

Governor Introduces Proposed Amendments to Biennium Budget



Governor Northam invoked his medical training in his presentation to the “money committees” on August 18, suggesting that revisions to the biennium budget should adhere to the physician’s oath to “first, do no harm,” given the considerable uncertainty remaining with regard to the future course of the COVID-19 pandemic. He outlined four key principles guiding his budget proposal: preserving liquidity, using one-time money for one-time expenses, making investments in the future with one-time money that is available, and preserving financial options for future budget revisions. In keeping with these principles, the Governor’s budget addresses the expected \$2.7 billion biennial shortfall largely by converting most of the discretionary spending that was “unallotted” during the reconvened session into budget reductions, with a few exceptions – notably, restoration of funding for the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative.

Governor Northam expressed his desire to revisit in his next budget proposal priority spending items that were unallotted and not restored, including his top priorities – expanding access to early childhood education and providing community college tuition assistance for individuals entering high-need occupations -- as well as compensation increases for teachers and state employees, investments in behavioral health, transportation, and access to health care. He noted that he expects the next revenue reforecast, which will be presented to the money committees in December, to show improvement, which would allow more flexibility in budget deliberations for the 2021 General Assembly session. The reforecasting process for December will begin in September.

Following are key elements of the Governor’s proposal of interest to local governments:

Broadband

- Reallots \$16 million General Funds (GF) per year in funding for the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative and provides an additional \$15 million in FY 2021, for a total appropriation of \$84.5 million over the biennium. VACo had encouraged additional investment in broadband in its communications with the Administration in advance of the special session.

Housing

- Reallots \$23 million GF in each year for the Housing Trust Fund, and provides an additional \$25 million GF in FY 2021, for total appropriation of \$55 million in FY 2021 and \$30 million in FY 2022; reallots \$3.3 million GF in FY 2021 for an eviction prevention and diversion program.

Education

- Accounts for reductions of \$95.2 million in FY 2021 and \$93.6 million in FY 2022 in sales and use tax distributions to school divisions in accordance with revised revenue projections.



Power On at the VACo 2020 Virtual Annual Conference

VACo has pivoted its focus and is working diligently to deliver a powerful virtual Annual Conference. We've scheduled powerhouse speakers. We're planning breakout sessions with plenty of horsepower. And you can bet we're using our brainpower to develop ways to make the event as interactive as possible.

Power On with us at the VACo Virtual Annual Conference on November 9-11.

[Registration Form](#) | [Online Registration](#) | [Draft Agenda](#)

The cost is \$50. There are three ways to pay.

- Fax completed [registration form](#) with credit card information to 804.788.0083.
- Make check payable to VACo. Mail completed [registration form](#) and check to 1207 East Main Street, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219.
- [Register online](#).

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.



Workers' Compensation COVID-19 Presumption Legislation for First Responders Advances



On August 20, legislation that proposes adding COVID-19 to the list of illnesses presumed to be incurred in the course of employment for multiple categories of first responders and health care workers has been reported and referred from the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee to Senate Finance with a substitute by a vote of 12-3. The legislation has potentially significant negative fiscal impact to local governments.

[SB 5066 \(Saslaw\)](#) adds COVID-19 to the list of existing conditions currently presumed to be an occupational disease suffered in the line of duty for firefighters, law-enforcement officers, first responders, and health care providers and therefore covered by the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act. This presumption would retroactively be effective to January 1, 2020. Several identical or similar bills – [SB 5022 \(Kiggans\)](#), [SB 5097 \(Vogel\)](#), [SB 5104 \(Deeds\)](#) – were incorporated into SB 5066. Senator Bell moved that Department of Correction officers also be included in the list of employee categories covered by the presumption. In the House, [HB 5028 \(Jones\)](#) has been introduced, which in addition to adding presumptions for first responders, also includes school board employees. HB 5028 has not yet been referred to a committee, but will likely be heard by the House Labor and Commerce Committee.

