

# COUNTY CONNECTIONS

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Virginia Association of Counties

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April 17, 2020



## Governor Proposes Amendments to Legislation in Advance of April 22 Reconvened Session

In addition to extensive amendments to the FY 2020 “caboose” and 2020-2022 biennium budget bills, the General Assembly will consider amendments to 94 bills at the reconvened session on April 22 (the General Assembly already approved gubernatorial amendments to six bills before the adjournment of the regular session on March 12). Below is an overview of legislation with gubernatorial amendments of particular interest to localities.

**Taxing authority for counties:** [HB 785 \(Watts\)](#)/[SB 588 \(Hanger\)](#) provide additional authority to counties to collect taxes on meals, transient occupancy, cigarettes, and admissions. The Governor’s amendments delay the effective date of the provisions governing transient occupancy taxes until May 1, 2021, and clarify that the provisions dealing with cigarette taxes take effect July 1, 2021. The bills’ remaining provisions would take effect in due course on July 1, 2020.

**Absentee voting:** [HB 207 \(VanValkenburg\)](#) permits any voter to vote by absentee ballot and creates a permanent absentee list to which a voter may opt-in, beginning July 1, 2021. The Governor’s amendments repeal the delayed enactment clause that was included in legislation in 2019 authorizing no-excuse absentee voting beginning with the November 2020 general election, which would appear to authorize no-excuse absentee voting beginning July 1, 2020.

**Project labor agreements:** [HB 358 \(Lopez\)](#)/[SB 182 \(Saslaw\)](#) authorize public bodies to require bidders to enter into or adhere to project labor agreements for public works projects. The Governor’s amendment delays the effective date of the legislation to May 1, 2021. (An additional amendment to SB 182 revises the definition of “public works” to make it consistent with HB 358.)

**Minimum wage:** [HB 395 \(Ward\)](#)/[SB 7 \(Saslaw\)](#) increase the minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$9.50 per hour, effective January 1, 2021; to \$11.00 per hour, effective January 1, 2022; to \$12.00 per hour, effective January 1, 2023; to \$13.50 per hour, effective January 1, 2025 (subject to General Assembly approval by July 1, 2024); and to \$15.00 per hour effective January 1, 2026 (similarly subject to General Assembly approval). For January 1, 2027, and thereafter, the annual minimum wage shall be adjusted to reflect increases in the consumer price index. The Governor’s amendments delay the first increase until May 1, 2021.

**PTSD and workers’ compensation:** [HB 438 \(Heretick\)](#)/[SB 561 \(Vogel\)](#) provide that Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) incurred by a law-enforcement officer or firefighter is an occupational disease compensable under the Virginia Workers’ Compensation Act and define qualifying PTSD events. The Governor’s amendment requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to establish compulsory training standards for basic training of law enforcement officers for recognizing and managing stress, self-care techniques, and resiliency.

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**Collective bargaining:** [HB 582 \(Guzman\)](#)/[SB 939 \(Saslaw\)](#) authorize collective bargaining for employees of local governments and employees of local school boards at local option. The Governor's amendment delays the bills' effective date until May 1, 2021.

**Prevailing wage in public works contracts:** [HB 833 \(Carroll Foy\)](#)/[SB 8 \(Saslaw\)](#) require public works contractors for state projects to pay wages at the prevailing wage rate and authorize any locality to adopt an ordinance with similar requirements. The Governor's amendments delay the effective date of the legislation until May 1, 2021, and clarify the definition of "prevailing wage rate."

**Agriculture and forestry development grants:** [HB 1002 \(Guzman\)](#) creates the Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Planning Grant Program and authorizes the Governor to award grants to political subdivisions to encourage efforts by political subdivisions to support agriculture and forestry. The Governor's amendment adds an emergency clause to the bill.

**Tax exemptions for utility-scale solar:** [HB 1131 \(Jones\)](#)/[SB 762 \(Barker\)](#) extend a state mandate to exempt utility-scale solar projects from local tax to 2030 (the exemption is currently set to expire in 2024). Specifically, current law mandates an 80 percent exemption from local machinery and tools tax (M&T) for solar projects greater than 5 megawatts (MW) in energy capacity. For projects greater than 20 MW and less than 150 MW, the mandatory exemption expires for any project that has not begun construction by Jan. 1, 2024. The legislation also provides the option for a locality, by local ordinance, to replace the M&T tax with an energy tax of \$1,400 per MW of capacity installed per project. The Governor's amendments are technical in nature and do not substantially alter the substance or application of the legislation.

**Transportation funding:** [HB 1414 \(Filler-Corn\)](#)/[SB 890 \(Saslaw\)](#) make numerous changes related to transportation revenue funds, sources, and safety programs. This includes raising the Commonwealth's gas tax 5 cents per gallon per year for two years beginning on July 1, 2020, and after July 1, 2022, adjusting the rate to the United States Average Consumer Price Index, all urban consumers (CPI-U); raising the diesel fuel tax to 27 cents per gallon by July 1, 2021 and also pegging the rate to CPI-U; imposing a 7.6 cent per gallon tax on gas distributors in any County or City that currently does not have a regional fuel tax, such as the ones existing in Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads, and the I-81 corridor, effective July 1, 2021, and also pegging it to CPI-U; creating a new highway use fee on fuel-efficient vehicles; reducing the state's annual vehicle registration fee for motor vehicles by \$10 while maintaining local registration fee rates; creating a new entity known as the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, whose purpose is to develop, maintain, and improve passenger rail facilities and increase passenger rail capacity in the Commonwealth; and diverting all existing and proposed revenues into a single account known as the Commonwealth Transportation Fund. The Governor's amendments clarify the authority of the Passenger Rail Authority to enter into agreements with other states and employ eminent domain; advance to July 1, 2020, the reduction of annual distribution of recordation tax revenues to cities and counties from \$40 million to \$20 million; reduce the excise tax on diesel fuel effective July 1, 2020 from 21.2 cents per gallon to 20.2 cents per gallon; and delay the reduction in regional WMATA capital fees, the creation of the regional congestion relief fee, and the increase in Transient Occupancy Tax in Northern Virginia, to May 1, 2021.

**Central Virginia Transportation Authority:** [HB 1541 \(McQuinn\)](#) creates the Central Virginia Transportation Authority, composed of the Counties and Cities located in Planning District 15 (Goochland, Powhatan, Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Henrico, Hanover, New Kent, Charles City, Richmond City) to administer transportation funding generated through the imposition of an additional regional 0.7 percent sales and use tax and 7.6 cent per gallon gas tax and 7.7 cents per gallon diesel fuel tax pegged to CPI-U. This authority follows similar authorities created in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. The Governor's amendments require a cost benefit analysis component to the transportation project prioritization process; clarify membership on the Authority's Board to include a member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board who resides in Planning District 15; stipulate that any locality included in the authority shall not reduce its transit funding by more than 50 percent of what has been appropriated as of July 1, 2019 instead of July 1, 2020; and peg increases required of localities to changes in CPI-U beginning in FY 2023; require the Authority to evaluate and report to the General Assembly by December 1, 2020, on the governance structure of transit service in the Richmond region; and delay the implementation of the tax increases dedicated to the Authority to October 1, 2020.

**Hampton Roads transit funding:** [HB 1726 \(Askew\)](#)/[SB 1038 \(Lucas\)](#) create the Hampton Roads Regional Transit Program and Fund to develop, maintain, and improve a regional network of transit routes and related infrastructure, in Planning District 23. The program would be funded by an additional (i) regional grantor's tax at a rate of \$0.06 per \$100 of the consideration for the conveyance and (ii) regional transient occupancy tax (TOT) at a rate of one percent of the charge for the occupancy, both imposed in localities in the Hampton Roads Transportation District. The legislation also dedicates \$20 million of revenues from existing recordation taxes to funding the program. The Governor's amendments prevent participating localities from reducing funds appropriated for public transportation to levels less than those appropriated on July 1, 2019; clarify the relationship between the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) and the new Transit Program; and delay the increases in regional TOT to May 1, 2021.

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**Reports on death investigations in local and regional jails:** [SB 215 \(Suetterlein\)](#), as passed by the General Assembly, requires the Board of Corrections to report annually on any reviews conducted on deaths of inmates in local correctional facilities, including trends or similarities among deaths and recommendations to reduce the number of deaths in local correctional facilities. The Governor's substitute expands this reporting requirement to include the results of the inspections and audits of local, regional, or community correctional facilities in addition to death reviews, and requires the report to include recommendations for changes to the standards established for these correctional facilities.

**Date of June primary:** [SB 316 \(Kiggans\)](#) would delay the primary election held in June from the second Tuesday to the third Tuesday in June. The Governor's amendment adds a reenactment clause to the bill, so it would need to be passed again next year to take effect.

