

General Assembly Acts on Governor's Amendments



Legislators met on April 22 for the annual reconvened session under far different circumstances from those in place when the legislature adjourned March 12, the day the Governor declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19. In the intervening weeks, COVID-19 has inflicted economic hardship throughout the Commonwealth and required the adoption of social distancing measures such as the avoidance of large gatherings – a challenge for the General Assembly to observe, given its Constitutional requirement to meet and consider the Governor's recommendations to legislation passed during the regular session. In order to guard against transmission of COVID-19, rather than conducting business in the close quarters of the Capitol, Delegates met in a tent on the Capitol grounds, and Senators met at the Science Museum of Virginia. Many of the Governor's proposals under consideration at the "veto session" resulted from the economic reverberations of the COVID-19 pandemic, including a series of revisions to the "caboose" and biennium budgets to freeze new discretionary spending and authorize other actions to preserve liquidity pending a revenue reforecast.

Amendments to Legislation

The General Assembly considered amendments to 94 bills (in addition to budget amendments) and accepted most of the Governor's proposals, rejecting amendments, in whole or in part, to eight bills. Bills for which the legislature rejected the Governor's amendments will be returned to the Governor, who has 30 days to sign or veto the legislation; bills that are not acted upon before that deadline become law without the Governor's signature.

The legislature accepted the Governor's amendments to the bills of interest to local governments discussed in [the last edition of County Connections](#), with one exception. Below is an update on the General Assembly's action on these measures.

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

Regions 1 and 2 Discuss Coronavirus Response, Legislative Priorities in First-Ever Virtual Regional Meeting



Representatives from VACo Regions 1 and 2 broke new ground on April 30 by participating in VACo's first regional meeting to be conducted by virtual means. County representatives were joined by Delegate Amanda Batten, Delegate Emily Brewer, and Delegate Carrie Coyner, who reflected on the recently-concluded reconvened session and discussed ways that localities can work with their legislative representatives in the coming months. Delegate Batten discussed the state's transition from the legislative session to a fully-mobilized pandemic response. Delegate Brewer provided an update on the plans for a potential special session in the summer to revise the biennium budget in light of the economic shock created by the COVID-19 pandemic. She pointed out that the experience of responding to the pandemic has enhanced both state and local knowledge of emergency preparedness. Delegate Coyner commended local governments for their creative responses to meeting local needs and encouraged members to reach out to the state for support.

VACo was pleased to welcome Dr. Megan Healy, Governor Northam's Chief Workforce Development Advisor, and Bob Mauskopf, Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness at the Virginia Department of Health, to make presentations about the state's response to the pandemic. Dr. Healy provided an overview of federal adjustments to unemployment compensation in the CARES Act, and discussed state efforts to address needs in the healthcare workforce. She also provided an update on the Governor's plan for business reopening and long-term economic recovery planning. [Mauskopf briefed participants](#) on the state's emergency response efforts, including the unified command structure's work with hospitals and other health care providers, the deployment of volunteers serving in the state's Medical Reserve Corps, and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE).

County representatives shared success stories and best practices from their responses to the pandemic, as well as shared challenges. The difficulty of securing PPE for local first responders and other staff was a common theme, as was the need for better information sharing with first responders about confirmed or suspected cases, the importance of broadband in supporting distance learning, stresses on local revenues, and the difficulty of adopting local budgets in an environment of significant uncertainty. An important topic of discussion was the critical need for consultation with local governments as the state works to reopen Virginia's economy.

VACo appreciates the participation of members, legislators, special guest speakers, and sponsors in the meeting and looks forward to further conversation in person soon.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Additional Taxing Authority for Counties Passes Legislature with Governor's Amendments



Legislation providing long-sought additional taxing authority for counties received final approval by the legislature at the April 22 reconvened session. [HB 785 \(Watts and Kilgore\)](#) and [SB 588 \(Hanger and Favola\)](#) were amended by the Governor to delay the provisions related to transient occupancy taxes and to clarify that the provisions dealing with cigarette taxes take effect July 1, 2021. With the legislature's acceptance of these amendments, the bills are now in final form. The bills provide important revenue diversification options to counties, and VACo is extremely grateful for the hard work of our legislative champions and the support of the Administration in securing passage of this legislation, as well as for the efforts of VACo members and partner organizations who advocated on behalf of the bills.

Key provisions of the legislation as enacted:

- Authorizes all counties to levy a tax on admissions at a rate not to exceed 10 percent, with the exception of certain counties where an additional state sales and use tax is imposed (currently this provision applies to counties in the Historic Triangle). This authority takes effect July 1, 2020.
- Authorizes all counties to impose meals taxes at a rate not to exceed 6 percent and eliminates the referendum requirement. This authority takes effect July 1, 2020; however, a locality in which a meals tax referendum failed prior to July 1, 2020, would have to wait six years after the date of the failed referendum to impose the tax.
- Authorizes all counties to levy transient occupancy taxes at rates exceeding 2 percent. The revenue derived from rates greater than 2 percent would be spent either (1) for purposes previously authorized or (2) for rates between 2 and 5 percent, for tourism promotion (as is currently required for the counties that previously secured this authority under Virginia Code § 58.1-3819). Revenue from rates greater than 5 percent may be used for general purposes. This authority takes effect May 1, 2021.
- Authorizes all counties to impose cigarette taxes at a rate not to exceed 40 cents per pack. This authority would take effect July 1, 2021. In the interim, the Department of Taxation is required to convene a stakeholder workgroup to make recommendations to modernize the process for collection of cigarette taxes. Cities and towns with rates higher than 40 cents per pack would be grandfathered at the rates in effect as of January 1, 2020.
- Directs the Division of Legislative Services to convene a workgroup of stakeholders to identify any additional technical amendments that may be necessary, and to identify differing legal authorities and responsibilities applicable to cities and counties aside from taxation, "including those related to the provision of local services and related to sovereign immunity." Recommendations are due to the "money committees" by October 31, 2020.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Congress Enacts Fourth Coronavirus Relief Package



Congress passed the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, the fourth relief measure aimed at combatting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, on April 23 and the President signed it into law on April 24. Although discussions earlier in the week had indicated that additional aid to states and localities, or additional flexibility in the use of previously-appropriated federal aid, might be included in this measure, ultimately the legislation focused on additional funding for loans and grants to small businesses, additional support for health care providers, and funding for testing, personal protective equipment, and disease surveillance and contact tracing. VACo continues to advocate for additional direct, flexible assistance to counties in future stimulus packages.

Key elements of the legislation:

- Provides an additional \$321 billion in authorization for the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program, which makes low-interest loans to certain small businesses affected by the pandemic to cover expenses such as payroll, mortgage interest, rent, or utilities. The loans are forgivable if employers meet certain conditions regarding retention of employees. This program was initially established under the CARES Act, but had exhausted its lending authority by mid-April.
- Provides an additional \$50 billion for Economic Injury Disaster Loans and \$10 billion for Economic Injury Disaster Loan Grants (which offer an advance of up to \$10,000 for applicants for Economic Injury Disaster Loans) offered by the Small Business Administration.
- Provides \$100 billion for the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund:
 - \$75 billion to reimburse health care providers for expenses or lost revenues associated with coronavirus
 - \$25 billion for monitoring and suppression of coronavirus, including \$11 billion for states, localities, territories, and tribes for testing, surveillance, and contact tracing; \$600 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration for grants to Health Centers; and \$225 million for rural health clinics for testing and related expenses.



