

Virginia Counties Recognized for Model Programs



The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is pleased to announce the 21 recipients of the 2020 Achievement Awards, which recognize excellence in local government programs. VACo received 76 submissions.

Winning entries focused on addressing issues of inclusion, belonging, and reconciliation that challenge counties today.

[Winning Achievement Award Submissions](#) | [Winning Program Descriptions](#)

"I want to thank all who participated in the 18th year of the Achievement Awards," VACo Executive Director **Dean Lynch** said. "During these uncertain times, it's good to know there's this constant – counties will continue to find innovative ways to overcome complex challenges. I think it's important to stop and recognize good work when we see it. The Achievement Awards allow us to appreciate those who help make our lives better."

Tedd Povar, retired Associate Director of the Virginia Institute of Government; **Dr. Sheryl Bailey**, Visiting Professor of Practice at Virginia Tech and former Chesterfield County Deputy County Administrator; and **Larry Land**, retired VACo Director of Policy Development, served as judges for this year's statewide competitive awards program.

Prince William County and its **Human Rights Student Leadership Council Program** won this year's **Best Achievement Award**.

"Prince William County's entry is the type of powerful program that really makes a difference," Dr. Bailey said. "The program was started to assist high school students better understand local, state and federal government policies through the lens of human and civil rights. It has created a connection between students and their community, and has proven to positively impact their overall success in school as well as teaching them how to be productive citizens."

The judges also selected a Best Small County Achievement Award (50,000 or less population) and a Best Large County Achievement Award. **Dinwiddie County** and its **Faith-Based Initiative** captured the **Best Small County Achievement Award** while **Chesterfield County** and its **Access On Demand** earned the **Best Large County Achievement Award**.

"I scored both programs very highly because of their innovative approaches to solving a problem," Land said. "Both winning programs were established with fiscal responsibility in mind and can be replicated by other counties. I encourage all county administrators, staff and elected officials to review Dinwiddie's and Chesterfield's submissions as well as the other 74 entries. The VACo Achievement Awards may be a statewide competition but at its heart – the program is about sharing ideas and solutions."

Povar, who has served as judge since the Achievement Awards inception in 2003, said this year's batch of 76 entries were some of the best he's seen. "I continue to be inspired by the good work done by Virginia's counties," Povar said. "Year after year counties prove that the Achievement Awards are a treasure trove of ideas and innovation."

Chesterfield County tops the all-time Achievement Awards list with 35. Chesterfield County has won an award in each of the 18-year history of the program. **Henrico County** is second on the list with 30 Achievement Awards while **Loudoun County** is third with 24. **Fairfax County** and **Prince William County** are tied in fourth with 21 awards.

The VACo Achievement Awards is a competitive program open to local government members of the association.

[Winning Achievement Award Submissions](#) | [Winning Program Descriptions](#) | [Achievement Awards Website](#)
[2020 Achievement Awards Entries](#) | [Past Winners](#) | [Past Judges](#)

VACo 2020 Annual Conference Goes Virtual



VACo has made the difficult but necessary decision to move its 86th Annual Conference from an in-person gathering to completely virtual. We share this decision with a little bit of disappointment because every year we cherish and look forward to being with you at VACo's premier event.

The virtual Annual Conference will take place on November 9-11. An agenda, a registration form and other information will be available soon.



We're confident we will develop a virtual Annual Conference that retains the energy, education, and engagement that have always been the hallmark of our in-person conference.

We want to thank the Hilton Norfolk The Main and the Norfolk Waterside Marriott for working with us through our decision process. We were really looking forward to experiencing the hospitality and world-class facilities and amenities of our host hotel - The Main.

If you booked a room at either hotel, please allow some time for the hotel to cancel your reservation and process your refund. No action is necessary on your part.

Please don't hesitate to contact [Valerie Russell](#) or [Karie Walker](#) with any questions or concerns.

Can't wait to see you in November! Stay safe and take care.

Tom Tokarz named County Attorney for Henrico



Joseph T. “Tom” Tokarz II has been appointed county attorney for Henrico, effective Aug. 15.

Tokarz joined the Henrico County Attorney’s Office in 1980 as an assistant county attorney and has served as deputy county attorney since 2011. He was named acting county attorney in June, following the retirement of Joseph P. Rapisarda Jr., who had served as county attorney since 1982.

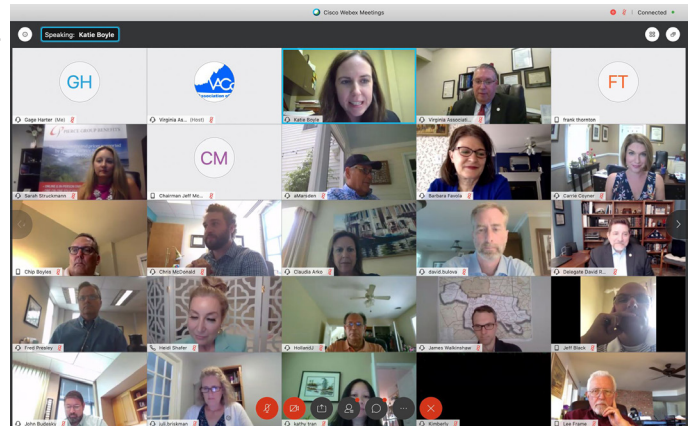
Tokarz holds a law degree from the University of Virginia and a bachelor’s degree in business management from William & Mary.

As county attorney, he will lead an office with a 21-member staff and a \$2.6 million budget for fiscal 2020-21. The county attorney is responsible for providing legal services to all of Henrico’s boards, commissions, authorities and administrative offices.

VACo Regions 3 & 7 & 8 Meeting well attended with more than 20 legislators

The “room” was packed on July 23 for the VACo Regions 3 & 7 & 8 Virtual Meeting when members of Governor Northam’s staff and more than 20 legislators joined 60 regional county staff and members of Boards of Supervisors as well as planning district commission community staff and VACo partners and sponsors.

Jeff McKay, VACo President-Elect and Fairfax County Chairman, initiated the meeting by eloquently expressing that although Regions 3, 7 & 8 cover many miles, the issues of concern in these areas are very similar, and it is important to hear from counties to identify the top priorities for VACo’s legislative program. Chairman McKay cited how fortunate it was to welcome Secretary of Education Atif Qarni and Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. James Lane to share the latest news on K-12 public education and school reopening. He also acknowledged the outpouring of legislators and county staff at the meeting and said the regional meeting provided an opportunity to hear from the legislators about some overarching areas of concern – school reopening, criminal justice reform, inequity issues and the economic crisis – ahead of the special session that begins on August 18. Chairman McKay also voiced appreciation for Governor Northam’s administration for the hard work they are doing for the Commonwealth.



Secretary Qarni and Dr. Lane gave a presentation and answered questions on the phased reopening of K-12 schools in Virginia following guidance released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). This topic impacts every locality in the Commonwealth and poses significant challenges as local school boards prioritize the health and safety of students and staff while also being mindful of the instructional, developmental, and childcare services provided by school divisions. The speakers addressed a wide range of subjects, including childcare, funding streams, and broadband capacity. A copy of their PowerPoint may be found [here](#).

