. No paper copy submissions are necessary. The electronic copy should be a PDF or WORD file. Email entries to Gage Harter at garter@vaco.org.

Submissions must be received by June 1, 2020.

Last year we processed 96 entries and selected 26 winners from 21 Counties. VACo presented awards at 21 Board of Supervisors Meetings, recognized winners at the Annual Conference, issued a news release to statewide media and highlighted winning Counties in an Achievement Awards booklet.

The judges for the 2020 Achievement Awards will be announced soon.

VACo has received more than 800 entries over the past decade. Last year's Best Achievement winner was Chesterfield County for its "Chesterfield County Police Experience Program."

VACo encourages all Counties, big and small, to enter the 2020 Achievement Awards Program. Please contact garter@vaco.org with questions or for more information.

[Achievement Awards Submission Form](#) | [2019 Achievement Awards Press Release](#)
[Browse all of the 2019 Entries](#) | [2019 Achievement Awards Book](#) | [Past Achievement Award Winners](#)

NEWS

from our Associate Members



REMOTE REDUNDANCY

Granite Delivers Rapid-Response 'Work from Home' Solution to Businesses & Government Agencies Nationwide Amid COVID-19 Outbreak

As the country is faced with an unprecedented health crisis, Granite Telecommunications is prepared to continue to provide government entities with reliable, cost effective communication solutions. The impact has been widespread, transcending numerous industries and County Governments have not been spared from this impact.

With rapidly changing demands to remain operational at a safe distance, Granite has options to support a remote workforce. Granite has released a Remote Redundancy solution to assist in quickly enabling "work from home" functionality for Government employees. Financially feasible and rapidly deployed, this solution supports a sudden need for employees to perform government duties and facilitate communication to the public from home. Remote Redundancy features fully managed network services including:

Wireless Redundancy: Delivers a wireless connection utilizing one of the four major wireless providers with a term as short as four months.

Essential Redundancy: Includes Wireless Redundancy plus a dynamic 25/5Mbps broadband circuit.

Executive Redundancy: Includes 1Gbps Wireless Redundancy plus 100/10Mbps broadband circuit, one Granite Cloud PBX Soft Seat with mobile and desktop app, and Granite Guardian network monitoring.

Granite understands that no two government entities are exactly alike which is why we are committed to offering additional options to ensure a customized solution tailored to meet an array of needs.

Optional package upgrades include:

- Wireline access upgrade from 25/5Mbps up to 100/10Mbps
- Wireless access upgrade from 250Mbps to 1Gbps
- On-premises managed firewall
- Same-day soft seat with one call path
- Same-day soft "Meeting Light" (4-person conference bridge)
- VoIP handset
- Additional call path
- One-hour on-site setup
- Granite Guardian network monitoring (with wireline connections only)

In a time of constant, swift change and unprecedented impact, the need for resource reallocation will be necessary for County Governments to effectively support the communities they serve. Granite leverages nationwide wholesale agreements to provide cost savings for voice and data solutions. By reducing spend on telecommunications services additional funding can assist with other projects or emergency initiatives that become a critical need.

Granite provides quality, cost effective communications solutions to government entities throughout the United States. We are proudly committed to remaining a stable partner and supporting essential operations even in the most uncertain of times.

www.granitegovernment.com | 833.901.7533

Governor's Coronavirus Task Force Includes State and Local Coordination



Earlier this month, before the first confirmed case in Virginia, the Governor's COVID-19 Unified Command Task Force mobilized to address how the Commonwealth would monitor, prevent and contain the disease. This [chart](#) shows the leadership structure and the delineated objectives of the taskforce. VACo participated in a kick-off meeting of the task force on March 11 and participates in the Local Coordination Group that holds weekly phone briefings to share information and answer questions. Timely information from the taskforce, including links to important resources, are shared regularly with our members via email and electronic newsletter.

As emphasized at the kick-off meeting, local governments need to coordinate with their respective local health districts (35 statewide) in addressing local response to the crisis.

Here are some of the items and resources shared in meetings of Local Coordination Group to date:

- In addition to a dedicated [webpage](#) on COVID-19, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) established a 24-hour call center to handle questions (1-877-ASKVDH3) as well as [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) webpage](#);
- A [webpage](#) dedicated to providing the latest information and links to waivers, memoranda, and guidance documents, including the March 30 [Temporary Stay at Home Order due to COVID-19](#) issued by Gov. Northam; and
- The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) had developed this updated [local government template](#) for creating or revising a Continuity of Operation Plan (COOP).

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

Counties Respond to COVID-19: Supporting the Local Business Community



The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken the global economy, and its effects are being felt in every community in Virginia. Counties are working in partnership with their local economic development agencies, Chambers of Commerce, and other members of their communities to assist local businesses in mitigating the economic impacts of the virus. Many localities are providing extended deadlines for tax and utility payments, and are taking other creative approaches to assist businesses. Below is a sampling of these ideas.

NOTE: The times are difficult, but counties are resilient and resourceful. VACo looks forward to showcasing the innovation of our members in future articles as counties respond to the economic, social, health, and other facets of the pandemic. Please share your creative strategies and programs with VACo!