Though the intent of any potential legislation may be well-meaning, an expansion of workers'

compensation presumptions for COVID-19 in addition to other recent [changes](#) in the benefits program could result in substantial fiscal impacts to state and local governments at a time in which county governments are struggling to provide essential and expanded services in the midst of declining revenues and increased constituent needs. Generally, workers' compensation does not cover community-spread illnesses like a cold or the flu because they usually cannot be directly tied to the workplace. As such, any expansion of coverage to include COVID-19 would be unexpected.

According to actuarial data and analysis provided to VACo by VACORP, the resulting fiscal impacts to state and local governments could be very large. Preliminary analysis estimates a multimillion-dollar fiscal impact to state and local governments to expand presumptions to first responders and a significantly larger figure to do so for school board employees. This includes a \$20-\$25 million fiscal impact for expanding presumptions for first responders and a \$60-\$70 million fiscal impact for expanding presumptions to school board employees. This is in part due to the potentially unknown latent effects of COVID-19, which may include lifetime side effects that would need to be treated under a lifetime workers' compensation medical award.

This is especially true for any legislation that would retroactively expand presumptions. Local governments and risk insurance providers have not budgeted for an expansion of liability to cover additional presumptions related to COVID-19. Retroactively extending the provisions of legislation to the start of the pandemic would compound the fiscal strains asked of local governments to comply with these requirements. Not only would local governments feel immediate fiscal impact from these proposed expansions, but the Commonwealth would also be impacted through Line of Duty Act (LODA) costs and through increases of Basic Aid in the next Standards of Quality rebenchmarking.

Advocacy during a special session in which the General Assembly meets remotely or has limited in-person access poses unique challenges. In advance of committee meetings, VACo sent a [letter](#) to members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee, Senate Commerce and Labor Committee, and House Appropriations Committee, and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee. VACo staff also testified remotely at the August 20 [meeting](#).

We encourage you to contact your representatives to share your concerns regarding the fiscal impacts of these bills. VACo strongly urges that passage of any legislation that expands presumptions to include COVID-19 be done only if in concert with additional state funding assistance to local governments to offset additional costs through risk insurance.

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



Visit Washington County and the LOVEworks Sign

The Food City shopping center borders a new state-of-the-art sports complex currently under construction and serves as a new walking entrance to the Virginia Creeper Trail.

The Food City LOVEwork showcases a bicycle themed design inspired by its close proximity to The Virginia Creeper Trail. Constructed from bicycles donated by Food City employees, as well as members of the local community - the entire project was designed and built by a team of associates employed by Food City's Distribution Center, also located in Abingdon, VA.

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.Virginia.org/LOVE)

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

Introducing BirdDog Technologies - a new Associate Member

BirdDog Technologies helps Schools and Local Government Effectively Respond to the Immediate COVID-19 Pandemic while laying a Foundation for Continual Improvement of Operational Efficiencies through use of Proven, Cost-Effective, Smart Technologies.



The BirdDog team, including our technology partners, represent effective and affordable real-time solutions, integrating technological advances with physical locations to improve customer/stakeholder experience and outcomes.

Focus Areas:

- COVID-19 and Emergency Response
- Smart Counties/ Communities
- State and Local Government
- Schools and Universities
- Health and Human Services

BirdDog Partner Spotlight:



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [EOS FAQ Sheet](#)
- [EOS Efficacy Study](#)
- [Cost of Reopening](#)
- [EOS Lighting Brochure](#)
- [New School Environment](#)

Currently Installed at:

- Duke / UNC
- UCLA Health
- Mount Sinai Hospital
- Bay Front Medical
- Delta Airlines
- Havern School
- Monte Vista School District
- Sheridan School District
- Virginia Tech
- Case Western Reserve University

EOS Antimicrobial Lighting

EOS' Antimicrobial Lighting is a patented, EPA approved, lighting technology proven to prevent reproduction and kill microbes carrying COVID-19 while being safe for continuous use with humans present. EOS' antimicrobial lighting has been tested to hold microbial growth and ultimately destroy microbial colonies thereby preventing microbes from replicating and causing viral outbreaks. These fixtures are an effective weapon in the fight against COVID-19.