Senator Jennifer McClellan, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a leader on criminal justice reform issues, noted in her address that there are some alignments between proposals put forward by the Democratic Caucus and the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus on criminal justice reform, and she reflected on the magnitude of more than a century of systemic racial injustice and inequity leading to this point, and the changes it demands. Senator Barbara Favola, Chair of the Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee, provided an overview of criminal justice reform legislation expected in the special session to bring equity to the criminal justice system, including language about banning chokeholds/strangleholds, largely prohibiting no-knock warrants, reforms on hiring law enforcement officers who have been fired or reassigned, the law enforcement decertification process, creating crisis intervention teams of co-responders, standardizing training, de-escalation training, restoring more discretion to courts and prosecutors, and authorizing localities to institute civilian review boards, as well as incentivizing jurisdictions to report data by tying this data collection to “HB 599” assistance to localities with police departments, so trends can be identified and resources better targeted. Public comments are welcome and can be heard at public_comment@senate.virginia.gov.

Delegate David Bulova, a member of House Appropriations and a budget conferee, talked about the state budget and the current process underway of looking at the unallotted items in the budget and trying to best determine what the priorities will be, such as K-12 education, early childhood education, school lunch funding, broadband, housing, Medicaid, criminal justice reform, and 2025 Bay restoration requirements.

Senator David Marsden, Chair of Senate Transportation, spoke about the future of driverless passenger vehicles and automated delivery vehicles. Delegate Danica Roem, a member of House Transportation with a longstanding interest in transportation issues, highlighted the status of the NVTa 6-year plan as well as recent actions by the legislature to boost dedicated transportation funding.

Delegate Carrie Coyner addressed broadband access. With distance learning, telework and telehealth as the new normal, the inequity in broadband access is even more evident. She highlighted newly passed legislation to facilitate the construction of broadband infrastructure along existing utility easements.

Without the attendance of a broad audience from localities, the outcome of the region meetings would not be as productive. And without VACo sponsors these meetings would not be possible. VACo is most appreciative to all who took the time to join the meeting, and bring important information, questions and responses.

Meg Boehmke, VACo First Vice-President and Stafford County Chairman, wrapped up the meeting by expressing a warm thank you, and summed up the meeting with this: “With the Webex virtual platform we had more than 80 people attending today. Today is the first day of baseball season. I would say we hit the numbers out of the park with this meeting! I would say we hit a home run!”

VACo Contact: [Karie Walker](#)



Visit Highland County and the LOVEworks Sign

The LOVE letters in Highland County celebrate the rural landscape and heritage of this scenic community. In recognition of the many barn quilts located throughout the county, the LOVE letters used traditional quilt block patterns to highlight the many special features in Highland.

L uses Maple Block to celebrate our maple products and popular festival in March, **O** uses the Double Wedding Ring to recognize our family heritage and sense of community, **V** is painted in Flying Geese to show our love of our wildlife and farm animals, and the **E** uses the Log Cabin block to represent our country style and love of home. #HighlandCountyVA and #VASweetSpot

Visitors are encouraged to take photos with the LOVEwork and share with loved ones on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/VirginiaIsForLovers](https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaIsForLovers) or on Twitter with the special hashtag #LOVEVA. A complete list of the LOVEwork locations is at www.Virginia.org/LOVE.

SOURCE: [Virginia is for Lovers](https://www.virginiaisforlovers.com/)

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 started via Webex Teleconference on May 29 and ended with another Webex Teleconference on July 24.

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

VACo Contact: [Karie Walker](#)

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

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

Opening Session | August 28 | Webex Teleconference

Closing Session | October 30 | Webex Teleconference

Registration Deadline | August 14



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Revitalization of historic school breathes new life into Carroll County



A shuttered, historic Carroll County high school known for being the first in the nation to offer vocational and agricultural classes, is being transformed into a vibrant, affordable housing community.

Scheduled to be completed in mid-2021, the rehabilitation project will feature 51 affordable one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments complete with a park, walking trails and playgrounds.



In 2018, county leaders contacted Virginia Housing for assistance converting the six-acre site into a housing development. Carroll County applied for and received a Virginia Housing Community Impact Grant of \$20,000 allowing them to complete a structural assessment, marketing study, feasibility plan and historical site review. Through this process, the county learned it was eligible for historic tax credits.

Virginia Housing also played matchmaker, connecting Carroll County's Industrial Development Authority to North Carolina-based developer The Landmark Group, which specializes in adaptive reuse of historic properties. As part of the rehabilitation, The Landmark Group is transforming the school's old gym into a community recreational facility. The company is investing in updates, such as improving the gym's HVAC and electrical systems. Once completed, The Landmark Group will lease the facility back to the county for \$1 per year.

"The Woodlawn development is a prime example of a successful public-private partnership," said Chris Thompson, Director of Strategic Housing at Virginia Housing. "Virginia Housing and Carroll County have a shared goal of creating affordable housing in rural communities."

Have an affordable housing or community revitalization project? Contact Chris Thompson (Chris.Thompson@VirginiaHousing.com) to see how Virginia Housing can help.

PRESS RELEASE



Longnaker Elected to VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool Board

RICHMOND— Rebecca Longnaker, Treasurer for Chesterfield County, has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool (VIP). Longnaker was unanimously elected at the Board of Trustees meeting on July 17 in Richmond.

“The Virginia Investment Pool Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome a Treasurer with dynamic qualifications and a diverse background to the governance board. We are grateful that she has agreed to serve and she will bring many qualities to our board,” said Fred Parker, VIP Chairman and long-time Washington County Treasurer.

The VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool is Virginia’s premier local government investment tool. VIP was established to provide political subdivisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia an investment vehicle to pool their funds and to invest under the direction and daily supervision of a professional fund manager. Developed in 2013 by local Treasurers and investment officers with the sponsorship of the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League, VIP has nearly 130 participants and over \$2 billion in assets under management.

“I have worked with the leadership of the Virginia Investment Pool Trust Fund for over two years and continue to be impressed with their commitment to excellence and quality services. I am honored to be part of the governing board and look forward to serving,” Longnaker said.

Longnaker was elected Treasurer of Chesterfield County in November of 2019 and began her first term in January of 2020. She graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Baltimore in May of 1990 and passed the CPA exam in November of 1990.

Longnaker began her career with Chesterfield County in 2013, in the Central Accounting department. Just after completing her first year in this position, she was selected as the Accounting Employee of the Year for the County, an unexpected honor.

In May 2017, Longnaker moved to the Chesterfield County Treasurer’s Office as Fiscal Manager/Deputy Treasurer. In this capacity she managed the accounting section of the Treasurer’s Office and handled the County’s investments. She has also played an integral part in the implementation of the County’s new property tax system, through testing and ensuring proper internal controls.

*VML/VACo Finance is a leading financial services provider for Virginia local governments
and the administrator of the VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool.*

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DOLI Standards Update



Following publication on July 27 in the Richmond Times Dispatch, the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) temporary [standard](#) with the intent of preventing the spread of COVID-19 is now in effect until January 27, 2021. This standard was developed following four separate day-long emergency electronic meetings by the [Virginia Safety and Health Codes Board](#) and applies to all employers in Virginia, including County Governments.

As [reported](#) in a previous County Connections, the temporary standard generated numerous public comments and set requirements that counties need to implement in order to ensure compliance. All employers will be required to classify the risk for each of their employee positions as “very high,” “high,” “medium,” or “lower” depending on the level of risk of exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus and set forth controls, processes, and training for staff in compliance with the standard. It is possible for a single organization to employ staff with different job hazard classifications.