**Peer-to-peer car rentals:** [SB 735 \(Newman\)](#) is a compromise bill dealing with the regulation and taxation of peer-to-peer car rental services. As passed by the General Assembly, from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, the bill would impose a tax on such rentals of 6.5 percent of the gross proceeds for vehicle owners listing no more than ten vehicles for rent at any given time, with the tax increasing to seven percent beginning July 1, 2021. The Governor's amendments delay the effective date of the tax provisions to October 1, 2020.

**Split precincts:** [SB 740 \(Obenshain\)](#) requires localities to adjust local precinct lines so that precincts are not split between General Assembly or Congressional districts. VACo has traditionally supported addressing this situation through technical adjustments made by the state to state-drawn lines; however, this approach has been unsuccessful in recent years. VACo had requested amendments to make the bill more workable for localities with respect to the timing of elections held in November of years in which redistricting is held. The Governor's amendments would require precincts to be established for November elections based on districts as they exist on June 15 of a redistricting year; if new districts have not been established by that time, localities could use the June 15 districts to establish precinct lines to be used in November elections and then make further adjustments later to reflect subsequent changes to district lines.

**Electric personal delivery devices:** [SB 758 \(Marsden\)](#) makes several changes related to electric personal delivery devices (aka delivery robots), including changing the weight limit of such devices from 50 to 500 pounds and allowing their use of sidewalks or crosswalks unless prohibited by local ordinance. The Governor's amendments require the delivery devices to yield to pedestrian rights-of-way and to have device operator identifying information visibly displayed.

#### **Additional Bills of Interest**

[HB 4 \(Knight\)](#)/[SB 36 \(Lucas\)](#) authorize casino gaming in the Commonwealth and specify the use of revenues from taxes to be levied on the adjusted gross receipts of licensed operators. In the enrolled versions of the bills, revenues left over after allocations to the cities housing the casinos, the Virginia Indigenous People's Trust Fund, the Problem Gambling Treatment and Support Fund, and the Family and Children's Trust Fund would be General Fund revenues. The Governor's amendments would provide that these funds would be used instead for programs established to address public school capital needs.

[HB 340 \(Price\)](#), as passed by the General Assembly, would provide protections against evictions or foreclosures for individuals affected by federal government furloughs associated with government shutdowns. The Governor's substitute adds similar protections during the public health state of emergency for individuals who experience losses in income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[HB 881 \(Bulova\)](#)/[SB 971 \(Howell\)](#) as passed by the General Assembly would treat "games of skill" as illegal gambling. The Governor's substitute proposal would allow games existing as of June 30, 2020, to operate until July 1, 2021, and require distributors to remit a monthly tax on each skill game. Revenue generated by the tax would be split among the localities in which the games are located, the Problem Gambling Treatment and Support Fund, the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority, and a new COVID-19 Relief Fund that would be used by the Governor to respond to the pandemic.

[HB 1255 \(Price\)](#)/[SB 717 \(McClellan\)](#) specify criteria for the drawing of congressional and General Assembly districts, including provisions requiring an individual incarcerated in a correctional facility to be counted for redistricting purposes either at his or her address prior to incarceration (if located within the Commonwealth) or at the facility (if his or her address was located outside the Commonwealth or is not known). The enactment clause proposed by the Governor requires such data to be collected and provided to the Division of Legislative Services in fall 2020.

[SB 548 \(Edwards\)](#), as passed by the General Assembly, deals with various aspects of unemployment compensation, such as a requirement for all employers to file payroll and tax reports electronically with the Virginia Employment Commission. The Governor's substitute adds new language directing the Virginia Employment Commission to establish a short-time compensation program that would allow approval of work-sharing programs in which hours are reduced in lieu of layoffs.



## **Ted Voorhees Named Orange County Administrator**



The Orange County Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce that Theodore (Ted) L. Voorhees, ICMA-CM, has been hired as Orange County Administrator effective April 5, 2020. Voorhees reported to work on April 6.

Previously, Voorhees served as Powhatan County Administrator from May 2017 to January 2020. Prior to his service in Powhatan County, Voorhees served for nearly four years as the City Manager for Fayetteville, NC and as the Deputy City Manager of Operations for Durham, NC for ten years. He has also served as Assistant City Manager of Wilmington, NC, City manager in King, NC, and Town Manager of Bowling Green, VA. Voorhees began his local government career as an aide to a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and spent two years at the Pentagon as a Department of the Army civilian.

While serving in these positions, Voorhees' accomplishments include improvements in staff development and technologies; implementation of a performance management system with performance metrics; establishment of employee-generated core values for the organization; establishment of an award-winning economic development program; conducting the National Citizens Survey; and managing procurement of a new 800MHz digital radio system. Other areas of accomplishments in various communities where he has served include managing strategic planning efforts, establishing sound fiscal management policies, and implementing mobile applications for citizens.

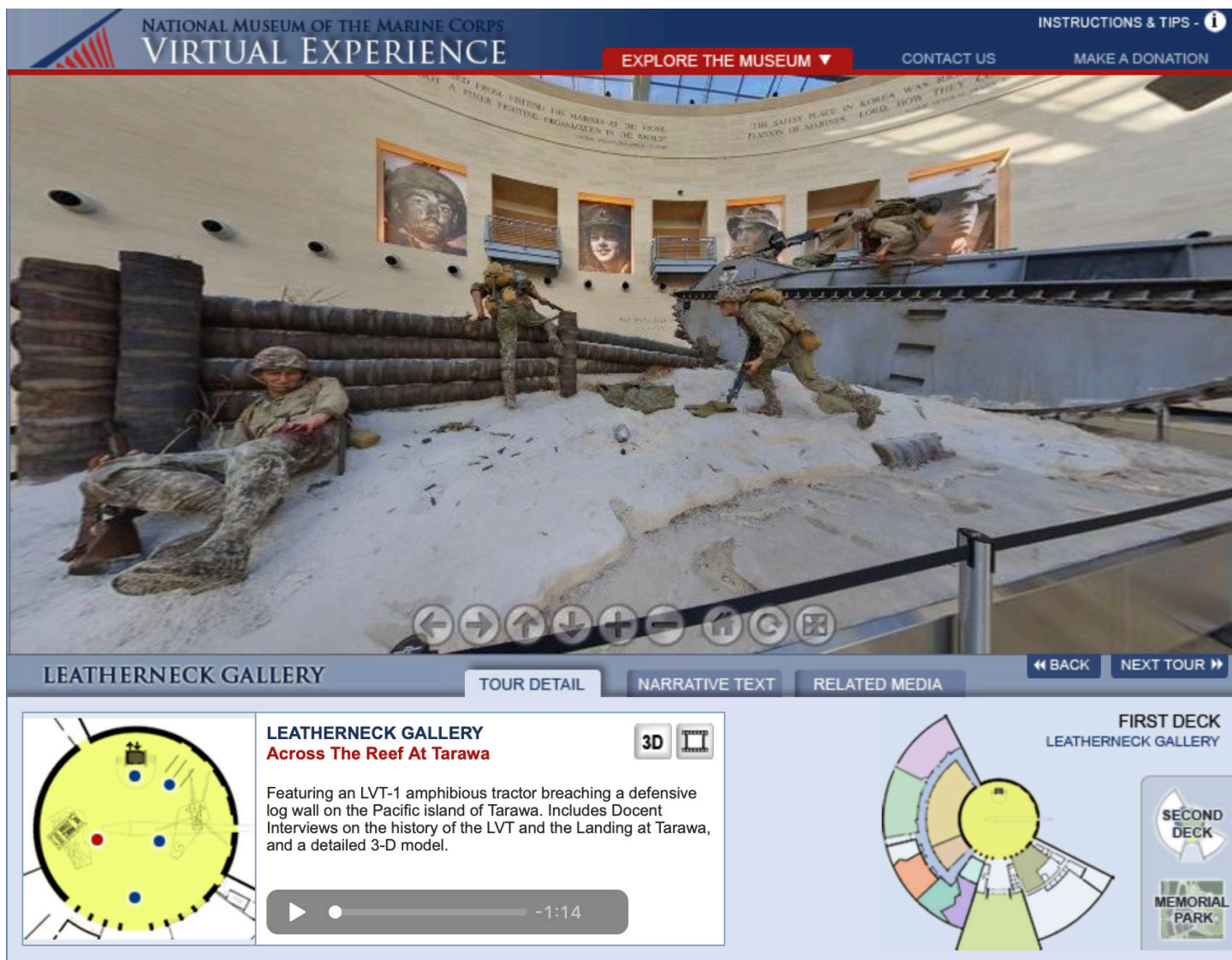
Voorhees is an International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Credentialed Manager who has served on various ICMA committees. He holds a Bachelor of Science from American University and earned a Master of Public Administration from George Mason University. Voorhees graduated from the Municipal Administration Program at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government and has completed the Senior Executive Institute program at the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia.