Virtually visit Botetourt County and take a walking tour of historic Fincastle

Historic Fincastle boasts with southern charm and is deeply routed in historical significance. Fincastle is a designated Lewis and Clark community, having ties to both Meriwether Lewis and William Clark prior to and after their western expedition. Fincastle was named the county seat in 1772, when the original borders of Botetourt County stretched to the Mississippi River.

Still the acting county seat, the Historic Courthouse in Fincastle is home to genealogical documents that draw visitors from around the country. There is a self-guided walking tour that leads visitors to many of the town homes and buildings, some dating back to the late 1700s and early to mid 1800s. Travelers to the area can stay in bed and breakfasts located in the historic area. This allows visitors to sit back and relax, enjoy the simple comforts of home with a mix of southern conversation. Visit the local pizzeria, Leonardo's Pizza and Subs for lunch or dinner, before stopping in at the Heritage Family Market for fresh deli meats and cheeses.

Take the [virtual walking tour](#).

SOURCE: [Virginia is for Lovers](#)

35 E. Main Street

Building Name:

CARPER HOUSE



Built by George W. Carper as a wedding gift for one of his daughters, Mrs. John Slicer, who refused to live in it. It was later sold to the Presbyterian congregation for use as their manse.

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 gcharter@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 gcharter@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](#)

Rendering of Rockingham County's future emergency response station at 2654 Port Republic Road



Virginia Resources Authority works with Rockingham County to produce positive financial outcome

Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) wants to first thank all local government public servants, including first responders, for their tireless work in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Commonwealth's municipal bond bank, VRA shares the same public service motivation, which is more important now than ever.

Before this public health emergency, communities have long relied on local government first responders to provide emergency response. VRA is pleased to have had a role in the recent financing of a 501(c) (3) fire and rescue station in Rockingham County. On November 20, 2019 the County received approximately \$4.5 million in bond proceeds from VRA's Virginia Pooled Financing Program, borrowing for 15 years with an all-in True Interest Cost of 2.36%.

The total project includes the design and construction of a new 25,323 square foot pre-engineered metal building to include a garage/emergency services building, office space, living and bunk area and community hall. The building will house seven paid staff and up to four volunteers at a time. This new station will be serving an area that has seen tremendous growth over the past 10 years and is essential to serve the growing area.

Rockingham County Administrator Stephen King said, "Rockingham County has utilized VRA financing for a number of projects over the past 20 plus years. The ease of the application, approval, and award process along with favorable loan terms continues to make VRA the County's preferred option for funding projects such as this critical emergency services facility."

"VRA is pleased to have partnered with Rockingham County on this infrastructure project and seeks to provide financial market access to all local governments in Virginia. VRA understands that local governments continue to have financing needs during periods of market disruption and remains committed to assisting localities with their infrastructure financing needs," said Stephanie Hamlett, VRA Executive Director.

Happy Public Service Recognition Week from all of us at Virginia Resources Authority!

Clarke County Supervisor Mary Daniel resigns to become Judge; Board will appoint replacement to serve until November elections



A recent Clarke County Board of Supervisors meeting concluded with gifts and expressions of gratitude for Berryville District representative Mary L.C. Daniel, who officially left the Board on May 1 in order to begin her new career as General District Court Judge for the 26th Judicial District. The Virginia General Assembly appointed her in March, and she begins her six-year term on June 1. Clarke County Supervisors (standing from left behind dais) Vice Chair Bev McKay, Chair David Weiss, Terri Catlett, and Doug Lawrence give Mary Daniel a round of applause. Article and photos provided by Clarke County

BERRYVILLE, VA — Virginia's General Assembly on March 3 appointed lawyer and Berryville resident Mary L.C. Daniel a General District Court judge for the 26th Judicial District. She begins her six-year term June 1, 2020. Daniel has served as the Berryville District representative on the Clarke County Board of Supervisors since January 2016 and officially leaves the Board on May 1.

Board chair David Weiss said, "Our colleague is leaving us for an extraordinary opportunity, and we could not be more pleased for her. We've enjoyed working with Mary, who has been a tremendous asset to the Board while representing Berryville residents."

The Board accepted Daniel's resignation during its March 17 meeting and has 45 days after Daniel leaves to appoint a Berryville resident to fill the district vacancy until a special election on Nov. 3. Six residents have applied for the temporary appointment, and the Board expects to make an announcement in mid-May.

As a judge for the 26th Judicial District, Daniel will preside over cases in Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren counties as well as the City of Winchester. Daniel has practiced law since 1993, beginning in Martinsburg, W.Va., before moving to Berryville in 1996, when she joined Hobert, Kerr & Perka P.C. Since 2017, she has been a partner at Central Atlantic Legal Group in Winchester.

Daniel was serving her community in 1999 as a member of the Clarke County Planning Commission. She served on the Commission until March 2008. In October 2007, Daniel was appointed to fill a Ward 3 vacancy on Berryville Town Council. She was then elected to two consecutive terms.



Among the gifts the Clarke County Board of Supervisors presented to Mary Daniel was a custom-made jabot — the proper name for the collars worn by judges — that represents Clarke County's agriculture, the Shenandoah River, and the Blue Ridge mountain. The collar was made by Berryville-based textile artist Norma Fredrickson of Studio Three 17.

Daniel ran for the Board of Supervisors in 2015, was elected, and began her term in January 2016. She has served as Board liaison to the Clarke County Board of Septic & Well Appeals, the county's Broadband Implementation Committee, Clarke County Library Advisory Council, Clarke County Planning Commission, Clarke County Sheriff's Office, Josephine School Community Museum Board, Legislative Liaison and High Growth Coalition, Northwestern Regional Juvenile Detention Center Commission.

Daniel considers her participation in the selection of a new County Administrator in 2019 to be her most contribution to the Board and county residents. "The County Administrator will have more impact [on the county] than any other single action I've taken as a Supervisor."

Daniel said, "I love working with a Board that puts Clarke County first. I have never once thought any Board member was acting in his or her own interest. David Weiss is a consensus builder, and he works hard to do everything cooperatively. Frankly, he works hard for Clarke County. Period."

She continued, "It has been an honor to serve alongside David, Bev McKay, Terri Catlett, Barbara Byrd, and Doug Lawrence. One of the things that makes Clarke unique is our inherent expectation that things will be done by consensus at all levels whenever possible. You simply don't see that in other communities."

True to her commitment to Clarke County, Daniel missed her second day of judge training in Richmond in order to attend the April Board of Supervisors meeting that included two public hearings for the Tax Rate and Fiscal Year 2021 Budget. "It was too important not to be there," Daniel said.

Her final act as a Supervisor was on April 28, when the Board convened for a special meeting to officially adopt the Calendar Year 2020 Tax Rates, officially adopt the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, and officially adopt the Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Resolution.

Allocation of Federal Transit Assistance funding under CARES Act approved by Commonwealth Transportation Board

On April 21, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) held an emergency [meeting](#) to allocate federal funding for transit programs from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Under the CARES Act, the Federal Transit Administration is [allocating](#) \$25 billion in support of public transit to recipients of urbanized area and rural area formula funds nationwide. These funds are meant to offset significant declines in transit revenues brought on by reduced ridership as well as sustain vital mobility functions related to COVID-19 response.

According to the COVID-19 Unified Command Joint Information Center's [guidance](#), public transportation is an essential element of critical infrastructure and necessary to support required trips to work and healthcare for those that must travel during this unprecedented time. Of the \$25 billion in federal funding, \$22.7 billion is allocated to large and small urban areas and \$2.2 billion is allocated to rural areas. Funding will be provided at a 100-percent federal share, with no local match required, and will be available to support capital, operating, and other expenses generally eligible under those programs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Small urban agencies can apply directly to the FTA for their share of funding.