Generally speaking, under the Standard’s language, counties will have employees that fall into the “lower,” “medium,” and “high” hazard classifications. Office personnel that are able to work without close contact within 6 feet of others are considered to be “lower” risk. Positions that require contact within 6 feet of others, such as interacting with the public across a counter, are “medium” risk. Law enforcement, fire, and rescue positions are classified as “high” risk if they are expected to interact within 6 feet or provide healthcare services to anyone known or suspected to be infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus. As the hazard classification increases, so too do the requirements to provide protections to employees.

Counties are required to implement the following:

- An exposure assessment and determination system
- A return to work policy for employees who have tested positive for COVID-19
- Ensure physical distancing
- Control access to common areas
- Provide appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) under certain conditions
- Provide sanitization and disinfectant agents
- For Medium Risk and Higher, provide ensure that air handling systems must be maintained per manufacturer’s guidelines and comply with ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE standards
- Develop an Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response (IDPR) Plan if employing employees with “very high” or “high” exposure classifications or 11 or more “medium” employee classifications
- Provide additional training to employees

Violations of the new standards can result in civil penalties and fines as prescribed in state law (see [§ 40.1-49.4](#) of Code of Virginia). As these are temporary emergency standards, they will expire six months from the date of publication, or upon the expiration of the governor’s state of emergency declaration, or the enactment of a permanent standard.

It is important to note that while this standard is temporary, DOLI has proposed a [“permanent” standard](#) to take effect “no later than January 27, 2021.” A 60-day comment period for the permanent standard commenced July 27, 2020 and expires September 25, 2020. For more information and to submit comments online go to [Virginia Townhall General Notice](#).

More information, including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), training materials, and hazard assessments can be found on DOLI’s Outreach, Education, and Training for the COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard, 16VAC25-220 website [here](#).

VACo Contacts: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#); [Joe Lerch, AICP](#); [Phyllis Errico, Esq., CAE](#)

Workgroup Examining Responsibility for Mental Health Evaluations Begins Work



A stakeholder workgroup directed by the General Assembly to examine and potentially reform the current process for conducting evaluations of individuals who are experiencing mental health crises to determine whether they meet the criteria for temporary detention held its first meeting on July 16.

The genesis of this effort was a broader workgroup, also directed by legislation, that met during the spring and summer of 2019 to address the overcrowding of the state's mental health hospitals. One of the topics of discussion, though not consensus, in that workgroup was allowing professionals other than employees or designees of the Community Services Boards to conduct evaluations for temporary detention orders. Currently, when an individual in crisis is taken into custody by a law enforcement officer, or a magistrate issues an emergency custody order, an emergency services worker evaluates the individual to determine if he or she meets the criteria for a temporary detention order (TDO). If a TDO is determined to be necessary, the emergency services worker begins the process of locating an available bed; if no bed can be secured in a private hospital before the expiration of the emergency custody order period, the state hospital system serves as the bed of last resort. The requirement for a CSB employee to perform the evaluation and locate a bed was instituted in the 1990s in order to ensure that less-restrictive alternatives to hospitalization were considered. With an increasing reliance on state hospitals to serve as the "bed of last resort" when an emergency custody order is close to expiring without a private hospital bed being secured, there has been renewed interest in examining the TDO process.

Some members of the 2019 workgroup believed that allowing other professionals, such as hospital clinicians, to perform the evaluation would streamline the process by eliminating the wait for the emergency services worker to arrive, and would improve care by allowing the individual to begin treatment more promptly. Other workgroup members were opposed to the idea, arguing that the delay within the emergency custody order time period is attributable to difficulties in locating a suitable bed for the individual and not the completion of the evaluation itself, and stressing the need to proceed with caution in changing a complex process.

Legislation enacted in 2020 directed that the issue of authorizing additional personnel to conduct evaluations be reconsidered. Staff from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services convened the new workgroup, which includes representatives from hospitals, Community Services Boards, law enforcement, and advocates for individuals with mental illness, among others. VACo and VML are participants in the workgroup. At the July 16 meeting, DBHDS staff provided an overview of the current TDO process, a review of discussions of similar issues in 2015 and 2019, and information about the civil commitment process in other states. Several workgroup members pointed out the need for services other than hospitalization, whether in the public or private system, for individuals in crisis. Members also expressed interest in streamlining the process of completing the evaluation and locating a bed. The workgroup is currently scheduled to hold two more meetings; an overarching concern that was expressed is whether three meetings will provide enough time to address such a complex policy question, or if an extension should be requested.

The workgroup's next meeting is scheduled for August 11.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) Asks for Local Government Participation in Ransomware Study



In view of many ransomware attacks on state and local governments, the Virginia General Assembly [directed](#) the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) to study the Commonwealth's ransomware attack preparedness and to report back by the start of the 2021 General Assembly Session. Among other provisions, the enacted resolution provides that all agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to VITA for this study and that VITA shall assess the Commonwealth's susceptibility to ransomware attacks at the state and local levels of government.

The subjects of the study include the Commonwealth's susceptibility to ransomware attacks at the state and local levels of government; current data encryption and backup strategies; tools to monitor unusual access requests, viruses, and network traffic; and recommendations on legislative or regulatory changes.

To understand and report on the current environment and needs in the Commonwealth, VITA has requested the assistance of local governments. The following [survey](#) developed by VITA is intended to inform the study and policymakers' further responses to the ransomware threat. Responses to this survey can be submitted anonymously on behalf of any Virginia state or local governmental organization.

VITA estimates that responding to the survey would take someone knowledgeable about an organization's cybersecurity approximately 30 minutes to complete. It includes 64 multiple-choice questions, as well as three open-ended questions asking what your organization's biggest IT security challenge and top priority are and how the Commonwealth can help you.

VITA is asking for candid in your responses. Responses will be stored at VITA and accessible only to those working on the ransomware study and agency leaders overseeing that work. Information provided will be kept confidential in accordance with Virginia law. See Va. Code § 2.2-3705.2(2) & (14). Survey responses will be incorporated into the study report, or otherwise disclosed, only in an aggregate, summary, or anonymous way that does not identify or permit profiling of any individual respondents.

This survey will close on September 4, 2020. VITA kindly asks for responses by that date. If you want to edit previously submitted responses, or stop and restart responding, please see the attached [instructions](#).

If you have questions about confidentiality and this survey, please write to VITA at foia@vita.virginia.gov, and VITA will get in touch with you promptly. If you have any other questions, or you would like to provide information not covered in this survey, please email CommonwealthSecurity@vita.virginia.gov, and VITA will be happy to get back to you. Please use "ATTN: Ransomware Committee" in the Subject line to assist with routing inquiries.

The survey can be accessed [here](#). Thank you for your assistance.

As previously [reported](#), VACo recently announced a partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to strengthen local governments' cybersecurity efforts. The NACo Cybersecurity Collaborative will provide Virginia's counties with access to top tier technology security professionals, information, intelligence, best practices and other resources to prepare for, prevent and mitigate cybersecurity threats.

The NACo Cybersecurity Collaborative is a peer-based network that shares proven action plans to drive cyber readiness, implementation guides and comprehensive checklists. Members of the collaborative have access to customizable policies and procedures for governance controls and compliance, and the ability to connect with experts to ask real-time questions for guidance on real-time issues. Learn more [here](#).