Voorhees is the son of a career Army officer and bogey golfer. His wife Michele is an elementary educator and avid runner. Together they have four children. In his free time, Voorhees enjoys playing golf, running, reading, and spending time with his family.

"I am looking forward to joining the Orange County team and appreciate the opportunity that the Board has given me to help them achieve their goals for the community," said Voorhees. "During these extraordinary times, I will initially be focusing my attention on supporting employees and community partners working to protect us all from the impacts of COVID-19. By working together to heed 'stay at home' orders from Governor Northam and best practices from the CDC, we have the best chance of mitigating effects on our community and our loved ones."

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Jim Crozier said, "Ted comes to us with great experience and a desire to continue moving Orange County ahead into the future with the Board and County staff. I am very excited to have him onboard."

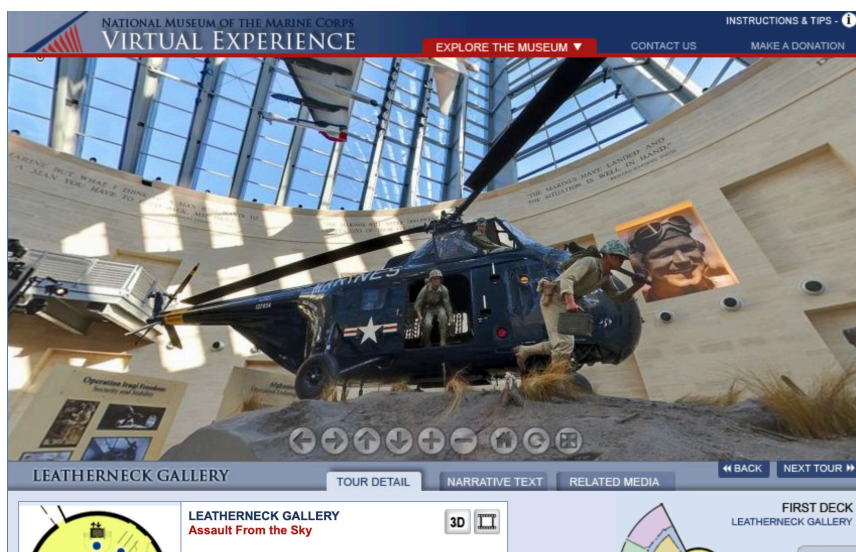




## Virtually Visit Prince William County and the National Museum of the Marine Corps

Welcome to the National Museum of the Marine Corps Virtual Experience! This rich, interactive virtual environment will serve as the gateway for Marines and visitors from all around the world to see the museum regardless of their location. Explore the U.S. Marine Corps' proud heritage from your desktop...marvel at the Marine aircraft suspended throughout the Leatherneck Gallery; experience bootcamp as a new recruit; watch historic footage of Marines landing on Iwo Jima; and much, much more.

**SOURCE:** [National Museum of the Marine Corps Virtual Experience](https://www.marinecorpsmuseum.org/virtual-experience)





## 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 [gharter@vaco.org](mailto:gharter@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 [gharter@vaco.org](mailto:gharter@vaco.org) with questions or for more information.

[Achievement Awards Submission Form](#) | [2019 Achievement Awards Press Release](#)  
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# **Governor Offers Amendments to Caboose and Biennium Budgets**

In order to address the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic on state revenues, Governor Northam offered extensive amendments to the FY 2020 “caboose” and 2020-2022 biennium budgets on April 11, making 37 amendments to the caboose budget and 144 amendments to the biennium budget. The bulk of the amendments to the biennium budget “unallot” new discretionary spending that was included in the budget as passed by the General Assembly; in his cover letter to legislators, the Governor characterized these actions as placing that spending “on hold” until a revenue reforecast can be completed. The amendments freezing spending in this fashion provide that the funds would be held in abeyance “until re-enacted by the General Assembly after acceptance of a revenue forecast that confirms the revenues estimated” in the Appropriations Act.

It is unknown at this time when the General Assembly might convene for further work on the budget after the reconvened session on April 22. It is expected that additional guidance will be forthcoming from the federal government, possibly as soon as next week, on the use of Virginia’s share of the Coronavirus Relief Fund included in the CARES Act enacted in March, which may assist the state in assessing its revenue situation. Congressional leadership is also discussing an additional aid package that would provide more funding to states and localities, as well as more flexibility in the use of the funds.

Key elements of the Governor’s proposed amendments to the caboose budget include the following:

## **Finance**

- Removes planned deposit of \$601.8 million to the Revenue Reserve Fund in order to preserve liquidity. (Amendment 8)
- Authorizes the Treasury Board to issue up to \$500 million in tax and revenue anticipation notes on behalf of the state in order to manage cash flow; authorizes up to \$250 million in tax and revenue anticipation notes to assist with cash flow for counties, cities, and towns. Similar language is included in the biennium budget amendments. (Amendment 37)
- Defers interest on income tax payments due between April 1 and June 1, 2020, as long as payment is made by June 1; waives interest on sales tax payments that were originally due March 20 if the Department of Taxation had already waived penalties, provided that payment is made by April 20. Similar language is included in the biennium budget amendments. (Amendment 27)

## **Education**

- Authorizes the Superintendent of Public Instruction to grant temporary flexibility and issue waivers in areas such as accreditation, testing, and reports. Similar language is included in the biennium budget amendments. (Amendment 5)
- Authorizes the Virginia Department of Education to temporarily suspend Supplemental Lottery Per Pupil Allocation payments made to school divisions in the event of a shortfall in lottery proceeds. (Amendment 6)
- Waives required local effort and required local effort and local match obligations for FY 2020 due to the state of emergency and school closures. (Amendment 7)

## **Child Care**

- Appropriates additional federal Child Care Development Block Grant funding provided in the CARES Act and directs that it be used to provide incentive grants for child care providers, emergency child care, elimination of co-pays for participants in the child care subsidy program, and paid absence days to centers that are temporarily closed. (Amendment 14)
- Uses \$2 million in balances from the Child Care Development Fund for full-day authorization for child care for school-age children and sibling enrollment for families already approved for care. (Amendment 15)
- Authorizes an exemption from licensure for child day programs serving children of essential personnel, provided that programs file with the Department of Social Services and abide by certain basic health and safety requirements. Exempts staff from securing an additional background check provided that a background check was conducted within the previous two years. Similar language is included in the biennium budget amendments. (Amendment 17)

## **Other**

- Provides authority for the Director of the Department of Corrections to discharge certain offenders from incarceration or place them in a lower level of supervision in order to assist in maintaining health, safety, and welfare while preserving public safety. Similar language is included in the biennium budget amendments. (Amendment 21)



- Authorizes public bodies to hold meetings by electronic means under certain circumstances during a state of emergency, provided certain notice and record-keeping provisions are met. Similar language is included in the biennium budget amendments. (Amendment 28)
- Sets out a process for delaying the May 5, 2020, general and special elections until November 3, 2020. (Amendment 36)

Key elements of the Governor's amendments to the biennium budget are as follows:

