

# Virginia Association of Counties

## 2020 Annual Conference Virtual Agenda

### Monday, November 9

**9am**                      **VACo Board of Directors Meeting**

**Noon**                      **Governor Ralph Northam**

**2pm**                      **Breakout Session: State Budget Update**

**Jim Regimbal** | Principal | Fiscal Analytics

What is the state of Virginia's economy after seven months of the COVID-19 pandemic, and what can we expect in the months to come? How can local governments position themselves to prosper in the post-pandemic economy? This session offers analysis of the General Assembly's actions to rework the state biennium budget during the special session and looks ahead to the major issues at play as the Governor and legislature consider additional revisions in the 2021 session.

### Tuesday, November 10

**930am**                      **Breakout Session: Economic Development and Workforce Development – Coming Out of the Pandemic**

**Stephen Moret** | CEO & President | Virginia Economic Development Partnership

**Erik Johnston** | Director | Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

**11am**

**Breakout Session: The Future of Education**

**Dr. Deborah Bergeron** | Director | U.S. Office of Head Start and Early Childhood Development

**Dr. Keith Perrigan** | Superintendent | Bristol Virginia Public Schools

**Mark Owczarski** | Assistant Vice President for University Relations | Virginia Tech

What does the future of education hold in light of COVID-19? How has early childhood care and education taken on new purpose? What is the impact of virtual and hybrid learning? What can we expect for workforce development? This session shares expert analysis of discussion of educational issues from early childhood, K-12, and higher education perspectives as county governments continue to support the well-being and development of children and students within their communities from birth to adulthood in a changing world.

**1pm**

**Breakout Session: Broadband**

**Holly Hartell** | Business Relationship Manager | Arlington County

**Jeff Stoke** | Deputy County Administrator | Prince George County

Universal access to the internet has become of paramount importance to families, businesses and communities who now must rely on fast, reliable and affordable service for education, employment and economic development. This session will explore two county's efforts - one rural, the other urban - on programs and investments to ensure their citizens and businesses are connected with the opportunity to grow and thrive.

**3pm**

**Nominations Committee Meeting**

## Wednesday, November 11

**9am**

**Dr. Robert Holsworth** | DecideSmart, LLC

Important federal elections will be decided before VACo's Virtual Annual Conference. Dr. Holsworth will give his smart and stylish analysis on their implications to Virginia.

**10am**

**Annual Business Meeting**

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## Preconference Breakout Sessions

### **The Future of Housing | Sponsored by Virginia Housing**

**Erik Johnston** | Director | DHCD

**Susan Dewey** | CEO | Virginia Housing

The ability to rent or own is a growing problem across the state that has been further highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic. This session explores themes revolving around housing and economic development linkages, updates on recent studies, examples of partnerships with local governments that include public housing revitalization, homeownership efforts, and the changing housing and work environment due to more work at home opportunities.

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### **Emerging Risks for County Governments | Sponsored by VACORP**

**Chris Carey** | Administrator | VACORP

What does the future for county governments look like in light of potential changes to workers' compensation and liability protections, along with continued cyber threats to public entities? This session shares expert analysis of potential liabilities and risks facing county governments as they navigate proposals to add COVID-19 to workers' compensation and change qualified immunity, while continuing to defend against cyber extortion and social engineering events.

## **Energy of Tomorrow: Incorporating Wind and Solar in a Modernized Grid | Sponsored by Dominion Energy**

**John Larson** | Director, Public Policy and Economic Development | Dominion Energy

**John Warren** | Director | Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

In the coming decades, Virginia will be modernizing its electric grid, a key component of which will be to accommodate large solar and wind generation facilities. This session will explore how this modernization will change the landscape of Virginia and the role counties will play in the transformation of how we generate and consume electricity.