- Fairfax County has established a website for affected businesses (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/information-businesses-impacted-coronavirus/>), which includes a dashboard where businesses can share information and best practices.
- Loudoun County's website for affected businesses includes a [page](#) where residents can find information on how to support local businesses, including information on which restaurants are offering delivery or takeout, and various discounts and specials being offered by local businesses, including opportunities to purchase gift certificates.
- Henrico County [plans to support locally-owned restaurants](#) by purchasing meals for County first responders and other staff who are working extensive hours to lead the County's COVID-19 response.
- James City County's [COVID-19 business resources page](#) includes suggestions for record-keeping to assist with future applications for assistance from the Small Business Administration and information about a series of upcoming webinars.
- Arlington Economic Development's "[Resources for Small Businesses During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)" includes links to webinars and information on how to obtain resources from Arlington County Public Library.
- Chesterfield Economic Development recently launched "[Chesterfield Eats To Go](#)" in partnership with the Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce and the support of the Board of Supervisors. This online map helps residents find restaurants near them that are open for takeout and delivery.
- Counties are working with the development community to ensure that their operations may continue even though many government buildings are closed to the public. For example, Chesterfield County has [arranged](#) for customers to drop off materials at a prearranged location, in addition to processing permit applications received by mail. Hanover County is accepting all [planning applications electronically](#).
- Stafford County's Economic Development Authority is [providing grants to local small businesses](#) to assist with payroll costs from a grant fund of \$250,000.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Update on federal legislation responding to COVID-19 pandemic

Congress has enacted three COVID-19 relief measures in quick succession this month. VACo is continuing to work with our partners at the National Association of Counties and the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia to clarify certain provisions of the bills and will provide additional information to members as we receive it. Below is an initial overview of key provisions of the spending bills, as well as links to analyses provided by NACo. VACo staff will be providing a more detailed analysis shortly.

Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act

The first spending package, signed by the President on March 6, largely focuses on funding for the federal agencies responsible for the public health response to COVID-19, including the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control, and the National Institutes of Health. The bill provides \$2.2 billion to the Centers for Disease Control, which includes \$950 million for grants to states, localities, tribes, and related entities. The bill also provides \$3.1 billion for the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (which provides resources for responding to natural or man-made medical and public health threats) in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including purchasing vaccines, therapeutics, and medical supplies. NACo's overview of this legislation may be found at [this link](#).

Families First Coronavirus Response Act

The second stimulus bill, signed by the President on March 18, includes additional funding and regulatory flexibility for several major nutrition programs, including \$500 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; \$400 billion for the Commodity Assistance Program as part of the emergency food assistance program; additional Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits for households with children who would otherwise receive free or reduced-price school meals; and \$250 billion for nutrition services for programs funded through the Administration for Community Living, such as home-delivered meals for older adults, as well as additional funding to support states' unemployment insurance programs, and requirements for insurance coverage of COVID-19 testing. The bill also provides for a temporary increase in the federal share of funding for Medicaid.

Of interest to many counties, the bill expands family and medical leave and includes provisions requiring up to 12 weeks of leave for an employee who is caring for a child whose school or place of care is closed or unavailable due to the pandemic. Certain health care providers and emergency responders may be excluded from these requirements. The cost of these enhanced benefits is offset for many employers by payroll tax credits; however, local government employers are excluded from qualifying for these credits in the bill. We are working with others, including The Local Government Attorneys of Virginia and NACo, to get clarification on the provisions of this legislation. A Frequently Asked Questions document provided by the Department of Labor may be found at [this link](#). NACo's letter to Congressional leadership requesting that counties qualify for the tax credits may be found at [this link](#).

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

The third and largest stimulus package was signed by the President on March 27. This far-reaching legislation is nearly 900 pages in length and provides \$2 trillion in funding for coronavirus relief efforts. VACo staff are reviewing the bill and additional clarification is needed on some provisions. We expect more detail to be available about expected allocations for Virginia soon. Key provisions include:

- A new \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund for state and local governments. NACo is seeking clarity on how localities may qualify for funding and how local allocations may interface with state funding.
- A \$30.75 billion Education Stabilization Fund
- \$400 million in grants to states to prepare for the 2020 elections
- \$3.5 billion in Child Care Development Block Grant Funding
- \$750 million for Head Start
- \$15.5 billion in additional contingency funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; \$1 billion for the Community Services Block Grant; \$900 million for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program; \$955 million for the Administration for Community Living to support nutrition programs and other services for older adults and individuals with disabilities
- \$100 million for the ReConnect program to enhance access to broadband
- \$25 billion to assist transit systems
- "Recovery rebate" payments to individuals of up to \$1200 per individual and \$500 per qualifying child dependent. These payments are an advance refund for 2020 income taxes.
- An additional \$600 per week in emergency unemployment compensation.
- Funding for loans to small businesses to cover payroll and other costs (including rent and utilities), which may be forgiven if employers avoid laying off employees or reducing wages, and funding for advances of \$10,000 to small businesses applying for Economic Injury Disaster Loans through the Small Business Administration. The bill also provides \$17 billion to cover six months' worth of principal and interest payments on existing Small Business Administration Loans.