**K-12 Education**

- Authorizes the Superintendent of Public Instruction to grant temporary flexibility and issue waivers in areas such as accreditation, testing, and reports. Similar language is included in the caboose budget amendments. (Amendment 26)
- Unallots \$7.1 million GF in FY 2022 that would develop the Virginia Learner Equitable Access Platform, an online depository of curriculum and other educational resources to be used and shared among school divisions to aid in classroom instruction (Amendment 27)
- Unallots \$650,000 GF in each year of the biennium for Virginia Preschool Initiative classroom observations and professional development. (Amendment 27).
- Unallots \$21.7 million GF in FY 2021 and \$28.4 million in FY 2022 to retain school counselor ratios at FY 2020 levels. VACo had requested delayed implementation of [HB 1508 \(McQuinn\)](#) / [SB 880 \(Locke\)](#) as means of mitigating additional Standards of Quality staffing ratio expenses and requirements. (Amendment 28)
- Unallots \$185.3 million GF in FY 2021 and \$305 million GF in FY 2022 in discretionary spending amounts related to Direct Aid to Education. (Amendment 29) Some notable unallotments in this Amendment include:
  - \$35 million GF in FY 2021 and \$48 million GF in FY 2022 that would increase the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) per pupil allocation, provide additional support for students on waitlists, and create a pilot program for at-risk three-year-olds.
  - \$3 million GF in FY 2021 and \$5 million GF in FY 2022 for early childhood educator recruitment/retention incentives in hard-to-serve preschool classrooms.
  - \$1.8 million GF in FY 2021 and \$2 million GF in FY 2022 for no-loss funding to localities to ensure that no school division loses state funding in FY 2021 or FY 2022 as compared to that school division's FY 2020 state distribution.
  - \$5.3 million GF in each year of the biennium for school meals expansion to reduce or eliminate the cost of school breakfast and school lunch for students who are eligible for reduced price meals under the federal National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.
  - \$94.7 million GF in FY 2021 and \$192.5 million GF in FY 2022 for 2 percent salary increases in each year for the state share of funded Standards of Quality instructional and support positions.
  - \$26.2 million GF in FY 2021 and \$35.2 million GF in FY 2022 for At-Risk Add-On funding disbursed to local school divisions based on the estimated number of federal Free Lunch participants, in support of programs for students who are educationally at risk.
  - \$2.5 million GF in FY 2021 and \$2.1 million GF in FY 2022 for relief to school divisions with fewer than 10,000 students experiencing unexpected enrollment loss greater 2 percent over the summer between school years.
  - \$9.6 million GF in FY 2021 and \$10 million GF in FY 2022 for Cost of Competing Adjustment (COCA) to partially restore funds to eligible school divisions (nine school divisions in Planning District 8 and nine adjacent school divisions).
- As of now, no changes to the appropriations for biennial rebenchmarking of the Standards of Quality have been proposed.

**Compensation and Retirement**

- Unallots \$118.1 million General Funds (GF) in FY 2021 and \$146.8 million GF in FY 2022 that would support compensation actions for state employees and state-supported local employees (for state employees, a three percent bonus effective December 1, 2020 and a three percent salary increase effective June 10, 2021; for Constitutional officers and their employees and state-supported local employees, a two percent bonus, effective December 1, 2020, and a three percent salary increase, effective July 1, 2021; for sworn employees of the Department of State Police with three or more years of continuous state service, \$110 for each year of service up to 30 years, effective August 10, 2020, as well as a two percent salary increase effective the same date). (Amendment 124)
- Unallots \$3.9 million GF in FY 2021 and \$4.1 million GF in FY 2022 that would reduce the amortization period for the state employee retiree health insurance credit. (Amendment 124)

**Judiciary/Public Safety**

- Unallots funding for additional district court clerk positions (\$5.7 million General Funds (GF) in FY 2021 and \$7.6 million GF in FY 2022). (Amendment 2)
- Unallots funding for additional public defenders (\$3.8 million GF in FY 2021 and \$5.7 million GF in FY 2022). (Amendment 3)
- Unallots \$8.6 million GF per year in additional aid to localities with police departments ("HB 599"). (Amendment 103)
- Unallots \$2.3 million GF per year for expansion of local pretrial and probation services.

**Constitutional Officers (Amendment 6)**

- Unallots \$358,578 GF in FY 2021 and \$391,176 GF in FY 2022 that would fund a minimum of three staff in each Circuit Court Clerk's office.
- Unallots \$1 million GF per year for technology in Clerks' offices.
- Unallots \$1.8 million GF in FY 2021 and \$2 million GF in FY 2022 that would fund deputy circuit court clerks' salaries in order to reach parity with General District Court clerks' salaries.
- Unallots \$979,399 GF in FY 2021 and \$1.1 million GF in FY 2022 that would fund 25 percent of the court services staffing need in Sheriffs' offices.
- Unallots \$1.4 million GF per year that would fund 25 percent of the staffing need in Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices.
- Unallots \$950,656 GF in FY 2021 and \$1 million GF in FY 2022 that would support unfunded or underfunded positions in offices of Commissioners of the Revenue.
- Unallots \$821,028 GF in FY 2021 and \$1.6 million GF in FY 2022 that would support unfunded/underfunded positions in Treasurers' offices.

**Agriculture and Forestry**

- Includes new language directing the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to administer an agricultural pilot program to study the growth, cultivation, and marketing of industrial hemp. (Amendment 11)
- Unallots funding for staff in VDACS (\$425,042 over the biennium) and the Department of Forestry (\$866,032 over the biennium) associated with implementation of the phase III watershed implementation plan (Amendments 12 and 13).

**Elections**

- Unallots \$2.5 million GF per year, which would support funding for full reimbursement for the state-established compensation levels for general registrars and electoral board members' salaries (Amendment 10)
- Retains state match for Help America Vote Act funding included in the federal spending package enacted in December 2019 and language directing the use of the federal funds for replacement of the state voter registration system.

**Economic Development**

- Unallots \$250,000 GF per year for Enterprise Zone grants. (Amendment 17)
- Unallots \$294,000 GF per year in additional funding for Planning District Commissions. (Amendment 17)
- Unallots \$12.5 million GF in FY 2021 for the Business Ready Sites Program. (Amendment 21)

**Broadband**

- Unallots \$16 million GF per year for the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (leaving the FY 2020 appropriation level of \$19 million). (Amendment 17)

**Housing**

- Includes new language allowing the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to waive the requirement for homeless prevention program funds to be matched with local or private funds (Amendment 15); additional language allows DHCD to use funding from the Housing Trust Fund to address housing issues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. (Amendment 16)
- Unallots proposed addition of \$23 million GF per year in support for the Housing Trust Fund (leaving the FY 2020 base of \$7 million per year). (Amendment 17)

**Aid to Local Public Libraries**

- Unallots \$1 million GF per year in additional aid to local public libraries. (Amendment 55)

**Children's Services Act**

- Unallots \$250,000 in FY 2021 that would continue the second phase of the rate study for private special education day placements that was partially completed in 2019. Directs the Office of Children's services to submit preliminary findings on the continuation of the study to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission no later than September 1 for incorporation into JLARC's CSA study. Retains language directing the implementation of rate setting on a statewide basis, effective July 1, 2021. (Amendments 72 and 73)

**Medicaid**

- Unallots proposed addition of 250 Developmental Disability waiver slots in FY 2022 (these slots were added by the General Assembly; retains the 1,135 waiver slots added over the biennium in the Governor's introduced budget as part of the state's agreement with the Department of Justice). (Amendment 81)
- Unallots proposed funding for care coordination for inmates prior to release from incarceration (\$347,803 GF in FY 2021 and \$465,440 in FY 2022). (Amendment 81)
- Unallots funding for a proposed new Medicaid dental benefit for adults (\$8.7 million GF in FY 2021 and \$25.3 million GF in FY 2022). (Amendment 81)
- Unallots funding for a new voluntary home visiting benefit. (\$12 million in FY 2022) (Amendment 81)
- Unallots the Medicaid-funded portion of additional STEP-VA services proposed to be funded over the biennium (\$486,951 GF in FY 2021 and \$2.3 million GF in FY 2022). (Amendment 81)

**Behavioral Health**

- Unallots \$4.2 million GF per year in additional support for the Virginia Mental Health Access Program, which assists pediatricians in providing mental health care to children. (Amendment 83)
- Unallots proposed funding for pilot programs to reduce census pressures at state hospitals (\$7.5 million GF per year). (Amendment 83)
- Unallots proposed increases in funds for permanent supportive housing (\$8.5 million GF in FY 2021 and \$17 million GF in FY 2022). (Amendment 84)
- Unallots proposed additional funding to expand forensic discharge planning in jails (\$1.4 million GF in FY 2021 and \$2.1 million GF in FY 2022). (Amendment 84)
- Unallots funding for continued phased implementation of STEP-VA (\$19.7 million GF in FY 2021 and \$30.2 million GF in FY 2022, which would provide additional funding for outpatient services, veterans services, and peer support and family support services). Provides that Community Services Boards are not required to provide STEP-VA services beyond what was funded in the 2019 Appropriations Act. (Amendment 84)

**Social Services**

- Unallots \$100,000 in FY 2021 and \$200,000 in FY 2022 that would support foster care youth obtaining drivers' licenses. (Amendment 93)
- Unallots \$1.2 million GF per year that would increase TANF benefits and income eligibility. (Amendment 93)
- Unallots \$3.4 million in FY 2021 and \$8.4 million in FY 2022 to fund prevention services for children and families as part of the state's implementation of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act and \$12.5 million in FY 2021 and \$17.4 million in FY 2022 to establish prevention services in local departments of social services. Also unallots \$1.1 million GF per year that would support development of evidence-based services in accordance with the 2018 changes to federal foster care funding streams. (Amendment 93)
- Unallots \$5.6 million GF per year that would increase minimum salaries in local departments of social services. (Amendment 93)
- Unallots \$75,000 GF per year to develop an emergency approval process for kinship caregivers. (Amendment 93)

**Natural Resources**

- Unallots proposed spending increases for state park operations and maintenance (\$3.2 million over the biennium). (Amendment 95)
- Unallots proposed supplemental Water Quality Improvement Fund deposit in FY 2022 of \$25.4 million and proposed Supplemental Water Quality Improvement Fund deposit of \$3.8 million in FY 2021, but retains the mandatory appropriation in FY 2021. (Amendment 95)
- The Governor's amendments do not appear to address the \$50 million in bond authorization for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund that was included in the enrolled budget. However, the Governor's amendments include language allowing the Governor to direct state agencies or authorities to delay the initiation or continuation of capital projects supported by General Fund or state-supported debt appropriations in response to cash flow or debt capacity concerns.