Virginia's share of this funding amounts to \$47,205,359 through the Section 5307 Urbanized area formula (small urban apportionment) allocated via the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to eligible transit agencies, \$51,377,174 through the Section 5311 Rural formula allocated via the DRPT for sub-allocation to eligible transit agencies; and, \$1,150,000 through the Appalachian Development Public Transportation Assistance Program (ADTAP) formula allocated via the DRPT for sub-allocation to eligible transit agencies. The CTB met to allocate these funds to eligible transit agencies throughout the Commonwealth via the Six-Year Plan. Virginia's large urban transit agencies were apportioned \$356,666,536 directly from the Federal Transit Administration and no CTB action was required in order for these agencies to receive the CARES Act funding.

Distribution of funding to Small Urban and Rural Systems is as follows:

Attachment A – Section 5307 CARES Allocation (Small Urban)

Direct Recipient	FY 2020 Section 5307 CARES Funding Allocated
City of Bristol, Virginia	\$847,465
District Three Governmental Cooperative	\$380,746
City of Charlottesville	\$7,143,582
City of Fredericksburg	\$7,559,293
Williamsburg Area Transit Authority	\$5,175,497
Greater Lynchburg Transit Company	\$7,630,020
Town of Blacksburg	\$6,122,038
City of Radford	\$1,627,377
City of Harrisonburg	\$5,445,336
Central Shenandoah PDC	\$2,272,563
City of Winchester	\$3,001,442
Total	\$47,205,359

Attachment B – Section 5311 CARES Act Allocation (Rural Systems)**50% of CARES Act | 5311 Funding | \$25,688,587**

#	District	Recipient	CARES Act (Initial Distribution)
1	Bristol	AASC / Four County Transit	\$1,668,406
2	Bristol	District Three Governmental Cooperative	\$1,841,713
3	Bristol	Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc.	\$1,653,015
4	Bristol	Town of Bluefield-Graham Transit	\$299,433
5	Culpeper	Greene County Transit, Inc.	\$1,125,571
6	Hampton Roads	Greensville County	\$147,370
7	Hampton Roads	STAR Transit	\$952,591
8	Hampton Roads	Town of Chincoteague	\$78,700
9	Hampton Roads	Williamsburg Area Transit Authority	\$601,613
10	Lynchburg	Danville Transit System	\$2,299,878
11	Lynchburg	Farmville Area Bus	\$689,227
12	Lynchburg	Town of Altavista	\$95,311
13	Salem	Greater Roanoke Transit Company	\$1,147,283
14	Salem	Pulaski Area Transit	\$545,761
15	Staunton	Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission	\$483,127
16	Multi-District	Bay Aging	\$2,855,435
17	Multi-District	Town Of Blackstone/ Blackstone Area Bus System	\$416,049
18	Multi-District	Lake Country Area Agency on Aging	\$147,786
19	Multi-District	JAUNT, Inc.	\$3,761,995
20	Multi-District	RADAR UHSTS	\$1,214,775
21	Multi-District	Virginia Regional Transit	\$3,663,548

This action follows a March 17 meeting of the CTB, in which they received [updates](#) on the impact to transportation caused by COVID-19 from Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Virginia Department of Health (VDH) staff. At the March meeting, CTB [authorized](#) \$11 million in state transportation funding for local transit agencies to offset the costs associated with mitigating and responding the impact of COVID-19. This funding amount is equivalent to one month of statewide operating revenues and comes from the Making Efficient + Responsible Investments in Transit (MERIT) management program. A chart from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) detailing how these funds will be disbursed can be found [here](#).

Minutes and audio of the CTB's April meeting can be found [here](#) and [here](#) respectively. Additional information from VDOT and DRPT on their response to COVID-19 can be found [here](#) and [here](#) respectively.

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

State Emergency Management Coordinator Holds Town Hall with VACo Members



VACo members participated in a telephone town hall on April 23 on Virginia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic with State Coordinator of Emergency Management Dr. Jeffrey Stern and several state experts, who provided updates on efforts to supplement the health care workforce, develop models for the spread of the virus, ensure the needs of vulnerable communities are addressed, and mitigate the effects of the crisis on local budgets. VACo appreciates the panelists' generosity with their time and the work of Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) staff in coordinating the call.

Dr. Stern opened the call with an overview of VDEM's relationship with local emergency managers. He reminded participants that because the state is under a federal Major Disaster Declaration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will reimburse up to 75 percent of certain local expenses, a process that will be coordinated through VDEM. Dr. Stern encouraged localities to thoroughly document all expenditures which might qualify for reimbursement, and assured participants that VDEM can provide technical assistance with procurement and accounting.

Dr. Megan Healy, Governor Northam's Chief Workforce Development Advisor, discussed the need to recruit additional volunteers to serve in the Medical Reserve Corps, which will be conducting tasks such as assistance with contact tracing and testing. She requested suggestions and ideas from counties about ways to encourage volunteerism, including possible coverage of volunteers under workers' compensation.

Dr. Carter Price of the RAND Corporation briefed attendees on different models for the spread and potential peak of the virus in Virginia, stressing that the models are imperfect and that there is significant uncertainty surrounding the prevalence of the virus. Sable Nelson, Acting Director of the Office of Health Equity at the Virginia Department of Health, discussed the efforts of the Health Equity Working Group to ensure that attention is paid to vulnerable communities in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. She encouraged accessibility in communications during the pandemic, such as the use of sign language interpreters and translation services, and the use of clear language in written materials.

Dr. Ron Carlee, Professor at Old Dominion University and former Arlington County Manager, discussed his research on the effects of the virus and associated containment measures on county budgets, pointing out that although many counties are less reliant on "vulnerable" revenue sources such as meals and admissions taxes, there may be long-term repercussions for real property tax collections in the future if brick-and-mortar retail stores and restaurants are not able to reopen. He encouraged localities to eliminate all non-essential spending until a clearer economic picture emerges, and to begin planning for reopening and recovery, to include working closely with local health departments.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

An Update on Federal Funding for Rural Health Care Providers



On May 4, VACo staff participated in a conference call with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan regarding HHS's recent distribution of payments to rural healthcare providers as allocated by from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security ([CARES](#)) Act. The purpose of this funding is to address both the economic harm across the entire healthcare system due to the stoppage of elective procedures, and addressing the economic impact on providers incurring additional expenses caring for COVID-19 patients, especially in rural areas.

Under the CARES Act, HHS has begun processing payments from the Provider Relief Fund to hospitals with large numbers of COVID-19 inpatient admissions through April 10, 2020, and to rural providers in support of the national response to COVID-19. This includes \$12 billion to facilities admitting large numbers of COVID-19 patients and \$10 billion to providers in rural areas. The inpatient care funding related to COVID-19 patients will be distributed to 395 hospitals, which account for 71 percent of COVID-19 inpatient admissions reported to HHS from nearly 6,000 hospitals around the country. The distribution formula to determine what each hospital receives is based on a fixed rate per COVID-19 inpatient admission, with an additional amount taking into account their Medicare and Medicaid disproportionate share and uncompensated care payments. Rural area funding will include payments to rural acute care general hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), and Community Health Centers.

HHS anticipates that payments under both sources of funding should be available to providers this week. Virginia's share of high impact funding amounts to approximately \$75 million distributed to 4 providers. Virginia's share of the rural funding amounts to approximately \$134 million distributed to 105 providers. Additional information regarding the providers should be available pending review from HHS's General Counsel. More information on HHS's response for COVID-19 can be found [here](#).