NACo's analysis is available at [this link](#). We continue to review and analyze information as it becomes available and will provide prompt updates.

VACo Contacts: [Katie Boyle](#) and [Phyllis Errico, Esq.](#)

Governor Ralph Northam and Cabinet Secretaries Hold Conference Call with Local Leaders Issue Executive Orders in Response to COVID-19

On March 23, Governor Ralph Northam, Secretary of Public Safety Brian Moran, Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne, and Secretary of Health and Human Resources Daniel Carey participated in a conference call with members of the VACo Board of Directors and representatives from the Virginia Municipal League to discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 virus to the Commonwealth. The conversation focused on measures being undertaken to mitigate the spread of the disease and ways in which the state and local governments could work together on a variety of issues.

Governor Northam began the call emphasizing the primacy of public health during this crisis and gave an overview of the number of individuals in Virginia who have tested positive for the virus and the number of fatalities that have been directly attributed to it. The need to contain and mitigate the virus as much as possible at this time prompted Governor Northam to issue [Executive Order 53](#), which among other provisions closed all public K-12 schools in Virginia, prohibited all public and private in-person gatherings of 10 individuals or more, closed all dining and congregation areas in restaurants and related food and beverage establishments while permitting take-out, closed all public access to recreational and entertainment establishments, and detailed the list of essential businesses that may remain open to the public during normal business hours. Additional restrictions were subsequently imposed by [Executive Order 55](#), which directs individuals to remain in their residences with certain exceptions and expands the limitations and prohibitions on public gatherings and spaces.

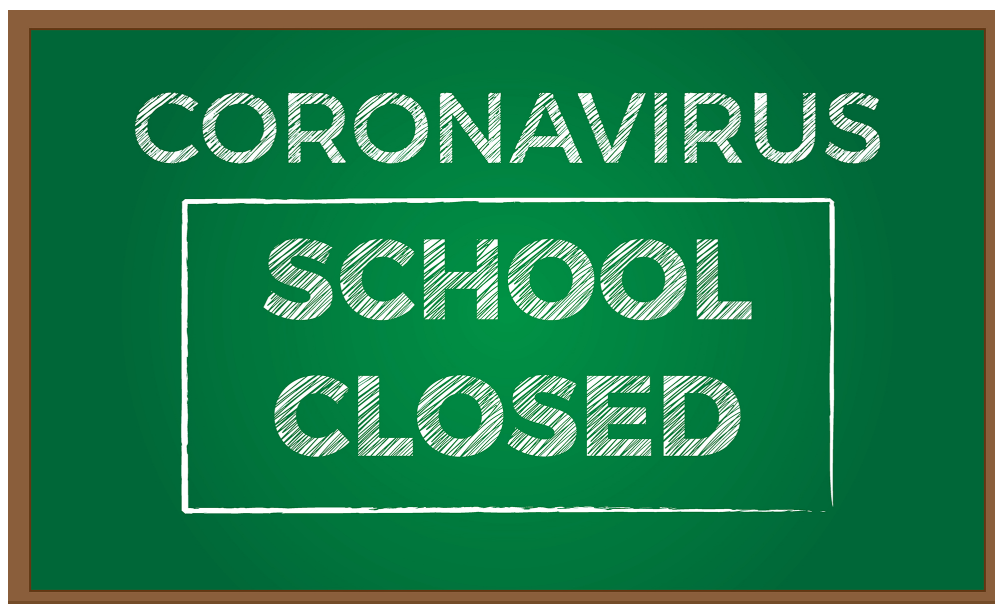
Secretaries Moran, Layne, and Carey spoke to how their different Departments are responding to the virus. This included detailing what violations of the provisions of the Executive Order would entail, Virginia's request for additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and testing kits from the Strategic National Stockpile, the economic and budgetary impacts of the virus and efforts to mitigate its spread, and the challenges of testing for the virus given the shortage of available testing kits.

The three Secretaries then took questions from Board members and Staff. In addition to further discussion of health measures needed to contain and mitigate the virus's spread, discussion focused on potential state revenue shortfall in excess of \$1 billion per year over the course of the biennium and the potential impact to local governments who are also in the midst of formulating their annual budgets. Secretary Layne emphasized that before a biennial budget can be signed, the Administration will be evaluating any potential changes in coordination with the House and Senate Finance Committees. Call participants stressed the importance of not making systemic long-term changes to any funding streams if cuts in appropriations are necessary as well the need to examine recent legislation forwarded to the Governor from the General Assembly that would impose additional unfunded mandates on local governments.

VACo appreciates the opportunity to engage in dialogue with state policy leaders and to share the concerns and ideas of local governments on how to best mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. We will continue to provide updates on any future conversations with state policy leaders. Additional state information and resources can be found [here](#).

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

Virginia Department of Education Issues Guidance for Student Placements Reimbursed by the Children's Service Act and Other Education Programs related to COVID-19



On March 23, Governor Ralph Northam ordered the closure of all K-12 schools in Virginia in response to the continued spread of the COVID-19 virus. While this poses many challenges for local school divisions, students, and their families, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has issued guidance and support documents on a variety of topics. One such topic VACo has been contacted about is student placements reimbursed by the Children's Services Act (CSA).