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT #1

SHERIDAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Year: 2019

TOTAL UPGRADE COST :	\$576,029
INCENTIVES/REBATES:	-\$44,805
NET UPGRADE COST:	\$531,224

# OF FIXTURES:	3,978
# OF BUILDINGS:	11
PAY BACK:	2.60 Years
% OF ENERGY REDUCED*:	79.4%
ANNUAL SAVINGS:	\$204,071
LIFETIME SAVINGS:	\$5,647,340

*Percentage shown is the lighting-related portion of the customer's electricity bill.

Sheridan School District
10 Year Savings: \$2,234,520.51
10 Year ROI: 420%

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT #2

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Year: 2019

TOTAL UPGRADE COST :	\$302,662
INCENTIVES/REBATES:	-\$30,724
NET UPGRADE COST:	\$269,928

# OF FIXTURES:	2,305
# OF BUILDINGS:	7
PAY BACK:	2.86 Years
% OF ENERGY REDUCED*:	85%
ANNUAL SAVINGS:	\$92,006
LIFETIME SAVINGS:	\$4,488,071

*Percentage shown is the lighting-related portion of the customer's electricity bill.

Monte Vista School District
10 Year Savings: \$1,007,440.03
10 Year ROI: 383%

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT #3

ASPEN ACADEMY
Year: 2018

TOTAL UPGRADE COST :	\$132,359
INCENTIVES/REBATES:	-\$37,159
NET UPGRADE COST:	\$95,200

# OF FIXTURES:	1,298
# OF BUILDINGS:	1
PAY BACK:	1.74 Years
% OF ENERGY REDUCED*:	76%
ANNUAL SAVINGS:	\$52,898
LIFETIME SAVINGS:	\$1,211,234

*Percentage shown is the lighting-related portion of the customer's electricity bill.

Aspen Academy
10 Year Savings: \$487,240.69
10 Year ROI: 608%

We'd love to speak with you. [Schedule a Call HERE](#)

Contact:

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[Learn More
About BirdDog
Technologies](#)

SurveyNavigator® is Coming!



If you haven't heard, SurveyNavigator® is now available. VACo and Baker Tilly US, LLP (Baker Tilly) are proud to announce a valuable new online salary data service available exclusively at no cost to county members that participate in the program. This complementary service uses Baker Tilly's secure private database known as SurveyNavigator®. Enrollment is now open for participants.

Survey Navigator allows member jurisdictions to enter their pay and benefits data and, in return, to see other participant's data that has been entered. It will be available 24/7 and the data will be kept up to date by members. Users will be able to pull data by any desired position contained in the database, as shown by location or region. The salary data can be adjusted (aged) from its effective date to adjust to the date of download or for use in salary projections moving forward to assist with budgeting.

The great news is that we are getting a lot of interest in the program. So far, 9 VACo regions are represented, with 19 counties expressing interest in participating. The map of potential users is not only growing, there are numerous economic regions now well represented, which will allow users to see what salaries are in their labor market, as well as across the state. We encourage you to look into the program. There is no cost to members and the more members we have, the better everyone's experience will be. It is truly a cooperative venture. We are communicating with Administrators on the schedule of important upcoming dates, and Baker Tilly is available should anyone have questions. Your VACo point of contact managing the program is VACo Coordinator of Programs and Development, Karie Walker. She may be reached at kwalker@vaco.org or 804-343-2504. If you would like more detailed information about SurveyNavigator®, please contact Baker Tilly Vice President, Steve Miner at steve.miner@bakertilly.com, or 804-240-9760.

Baker Tilly will be offering online training through Zoom in September, and the data base is slated to open for data entry on September 22, 2020. We anticipate offering access to the salary data to members who have entered their data, in mid-to-late November, so it will be available in time for next year's budget preparation. Thanks to all those who are signing up! With your support, the system can be a great success and a very useful tool for years to come.

Baker Tilly US, LLP (formerly known as Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP)" is one of VACo's Premier Partners. Baker Tilly is one of the nation's leading CPA firms. It combined with Springsted, Inc., in 2019 and offers a full suite of local government consulting services, including compensation and classification, performance management, and other personnel services from a wide group of specialists in Virginia and across the country.