VACo Contacts: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#) and [Karie Walker](#)

Stakeholder Group Begins Discussions on Potential Reforms to Cigarette Tax Stamping Process



The Department of Taxation began initial discussions with stakeholders in late July on potential reforms to the administration of the local cigarette tax, in accordance with an enactment clause included in legislation that passed in 2020 providing additional taxing authority to counties, including the authority to levy a cigarette tax at a rate not to exceed 40 cents per pack, beginning July 1, 2021. The bill language charges the Department with convening this workgroup to make recommendations for modernizing administration of local cigarette tax collection, to include potentially centralizing the stamping process at the state level, where it would be administered by the Department. The current process generally relies on individual stamps for each locality being affixed to cigarette packs by stamping agents (generally wholesalers and distributors) to demonstrate that the local tax has been paid (in addition to the state stamp that documents payment of the state tax). The exception to this process is the regional administration of cigarette taxes in Northern Virginia by the Northern Virginia Cigarette Tax Board (NVCTB); for member jurisdictions, cigarettes are sold with a dual stamp representing the state and local taxes, and the NVCTB collects the local taxes by reviewing documentation provided by wholesalers and distributors as to quantities of cigarettes sold to retailers in each jurisdiction.

The issue of administration of the local cigarette tax was last reviewed by the Department in 2011; among other issues, that workgroup discussed the mechanics of using local tax stamps as a means of documenting payment of local cigarette taxes, and expressed interest in exploring more technologically-advanced stamps that allow tracing to the locality where the cigarette tax is due, which could allow the use of a single stamp to demonstrate payment of both the state and local tax. However, the cost of upgrading the state to this “smart” stamp technology was a stumbling block.

The extension of cigarette taxing authority to counties has renewed interest in the tax collection process. In beginning its work for the current report, the Department held calls with interested parties, including wholesalers and distributors and representatives of local government, during the week of July 27. Local government representatives from areas encompassed by the NVCTB expressed interest in preserving their current arrangements, which they believe work well for industry and localities alike. Representatives from counties that do not yet impose cigarette taxes noted that they are still determining how best to implement the new authority when it takes effect in July 2021. Some jurisdictions have expressed an openness to regional cooperation in implementing the new cigarette tax, and there was also interest in seeking more information on the smart stamp technology. According to notes from the Department, wholesalers and distributors continue to be interested in better stamping technology as well. In addition to transferring enforcement to the Department, proposals offered by the wholesalers and distributors included transferring some administration of the local tax to the Department (processing returns and distributing revenue to localities) while leaving enforcement responsibilities with localities; the establishment of additional regional boards similar to the NVCTB; and transferring stamping responsibilities to retailers.

The Department will be organizing a discussion among the various interested parties in the coming weeks prior to drafting its report, which is due October 31.

Mental Health Commission Plots Course for 2020

The Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century met August 5 to review progress on previous initiatives and plan for the Joint Subcommittee's work for the remainder of 2020. Several bills generated by the Commission's work in 2019 were enacted in the 2020 session, including legislation to improve information sharing between medical providers when an individual is incarcerated in a local or regional jail, clarify the temporary detention order process for individuals who are intoxicated, and refine the alternative transportation process for individuals subject to temporary detention orders. The Joint Subcommittee discussed several ongoing issues within the behavioral health system, notably overcrowding at state hospitals, as well as the emotional and financial stresses associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and ways the behavioral health system has adapted in order to continue providing services.



Alison Land

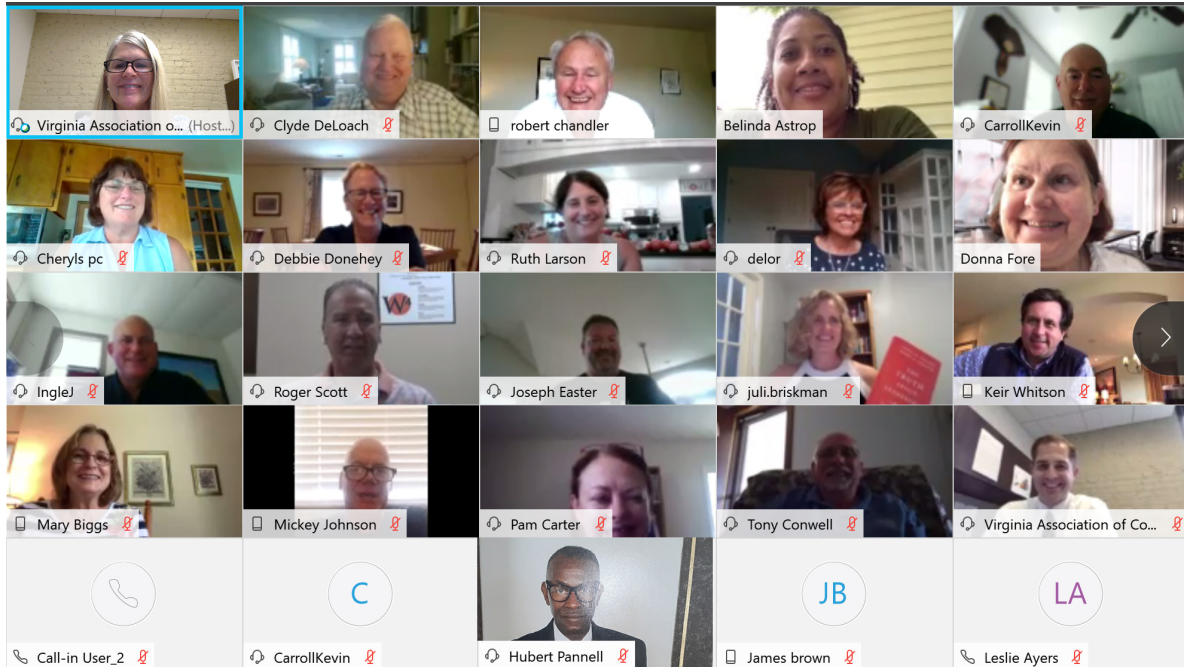
Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Commissioner Alison Land provided an update on the state hospitals, which have struggled with overcrowding for the last several years. The hospital census had declined earlier in the year due to aggressive work to remove barriers to discharging patients who are clinically ready to leave the hospital, but with the gradual reopening of the state, admissions have surged, particularly among the geriatric population. Admissions have had to be halted at two hospitals to prevent the spread of COVID infections. Funding for discharge assistance planning and for pilot projects to address overcrowding has been "unallotted," or paused, pending the revenue reforecast, and restoration of these funds, as well as retention of funding for outpatient services for children, are the Department's priorities for the upcoming special session.

Commissioner Land also spoke about the effect of the pandemic on the Community Services Boards, which have continued to provide Code-mandated services, largely through a rapid pivot to the use of telehealth. CSBs have largely remained financially stable during the pandemic despite reductions in revenues caused by restrictions on the provision of services that were unable to be delivered via telehealth, but this stability has been achieved by reducing staff (through furloughs or layoffs) for programs that were affected by closures (generally day and residential programs).

Dr. Alyssa Ward from the Department of Medical Assistance Services discussed the flexibility afforded to providers by the Medicaid program during the pandemic, particularly in allowing services to be provided through telehealth. There is interest within the agency and among legislators in retaining telehealth flexibility long-term, as well as recognition that broadband access is a key component of service delivery through these means. Dr. Ward and Dr. Alexis Ablasca with DBHDS updated members on long-term efforts to align Medicaid-funded services with initiatives across human services programs (for example, by ensuring that all services required to be provided by CSBs through the STEP-VA initiative are covered by Medicaid). Funding for these efforts has also been unallotted.