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

K-12 Allocations to Local Schools Divisions under the CARES Act



Passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security ([CARES](#)) Act has provided Virginia with approximately \$238.6 million in federal funding to address the impact of COVID-19 on Virginia's K-12 system. This funding comes from the \$13.2 billion Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief [Fund](#). Of Virginia's funding through the Fund, 90 percent will be distributed to local school divisions based on Title I allocation formulas of the Every Student Succeeds (ESEA) Act. The remaining 10 percent will remain reserved for statewide efforts through the Virginia Department of Education.

Use of these funds includes expenses related to:

- Activities authorized by ESEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins), and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act;
- Providing principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address school needs;
- Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including how to provide meals, technology for online learning, guidance on IDEA requirements, and ensuring other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all applicable requirements;
- Other activities that are necessary to maintain operations and continuity of services and continuing to employ existing staff.

A memo from Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. James F. Lane providing further information on the disbursement and use of these funds and spreadsheet detailing each local school division's allocation of federal funds can be located [here](#) and [here](#) respectively.

On March 23, 2020, Governor Ralph Northam issued [Executive Order 53](#), which among other provisions ordered the closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Virginia for the remainder of the school year. This makes Virginia one of 47 states and 4 U.S. territories that have ordered or recommended school closures for the rest of the year as means of minimizing the spread of the virus and preventing the healthcare system from being overwhelmed. A map of each state's K-12 response can be [here](#).

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will continue to make Basic Aid payments to local school divisions during this closure. VACo staff emailed County Administrators initial Basic Aid disbursement estimates from VDOE and will provide additional updates, however it should be stressed that these are estimates. Given the recent changes in economic conditions, closely monitoring sales tax payments and making necessary adjustments to revenue projections is important moving forward. Estimates of sales tax were not amended at the Reconvened Session and pending any updated fiscal year sales tax projections being released, school divisions and local governments should continue to closely monitor their actual monthly sales tax revenue received.

Additional information and resources involving VDOE's response to COVID-19 can be found [here](#).

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

Department of the Treasury Releases Guidance on Use of Coronavirus Relief Fund



The Department of the Treasury released a guidance document for state, territorial, local, and tribal governments on April 22 outlining allowable uses of the Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars provided through the CARES Act. The requirements included in the statutory language of the CARES Act regarding use of the funds are relatively general and merely stipulate that the funds may be used to assist with the costs of “necessary expenditures” incurred due to the public health emergency that were not included in the most recent adopted budget and were incurred between March 1 and December 31, 2020.

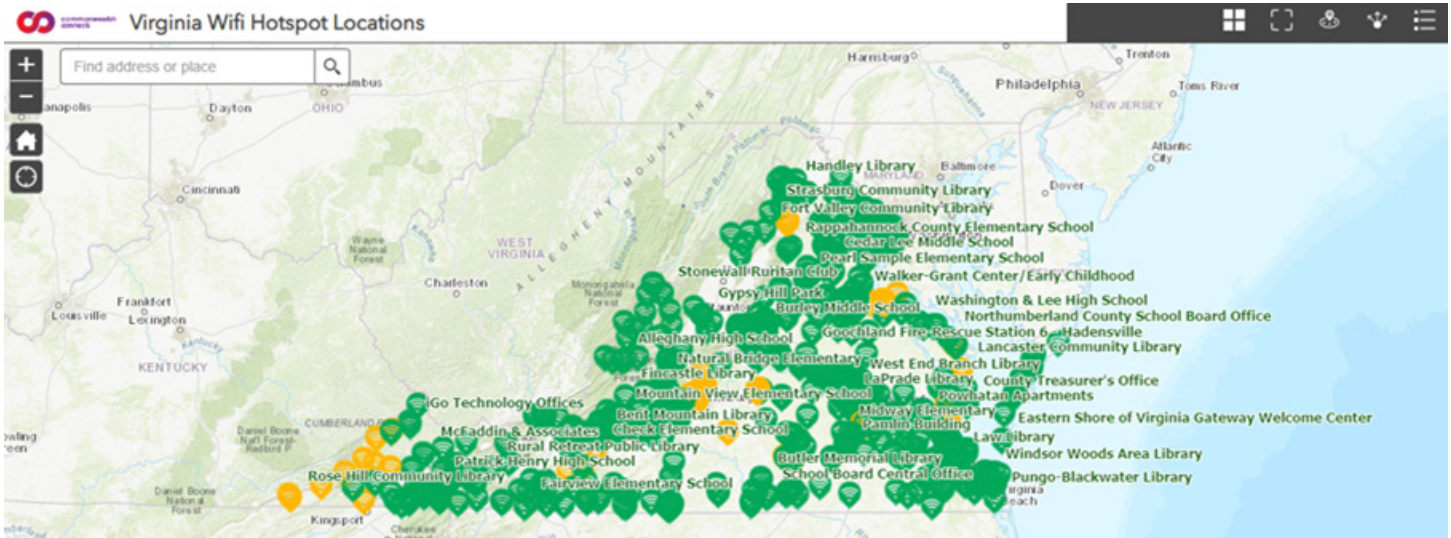
Treasury’s guidance document expands on the definition of “necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency,” and reiterates that the funding may not be used to replace lost revenues. The document provides a list of examples of eligible expenditures for which Coronavirus Relief Funds could be used, including costs for acquisition and distribution of medical supplies and personal protective equipment, disinfection of public areas, food delivery to vulnerable populations, measures to promote distance learning, expenses related to prevention of transmission of the virus within jails, and the provision of grants to small businesses to mitigate losses associated with required closures.

The guidance document may be found at [this link](#). A Frequently Asked Questions document is available at [this link](#).

In Virginia, one locality (Fairfax County) meets the population threshold to receive a distribution of funding directly; the remainder of Virginia’s allocation will be sent to the state for potential suballocation to localities. VACo has been in communication with the Secretary of Finance to offer its assistance in coordinating the use of these funds, so that the state and localities can maximize federal support for the many needs associated with the response to the pandemic. VACo has communicated with Virginia’s Congressional delegation to underscore its support for the provision of federal funds directly to counties of all sizes in a possible future relief package, and has encouraged additional flexibility in the use of federal funds.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Commonwealth Connect Team Releases Public Wi-Fi Hotspot Map and other Broadband Resources Help Virginians Stay Connected during COVID-19 Response



Commonwealth Connect has recently released an interactive [map](#) of Public Wi-Fi hotspots to help those without access to broadband find locations where free Wi-Fi is available. As schools remain closed, certain businesses face restrictions, and individuals practice social distancing, connections to broadband are more important than ever to allow for continued learning, commerce, and connections to the wider world. This map is meant to serve as resource of locations in which individuals can connect and is the work of local officials, schools, libraries, and the Commonwealth Connect team. If you see any free public Wi-Fi hotspots missing or listed incorrectly, email commonwealthconnect@virginia.gov.

Commonwealth Connect has also provided a website of broadband resources related to COVID-19, including updates from the Federal Communication Commission's programs to Keep American's Connected, waiving of Rural Health Care and E-Rate gift rules, \$200 million in CARES Act funding for telehealth services to combat COVID-19. The site also includes links to efforts being undertaken by Internet Service Providers in Virginia and can be found [here](#).

As previously [reported](#), 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.