VACo Contact: [Karie Walker](#)

Introducing Zencity - a new Associate Member



Associate
Member

Powered by Artificial Intelligence, Zencity transforms millions of county-centric data points into actionable insights about your residents' real-time needs and concerns. Zencity's data-driven insights help county organizations provide localized solutions tailored to the different communities within their county, helping county managers better understand resident feedback, prioritize resources, and connect with their communities.

We Believe in **Counties**. We Believe in **People**. We Believe in **Data**.

Counties Use Zencity For

Monitoring Resident Discourse & Feedback

Zencity aggregates and analyzes online resident feedback on key issues under the responsibility of counties including elections, public health and other services and initiatives

Bolstering Crisis Management

Real time alerts and push notifications enable county leaders to address, react and monitor any emergency within their authority, whether it be severe weather or a global pandemic.

Addressing Resident Uncertainty

Easily identify false information across multiple channels and adjust county messaging to address the issue directly, such as the frequent confusion between the tiers of their local governments and elections-related operation.

Effective Performance Management

Better prioritize resources by understanding resident sentiment towards county-specific projects like health services, road maintenance and census awareness.

Localized Problem Solving

Geolocation technology provides counties with topics, content and trends visualized by area for localized problem solving and a more nuanced view of residents' needs.



Info@zencity.io

<https://zencity.io>

Click to see full flyer

Survey of Counties Seeks to Coordinate State and Local Rent Relief Programs

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) recently launched the [Rent and Mortgage Relief Program \(RMRP\)](#) to support and ensure housing stability across the Commonwealth during the coronavirus pandemic. In order to better coordinate state and local efforts, DHCD is asking localities to fill out this [survey](#) on local rent relief programs.

The purpose of this survey is two-fold: (1) to identify localities that are offering rent relief efforts to gain an understanding of what programs are available; and (2) how DHCD can partner with local governments on these efforts to ensure coordination between the state and local response and find out where the state can target resources and outreach to maximize the positive benefit of housing resources.

For more information on the RMRP or questions about the survey contact Kristen Dahlman at 804.371.7017 or kristen.dahlman@dhcd.virginia.gov.

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

Counties are Invited to Webinar on Combining Pollinator Landscapes with Solar Installations



The [Virginia Pollinator Smart Solar Program](#) will be holding a virtual stakeholder meeting for localities on Tuesday, September 8, from 9-11am. The program is designed to provide incentives and tools for the solar industry to adopt a native plant strategy to meet soil and water control regulations, community needs, and the needs of our biosphere. Developed with input from many stakeholders, natural resource scientists, and environmental policy experts, the program's materials provide detailed guidance for planning, designing, installing, and maintaining a Pollinator-Smart habitat at a solar facility.

This virtual stakeholder meeting, targeted specifically to county and local boards, will introduce the program, the benefits of participation, and ways it can be used to achieve local goals.

In order to register, please email pollinator.smart@dcr.virginia.gov or Caitlin Cyrus at ccyrus@vhb.com.

VACo Contacts: [Joe Lerch, AICP](#) and [Chris McDonald, Esq.](#)

State Coordinator of Emergency Management Briefs VACo Board



With the Atlantic hurricane season off to an unusually fast start, State Coordinator of Emergency Management Curtis Brown and senior staff at the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) held a briefing on August 7 for VACo's Board of Directors and county administrators on preparations underway at the state level, planning work made more challenging this year by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Brown reminded briefing attendees that the most-active period of hurricane season still lies ahead, and that hurricanes can pose a threat to inland areas as well as the coast. He emphasized VDEM's close working relationship with local emergency managers, noting that emergency response is a "whole of government" effort. He encouraged local elected officials and senior staff to be familiar with neighboring jurisdictions' resources and to have memoranda of understanding in place to facilitate cooperation in case of emergencies.