**Transportation**

- Includes language amendment providing that the Six-Year Improvement Program adopted in June 2019 shall remain in effect until June 30, 2021, or until a new program is adopted that reflects an updated Commonwealth Transportation Fund revenue forecast reflecting the effects of the pandemic. (Amendment 110).
- Includes language providing that the Commonwealth Transportation Board may adjust funding allocations to transportation agencies to ensure the continuation of core services that may be threatened by revenue reductions associated with the pandemic. (Amendment 111)

**Reserves**

- Unallots proposed voluntary \$300 million deposit to the Revenue Reserve Fund in FY 2022. (Amendment 70)



# Arlington County Mourns the Death of Erik Gutshall

Arlington County government is mourning the death of County Board Vice-Chair Erik Gutshall, who died of brain cancer on Thursday, April 16, 2020. Gutshall, 49, had announced on April 6 that he was resigning from the Board due to ill health. In his honor, County Manager Mark Schwartz on Friday ordered that the flag outside the Ellen M. Bozman Government Center be lowered to half-staff for seven days.

"We lost our friend and colleague, our vice-chair, Erik Gutshall, to brain cancer yesterday. We are heartbroken," County Board Chair Libby Garvey said. "Erik loved being a Board member and loved Arlington. His death is a loss for us all, but especially for his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. In the coming days, my colleagues and I will be considering how best we can honor Erik's life and service."

Renee Gutshall announced her husband's death Thursday night on Facebook, just 10 days after he announced that he was leaving the hospital, where he had undergone treatment for a month, to quarantine at home with his family.

"It is with a broken heart that I share this news," Renee Gutshall wrote Thursday. "Today the sweetest, most amazing man has lost his battle with brain cancer. It was only 8 weeks ago that Erik Gutshall received this diagnosis, leaving us too quickly but peacefully today surrounded in love by his family." The family, she wrote, "will share information about a memorial service "once we're beyond the current COVID-19 crisis."

Gutshall is survived by his wife and their three daughters.

Garvey said that Board Members will pause for a minute of silence before beginning their [weekly COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall](#) at noon on Friday, April 17 to recognize Mr. Gutshall's passing.

Gutshall's colleagues on the Board, and the County Manager, expressed shock, sadness, and deep appreciation for Gutshall's service on the Board and commitment to the Arlington community."

Erik was a visionary when it came to our community," Board Member Katie Cristol said. "He understood how every neighborhood plan, park and bus route affected people's lives and connected us to one another as fellow citizens. I feel so fortunate to have learned from and worked with Erik as a colleague and a friend and am devastated by the loss of an extraordinary Arlingtonian."

"Erik's passion for Arlington is what made him a valued public servant, and his love for his family made him a model individual," County Board Member Christian Dorsey said. "I can only hope that their shared love and many memories can be sources of comfort to the Gutshalls as we mourn his death."

"Erik led by asking the most important questions and encouraging us to reach for the best in ourselves. Like so many Arlington residents, I will miss him very much: he was a brother and mentor to me," County Board Member Matt de Ferranti said. "I join my colleagues in asking that we hold Erik's wife Renee and his three daughters in our hearts and that we do all we can to support them."

County Manager Mark Schwartz recalled that "it was only a few months ago that Erik spoke of his vision for this year and the future," in his [New Year's remarks](#). "I was honored to work with him, and for a far too brief period of time, to have had the chance to learn and be guided by his insight, determination, intellect, and humor. My sympathy is with his family, and I am grateful to them for having shared Erik with all of us through his years of community service."

Gutshall, a former Chair of the County's Planning Commission, was elected to the County Board in November 2017. During his time on the Board, he was a passionate advocate for sustainability and inclusion. He championed policies to protect the environment and combat climate change and to expand the County's supply of affordable housing.

Gutshall, the founder, and president, of Clarendon Home Services, became an active community volunteer shortly after he and his wife moved to the Lyon Park neighborhood in 1995. He served on the Board of Doorways for Women and Families and on the Facilities Committee of Western Presbyterian Church. He coached youth soccer, and on the PTA. All three of his daughters attend Arlington Public Schools.

As chair of the Planning Commission, and during his service on the Transportation Commission, Mr. Gutshall supported strong public engagement and thoughtful planning to ensure that private development contributes to residents' quality of life and that any potential negative impacts of development are mitigated.

During his time on the County Board, Gutshall served as Vice-Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's (MwCOG) Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC). He also served as a Director of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo), and chaired their Economic Development and Planning Steering Committee.

Gutshall earned his Bachelor of Science in Political Science from James Madison University and his Master of Arts in Environmental Resource Policy from The George Washington University. He was a member of Leadership Arlington Class of 2009.



# Meet Our Newest VACo Associate Member



PayIt is **bringing governments and people closer together** through our award-winning, disruptive platform. We deliver an innovative solution that enables residents to **easily access essential government services** from any device. Whether it's paying property taxes, vehicle registration renewals, tolls, utility services or court citations, interacting with **government has never been easier**. This innovative approach to government interaction has won PayIt and our government partners numerous awards – including being named to the GovTech 100 four years in a row, several Government Experience Awards on local and state levels and multiple StateScoop Awards. Learn more [here](#).

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04-09-2020

**Avaya Enables 2 Million Remote Workers for more than 11,000 Companies Worldwide, Responding to COVID-19**



## ***Avaya is a VACo Premier Partner***

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on people and organizations around the globe. Companies large and small have had to quickly adapt to new ways of working while addressing massive increases in customer inquiries and the need for help. Avaya Holdings Corp. (NYSE:AVYA) has moved quickly to enable companies, schools, governments and organizations of all kinds to adapt to working from anywhere. Every day more and more people are connected, collaborating and continuing to be productive while staying safe, based on the speed at which Avaya has been able to respond.

In response to COVID-19, the company has empowered 2 million staff members to work from home for its customers around the world. These customers are benefitting from the [complimentary 90-day access licenses](#) Avaya has offered to pivot their office-based contact center agents and others to work remotely while maintaining exceptional levels of customer engagement. Avaya has helped over 11,000 organizations in just a few weeks, including Humana, IBM, Boston Scientific, the FDIC, General Atomics, Hainan Airlines, Carlson Wagonlit, Gateway Health, Deutsche Telekom IT GmbH, Texas Children's Hospital, Westcon, Teleperformance, government agencies, and many more who rely on Avaya as their trusted partner helping them successfully manage through the crisis.

"No other company has the breadth and capabilities we have to enable remote workforces on a global scale where we are dealing with workforces in the tens of thousands, in some cases even more," said Jim Chirico, president and CEO of Avaya. "Our immediate priority is to make a positive impact in any way we can to help our customers with business continuity, transition their workers to a work from anywhere environment and help ease the extreme emotional and mental stress this crisis is causing for their workers and their customers."

Teleperformance is a global leader in digitally integrated business services, with over 330,000 employees in 80 countries, and a long-time Avaya customer. "Teleperformance remains focused on the health and safety of our employees. The well-being of our people must come first, and for this reason, Teleperformance has significantly expanded the deployment of home-based agents to now upward of 120,000 – a great option to protect employees from exposure and ensure business continuity for our clients," said Dev Mudaliar, Group CIO, Teleperformance. "Our motto 'Simpler, Faster, Safer' has certainly taken on new meaning in these extraordinary times. All over the world, our Work-at-Home solutions have been implemented to ensure business continuity and flexibility for Teleperformance clients. Teleperformance is pleased to partner with industry technology leaders like Avaya to help power our highly reliable and adaptable infrastructure. Avaya's remote agent solutions have provided us the capability to rapidly mobilize at-home users, and deliver the same customer experience as a traditional brick and mortar contact center."

Germany's Deutsche Telekom has enabled thousands of its employees to work from anywhere with Avaya technology. "Thanks to the support from Avaya, within four days we were given the ability to enable an additional 7,000 employees at our service centers to work from anywhere," said Jörg Meinunger, Deutsche Telekom IT GmbH. "Our agents are now in a position to provide our customers with comprehensive advice from the home office and help them with their questions and alleviate uncertainties. This enables us to always focus on the needs of our customers, even in challenging times like the ones we are currently experiencing."