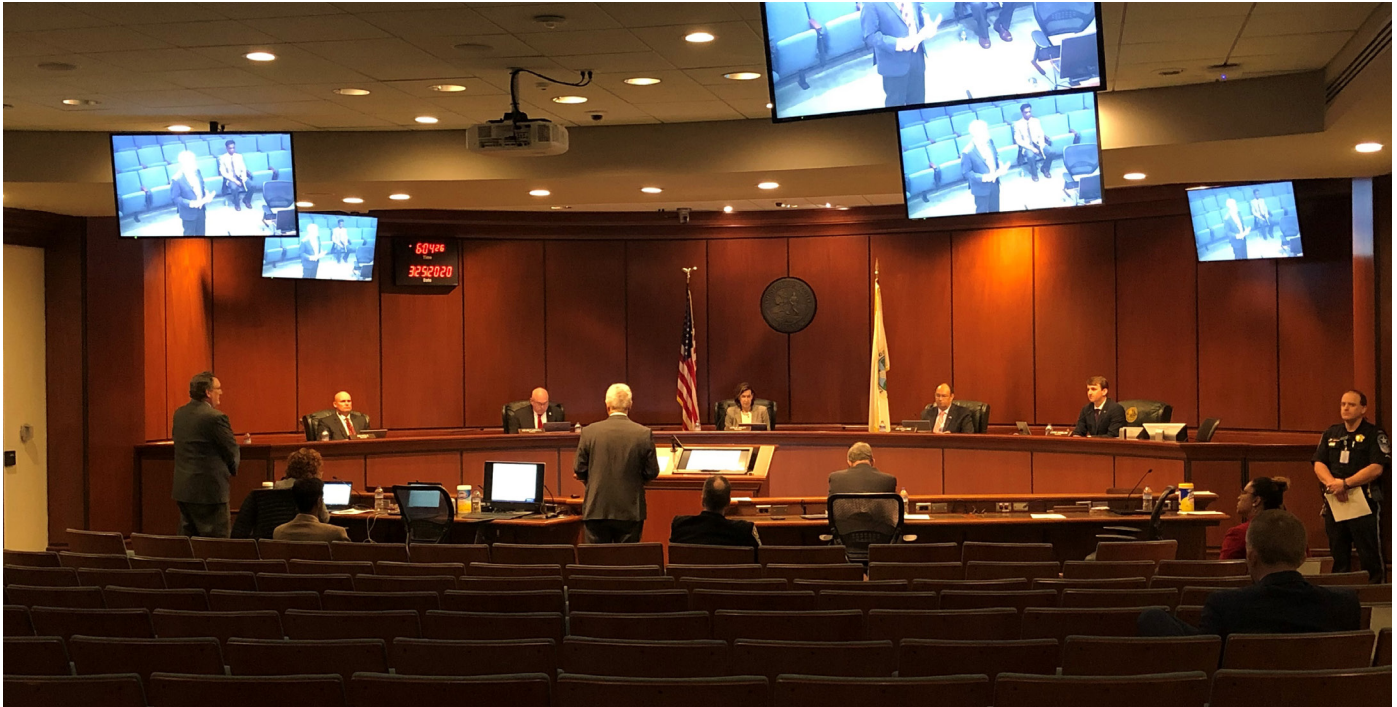
Following the deadline for comments on the draft guidelines and criteria, the timeline for application submission and challenges are as follows:

- 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 R. Bennett](#) and [Joe Lerch, AICP](#)

Chesterfield County conducts virtual budget community meetings



On March 1, Chesterfield County was prepared to begin a familiar budget adoption process. The FY2021 budget proposal had been finalized, public town hall meetings to garner citizen feedback had been scheduled and a date, April 8, had been set for the Board of Supervisors to approve the proposal.

Then, on March 12, Governor Ralph Northam issued an executive order [declaring a state of emergency](#): COVID-19 presented a threat to the commonwealth, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention anticipated it would spread. Less than two weeks later, [Northam banned](#) public and private gatherings of 10 or more people.

Chesterfield officials faced a dilemma: How could the county continue to have a transparent budgeting process bolstered by citizen comments and questions if those citizens would be unable to gather for town hall and Board of Supervisor meetings?

The same day that the Governor declared a state of emergency, Chesterfield began planning and scheduling virtual community meetings to replace in-person gatherings. These virtual meetings were streamed live on [Facebook](#), the [county's YouTube channel](#) and [WCCT Chesterfield Community Television](#). Citizens could read and learn more about the budget on the county's dedicated budget website, [Blueprint Chesterfield](#).

During the virtual meetings, Deputy County Administrator for Finance and Administration Matt Harris presented an overview of his team's efforts to citizens and fielded questions from viewers. In total, nine virtual events were held between March 16 and April 22, reaching over 102,000 people across platforms. Citizens submitted questions and comments through the Facebook Live comment section, by email or via an online form on the county's website.

On April 8, the day the Board of Supervisors had originally planned to vote on the FY2021 budget, a revised plan was formally presented. The new budget proposal preserved the county's investment in education and continued to support front-line services with no impacts to the full-time, sworn ranks in the Police, Fire and EMS or Sheriff's departments. Like other localities, however, Chesterfield County was faced with making difficult decisions because of the pandemic. The revised budget removed a planned merit increase for all employees, delayed the implementation of most additional funding requests and postponed some capital improvement projects.

Despite the unique circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Supervisors approved the revised budget on April 22. By taking advantage of its digital tools and transforming community meetings into virtual events, Chesterfield County was still able to provide its citizens the information, the transparency and the conversations they deserved throughout the budgeting process. Having to develop new methods of doing business during this pandemic, however, has presented Chesterfield an opportunity to continue incorporating these innovative processes into its future services.

Erin McLellan named Assistant Loudoun County Administrator



Erin McLellan has been appointed as an Assistant Loudoun County Administrator effective March 26, 2020, Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet announced Thursday.

“Erin is a proven leader who for more than a decade has demonstrated exceptional ability and skill in her various positions within the county government,” said Hemstreet. “I believe her experience, expertise and outstanding work ethic will serve the county well in her new role as a key member of my executive management team.”

McLellan most recently served as the county’s chief financial officer as well as the director of the Department of Finance and Budget. McLellan began her service with Loudoun County in 2006 as a human resources policy and research analyst. She has been steadily promoted, rising to the position of Budget Officer in 2013 before becoming the head of the department.

In her new position, McLellan will oversee the Departments of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, General Services, Information Technology and the Office of Mapping and Geographic Information.

McLellan is a graduate of the University of Alabama, having earned a bachelor’s degree in history and a master’s degree in public administration.

McLellan joins the other members of the Office of the County Administrator in directing and supervising the day-to-day operations of all Loudoun County departments and agencies that are under the direct control of the Board of Supervisors. The Office of the County Administrator is the highest level management office of the Loudoun County government and also serves as the Board of Supervisors’ official liaison to the constitutional officers, the judiciary, and state and regional agencies.

YOUR association COMMUNITY**Contact:**

Sonnica Montemayor
(804) 249-2234
sonnica@vsae.org

VSAE Installs New Board for 2020-2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RICHMOND (May 1, 2020) – The Virginia Society of Association Executives (VSAE) is proud to announce its newly-elected 2020-2021 Board of Directors, whose term begins May 1, 2020. The installation ceremony will take place at VSAE's Annual Conference, rescheduled for August.

Officers:

- **President** – **Phyllis Errico, JD, CAE**, General Counsel for Virginia Association of Counties
- **Immediate Past President** – **Duront A. “D” Walton, Jr., CAE**, Executive Director of Virginia Telecommunications Industry Association
- **President Elect** – **Maureen Dingus, CAE**, Chief Operating Officer of Virginia Society of CPAs
- **Treasurer** – **Steven Williams**, Partner at Hardiman-Williams, LLC
- **Secretary** – **Stewart Hinckley**, President & CEO of Ruggles Service Corporation

Directors beginning their first term:

- **Corey Clayborne, AIA, MBA**, Executive Vice President of American Institute of Architects, Virginia
- **Carter Lyons, CAE**, Director of Education and Professional Development at Independent Insurance Agents of Virginia, Inc.