The CSA establishes a collaborative system of services and funding to assess and meet the strengths and needs of troubled and at-risk youths and their families in the Commonwealth. This includes funding for placements of students in private day schools and private residential special education facilities. The impact of the state of emergency on contractual arrangements with service providers through the CSA remains a matter of local jurisdiction. The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has advised local school divisions to work with their local Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMT), local CSA office and partnering private schools to discuss this matter. Additional [guidance](#) from VDOE and a [letter](#) from Secretary of Education Atif Qarni and be found here and here respectively.

For information and updates related to the closure of public schools, please visit the VDOE web page [COVID-19 and Virginia Public Schools](#). Additional information can be found on VDOE's list of [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#).

VACo Contacts: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#) and [Katie Boyle](#)

Local Government Operations Guidance from the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia



From: Dean Lynch & Phyllis Errico

To: VACo Board of Directors

Re: Guidance from the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia

Many of you have contacted us seeking advice on how to continue operations in light of the current emergency environment. Each local entity must consult with their legal advisor but attached is some guidance including a detailed checklist, model ordinances and Declarations of Emergency in order to assist you in moving forward in your operations.

For questions – contact Dean Lynch dlynch@vaco.org or Phyllis Errico perrico@vaco.org

[LGA Committee Letter](#)

[Checklist for holding completely electronic public meetings and ensuring public access](#)

[Local Regional Public Entity Resolution](#)

[Model Emergency Ordinance on Continuity of Government](#)

[Albemarle County Declarations of Emergency](#)

Follow Governor Northam's COVID-19 Press Briefings Live



Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 2 pm, Governor Ralph Northam conducts press briefings viewable live on [Facebook](#) or at the [Virginia Public Media \(VPM\) website](#). Briefings typically last 30 minutes and include the latest information on the Commonwealth's efforts to track and respond to the pandemic.

VACo will continue to watch each briefing and update our members with timely information including links to the following resources and opportunities cited by the Governor and his cabinet:

- The Virginia Medical Reserve Corps seeks qualified individuals to fill much needed gaps in healthcare. Interested individuals should go to www.vamrc.org;
- For issues, questions, and resources relating to childcare during the crisis, consult this [webpage](#) on the Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) website;
- Companies willing to donate personal protective equipment (PPEs), such as masks, from their own inventory, should go to www.virginia.gov/covid19supplies; and
- Food banks can now distribute beyond the minimum eligibility requirements for those in need. Visit www.VAFoodbanks.org for more information.

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

Stay informed with these valuable resources from the Commonwealth of Virginia and NACo

The Official Site of The Commonwealth of Virginia

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) In Virginia

About the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak ↗

CDC.GOV

Learn more about the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak below or by visiting the US Center for Disease Control.

Health updates about COVID-19 in Virginia ↗

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Information and updates about COVID-19 in Virginia are available through the Virginia Department of Health

[Health & Safety Measures](#) [News Releases](#) [Testing Data](#)

Health & Safety Measures

Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency in response to COVID-19. The Governor has also outlined these additional measures to ensure the health and safety of all Virginians:

Resources

[COVID-19 Disease Basics: What You Need to Know](#) - March 15, 2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19): COUNTY RESPONSE EFFORTS & PRIORITIES

During this critical time, NACo is focused on disseminating useful information, facilitating the exchange of effective strategies and highlighting best practices to ensure that we can help counties protect the health of their residents.

Please consider helping us collect this critical information by providing information on your county response strategies through this 5-minute survey.

COMPLETE THE SURVEY

Counties are on the front lines protecting our communities from the coronavirus and other illnesses that have the potential to become a pandemic. Counties support over 900 hospitals and operate over 1,900 public health departments, which are the ground troops in the fight against the coronavirus outbreak.

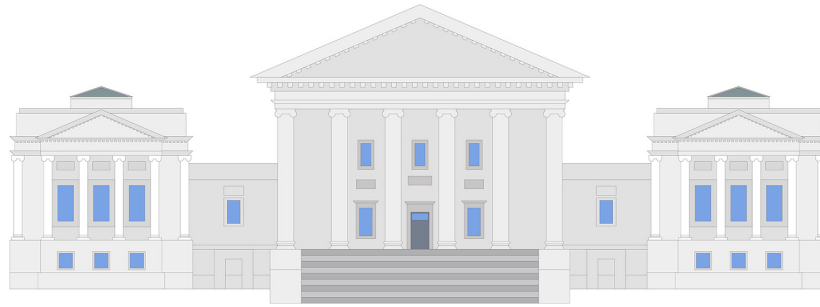
Local health departments are working to protect public health by communicating with transportation officials, educating health care providers and communities on the public health practices to reduce the spread of infectious diseases.

CONTACT

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Associate Legislative Director – Health
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Passed bills are now before the Governor – now what?



The 2020 legislation session saw 2,830 bills and resolutions introduced. Of these, 1,291 passed both the House of Delegates and Senate and are currently on the Governor's desk awaiting action.

So, what now?

Pursuant to [Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia](#), when presented with a bill, the Governor has three options.