Senator Creigh Deeds, who chairs the Joint Subcommittee, reminded members that the Joint Subcommittee is scheduled to expire at the end of 2021, and suggested that members consider whether its work should be extended, incorporated into an existing entity, or made permanent as a stand-alone commission. He suggested that the Joint Subcommittee's work this year be divided among three workgroups: the existing System Structure and Financing and Criminal Justice work groups, and a new workgroup on aspects of the civil commitment process.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)



Supervisors' Certification course gets a virtual makeover

Fourteen supervisors from 11 Virginia counties met virtually in the morning on May 29 for the closing session of the **"Good Governance: The Role of Leadership"** course in the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program. The instructor, Mike Chandler, Ph.D., led the students through rich discussions over the course of eight weeks of the role of leadership and governance as they apply to the experiences of supervisors. Challenges and successes were shared. The evaluations were strongly in support of the new virtual format of this program for county leaders.

Later the same day, 23 students, several who were enrolled in the previous course, launched the virtual opening session of the next course in the program: **"Managing While Leading: Understanding Your Powers, Duties, & Responsibilities."** The course hosted five virtual interactive sessions that furthered dynamic discussions between the supervisors on how the course materials relate to their real time experiences.

"Funding Public Services: The Role of Budgeting" is the next course in the program and it opens virtually on August 28. More virtual discussions will be hosted, and the course will close on October 30. The deadline to register is August 14 or when 20 students have enrolled. There are still a few openings left. [Register here](#). We are excited to see you!

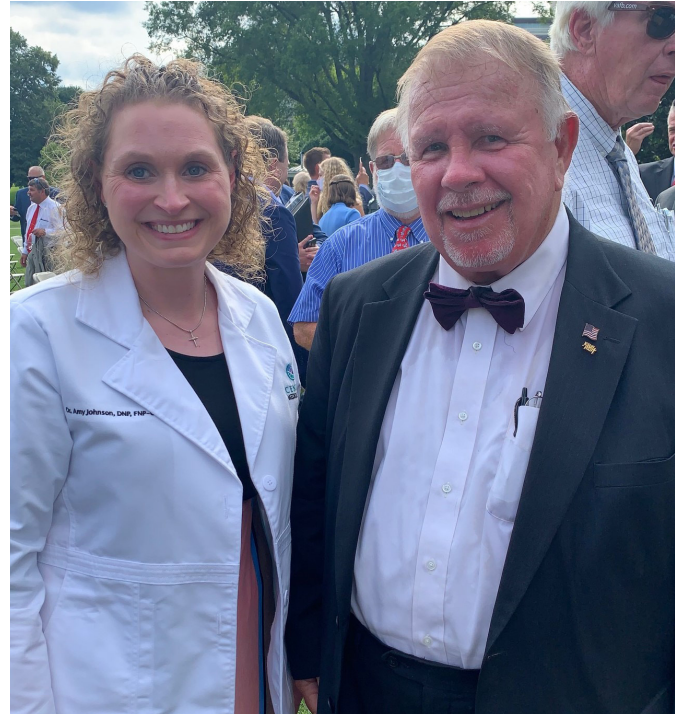
The examination of leadership from different perspectives can have an invaluable impact on county leaders. And students moving through this program together are getting to know each other and add to their takeaways in each session. All participants bring unique contributions to the success of this program. Thank you!

Three students, Chairman Hubert Pannell from Halifax County, Supervisor Mary Biggs from Montgomery County, and Jeremy Bennett, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs of the Virginia Association of Counties, will graduate from the program this year! Congratulations and we look forward to joining you in virtual celebration!

VACo Contact: [Karie Walker](#)



Botetourt County Chairman Billy Martin at the White House on July 16, 2020.



Dr. Amy Johnson, who has ties to Botetourt County, and Billy Martin on the South Lawn of the White House.

Botetourt County Chairman Attends Event at the White House

Washington D.C. – On July 16, Board of Supervisors Chairman Billy Martin was at the White House for the Presidential presentation on rolling back regulations. Martin was invited to attend this White House event by President Trump through the VA Association of Counties (VACo). Martin serves as the Regional Director of VACo where he is constantly looking for ways to elevate VACo, Botetourt and the region.

Martin and County Administrator Gary Larowe attended the White House event on the South Lawn of the White House along with State Legislators and other County representatives from across the nation. Martin said, “This was a once in a lifetime invitation that I had to accept. Being at the White House with the President, Vice President and five Cabinet Members was simply amazing. I felt exceptionally proud to represent Botetourt and VACo.”

During the presentation, the President emphasized that over the last 3 years, he and his Administration have cut seven and a half regulations for every new significant rule. According to the President, the Administration has more than fulfilled its promise to cut two regulations for one. Before the unforeseen global pandemic, these reforms contributed to more than 2 million Americans rising out of poverty, 7 million Americans liberated from food stamps, the highest median income in our Nation’s history, lowest poverty rates, rising incomes, and lowest unemployment rates in half a century. There are estimates that Americans at the bottom 20% of the income level would lose over 15% of their disposable income if a future administration rolled back the deregulatory actions of Trump administration.

The Governors of Idaho and Alaska spoke along with Vice President Mike Pence and Dr. Amy Johnson. Dr. Johnson spoke about the ability of Tele-Medicine being allowed as a result of the efforts of the Administration. Tele-Medicine allows Doctors to meet with patients via electronic means and has helped significantly during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Chairman Martin was excited that Dr. Johnson practices medicine in Bedford and has ties to Botetourt. Dr. Johnson was a volunteer for Botetourt Fire/EMS prior to becoming a Doctor and ran with Fincastle and Troutville Volunteer departments.

Watch Chairman Martin’s message to the community that highlights his visit to the White House - <https://youtu.be/o9L2Ym9G8z8>

Monica Spells is New Assistant Loudoun County Administrator



Monica Spells has been appointed as an Assistant Loudoun County Administrator, effective September 3, 2020, Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet announced Tuesday. Spells, who was selected for the position after a nationwide search, comes to Loudoun from Beaufort County, South Carolina, where she currently serves as an assistant county administrator.

“We had a very competitive pool of applicants for this position and Monica stood out as a seasoned manager and exceptional leader with a wide range of relevant experience in local government,” Hemstreet said.

In Beaufort County, Spells has most recently overseen the fast-growing county’s civic engagement and outreach division, with areas of responsibilities that include alcohol and drug abuse services, business diversity, child welfare services, communications, community service, disabilities and special needs, elections and voter registration, human services, geographic information systems, information technology, library services, records management and veterans’ affairs. She has also served as deputy director for disaster recovery operations. Spells’ prior experience also includes service in the private and public sector, including the South Carolina Military Department.

Spells has a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the College of Charleston and a Master of Public Administration from the University of South Carolina.

Spells is also an active member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and has earned the prestigious Credentialed Manager designation. To receive the credential, a member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government, meet educational requirements and demonstrate a commitment to high standards of the profession and to lifelong learning and professional development.

In her new position in Loudoun, Spells will join 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, which 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.

Meghan Coates named Henrico County Finance Director



Henrico County has appointed Meghan F. Coates Director of the Department of Finance, effective August 1.