Directors continuing to serve for VSAE:

- **Sarah Gouger**, Executive Director of The Builders' Exchange Association of Virginia
- **Amy Hewett, CAE**, VP of Strategy & Communications for Virginia Health Care Association
- **Richard Johnstone, Jr.**, President & CEO of VA, MD, DE Association of Electric Cooperatives
- **Shannon McCabe, CAE**, Executive Director of Association of Consulting Foresters
- **Katie Newland**, Executive Director of Association for Corporate Growth National Capital
- **Lisa Noon, CAE, RCE**, Vice President of Organization Management Group
- **Tracey van Marcke**, Chief Executive Officer of VHHA Foundation
- Associate Member – **Jordan Vallerga, CMP**, Group Sales Manager at The Founders Inn & Spa

Formed in 1949, VSAE is a 400-plus member association consisting of association executives, association management companies, and others who serve the association industry with products or services. VSAE's vision is to be the best at making associations the best by providing opportunities for association professionals to connect, learn, and lead.

Top Economic Development, Business and Philanthropic Executives to Lead *Back to Work Virginia* Task Force

VACo's Dean Lynch named to the task force

The Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) has assembled a blue-ribbon task force to develop an assertive strategic plan with recommendations for structural shifts and improved policies and practices to stabilize and strengthen Virginia's child care industry – considered essential personnel per COVID-19 directives – as the Commonwealth gets back to work and rebuilds its economy.



To accomplish that goal, the task force will be chaired by **Stephen Moret**, President and CEO of Virginia Economic Development Partnership; **Jim Dyke**, Senior Advisor at McGuire Woods Consulting; and **Dr. Deborah DiCroce**, President and CEO of Hampton Roads Community Foundation. Members of the task force will include Virginia leaders in government, business and industry, and philanthropy. Their work will be facilitated by VECF and informed by a bench of local, state, and national policy, finance, and reform experts. They will meet via monthly conference calls from May to November.

Members of the *Back to Work Virginia* Task Force include:

- **Sherrie Armstrong**, Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- **Kartik Athreya**, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
- **Jack Berry**, Richmond Region Tourism
- **Gil Bland**, Urban League of Hampton Roads
- **Annette Beuchler**, Obici Healthcare Foundation
- **Richard Bynum**, PNC Bank
- **Kevin Curtis**, Dominion Energy
- **Ben Davenport**, First Piedmont Corporation
- **Barry DuVal**, Virginia Chamber of Commerce
- **Bill Ermatinger**, Huntington Ingalls Industries
- **Megan Healy**, Chief Workforce Advisor to the Governor
- **Dean Lynch**, Virginia Association of Counties
- **Ned Massee**, Croatan Advisors
- **Todd Norris**, Ballad Health
- **Gary Thomson**, Thomson Consulting
- **Dietra Trent**, George Mason University

"Child care is a critical workforce facilitator and is essential to a healthy, functioning economy in Virginia," said Stephen Moret. Recommendations of the task force are expected to highlight strategies to adequately and sustainably fund early care and education, diversify and maximize financing, reconceptualize and strengthen business practices and models, and recognize the cost drivers of quality child care services as both a public and private good.

"The findings and multi-pronged recommendations will be presented this fall to relevant audiences in business, philanthropy, Virginia's administration and the General Assembly," said Jim Dyke.

Dr. DiCroce added, "As Virginia plans for economic recovery when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, child care will be vital to ensuring that families can return to work. We must collectively and collaboratively seize the opportunity to create a strengthened and more equitable child care system for Virginia's bright future."

As a statewide convener between public and private sectors to create transformative early childhood care and education solutions for Virginia, the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation is committed to facilitating the state's successful recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

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. General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments. This legislation is discussed in more detail earlier in this newsletter.

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. General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments.

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.) General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments.

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. General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments.

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. General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendment.

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. General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendment.

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." General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendment.

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. General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendment.

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. General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments.

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. **General Assembly action:** Accepted the Governor's amendments.

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. **General Assembly action:** Accepted the Governor's amendments.

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. **General Assembly action:** Accepted the Governor's amendments.

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. **General Assembly action:** Rejected the Governor's substitute.

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. General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendment.

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. General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments.

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. General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments.

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. General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments.

Budget Amendments

The majority of the Governor's amendments to the FY 2020 "caboose" and biennium budgets relate to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on state revenues. A series of amendments to the biennium budget "unallot" most of the new discretionary spending included in the budget as passed by the legislature (which included proposals from the Governor's introduced budget as well as priority items added by the legislature). The legislature agreed to these amendments; as a result, this new spending is held in abeyance pending a revenue reforecast. It is expected that the legislature will return for a special session to make additional changes to the biennium budget, but no details are yet available on when such action may take place.

The General Assembly rejected several other amendments that would have provided additional discretion to the Governor to manage state spending during the pandemic. Language that would have permitted the Governor to delay or suspend certain capital projects in response to cash flow or debt capacity concerns was proposed to be included in the caboose, with similar language proposed for the biennium budget (with an additional provision allowing for the General Assembly to reauthorize the capital budget upon a revenue reforecast); the legislature rejected this amendment. Similarly, legislators rejected proposed language that would have authorized the Governor to withhold appropriated funding in any amount needed to address an imbalance between resources and appropriations as a result of the pandemic (existing budget language authorizes the Governor to withhold and unallot up to 15 percent of annual appropriations under certain circumstances).

In total, the General Assembly approved 33 of the 37 amendments proposed to the caboose and 137 of the 144 amendments proposed to the biennium budget. The legislature approved language in the caboose and biennium budgets authorizing public bodies to hold meetings by electronic means under certain circumstances during a state of emergency, provided that certain notice and record-keeping provisions are met. An amendment drawing particular attention would have delayed the May 5 elections to November; the House accepted this amendment, but after extensive debate, the Senate rejected it. The Governor subsequently exercised his statutory authority to delay the election by two weeks.

VACo Contact: [VACo Legislative Team](#)



GASB has issued a standard that improves state and local governments' accounting for public-private and public-public partnership arrangements (P3s) and availability payment arrangements (APAs). The guidance is included in GASB Statement 94. The standard provides guidance for P3 arrangements including those outside the scope of GASB's Statements 60 and 87.

Under Statement 94, a P3 is defined as an arrangement in which a government transferor contracts with a governmental or nongovernmental operator to provide public services by conveying control of the right to operate or use a nonfinancial asset for an amount of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction.

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

State Homeland Security Grant Program Application Deadline is May 22



Applications for the [State Homeland Security Grant Program](#) are due to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) May 22. This program may be a potential source of assistance to localities in enhancing election security in accordance with the standards developed by the State Board of Elections last year. According to VDEM, four areas have been identified as priorities by the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA:

1. Enhancing cybersecurity (including election security)
2. Enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places (including election security)
3. Enhancing information and intelligence sharing and cooperation with federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security
4. Addressing emergent threats such as unmanned aerial systems

VDEM's application materials note that projects are expected to be funded at a minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$250,000, subject to potential reductions. Application forms and other details are available at [this link](#).

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

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.

VACo slightly revamped the Supervisors' Certification Program to adjust to our current time while enhancing your learning experience. The [Managing While Leading: Understanding Your Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities](#) course will start via Webex Teleconference on May 29 and end with another Webex Teleconference or an in-person meeting at the VACo Training Center on July 24.