First, the Governor may sign the bill if he approves of it, and the bill shall become law. Similarly, if the Governor does not take any action on the bill within its constitutionally required timeline (seven days if there are seven or more days remaining in the session; 30 days if there are less than seven days remaining in the session), the bill shall become law without his signature.

Second, the Governor may recommend amendments to the bill and return it to the chamber in which the bill originated. From here, there are several possible paths which the bill can take. If both the House and Senate agree to the Governor's entire recommendation by a simple majority vote, the bill shall become law. If both the House and Senate agree by a two-thirds vote to the original bill that was sent to the Governor's desk (thus rejecting all of the amendments), the original bill shall become law. If the Governor has offered several amendments, each chamber may act on the amendments either en bloc (in total) or individually. If one chamber agrees to one or more of the amendments, the bill and recommended amendments are sent to the other chamber for consideration. If either chamber fails to agree to the Governor's full recommendation or fails to agree to at least one of the Governor's amendments, the bill will return to the Governor in its originally passed form for action. If, on the other hand, both houses agree to some of the recommended amendments (but not all), the bill will be resent to the Governor with the agreed-upon amendments.

Third, the Governor may veto the bill and return the bill with his objections to the chamber in which the bill originated. There, the chamber may override the Governor's veto by a two-thirds vote of the members present. If the chamber successfully overrides the Governor's veto, the bill will travel back to the other side of the Capitol building for consideration by the other chamber, who also have to override the veto with a two-thirds vote. If both chambers successfully override the veto, the bill will become law without the Governor's signature. If either chamber fails to override the veto, however, the veto will be sustained and the bill shall not become law.

Currently, the Governor has until 11:59pm on April 11, 2020 to act on (sign, amend, or veto) the bills that the General Assembly has sent him. Next, both the Senate and House of Delegates are scheduled to reconvene on April 22, 2020 to appropriately deal with any possible amendments or vetoes that they have been presented. However, at this time it is unclear exactly how the General Assembly will act considering the problems posed by COVID-19 and the resulting statewide policies that have been implemented. The Governor, Speaker of the House Eileen Filler-Corn, and Attorney General Mark Herring have been in discussions about how the General Assembly will be able to conduct this important work.

So far, according to [recent article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch](#), the Governor has reviewed and acted on 530 bills, leaving 760 bills to go. The Governor's office has switched to virtual bill review and signing as the Government, as well as the rest of the state, has adopted work from home policies.

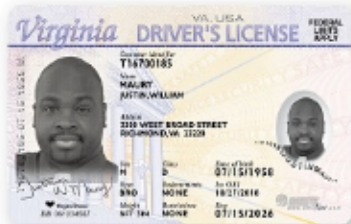
VACo Contact: [Chris McDonald, Esq.](#)

Real ID Deadline Extended to 2021

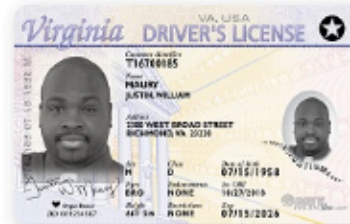
About Your REAL ID Credential

REAL ID credentials are available for a one-time \$10 fee, in addition to the standard driver's license or identification card fees. For example, a standard driver's license renewal costs \$32, while a standard driver's license replacement costs \$20.

In the upper right corner, REAL ID compliant credentials display a star, while non-REAL ID compliant credentials instead display "Federal Limits Apply," in order to comply with federal law.



Standard License



REAL ID License

Screenshot from [DMV website](#).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ways that state and local governments are being asked to combat the spread of this virus, the Department of Homeland Security has announced that they are extending the REAL ID enforcement deadline.

The REAL ID Act is a federal law that creates a heightened, more stringent process for states issuing driver's licenses and ID cards if they are going to be accepted for federal purposes, such as boarding domestic flights or entering secure military installations or federal facilities that require ID. Originally, the federal government planned to require a REAL ID compliant credential, or another federally approved form of ID, in order to board a domestic flight or enter a secure federal facility by October 1, 2020. However, due to the rise of COVID-19 and the drastic steps governments are taking to limit exposure and slow the spread of the disease (including temporarily shutting down or limiting access to DMV offices), the federal government has extended this deadline to October 1, 2021.

Please find below a statement from the Acting Secretary of the Homeland Security, Chad Wolf:

"Due to circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the national emergency declaration, the Department of Homeland Security, as directed by President Donald J. Trump, is extending the REAL ID enforcement deadline beyond the current October 1, 2020 deadline. I have determined that states require a twelve-month delay and that the new deadline for REAL ID enforcement is October 1, 2021. DHS will publish a notice of the new deadline in the Federal Register in the coming days.

The federal, state and local response to the spread of the Coronavirus here in the United States necessitates a delay in this deadline. Our state and local partners are working tirelessly with the Administration to flatten the curve and, therefore, we want to remove any impediments to response and recovery efforts. States across the country are temporarily closing or restricting access to DMVs. This action will preclude millions of people from applying for and receiving their REAL ID. Extending the deadline will also allow the Department to work with Congress to implement needed changes to expedite the issuance of REAL IDs once the current health crisis concludes.