VDEM staff outlined the particular challenges inherent in emergency planning during the coronavirus pandemic, including expected resource limitations (such as personal protective equipment), government finances that are already stressed by the economic shock of the pandemic, and the need for extensive public health considerations in planning (such as developing alternatives to traditional congregate shelters), which add complexity and cost. VDEM is working with partner agencies to establish contracts for non-congregate sheltering, as well as to prepare for congregate sheltering, with appropriate sanitation and social distancing, if a catastrophic event made such preparations necessary.

VDEM staff also provided updates on efforts to improve communication, such as building relationships with local public information officers and nonprofit organizations to disseminate information, and providing materials in multiple languages.

The slides from the briefing are available at [this link](#).

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Counties Eligible to Apply for FEMA Funds to Build Resilient Infrastructure and Address Flooding



The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) announced today that it is opening the application period for the 2020 [Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities \(BRIC\)](#) and [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\)](#) grant programs. These programs are nationally competitive. The BRIC program is new this year, and it is replacing the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program that has been around for nearly two decades.

Depending on the project type, these grant applications require coordination with multiple departments within a community as well as state and federal agencies. Eligible pre-award costs cannot be claimed on the application until after September 30, 2020.

Project types eligible for funding include:

- Infrastructure Protective Measures
- Floodwater Storage and Diversion
- Floodplain and Stream Restoration
- Water and Sanitary Sewer Protective Measures
- Utility Protective Measures
- Stormwater Management
- Floodproofing of Historic or Non-Residential Structures
- Strategic Acquisition and Demolitions
- Green Infrastructure to Reduce Flooding
- Residential Mitigation Reconstruction
- Soil Stabilization
- Generators for Critical Facilities
- Wildfire Mitigation
- Wind Retrofit/Safe Rooms
- Drought/Aquifer Storage
- Residential Elevations

Application Submission

The VDEM grants portal is currently accepting pre-applications/applications for this cycle. VDEM encourages applicants to submit pre-applications as soon as possible so VDEM grant administrators can determine eligibility prior to being prompted to submit an application. All project applications, and supporting documentation, must be submitted through the <https://mitigationva.org> by **November 10, 2020, at 5 p.m.**

For more information on how to apply, visit <https://www.vaemergency.gov/grants/> or contact Debbie Messmer, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, at 804.267.7732.

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

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 candor 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](#)

Early Childhood Care and Education

- Frees up \$16.6 million GF in FY 2021 (by transferring Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and Child Care Development Fund dollars among programs) to support contracts with local partners to provide child care for school-age children.
- Reallots \$3 million GF in FY 2021 to support recruitment and retention of early childhood educators.

Elections

- Allocates \$2 million GF in FY 2021 to reimburse localities for the costs of sending absentee ballots with prepaid postage.
- Language amendment spells out a process for general registrars to afford voters an opportunity to correct certain errors that would otherwise invalidate an absentee ballot.
- Language amendment requires local governing bodies to establish a drop-off location for completed absentee ballots at the general registrar's office, at any satellite voting location, and at each polling place; authorizes additional drop-off locations to be established. Specifies procedures for establishment of drop-off locations and collection of ballots.

Health and Human Resources

- Accounts for \$331 million in GF savings in state Medicaid spending in FY 2021 associated with the enhanced federal Medicaid match included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act; funds the continuous Medicaid coverage required in order for the state to benefit from the additional federal funding (\$89.1 million GF and \$245 million NGF in FY 2021).
- Uses \$3.6 million in TANF funds in FY 2021 for a one-time benefit payment to families with children enrolled in Head Start and directs \$650,000 in TANF funds to food banks in FY 2021. Provides \$211,253 in TANF funds in FY 2021 to support a 15 percent increase in monthly benefits for TANF-Unemployed Parents recipients for four months.

Natural Resources

- Appropriates \$30.4 million GF in required deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund; reallots \$3.8 million GF in FY 2021 for a supplemental deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund.
- Continues the water quality enhancement fee and directs the Department of Environmental Quality to convene stakeholders to produce recommendations by November 1, 2020, to improve the long-term sustainability of the fee and the Department's oversight of nutrient credit use in the Commonwealth.
- Reallots \$15 million GF in FY 2021 for dam rehabilitation projects.
- Reallots \$5.5 million GF each year for the Virginia Land Conservation Fund.
- Directs the Secretary of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, to develop a plan to require landfill operators to pay a solid waste disposal fee, which would be imposed in addition to any fee imposed by a locality. The plan is to be submitted by November 1, 2020.