Between the two classroom sessions - there will be several lunch hour teleconferences to discuss course work, reading materials, current events, local issues, and whatever comes up in conversation.

VACo Contact: [Karie Walker](#)

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

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

Opening Session | May 29 | Webex Teleconference

Closing Session | July 24 | VACo Training Center or Webex

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

Senate Page “LOVE” Sign Teambuilding Exercise



For this activity, the Page class created a LOVE sign representative of Capitol Square and Virginia's legislative process. In each of the five assigned groups, classmates were tasked with decorating one letter depicting Capitol Square or the legislative process. Each team had a set amount of materials to decorate their assigned part of the sign.

L – The “L” represents the Senate Journal and House Journal. These are the official records of the regular and special sessions. In order to make the creation of our letter most efficient, we initially planned specific tasks before the day on which we decorated our letter. Our team identified the strengths of each member in the group. For example, those with legible handwriting wrote the letters and those who were good at using scissors cut the paper. When executing the creation of our letter, we stuck to the plan and worked together to accomplish the final product.

O – The compass is significant, because it represents a starting point to reach everything in Virginia. It was a gift from Jonathan Bryan and was made to be the location from which all highway signs are measured. When making the 16-point zero mile marker, we planned what colors to use and how we would construct the dimensions. Our team assigned a specific jobs that were tailored to individual talents and interests. Groups included cutting, sketching, modeling, gluing, coloring and writing. We measured and sketched out our compass. We tried to give our letter a 3-D look using cardboard. We all did our part and had a lot of fun!

V – Our letter shows a connection between the leaders of today and the leaders of tomorrow. We designed our letter based off the Pathway to Liberty, a portion of sidewalk along Bank Street in front of the Capitol. The red rectangles represent bricks, and the names include members of the Senate Page class and current Senators. This reflects the diversity of the Senate Pages and the Senate. Every name on our letter provides support to the Commonwealth in a unique way. We worked as a group to cut, label, level and glue.

E – The “E” represents a tree symbolizing the three branches of state government. The vertical piece serves as the tree trunk and each arm of the letter is a branch. The flowers are dogwood blooms. Each arm includes the name of each branch of government and a description of its duties.

Fountain – The fountains on Capitol Square are an important part of one of the oldest enclosed public parks with one of the most significant gardens in the United States. The fountain adds a calming and beautiful aspect to the landscape of Capitol Square. First, we made an outline of the fountain using black poster board. The tissue paper represents water. Lastly, we used Mr. Finch’s art talent to make the roses that complete the beauty that stands before you today.

Thank you to Bladen Finch, Senate Page Program Director/Civics Coordinator, for the photo and description.

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NACo Leadership Academy to Kick off Summer Cohort, Scholarships Available

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is starting its next cohort of the 100% online NACo Leadership Academy on August 3 and there are over 70 \$1,500 First-Participant Scholarships still available for Virginia Counties!

This 12-week, online leadership development program offers commissioners, chairs, department directors, and other county leaders curriculum in best practices in leadership, organizational development and change management, negotiation and collaboration, effective business communication, and delivery of increased value from high performance county management. Content was developed collaboratively through [Professional Development Academy](#), Fortune 1000 executives, public sector leaders, and world-renowned academics and thought leaders including General Colin Powell and Dr. Marshall Goldsmith. The program was designed specifically for the unique challenges and opportunities participants encounter through their service in county government.

A county commissioner who graduated from the Academy in November 2019 had this to say: “it opened my eyes to better thinking of my role as a leader, which I had not taken the time to do. It broadened my thinking about my influence on others, both elected, and non-elected department directors, as well as my influence on the general atmosphere of our county environment. I’m excited to see improvements that I can make.”

To date, 18 of Virginia’s 95 counties have participated in the program since its inception in 2018.

NACo is currently enrolling for the August 3rd cohorts, and is offering counties scholarships ranging from \$300-\$1,500 to assist with enrollment.

For more information on the program including curriculum visit: <https://www.naco.org/skills>.

To claim your scholarship and for more information, contact Craig Patenode at craigp@pdaleadership.com.



We Are Counties Campaign Puts a Face on the Frontline COVID-19 Pandemic Response

WASHINGTON — America's 3.6 million county employees are on the [front lines](#) of the nation's response to the coronavirus pandemic. Throughout the country, EMTs, nurses, doctors and support personnel at our county hospitals, law enforcement officials, firefighters, public health experts, human services professionals, coroners and medical examiners, and other county government employees, are saving lives and serving communities.

Americans are showing deep gratitude for the daily sacrifices of these essential workers, though most people have no idea they are county employees. The *We Are Counties* campaign, launched today by the National Association of Counties (NACo), aims to put a face on frontline workers, while calling on federal decision-makers to provide support for these public servants.

"Dedicated county employees are addressing unprecedented challenges related to the coronavirus pandemic. The *We Are Counties* campaign will show everyone that counties are people – public servants who are making tremendous sacrifices, putting their own lives at risk – to save lives and keep all of us healthy and safe. That's what makes them heroes," said NACo President Mary Ann Borgeson, a Douglas County, Neb. commissioner.

Nationwide, counties serve more than 300 million residents by supporting and operating nearly 1,000 hospitals, over 800 long-term care facilities, 750 behavioral health centers, 1,900 public health departments, emergency operations centers and 911 systems.

The *We Are Counties* social media campaign will highlight the selfless service of counties' 328,000 hospital workers, 330,000 law enforcement officials, 93,000 first responders and many other frontline warriors in America's battle against the coronavirus.

The campaign comes at a time when America's counties are facing at least a [\\$144 billion budget impact](#) as a result of skyrocketing costs and plummeting revenues. Counties are urging federal support for counties' vast health, safety and economic recovery responsibilities, many of which are mandated by states and the federal government.

"We have been strongly advocating for direct and flexible federal funding for county responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and our lost revenue," Borgeson added. "These are more than just numbers in a spreadsheet. We are talking about vital services our residents need and the people who deliver them day in and day out."

We Are Counties will feature pictures and videos of county workers across the country. Look for [#WeAreCounties](#) on social media, and learn more at www.WeAreCounties.org.

Additionally, NACo's coronavirus online hub includes county examples of response efforts, interactive maps and analyses of federal actions. View this resource-rich webpage at www.naco.org/coronavirus.



Coping with coronavirus

It is completely normal to have questions about coronavirus, and even feel worried or anxious. This is especially true in a situation with several unknowns, and where information is developing rapidly. We are human, after all.

However, keep in mind we've worked through stressful situations before. And now with coronavirus, the best approach is to acknowledge your concerns but find ways to harness your anxieties. Aetna Behavioral Health's Resources for Living has developed a variety of resources with recommended exercises and readings to help.

For example, utilize the CALM approach.

Use your coping skills

Focus on what you can control and emphasize activities that help you stay positive and distracted. This can be diving into a book or movie, doing yoga or a mindfulness exercise and connecting with others (even by phone, if an in-person gathering isn't appropriate).

Be aware, but not obsessed

Stay informed about coronavirus but keep to a normal routine as much as possible. Taking in too much information could be overwhelming – especially if it's conflicting – and avoid engaging in gossip or rumors.

Learn from reliable sources

Rely on resources that you can trust, such as the World Health Organization or Centers for Disease Control.

Social media, on the other hand, can lead to questions and confusion.

Monitor yourself

Continue to take care of yourself, which includes healthy eating, regular sleep and exercise. These activities also help reduce stress.

In addition, while it's important to stay away from other people who are ill – or healthy, if you're not feeling well – don't protect yourself to the point that you're isolating yourself. That can lead to unnecessary anxiety.