Protecting both the health and national security of the American people continues to be the top priority for the President of the United States and the Department of Homeland Security."

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

Office of Children's Services Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Policy Regarding Interaction of CSA with Federal Foster Care Funding Streams; Comments Due May 1



The Office of Children's Services is requesting comments on a proposed State Executive Council (SEC) policy that would require local Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs) to develop a policy outlining how the local CSA program will interact and align with the provisions of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). FFPSA was enacted in 2018 and makes significant changes to the structure of federal funding for foster care by allowing federal funding to be used for certain prevention programming and reducing federal support for certain congregate care placements. (For additional background on FFPSA, please see a [presentation](#) on this issue by Carl Ayers, former senior staffer at the Virginia Department of Social Services, at the 2019 VACo annual conference; a video of this breakout session may be found at [this link](#).)

Suggested language provided for comment currently reads, "Community Policy and Management Teams shall establish policies and procedures for the alignment of foster care prevention services funded through Title IV-E and the Family First Prevention Services Act (Public Law 115-123) with the local Children's Services Act program. Such policies and procedures shall address referrals of foster care prevention cases to the Family Assessment and Planning Teams (FAPT) and the roles and responsibilities of the FAPT and Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT)."

This proposal is currently in the Notice Stage, where the SEC has indicated its intent to pursue a particular policy, and public comment is being solicited for 45 days. The SEC is scheduled to decide whether to proceed to the Proposed Stage (where the proposed text of the policy would be made available for 60 days of public comment) at its meeting on June 11, 2020.

Comments are being accepted through the [Public Policy Comment Form](#) on the OCS website, via email to csa.office@csa.virginia.gov, or via US Mail (or other delivery services) until 5:00 p.m. on May 1, 2020.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Chesterfield Fire and EMS to Receive Excellence in Fire Service-Based EMS Award



Pictured from left: Firefighter and Paramedic Wayland Hudgins, Lieutenant Daniel Stamp and Firefighter and Paramedic Colin McCann.

The Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) and medical technology company Masimo announced Chesterfield County Fire and Emergency Medical Services (CFEMS) will receive the Excellence in Fire-Service Based EMS award for its Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) program.

The MIH program utilizes specially-trained paramedics to address the needs of frequent users of the 9-1-1 system as well as residents who have unmet medical needs. The goal of the county's MIH unit is to navigate the residents to existing community and medical resources to help manage their conditions, ultimately reducing their use of 9-1-1.

The unit is led by Program Manager Lt. Daniel Stamp and Medical Director Dr. Allen Yee. Other members include Wayland Hudgins, Colin McCann and Colin McCaffrey, all firefighters and paramedics, as well as Hallie Hartman, peer support specialist.

"Chesterfield Fire and EMS began this program five years ago to assist citizens in the county who were utilizing the 9-1-1 system multiple times per year – and sometimes several times in a day. Connecting these citizens with resources to assist their needs in housing, healthcare, addiction and much more has not only improved their lives but has improved the usage of 9-1-1 in the county," said Lt. Stamp.

To date, the MIH unit has managed over 1,900 cases. In cases where a citizen has accepted assistance and worked through the MIH program, 9-1-1 calls from that citizen were reduced by 49%.

The MIH unit has also been vital to Chesterfield County's opioid response by helping residents who have overdosed on opioids utilize county resources including mental health programs, peer groups and rehabilitation facilities.

"I am thrilled that the men and women of the MIH unit have been recognized for their great work and dedication," said Dr. Yee. "They manage difficult and complex social and medical situations not typically dealt with by EMS every day. They have been able to help victims of elder neglect and abuse, child abuse, hoarders, homelessness, poverty and complicated medical disorders. The unit has broken down silos and enhanced integration of all the county agencies to provide streamlined services to residents and visitors of Chesterfield County."

The Excellence in Fire Service-Based EMS Award is scheduled to be presented at the 32nd Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner, which has been postponed until further notice.

For more information about the award and award ceremony, visit the [CFSI website](#) and [announcement](#) of award winners.



By **HON. MARY ANN BORGESON** ([Full Bio](#))
NACO PRESIDENT; COMMISSIONER,
DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEB.

Commissioner Mary Ann Borgeson was first elected to the Douglas County, Neb. Board of Commissioners in 1994. She was re-elected to her 7th term in 2018. In 1997, Commissioner Borgeson was the first woman elected to serve as chairwoman of the Douglas County Board and has served in this capacity for numerous years.

National County Government Month takes on new meaning amid coronavirus pandemic

There is no clearer demonstration of this year's National County Government Month (NCGM) theme — Counties Matter — than the public health emergency we are facing across the country. More than ever, our residents are seeing firsthand the essential functions counties perform.

During the month of April, we have an opportunity to reinforce the message that counties provide indispensable services and help our communities stay healthy and safe.

My term as NACo President has focused on how counties can support older Americans and their caregivers. Because people over 65 are more vulnerable to COVID-19, counties are taking extra precautions to protect them. We should highlight how counties are serving this population by:

- Safely delivering meals through nutrition programs
- Providing support services and resources to caregivers
- Protecting elderly Americans from predatory scams that are escalating in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak, and
- Preventing the COVID-19 spread while also implementing creative strategies to protect older Americans from the harm of social isolation.