Coates joined the county staff in 2019 as deputy director of Finance and most recently served as acting director of the department. She will succeed Edward N. “Ned” Smither Jr. in the position. Smither had led the department since 2017.

Coates was key to the county’s efforts this spring to navigate a \$99 million shortfall — brought on by the sudden economic downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic — as Henrico was beginning its budget process for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

As director, Coates will head an agency with more than 160 employees and a budget of \$13.7 million for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Finance comprises the divisions of real estate assessment, treasury, management and budget, accounting, purchasing and revenue. Among its scope of duties, the department prepares and administers the county’s operating and capital budgets and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report; reviews, assesses, bills and collects taxes, licenses and fees; assesses real estate and certain personal property; and purchases goods and services for general government departments and Henrico Schools.

Coates also will serve as commissioner of revenue and treasurer for the county, as prescribed by the Code of Virginia.

Prior to coming to Henrico, Coates held several positions with Chesterfield County, including budget analyst, budget manager and director of budget and management. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Roanoke College and a Master of Science from Virginia Commonwealth University. Coates is the mother of two daughters.

Greene County Office of Emergency Services Hires Emergency Medical Services Supervisor



The County of Greene is pleased to announce that Mr. Aaron Anderegg has accepted the position of Emergency Medical Services Supervisor in the Office of Emergency Services.

Mr. Anderegg previously worked for the University of Virginia for 19 years in various capacities relating to emergency medical services, with 12 of those years serving in a supervisory role.

“Aaron brings almost two decades of EMS experience and knowledge to our new agency. His supervisory experience will benefit us tremendously,” stated Melissa Meador, Director of Emergency Services. “We are fortunate to have Aaron join our team and look forward to his input developing our new agency.”

Bill Martin, Chairman of the Greene County Board of Supervisors, added, “The addition of Mr. Anderegg brings experienced, professional leadership to our new Greene County Emergency Medical Services team. His recruitment bodes well for the provision of first-rate emergency response for Greene County’s residents when the new team begins later this year.”

In his role as EMS Supervisor, Mr. Anderegg will oversee approximately 15 employees and the day-to-day EMS operations of the agency.

Mr. Anderegg is a lifelong Greene County resident. His first official day as EMS Supervisor was August 3, 2020.

For additional information, please contact 434.985.5232.



CANCELLED

2020 VACo

COUNTY

OFFICIALS'

SUMMIT

**Due to events and circumstances
related to the 2020 Special
Legislative Session - VACo is
cancelling its County Officials'
Summit on August 20.**

Please contact Dean Lynch at dlynch@vaco.org with any
questions or concerns.





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In this time of uncertainty, we know procurement teams are working tirelessly to address their school and public agency needs but are hindered by their availability to procure the necessary products and services, including personal protective equipment.

OMNIA Partners, a cooperative purchasing organization that provides government and educational institutions access to a large portfolio of competitively solicited contracts from industry-leading suppliers, has assembled a task force to address your evolving needs during this time. This task force is working with the executive teams of our supplier partners to assist in the deployment of their COVID-19 plans.



OFFERINGS IN OUR PORTFOLIO



CLEANING & DISINFECTING SERVICES:

- Deep Cleaning Services
- Surface Disinfectant & Sanitizer Spray Service
- Laundered Apparel
- Turnkey Emergency Services



PPE & FACILITY SOLUTIONS:

- Masks, Gloves, Gowns & Kits
- Thermometers & Digital Scanners
- Plexiglass Barriers
- Air Filtration Systems
- Modular Buildings
- Elevator/Escalator Sanitization



CLEANING & DISINFECTING PRODUCTS:

- Surface Cleaners
- Exterior Antimicrobial Disinfectants
- Touch-free Sanitation (Interior & Exterior)
- Spray Nozzles & Pumps for Hand Sanitizer



FOOD:

- Self-Contained Lunch Packages
- Single-Serve Condiments
- ToGo Packaging
- Culinary Sanitation



TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS:

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- Audio/Visual
- Remote Learning/Working Solutions
- Educational Software
- Zero-Touch Devices
- Cloud Solutions



FURNITURE:

- Mobile Cubes & Walls
- Workspace Separation Screens
- Outdoor Classroom Solutions
- Flexible Seating
- Quickship Solutions

CYBERSECURITY COLLABORATIVE

a CyberRisk Alliance company



Cybersecurity Collaborative Benefits

Solution Merits

- NACo members will be better equipped and better prepared to deal with cyber incidents
- Provides critical news, intelligence, training, events, and other cyber-risk resources
- Provides access to a trusted network of peers from leading public and private organizations

Pricing

- Population less than 25,000
- \$625 per month
- Population 25,000-200,000
- \$1,042 per month
- Population greater than 200,000
- \$1,460 per month

Leverage Industry Leading Expertise Improve Cybersecurity Readiness Resource Saving Collaboration

Feature	Benefit	Resources Saved
Daily Security News Alerts	Aggregated report of the world's most pressing cybersecurity incidents provided at 6:30 AM	Hundreds of hours of research
Task Forces and SWAT Teams	Incident Response (IR) Team comprised of the membership pool to help identify, assess and remediate an incident within 24 hours	\$25,000 with an IR Contract Hundreds of hours of research
Resource Library	Industry leading best practices, policies and procedures that are maintained and curated by the membership	>\$200,000 in consulting fees
Access to membership	Direct communication with industry leading Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs)	>\$100,000 in consulting fees

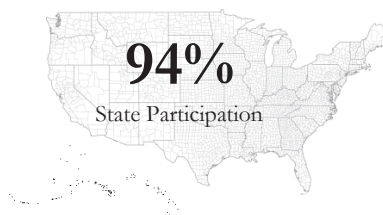


Take Your Leadership Skills to the Next Level With the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy

The [NACo High Performance Leadership Academy](#) is an online 12-week program that empowers county government professionals with the leadership skills needed to deliver results for counties and communities.

NACo launched this program in 2018 in partnership with the team from the Professional Development Academy, including General Colin Powell, Dr. Marshall Goldsmith, and many other executives from both private industry and government agencies.

More than 1,600 emerging and existing leaders have participated since the launch of the program. Nearly 1,000 counties have participated to date and the NACo Board has contributed over \$2,000,000 in scholarships. The feedback and results have been incredible. In fact, the positive feedback and demand for this NACo program has been truly unprecedented; to the point that NACo now has four planned starts each year – the last start of this year is in September.



1600+ County Participants



900+ Counties



2.1M In Scholarship Savings

The program has proven relevant and practical for county leaders and is convenient and non-disruptive to busy schedules. The 12 weeks of content are expertly facilitated online (so there is no travel costs involved) and it takes about 4-5 hours per week for participants to fully engage in the program.

The first person enrolled from each NACo member county receives a 100% scholarship (totaling \$1,995)! This means the first person from each county costs \$0 and everyone enrolled thereafter will also receive a substantial scholarship because of the NACo Board's focus to make leaders better and *Strengthen America's Counties*.

To enroll visit the [NACo High Performance Leadership Academy](#) webpage at naco.org/skills.

For questions and assistance in enrolling please contact Craig Patenode at craigp@pdaleadership.com. Professional Development Academy/NACo Leadership Academy.



"This is a transformational leadership program that has proven to be the most scalable, cost effective, and efficient way to make your leaders better."