The U.S. Small Business Administration is contending not only with responding to the significant economic impacts of this crisis to small businesses all over America, but managing that response with employees that are all now required to work from home. Avaya quickly provided the solutions to enable hundreds of staff members to support the huge increase in inquiries and requests and do so while working from anywhere.

For comprehensive information on Avaya's programs to assist organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the company's global COVID-19 technical hotline for customers and partners, please [visit the web page](#).

**VACo Contact:** [Karie Walker](#)

## **Fox Business: Avaya Donates Video Services During Coronavirus**

Avaya CEO and president Jim Chirico discusses how Avaya is providing video conferencing and collaborations to businesses, organizations, and institutions amid the coronavirus outbreak.



# NEWS

from our Associate Members

# A S S U R A

## Taking the Pain of Cybersecurity Away by Working with Assura

When Accomack County was faced with implementing a cybersecurity program with limited resources and aggressive timeframes, they called Assura. Rather than a once-and-done project, the County subscribed to Assura's Fractional Chief Information Security Officer service called Virtual Information Security Officer (Virtual ISO™). Assura's assigned Virtual ISO™ worked closely with Accomack's County Administrator and Chief Information Officer (CIO) to implement a cybersecurity program that fully complies with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS), and Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) requirements. This included development of a countywide cybersecurity policy approved by the Board of Supervisors, supporting program documentation, and cybersecurity monitoring with minimal cost.

When Virginia HB 2178 requiring registrars to strengthen the cybersecurity posture of the Commonwealth's electoral system was signed into law, many counties were scrambling, but Accomack County was already covered. The cybersecurity program and services implemented by Assura ensured that they only needed to make minor adjustments to comply with the new law. Their program is now ready well before the November 2020 elections.

Try us out for free while getting ready for November's elections! We are currently offering 60-days of free service for our Election Protection Pack which provides all of the technology and services necessary to comply with HB 2178, including your own Virtual Information Security Officer.

Assura's mission is simple: Securing the future one client at a time. Our core value: Take away the pain of cybersecurity for our clients by providing managed cybersecurity services and tools. We can get your cybersecurity ready for November's elections! Let us be your easy button! Contact us at 855-9NOHACK or on the web at [assurainc.com](http://assurainc.com)!

## Ask the Disaster Lady

Assura is pleased to announce 'Ask the Disaster Lady', a free resource for businesses and government to receive professional guidance on managing long-term disaster response for COVID-19 issues from certified disaster recovery planners.

The program includes comprehensive emergency response guidance for issues related to the unique disaster affecting the world such as retaining customers, managing employee issues, and even dealing with cyberattacks from COVID related threats. Resources include a toll-free emergency contact number, website with up-to-the-minute disaster-related information, and response tips for everyone!

Karen Cole, CBCP, CISA, CRISC, MBCI  
CEO of Assura, Inc.

TF: (844)-HACKHLP | [ASSURAINC.COM](http://ASSURAINC.COM) | [karen.cole@assurainc.com](mailto:karen.cole@assurainc.com)



## Changes to Foster Care Funding Delayed Until 2021



Virginia has been working to implement significant changes to federal support for child welfare since passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) in February 2018. This law made sweeping changes to federal financing of the foster care system by allowing federal Title IV-E funds (which typically reimburse state funds at a 50 percent match rate) to be used for prevention services for the families of children who would otherwise be at risk of entering foster care. These services, which include mental health and substance use treatment programs, could be funded for up to 12 months and must meet certain standards of effectiveness. FFPSA also made major changes to the traditional use of Title IV-E funding for maintenance (typically room and board for children who must be removed from their homes) by limiting the duration of federal maintenance support for certain congregate care placements, with the exception of facilities that are designated as “Qualified Residential Treatment Providers” by meeting certain standards. FFPSA allowed states to participate in this new funding structure beginning October 1, 2019, but states may delay participation for two years.

Virginia has been working through a “Three Branch” structure, including representatives of the legislature, executive branch, and judiciary, as well as many advocates and stakeholders, to implement the legislation, and had been planning to transition to the new funding model in summer 2020. Last week the Three Branch leadership announced that implementation would be delayed until January 30, 2021. The additional implementation time is needed to enable existing providers of congregate care to become approved Qualified Residential Treatment Providers, a critical component in enabling Virginia to continue to receive federal support for children in these placements – without the IV-E maintenance payments, these costs would be shifted to other funding streams, including the Children’s Services Act. State leaders are also continuing to work with providers of prevention services to offer training and other support to build up the offerings of evidence-based services that can qualify for federal funding. Additional information on FFPSA implementation in Virginia may be found on the Three Branch team’s [website](#). VACo held a breakout session at the 2019 annual conference on child welfare issues, including a presentation on the state’s implementation of FFPSA; a recording of the session is available at [this link](#).

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





**CHATHAM, VA** – With the help of several of the Pittsylvania Career and Technical Center (PCTC) students who helped research, design and build it, Pittsylvania County’s newest LOVE sign is now greeting visitors to the newly renovated 50-acre Wayside Park in Hurt. Four PCTC students and their welding instructor, Travis Wood, installed the 8-foot-tall by 25-foot-wide, 2-ton sign April 2. The towering sign lines the pull-off road at the front of the park that serves as the trailhead entrance connecting visitors to the park’s new trail system.

Each of the four letters in the sign represent a piece of history in the Hurt community. The “L” was built with brick to represent the smokestack at the adjacent former Klopman Mills textile manufacturing plant. That smokestack was brought down in January 2020. The “O” has a steel heart-shaped center with a graphic showing the iconic swinging bridge with stacked stone abutments traversing Sycamore Creek. The graphic also shows a black bear that are known to roam the park. The back of the heart pays tribute to the PCTC students that worked on the sign as well as acknowledgements of businesses that contributed to the sign. The “V” is fashioned out of old railroad ties with small pieces of railroad track attached. The Hurt community is known as a hub for train activity. Finally, the “E” is fabricated out of steel and resembles the steel support structure of the 75-foot-tall train trestle sitting across Main Street from the sign. Trains coming down the tracks can be seen and heard from anywhere in the park.

“Having previously working with Travis and the PCTC students to build and install the metal dog park sign that faces Route 29, Travis met with us in the summer of 2019 to discuss another project,” said Mark Moore, Parks and Recreation Director. “After much discussion about needs at Wayside Park, we landed on the LOVE sign project. From there, Travis, students and staff at PCTC worked to make it happen. We couldn’t be more pleased with how it turned out. It is a wonderful greeter to park visitors.”

The PCTC principal, Jessica Dalton, is pleased to partner with the parks and recreation department to provide real world projects for her students, “We are ecstatic to be able to provide our students with projects like this that will be fixtures in the county long after they graduate. These are projects that pare community and academic value and help prepare our students for their careers and enhance our workforce development program.”

The Wayside Park LOVE sign was made possible by grant funding from the Virginia Tourism Corporation LOVEworks Reimbursement Program and grant funding obtained for the renovation of Wayside Park. The park project is a nearly \$1 million renovation that will add a playground, trails, amphitheater, picnic shelters, restrooms and two pickleball courts to the nearly 90-year-old park.

The official unveiling of the LOVE sign was originally scheduled for March 18 but had to be cancelled due to the current COVID-19 public health crisis. A formal ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at a later date this year to recognize the addition of the sign to the park as well as the 25 PCTC students and staff that made the sign a reality.

**Contact:** Mark W. Moore, Parks and Recreation Director | [mark.moore@pittgov.org](mailto:mark.moore@pittgov.org)





## **Loudoun Officials Lower County Flag in Honor of COVID-19 Victims**

Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis J. Randall has ordered the Loudoun County flag lowered to half-staff at county facilities in honor of Loudoun residents who have died of COVID-19 and in recognition of the many essential workers who are responding to the pandemic. Beginning next week, the county flag will be flown at half-staff at county facilities every Monday from dawn to dusk until further notice.

“I hope that all of us remember there are people behind the numbers that we see in the reports of COVID-19 deaths in Loudoun County,” said Chair Randall. “This is a small gesture that we can offer to let the family, friends and the whole community know that they are not forgotten and that we all recognize the impact of this pandemic.”

Members of the Board of Supervisors held a solemn ceremony Tuesday, first lowering the county flag at the Lansdowne Public Safety Center, which houses Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Company 22. Following the ceremony, members of the Board observed a moment of silence.