Remember, you are not the only one that is facing these unknowns and feeling anxious at the current moment. Continue to support your family and friends and accept their help as well.

Below please find additional tools from Resources for Living (RFL) to help take control of coronavirus and manage your mental and emotional health.

- [Here for you](#) – RFL's article on how to stay healthy and ease stress.
- [Ways to keep CALM](#) – a webinar from RFL with more details on the CALM approach. The [transcript is available here](#).
- [Additional recommended resources](#) – Links to reliable resources, including an article on speaking to kids about coronavirus.

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OMNIA Partners is excited to announce these new competitively-solicited contracts providing access to even more powerful opportunities to better manage your spend and resources. Take advantage of these contracts or [contact your Regional Manager](#) for more information.

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Those with a necessity to operate vehicles for their business may need additional vehicles in order to separate employees or to meet increased demand as a result of COVID-19. Enterprise Fleet Management has established a **special account code** with our affiliate, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, for our partners here in Virginia. The account number is **L212860** and is ready for active use.

Please visit [“On Call For All”](#) webpage for more information.





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Grant Funding for Election Cybersecurity Services Available to Virginia Jurisdictions!

Is your jurisdiction curious about grant opportunities available to help pay for services and tools needed to comply with the new HB2178 election cybersecurity requirements that go into effect on September 1, 2020? If so, we wanted to pass along some helpful information about the State (Virginia) Homeland Security Grant Program that provides funding for cybersecurity initiatives from October 2020 to June 2022. The amounts range from \$10K to up to \$250K for Virginia jurisdictions.

It is not too late to apply! The application deadline is May 22, 2020. Applying for funds to support your locality's cybersecurity efforts fits into the top two priorities:

- 1 Enhancing cybersecurity (including election security)
- 2 Enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places (including election security)

If you have any questions about how you can obtain cybersecurity services to meet these grant requirements, Assura can help. Best of all, you can also use Assura's statewide VASCUPP Contract (UCPJMU5758). This makes purchasing a snap!

For more information on this grant opportunity, go to <https://www.vaemergency.gov/job/homeland-security-grant-program-hsgp/>

Take advantage of your "use it or lose it money" in this current fiscal year and any additional services will be billed next fiscal year. **Remember, you can still get 2 months of free service by engaging before June 30.** The compliance and grant deadlines are not too far away and we are available to help.

Let me know when we can discuss your needs!

Respectfully,

Kay Powers

Account Manager

O: (804)-767-4551

TF: (855)-9NOHACK

ASSURAINC.COM

kay.powers@assurainc.com

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

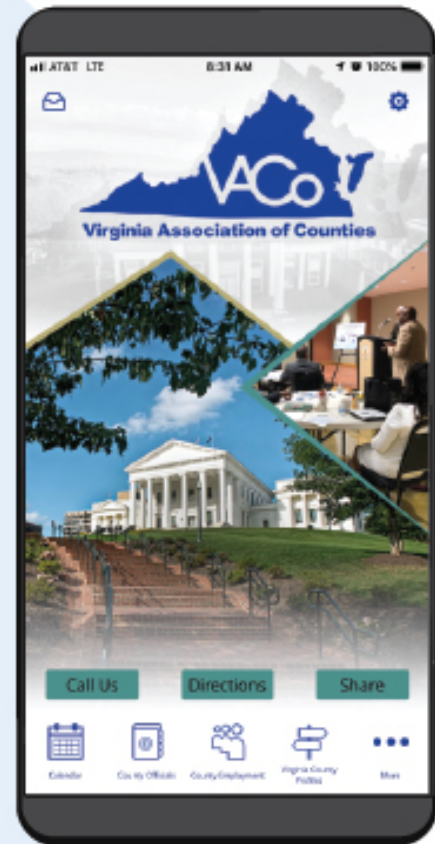
If your idea is big, no project is too small!

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)

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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:

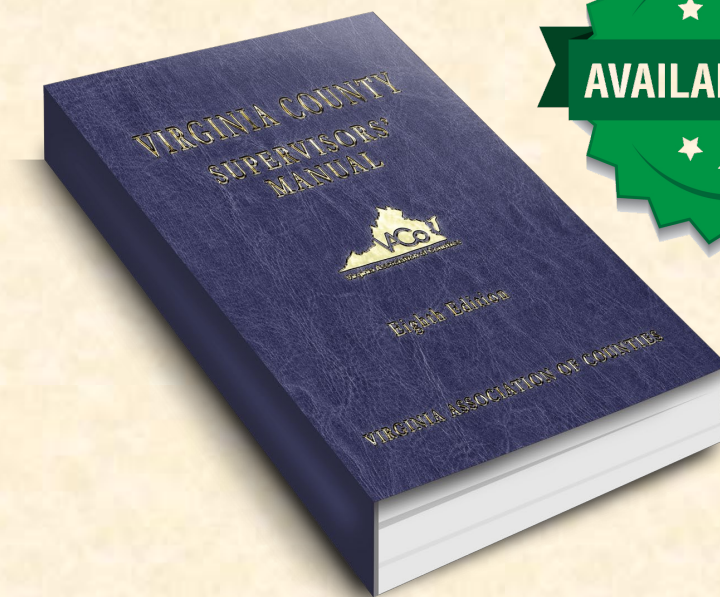
- * VACo Events Registration and Info
- * VACo Member Directory
- * Legislative News and Alerts | Capitol Contact
- * VACo Chat
- * County Pulse Podcast
- * Employment Opportunities

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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Questions? Call 804.788.6652.



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).



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Powhatan County | Posted May 5



PROBATION OFFICER | Prince Edward County | Posted May 4



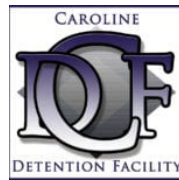
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | King William County | Posted May 4



PLANNING & ZONING ADMINISTRATOR | Town of Windsor | Posted May 1



PLAN EXAMINER | Isle of Wight County | Posted May 1



DETENTION OFFICER | Caroline Detention Facility | Posted May 1



COUNTY ATTORNEY | Accomack County | Posted May 1



BENEFIT PROGRAMS SPECIALIST II | New Kent County | Posted May 1



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER | Montgomery County/NRV Emergency Communications Regional Authority | Posted April 29



DIRECTOR OF OPERATION | Virginia Peninsula Public Service Authority | Posted April 28



RECYCLING ATTENDANT & ALTERNATE RECYCLING ATTENDANT | Montgomery County | Posted April 27



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE | Caroline County | Posted April 27



SENIOR UTILITY MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN | Gloucester County | Posted April 27



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES | Gloucester County | Posted April 27



CUSTODIAN | Gloucester County | Posted April 27



REAL ESTATE APPRAISER II | Fairfax County | Posted April 23



DEPARTMENTAL SYSTEMS ANALYST | City of Harrisonburg | Posted April 23



**BUILDING
MAINTENANCE MECHANIC** | Prince
George County | Posted April 23



**DEPUTY SHERIFF
(CORRECTIONAL UNITY/EMT-MEDICAL
TEAM)** | Montgomery County | Posted
April 23



**MAINTENANCE
TECHNICIAN** | Augusta County Service
Authority | Posted April 23



**DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL
SERVICES** | Fauquier County | Posted
April 16



**DEPUTY COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR** | Fauquier County
| Posted April 16



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Sussex
County | Posted April 15



**FISCAL/PURCHASING
ASSISTANT** | King & Queen County
| Posted April 14



**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



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



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



**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

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Our educational programs offer County leaders and staff opportunities to become more effective in their communities.



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Our business development opportunities offer savings and innovative approaches to delivering services at the County level.

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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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