While many of the NCGM events you planned can no longer take place in person, we encourage you to continue to highlight how your county is keeping your residents safe. There are many ways to show that counties matter — even in the absence of large gatherings and in-person meetings.

With children home from school, NACo's civic education resources provide opportunities to inform young people about county government and have fun at the same time.

Developed in partnership with iCivics, the "Counties Work" online educational game and the downloadable "My County Works" activity book for young children are great activities individuals can enjoy from their homes.

The game educates students (and adults) about local government functions by letting them run their own county. Along the way, they will learn about the many services provided by county departments while having to balance citizen requests and budgets.

The "My County Works" activity book offers hours of education and entertainment for elementary students. Both resources are free and accessible at NACo.org/iCivics.

Inform residents of how they can help from home and what communities or businesses in your county they can offer aid to. Many volunteer programs are struggling to meet new demands and are modifying their practices to comply with social distancing.

Keep the public informed of what's happening on the front lines. Stream meetings over your social media outlets and other digital platforms.

Some counties roll out a "County Fact of the Day" or key statistics that represent county departments, such as public health, public safety, human services and public works. A media resources kit and social media strategies along with many other resources are available at NACo.org/NCGM.

Counties are on the front lines delivering services to our residents, especially during this critical time. NCGM is an opportunity to show gratitude to county employees risking their well-being.

During this challenging time, I am inspired by the countless acts of tremendous leadership and public service counties, parishes and boroughs across the United States are demonstrating every day. Keep up the great work and stay healthy.

Become a Certified Supervisor



The Virginia Association of Counties, in partnership with Virginia Tech, offers the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program: an opportunity for county supervisors to learn how to more effectively and efficiently lead in their communities.

Since its inception in 2005, 70 supervisors representing more than 40 counties have completed this training program, earning 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 of the local governance experience.

The Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program features a five-course curriculum, designed to maximize engagement and enhance scholarship. Each course begins with a six-hour topically driven, classroom session, followed by an eight-week home study experience. Course participants are assigned relevant articles and books, completing assignments drawn from these readings on a weekly basis. The final component of each course is a concluding six-hour classroom session, which includes a review of the reading and assignment material.

VACo Contact: [Karie Walker](#)

[Managing While Leading:](#)
Understanding Your Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities

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

Opening Session | May 29 Albemarle County

Closing Session | July 24
VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | May 15

[Funding Public Services:](#) The Role of Budgeting

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

Opening Session | September 4
Albemarle County

Closing Session | November 6
VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | August 20

Virginia Economic Review Magazine

by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP)



The Virginia Economic Review magazine is part of VEDP's strategic marketing efforts to engage CEOs and site selection consultants across the country on a quarterly basis. Each issue has a different focus, including facts and figures, recent announcements, Q&As with economic development thought leaders, as well as articles about Virginia's advantages, international trade, and a Virginia region profile.

The 2020 Q1 issue is focused on food and beverage. Recent issues include a spotlight on big data, rural Virginia, manufacturing, and technology. All issues are available digitally on VEDP's website along with the podcasts of selected interviews featured in the magazine.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Business NOT as Usual... Resources That Can Help

OMNIA® P A R T N E R S

Amidst the current COVID-19 pandemic countless communities across the globe have been impacted. We know our counties (cities, public agencies) are working tirelessly to address their community needs but are hindered by their availability to procure the necessary products and services. All businesses have been impacted by capacity, productivity, supply chain output and more.

As your partner in this, we would like to remind you that OMNIA Partners has hundreds of existing cooperative contracts that counties (cities, public agencies) can purchase from immediately. OMNIA Partners has assembled a task force to address the evolving needs during this time. This task force is working with the executive teams of their supplier partners to assist in the deployment of their COVID-19 plans and, when possible, to prioritize healthcare and government agencies for fulfillment.

OMNIA Partners' goal, first and foremost, is to connect public agencies with their community of supplier partners that can help with the most immediate needs for your county (city, agency). For immediate assistance, please visit their [COVID-19 resources](#) page.

We understand the unique set of challenges we are all facing due to this risk and will continue to notify our members of resources that can support you during this time.

Chris White

Regional Manager | Mid-Atlantic

919.738.6098

chris.white@omniapartners.com

Updated Joint Guidance for Emergency Child Care during Statewide School Closure



On March 31, the Virginia Department of Social Services and the Virginia Department of Education released [revised guidance](#) for emergency child care during the statewide school closure in response to COVID-19. This revised guidance provides additional clarification for public schools considering providing emergency child care services for essential personnel during this time.

The Department of Social Services and the Department of Education are working closely together in this effort to identify emergency child care solutions for essential workers during the pandemic. The Commonwealth's Chief School Readiness Officer, Jenna Conway, is coordinating state efforts on this matter.

Guidance documents and FAQs related to child care and COVID-19 can be found at www.childcareva.com and www.doe.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathy Glazer | President

The 2020 AARP Community Challenge is On!



Learn about the details and deadlines for this year’s “quick-action” grant program

AARP Livable Communities, Updated March 20, 2020

The application period for the 2020 AARP Community Challenge is open!