[View a video of the flag-lowering ceremony.](#)

“It was my pleasure to lower the county flag on behalf of the Board and all Loudoun residents,” said Ashburn District Supervisor Michael R. Turner, who is a retired U.S. Air Force officer. “I have participated in many flag ceremonies during my career and this event, with my colleagues, in my district, for such an important recognition, was a true honor.”

In Virginia, local officials have the authority to lower their jurisdictional flags on public property, but not the United States or Virginia flags.

# Virginia Launches Broadband Resource Webpage in Response to Coronavirus

[CLICK HERE FOR IMPORTANT COVID-19 BROADBAND RESOURCES](#)

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## COVID-19 Broadband Resources

### COVID-19 Broadband Resources

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Virginian's ability to work, access healthcare and education, and has magnified the digital divide more than ever before. The Commonwealth Connect team has launched this webpage to provide information about what both the federal government and Virginia's ISPs are doing in response to the crisis. For the latest on Virginia's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit - <https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

Federal Communications Commission:

- Most broadband and cellular providers in Virginia have signed onto the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) "Keep Americans Connected", pledging that for the next 60 days these companies will not terminate service or impose late fees due to circumstances from the virus, as well as open wifi hotspots in areas of need.
- The FCC has [waived gift rules in the Rural Health Care and E-Rate programs](#) to allow healthcare providers, schools, and libraries to accept improved capacity, Wi-Fi hotspots, networking gear, or other equipment or services from broadband providers during the coronavirus outbreak.
- The FCC has also announced a [\\$200 million telehealth](#) support program.

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LATEST COMMONWEALTH  
CONNECT REPORT](#)



The Northam Administration has dedicated a webpage (see [COVID-19 Broadband Resources](#)) to provide information about what both the federal government and Virginia's Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are doing in response to the crisis. It includes a list of those ISPs that have signed on to the FCC's "Keep Americans Connected" pledge to not terminate service or impose late fees 60 days due to circumstances from the virus, as well as open Wi-Fi hotspots in areas of need. Additionally, counties are deploying their resources to create Wi-Fi hotspots (including mobile applications) to bring internet access to their communities where it is lacking.

With the largescale migration to working and learning from home, and the increased demand for healthcare practitioners to schedule telehealth appointments in order to limit the spread of the coronavirus, there is widespread recognition that the nation's (and Virginia's) internet infrastructure is not up to the task of serving our communities. Particularly hard hit is rural unserved, or underserved populations. Additionally, low-income populations encounter barriers to access related to the cost of equipment and subscription. VACo will continue to monitor both federal and state initiatives to address the internet access gap and provide updates on funding opportunities as well as "calls to action" to lobby for additional resources.

Please share your efforts, as well as barriers, to addressing the broadband gap in your county during COVID-19 by contacting Gage Harter at [gharter@vaco.org](mailto:gharter@vaco.org). This will assist VACo in sharing best practices while documenting the need to be used in advocacy and outreach.

**VACo Contacts:** [Jeremy Bennett](#) and [Joe Lerch, AICP](#)

## DHCD to Host April 23 Webinar on Applying for COVID-19 CDBG Funds



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
*Partners for Better Communities*

In response to the recently approved one-time national appropriation of \$5 billion Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funds, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is hosting a webinar for localities on eligible activities and how to apply. The webinar is scheduled for April 23 from 10 am to 11 am. Click here to [register](#).

DHCD will use the CDBG program to assist units of local government and communities in response to the health and economic impact of COVID-19 by supporting planning grant, open submission and urgent need recovery activities. The webinar is an opportunity to learn more on how these resources might be employed in your county.

Additionally, DHCD has adjusted public hearing requirements (see [CDBG Public Hearing Requirements and Allowances](#)) in response to COVID-19 that are in effect for all CDBG applications to be submitted from April 13 until further notice. DHCD will continue to work with localities and will try to be flexible while meeting the federal public hearing guidelines.

DHCD has also made available the following resources to applicants:

- [CDBG COVID-19 Fact Sheet](#)
- [CDBG COVID-19 Response Document](#)
- [CDBG COVID-19 Episode of the \*Partners for Better Communities\* Podcast \(April 13, 2020\)](#)

**VACo Contacts:** [Joe Lerch, AICP](#) and [Jeremy Bennett](#)

# VRA VIRGINIA RESOURCES AUTHORITY

VRA understands that the COVID-19 crisis will result in fiscal distress for many Virginia localities. VRA is committed to working with localities to provide relief under certain non-payment compliance provisions that may be of assistance to borrowers. Additionally, in certain cases, VRA may be able to assist with loan restructurings (as part of a subsequent Virginia Pooled Financing Program (VPFP) bond issuance) that may provide cash flow structuring solutions. Please [contact a VRA staff member](#) if you would like to discuss your locality's specific concerns.

Despite the current challenges in the market, VRA remains committed to providing Virginia localities with access to the public debt markets for infrastructure financing. VRA still plans to offer a summer 2020 VPFP issuance that is currently scheduled to price in late July and close in early August. Applications for summer VPFP credit consideration will be accepted through May 1, 2020 and can be accessed [here](#). It is important to remember that the VPFP program involves selling bonds in the public debt market and does not allow for concessions that might be available when working with a specific lender. There are other VRA programs, if the borrower is qualified, that may offer other opportunities. VRA works with state agency partners in offering subsidized loans for clean water, drinking water and aviation infrastructure as examples.

VRA also plans to offer a fall 2020 VPFP issuance that is currently scheduled to price in late October and close in mid-November. Applications for fall VPFP credit consideration will be accepted through August 7, 2020.



## Comments on Draft Guidelines for Virginia Broadband Funding Due May 18



The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is accepting comments and recommendation on the [draft](#) Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) Program Guidelines and Criteria for FY 2021 grant applications. VATI grants are available to local governments (includes towns, cities, counties, economic and industrial development authorities, broadband or wireless authorities, planning district commissions, etc.) to extend broadband service to currently unserved areas. To be eligible the local government must include a private-sector provider as a co-applicant.

Written comments submitted to [vati@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:vati@dhcd.virginia.gov) are due May 18. Interested counties may also participate in input sessions being held on April 23, hosted by DHCD remotely using Adobe Connect or via conference call. Click here to [register](#). Proposed changes to the application process and criteria for determining awards are outlined in this [presentation](#) given during the April 14 input session.

Following the deadline for comments on the draft guidelines and criteria, the timeline for application submission and challenges are as follows:

- **June 9** | How-to-Apply workshop and webinar
- **July 13** | Deadline to notify DHCD intent of application
- **July 17** | DHCD posts potential applications on VATI website
- **August 17** | Application deadline
- **August 24** | DHCD posts applications on VATI website
- **September 23** | Challenge application deadline
- **November 9** | Deadline for responses to challenges

For more information on the VATI program go to <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/vati>

**VACo Contacts:** [Jeremy Bennett](#) and [Joe Lerch, AICP](#)



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# The GovDealer

**NEWSLETTER:** April 2020

## Limit Social Contact with GovDeals' Online Features

We always have your best interests in mind. We understand that these are trying times. In the effort to help you continue successful surplus sales, we have compiled a few tips on what you can do to stay safe and how we can help with social distancing.



### Electronic Bill of Sale

Mitigate or eliminate physical contact with your winning buyer with Paid Email BOS. After a buyer has made payment, a bill of sale can be sent via email to both you and the buyer automatically. Contact your CAM to enable Paid Email BOS on your account. This feature is available to all FSS clients.

Easily communicate with your buyers using the bill of sale footer. This space can be personalized to provide pick-up information, including available dates and times for removal, or any other messaging you need to convey.



### Genius Scan App

Rather than making copies of IDs and signed bills of sale, consider encouraging your buyers to scan these documents. Genius Scan is a free app and is available for iPhone, iPad, and Android. The app will photograph the document, which can then be exported as a JPEG or PDF. You can print a hard copy later or simply save it to your virtual office.

[Download Apple Version](#)

[Download Android Version](#)



### Authorization of Release

With many buyers unable or hesitant to travel to pick up their items during COVID-19, use of third-party logistics companies will increase. To assist buyers in making these arrangements, work with your CAM to add the Authorization of Release Form along with instructions to the Removal section on each auction page.



### Title Release

Instead of providing a paper copy to your buyer, limit person-to-person contact by sending them the title by certified mail for a nominal fee, charged to and paid by the buyer. Simply advise in your auction description that once payment and pickup are complete, their title will be mailed to them.



### Media & Merchandising

Currently, we advise you to discourage or eliminate all asset inspections. Instead, give prospective buyers the confidence they need to bid on your asset by giving detailed and accurate descriptions. There is no limit to the number of photos you can use, so include as many as it takes to show every angle and feature of your asset. Videos are also a great way to showcase running equipment and moving parts. In many cases, videos can serve as a virtual inspection.