- General Colin Powell

Congratulations to the Counties in Virginia Participating in NACo Leadership Academy:

Accomack	Louden
Amherst	Louisa
Arlington	Lunenburg
Augusta	Nelson
Bath	Nottoway
Campbell	Orange
Charles City	Page
Chesterfield	Patrick
Clarke	Pittsylvania
Fairfax	Prince George
Franklin	Richmond
Frederick	Roanoke
Gloucester	Rockingham
Henrico	Spotsylvania
King George	Summers
	Surry

THE LATEST FROM THE NACo LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Enrollment is open through August 31st for the NACo Leadership Academy – the online, 12-week professional development initiative to equip frontline county government professionals with the most practical, fundamental leadership skills. More than 1,600 emerging and existing leaders have participated since the launch of the program. Nearly 1,000 counties have enrolled leaders to date and the NACo Board has contributed over \$2,000,000 in scholarships. This affordable, state-of-the-art program requires no travel and is designed for busy county professionals and emerging staff leaders. The next sessions begin September 14th, and we invite counties to identify nominees for enrollment now. [Learn more at www.naco.org/skills](http://www.naco.org/skills).

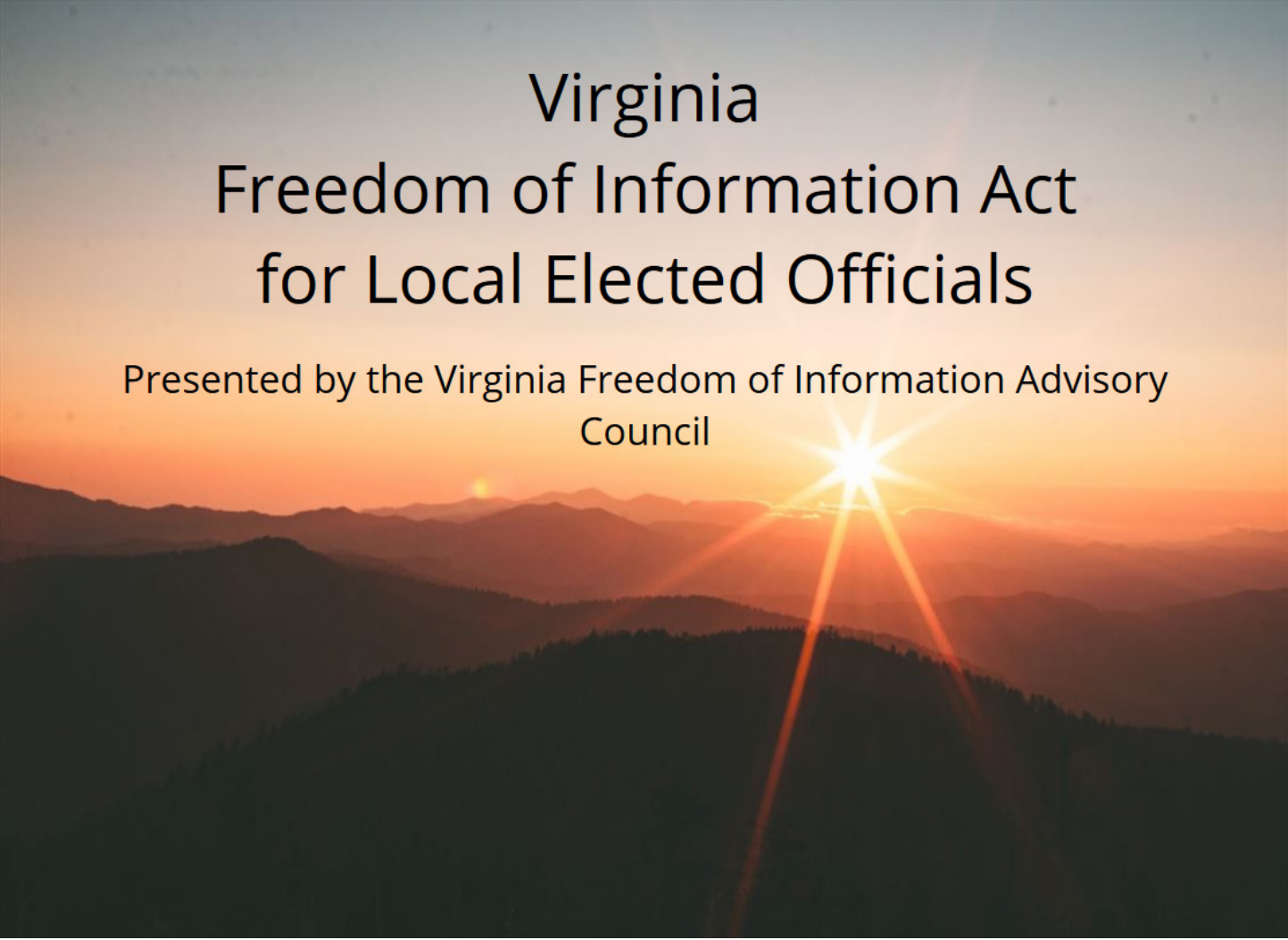
UPCOMING COHORTS



HIGH PERFORMANCE
[NACo High Performance
Leadership Academy](#)



CYBERSECURITY
[NACo Cybersecurity
Leadership Academy](#)