The AARP Community Challenge provides small grants to fund “quick-action” projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages. Applications are being accepted for projects to improve housing, transportation, public space, technology (“smart cities”), civic engagement and more.

Important Dates

- **May 15, 2020:** Applications are due by 11:59 pm (ET)
- **Week of July 6:** Applicants will be notified of their status this week
- **Mid-August:** The selected grantees will be announced to the public — and the project work can begin — on or around this date
- **December 18:** All funded projects must be completed
- **January 31, 2021:** Deadline for after-action reports

Grant Amount

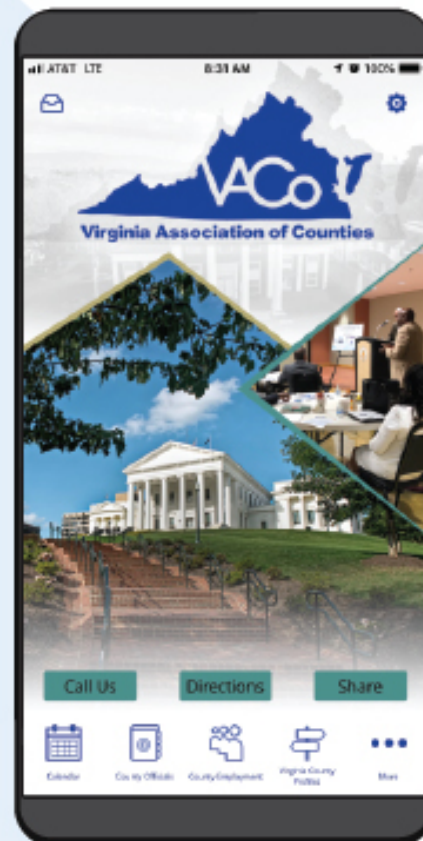
If your idea is big, no project is too small!

Grants can range from several hundred dollars for smaller, short-term activities to several thousand or tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR FOR HOW TO SUBMIT A PROJECT](https://aarp.org/CommunityChallenge)

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.

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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.

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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).



TOWN MANAGER | Town of Front Royal | Posted March 27



SENIOR UTILITY MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN | Gloucester County | Posted March 27



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES | Gloucester County | Posted March 27

Winchester administration Virginia
ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF | City of Winchester | Posted March 27



MECHANIC | Prince George County | Posted March 26



PLANNING & ZONING ADMINISTRATOR | Cumberland County | Posted March 24



SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST | Westmoreland County | Posted March 24



DEPUTY COURT CLERK | Montgomery County | Posted March 24



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES | City of Franklin | Posted March 24



LIBRARY DIRECTOR | Rappahannock County | Posted March 24



DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES | Prince William County | Posted March 20



ZONING TECHNICIAN | City of Harrisonburg | Posted March 19



EMPLOYEE RELATIONS MANAGER | Prince William County | Posted March 18



BENEFIT PROGRAM SPECIALIST I | Montgomery County | Posted March 17



TAX COMPLIANCE AUDITOR | Chesterfield County | Posted March 17



CITY MANAGER | City of Lynchburg | Posted March 17



SEASONAL LANDSCAPING LABORER | Montgomery County | Posted March 13



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT | Gloucester County | Posted March 13



WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SUPERINTENDENT | Hanover County | Posted March 13



BUSINESS AUDITOR | Albemarle County | Posted March 12



ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER | Prince George County | Posted March 12



UTILITY WORKER I | Prince George County | Posted March 12



HUMAN RESOURCES ANALYST | City of Manassas | Posted March 12



SOLID WASTE COLLECTIONS OPERATOR | Montgomery County | Posted March 12



FIRE & RESCUE CHIEF | City of Manassas | Posted March 12



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Patrick County | Posted March 11



TOWN MANAGER | Town of Tappahannock | Posted March 11



GIS SPECIALIST (PART TIME) | Botetourt County | Posted March 10



PLANNER II | Botetourt County | Posted March 10



PLANNER | Botetourt County | Posted March 10



CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER | Botetourt County | Posted March 10



BUILDING OFFICIAL / INSPECTOR | King & Queen County | Posted March 10



PLANNER | Chesterfield County | Posted March 9



CITY MANAGER | City of Buena Vista | Posted March 9



ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY | Westmoreland County | Posted March 9



ATHLETIC FIELD MAINTENANCE LABORER | City of Harrisonburg | Posted March 9



PARK GROUND MAINTENANCE, PARK MAINTENANCE LABORER, PARK MAINTENANCE LABORER-NIGHTS/WEEKENDS | City of Harrisonburg | Posted March 9



CONSTRUCTION INSPECTOR II | City of Chesapeake | Posted March 6



CONVENIENCE CENTER ATTENDANT | James City County | Posted March 6



SENIOR HR SPECIALIST CLASS & COMP | James City County | Posted March 6



CIVIL ENGINEER I, I, III | James City County | Posted March 6



SENIOR FACILITIES SPECIALIST | James City County | Posted March 6



PRINCIPAL PLANNER | James City County | Posted March 6

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

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



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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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