### Your Time = Your Schedule

We can adjust your payment collection process and auction terms to enable your operation to continue within recommended safety guidelines. Instead of withdrawing your auctions from the site, simply extend the auction end date to whatever future date you want. This allows more potential buyers to have access to bid on your items, which otherwise would go unsold.

## We Are Here For You

We are still working hard during this pandemic and can provide additional support if you are short-staffed. We know every situation is different, and we want to reassure you that if any of you are facing unique service situations, please reach out to us and we will find solutions together.

To learn more about any of these helpful features and have them enabled on your account, please contact your CAM.

**Please, Take Care, and Stay Safe.**

## **Comcast Business Launches Webinar Series to Support Businesses of All Sizes**

Comcast Business today announced the launch of a new webinar series aimed at helping businesses, of all sizes and across all industries, navigate the current environment, including strategies on how to rethink their short- and long-term goals and leverage technology to remain productive and nimble with their operations.

“With our network of industry experts and strategic partners, we’ve compiled a collection of new webinars to support and empower the business community,” said Eileen Diskin, CMO, Comcast Business. “Our hope is that these webinars will inform businesses of all sizes as they adapt their operations and adjust their technology strategies to help them remain connected, agile and secure, now and in the future.”

The free, five-part series, features Comcast Business leaders and subject matter experts alongside industry partners and topical experts tackling some of the biggest questions facing today’s businesses amidst the global pandemic. The first of the webinars begins Tuesday, April 14 at 1pm.

Interested businesses can view full details and [register here](#). The scheduled webinars in the series include:

### **Thursday, April 16, 2020 1PM**

Connectivity and Resilience: How Technology is Supporting Business Continuity

A shift to remote working and digital commerce puts new demands on technology infrastructure. Comcast Business experts explore how resilient network connectivity can help keep businesses productive.

**Panelists:** Bob Victor, SVP, Product Management; Noam Raffaelli, SVP, Network & Communications Engineering; Jeff Lewis, VP Data Product Management, Strategic Planning & Development

### **Thursday, April 23, 2020 1PM**

Remote Learning Tech Solutions

Many school districts lack the technology to enable remote learning. Comcast Business and industry experts detail how educators can adapt by shifting their networks and technologies.

**Panelists:** Lenny Schad, Chief Information & Innovation Officer - District Administration; Nelson Ortiz, Executive Director National Sales Engineering at Comcast Business

### **Tuesday, April 28, 2020 1PM**

Keeping Cybercriminals at Bay – and Protecting Your Business

Companies are vulnerable during a crisis. Comcast security leaders help businesses understand how to identify if they are a potential target and explore the steps that can be taken to mitigate risk.

**Panelists:** Shena Seneca Tharnish, Vice President, Cybersecurity Products, Comcast Business; Noopur Davis, EVP, Chief Product & Information Security Officer, Comcast.

### **Thursday, April 30, 2020 1PM**

Steering Your Brand Through Crisis

Brand actions matter, especially during difficult times. Lou Aversano, CEO of Ogilvy & Mather USA will discuss how companies can manage their brands during all phases of a crisis and come out on the other side.

**Presenter:** Lou Aversano, Chief Executive Officer, Ogilvy & Mather USA

With access to free Xfinity hotspots, tools to manage a business from any device, anywhere, and a team of experts and engineers available 24/7, Comcast Business enables businesses of all sizes to stay online and connected during these unusual times. In addition, Comcast Business has enhanced safety and reliability measures to protect the health of its customers while continuing to provide the best possible service. For more details on how Comcast Business is helping support its business customers at this time, please visit: <https://business.comcast.com/response>.



# 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

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

The Official Site of The Commonwealth of Virginia

[Governor](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Contact](#)

 **Virginia.gov**

Search



State Government

Local Government

Agencies

Services & Resources

## 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



The screenshot shows the NACo website with a navigation bar including links for WHAT WE DO, TOPICS, ADVOCACY, RESOURCES, EVENTS, NEWS, and an EXPLORED section. The main content area features a large image of healthcare workers and a headline: "CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19): COUNTY RESPONSE EFFORTS & PRIORITIES". Below this, there is a call to action to "COMPLETE THE SURVEY" with a brief explanation of the survey's purpose. To the right, a "CONTACT" section lists Terryn Zmuda, Deputy Chief Innovation Officer and Chief Economist, and Blaire Bryant, Associate Legislative Director for Health.

**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 immunizing the public to reduce the spread of infectious diseases.

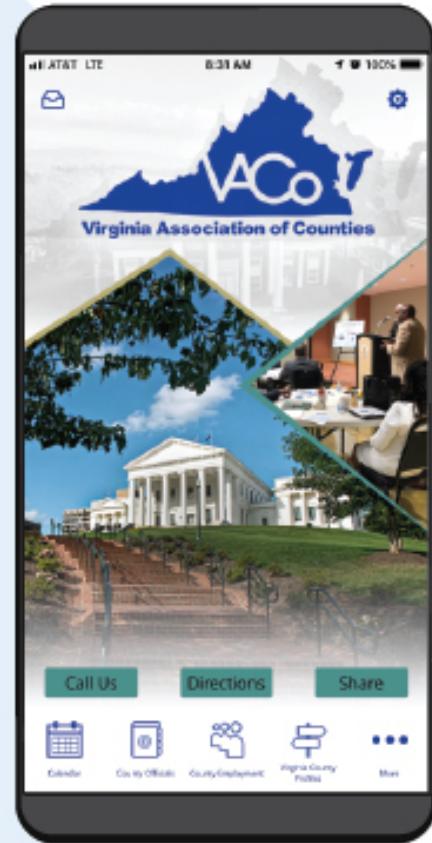
**CONTACT**

**Teryn Zmuda**  
Deputy Chief Innovation Officer and Chief Economist  
(202) 661-8821

**Blair Bryant**  
Associate Legislative Director – Health  
(202) 942-4246

# 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

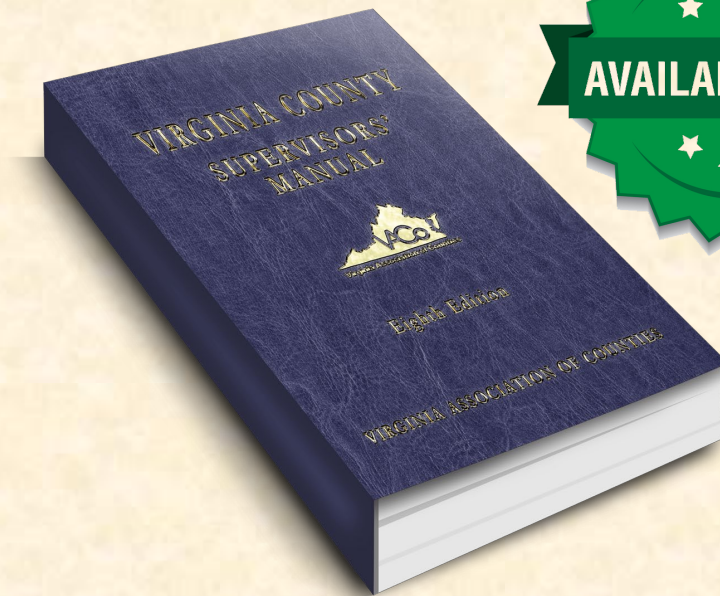
## Downloading the app is easy...

- 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.



# VIRGINIA COUNTY SUPERVISORS' MANUAL

EIGHTH EDITION, 2019



ORDER YOURS TODAY  
\$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.

### ORDER YOUR ALL-NEW VOLUME NOW

## ORDER FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY (OR ORGANIZATION): \_\_\_\_\_

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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

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Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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).



**bakertilly** **CHIEF**

**FINANCIAL OFFICER** | Gloucester County  
| Posted April 7



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**DIRECTOR** | Brunswick County | Posted March 31



**181-177 CROSSROADS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER** | Virginia Industrial Advancement Alliance  
| Posted March 31



**ECC SENIOR SYSTEM**

**ANALYST/PROJECT MANAGER** | Albemarle County | Posted March 30



**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR/**

**SENIOR PLANNER** | West Piedmont Planning District Commission | Posted March 30



**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



**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



**COMBINATION**

**COMMERCIAL INSPECTOR I** | Albemarle County | Posted April 13



**COMMUNITY**

**DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT I** | Albemarle County | Posted April 13



**TOWN MANAGER** |

Town of Windsor | Posted April 13



**CITY MANAGER** |

City of Winchester | Posted April 8



**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

**OF FINANCIAL SERVICES** | New Kent County | Posted April 7





**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

# COUNTY CONNECTIONS

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



## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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**Administrative Secretary:** Valerie M. Russell

**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.

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