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## **Snapshots of Innovative County Programs**

**Kevin Massengill** | County Administrator | Dinwiddie County

**Dawn Missory** | Citizen Information and Resources | Chesterfield County

**Raul Torres** | Executive Director | Human Rights Office | Prince William County

**Denise McPhail** | Outreach and Education Coordinator | Prince William County

An important objective of the VACo Achievement Awards Program is to celebrate innovative and smart solutions to challenges in our counties. This session shares the creative work from county leadership and staff as Achievement Award winners tell their stories on how they overcame challenges.

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## **Communicating during the Pandemic**

**Jeff McKay** | Fairfax County Chairman

**William McCarty** | Isle of Wight County Supervisor

**Dr. Joseph Casey** | Chesterfield County Administrator

How have Virginia leaders communicated with their community, constituents and staff during the pandemic? This session will examine ways counties and elected officials have communicated not only externally but also internally during this unprecedented time.

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## **Surviving to Thriving: Providing Financial Wellness as an Employer | Sponsored by First Financial Group of America**

**Christopher J. Jamail, CFP®** | Partner | Chief Marketing Officer

**Rich Mangiere** | Account Development Coordinator

To help working Americans achieve financial well-being – to move from surviving to thriving, and from debt to savings – through employer-sponsored financial wellness tools and salary-linked solutions.

Visit [First Financial Group's VACo webpage](#) to sign up to win a swag bag and to learn more about how First Financial can help your county.

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## Steering Committee Presentations

### Economic Development and Planning Steering Committee

**Christy Morton** | Vice President-External Affairs | Virginia Economic Development Partnership

Christy Morton with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) provides updates on ongoing economic development initiatives and programs. The presentation includes the latest on how the Coronavirus Pandemic is providing challenges, as well as opportunities, to further business development and job growth.

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### Education Steering Committee

**Holly Coy** | Assistant Superintendent for Policy, Equity, and Communications | Virginia Department of Education

**Kathy Glazer** | President | Virginia Early Childhood Foundation

**Karin Bowles** | Director of Strategy | Virginia Early Childhood Foundation

Updates and discussions on K-12 education and childcare.

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### Finance Steering Committee

**Aubrey L. Layne Jr.** | Secretary of Finance | Commonwealth of Virginia

Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne provides an update on the state's revenue situation and use of federal relief funds.

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### Health and Human Resources Steering Committee

**Scott Reiner** | Executive Director | Office of Children's Services

**Nannette M. Bowler, J.D.** | Deputy Commissioner | Human Services | Virginia Department of Social Services

**Andrew Crawford, LCSW** | Director | Bedford County Department of Social Services

**Rebecca J. Morgan, M.Ed.** | Director | Middlesex Department of Social Services

An educational session on the intersection of foster care and the Children's Services Act.

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## **Health and Human Resources Steering Committee**

**Kathy E. Vesley** | President and CEO | Bay Aging

**Regina Sayers** | Executive Director | Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens

Directors of two Area Agencies on Aging share information about the important services provided by AAAs to support the well-being of older Virginians, and the innovative approaches taken by their agencies to meet local needs.

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## **Transportation Steering Committee**

**Catherine McGhee, P.E.** | Director of Research and Innovation | Virginia Department of Transportation

**Lisa Guthrie** | Executive Director | Virginia Transit Association

**Danny Plaughter** | Deputy Director | Virginia Transit Association

Catherine McGhee provides updates from VDOT and gives a presentation on autonomous systems. Executive Director Lisa Guthrie and Deputy Director Danny Plaughter from the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) provide updates on public transit in the Commonwealth.

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## **Energy Steering Subcommittee**

**Cliona Robb** | Director | ThompsonMcMullan P.C.

**Meade Browder** | Senior Assistant Attorney General/Chief-Insurance and Utilities Regulatory Section | Virginia Office of the Attorney General

Cliona Robb speaks about "Contract Purchase of Electricity by Local Governments in Virginia." Meade Browder talks about "Energy Law and Regulation in Virginia."