Virginia Freedom of Information Act for Local Elected Officials

Presented by the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory
Council

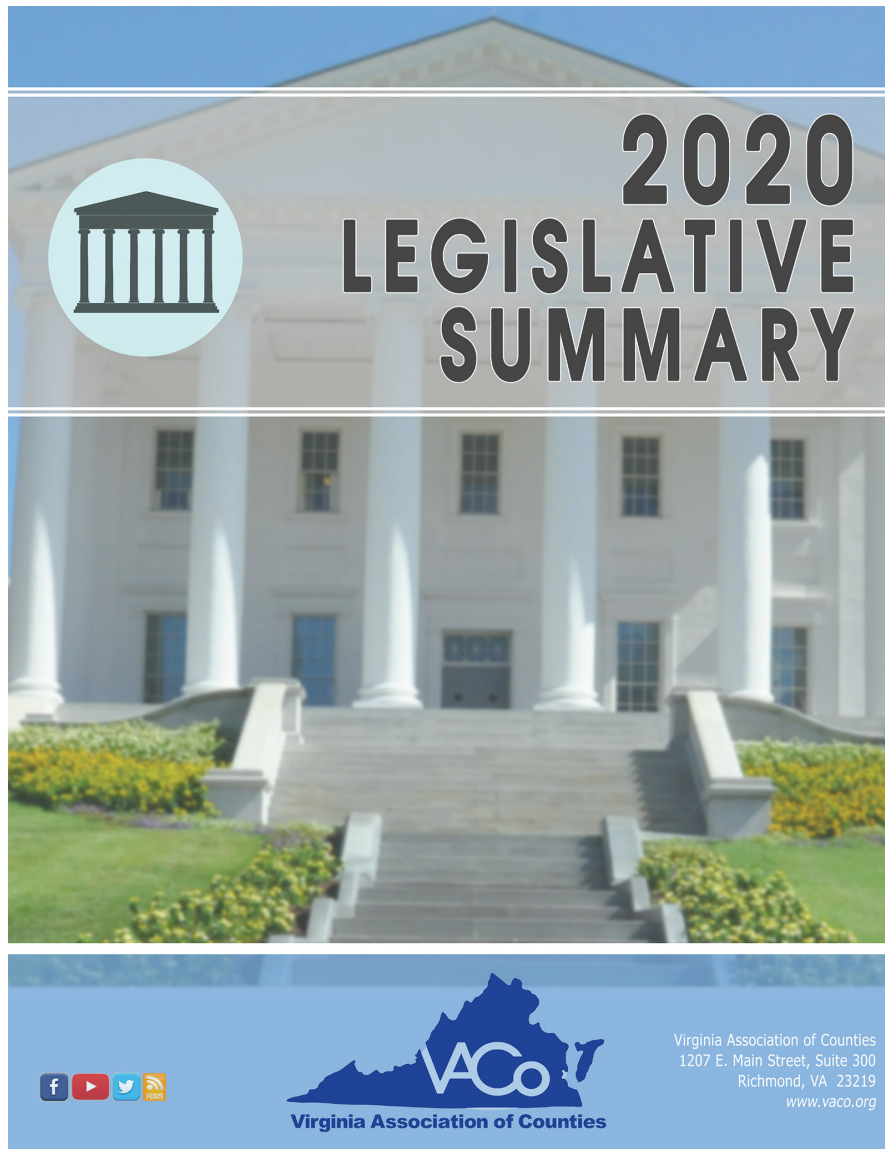
Local elected officials - § 2.2-3704.3

As of July 1, 2020, all local elected officials are required to receive FOIA training “ within two months after assuming the local elected office and thereafter at least once during each consecutive period of two calendar years commencing with the date on which he last completed a training session.” To facilitate this training, we have developed a FOIA training course specifically for local elected officials that should take less than an hour to complete. Note that it covers a broader range of material than the FOIA officers course by including information on public records, public meetings, remedies and penalties, and additional resources for further questions.

Additionally, there is no quiz, but at the end of the course you will be able to generate your own certificate of completion to keep for your records. The law requires that the clerk of a governing body or school board keep such records for five years. For elected officials that have no clerk, we recommend you keep your FOIA training certificates with your other administrative records. Note that there is no requirement to send copies of your certificates to the FOIA Council, and unlike FOIA officers, we do not maintain a list of elected officials who have completed FOIA training.

Click [here](#) to take the FOIA training course for local elected officials.

VACo Releases 2020 Legislative Summary



The [Legislative Summary](#) details the actions of the 2020 General Assembly and information on legislation of interest to counties.

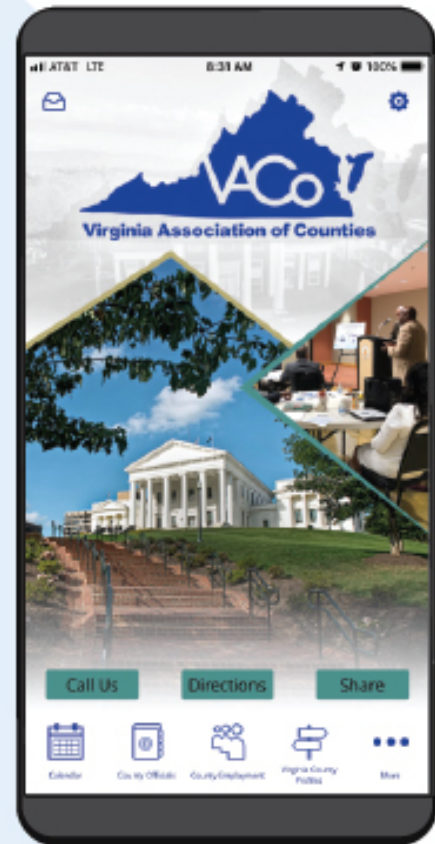
This edition contains links to bills through the General Assembly's Legislative Information System. Also included in the document are studies and statistics of importance to counties.

[Read VACo's 2020 Legislative Summary](#)

VACo Contact: [Legislative Team](#)

DOWNLOAD

our new app



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

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

Downloading the app is easy...

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

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EIGHTH EDITION, 2019



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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](#).



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT/TITLE VI COORDINATOR/PLANNER | Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization | Posted July 31



FIREFIGHTER/CREDENTIALLED EMS PROVIDERS-PARAMEDIC | Carroll County | Posted July 31



PARKS SUPERVISOR - MAINTENANCE | Gloucester County | Posted July 31



ASSISTANT PLANT OPERATOR | Westmoreland County | Posted July 31



DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF GENERAL SERVICES | Hanover County | Posted July 31



DEPUTY CITY MANAGER FOR RACIAL EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION | City of Charlottesville | Posted July 31



BUILDING MAINTENANCE MECHANIC | Prince George County | Posted July 31



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CITY MANAGER | City of Lakeland, FL | Posted July 31



PERMIT CENTER TECHNICIAN | City of Alexandria | Posted July 30



SENIOR ACCOUNTANT | City of Manassas | Posted July 30



UTILITY PLANT OPERATORS/SENIOR UTILITY PLANT OPERATOR | Shenandoah County | Posted July 29



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Middle Peninsula Northern Neck CSB | Posted July 29



CONSTRUCTION MANAGER | Middlesex County | Posted July 29



CONSTRUCTION OBSERVER | Middlesex County | Posted July 29



PROPERTY CODE OFFICER I/II | City of Manassas | Posted July 29



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT | Gloucester County | Posted July 28



IT PROJECT MANAGER | City of Fredericksburg | Posted July 28



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FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALIST | Montgomery County | Posted July 28



BENEFIT PROGRAM SPECIALIST I | Montgomery County | Posted July 28



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ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Wythe County | Posted July 24



**SENIOR REGIONAL
PLANNER** | Hampton Roads PDC
| Posted July 23



STORMWATER MANAGER
| City of Roanoke | Posted July 23



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| Posted July 23



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**TEMPORARY DATA
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**CIRCULATION
SPECIALIST** | Montgomery County | Posted July 21



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CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER** | Campbell County | Posted July 21



GIS TECHNICIAN | Campbell County | Posted July 21



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**DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** | King George County | Posted July 20



**FIELD OPERATIONS
MANAGER** | Stafford County | Posted July 20



**VOLUNTEER/EDUCATION
COORDINATOR, ANIMAL CARE &
ADOPTION CENTER** | Montgomery County | Posted July 20



**COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR** | Warren County | Posted July 17



**CHIEF OF FIRE &
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES** | Louisa County | Posted July 17



**HUMAN RESOURCES
ANALYST II (RECRUITMENT &
STAFFING)** | York County | Posted July 16



**MANAGER UTILITIES
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES** | Spotsylvania County | Posted July 16



**RADIO
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER** | Orange County | Posted July 16



TAX TECHNICIAN I | Montgomery County | Posted July 15



**SHELTER ASSISTANT
(P/T)** | Montgomery County | Posted July 14



PURCHASING AGENT | Gloucester County | Posted July 10



**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF UTILITIES** | Gloucester County | Posted July 10



**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR** | Gloucester County | Posted July 10



**REVENUE TECHNICIAN
OR SPECIALIST** | Gloucester County | Posted July 10



**ASSISTANT
COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY I** | Gloucester County | Posted July 10



**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF FINANCIAL SERVICES** | New Kent County | Posted July 10

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VACo's lobbying efforts have helped stem the tide of unfunded mandates and have saved Counties millions of dollars every year.



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Some of VACo's best moments are when members convene and work to improve communities all over the Commonwealth.



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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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