Public Safety

- Includes \$3.6 million over the biennium in funding for certain criminal justice reform legislation under consideration during the special session (decertification of law-enforcement officers, establishment of civilian review panels, development of a statewide law-enforcement officer database, and establishing mandatory minimum training standards for law-enforcement training academies).

Transportation

- Authorizes the Commonwealth Transportation Board to reallocate certain Revenue Sharing Funds and funds for certain projects in the FY 2020-2025 Six-Year Improvement Program to mitigate the impact of reductions in transportation revenues.
- Authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles to extend certain deadlines during and shortly after a declared state of emergency.
- Directs the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to conduct necessary business functions assigned to the newly-created Virginia Passenger Rail Authority until the Authority is formally constituted.
- Allows the Commonwealth Transportation Board to maintain funding for the Department of Rail and Public Transportation at levels at least equal to FY 2020 allocations.

General Provisions

- Includes language barring utilities from disconnecting service for non-payment until at least 60 days after the end of a declared public health emergency related to a communicable disease, and requires utilities to offer customers experiencing hardship during the public health emergency the right to enter into a repayment plan for past-due accounts, which will amortize the repayment over at least 12 months.
- Includes language extending the moratorium on evictions until April 30, 2021, and requires landlords to offer tenants experiencing hardship related to the emergency the right to participate in a payment plan, which will amortize the principal over at least 12 months.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND



“It is times like this when philanthropy can lean into its leadership role and unite our community for the greater good. At the Community Foundation, we are responding to the uncertainty with proactive action and collaboration.” - Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond

PlanRVA and the Emergency Management Alliance of Central Virginia formed a partnership with our local Community Foundation for a greater Richmond in September 2018 to establish the Central Virginia Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief Fund.

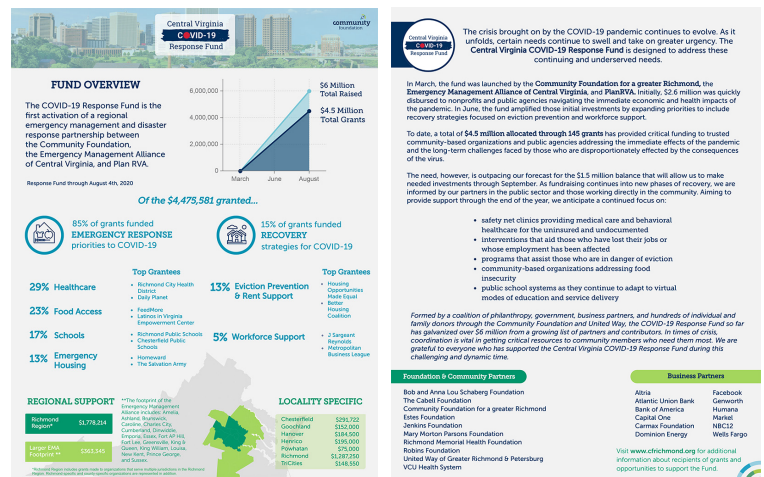
It was activated for the first time in March 2020 to support emerging community needs in the wake of the COVID-19 public health and economic crisis.

During the last 20 weeks, the Fund has generated more than \$6 million dollars in contributions and distributed \$4.5 million in grants for relief and response efforts throughout the region. Funding has provided support to programs and initiatives in the following localities: Counties of Amelia, Ashland, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, Louisa, New Kent, Powhatan, Prince George, and Sussex; and the Cities and Towns of Ashland, Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond.

Guided by a committee of philanthropic, corporate and public sector representatives, grant review has been continuous and responsive as needs have evolved over time. Initially, the Fund focused its support for local nonprofit and government organizations that were addressing the urgent health and safety needs of residents most affected by COVID-19. Projects included moving our street homeless population into appropriate shelter, helping charitable clinics shift their services to a telehealth model, and providing food access particularly to families who rely heavily on the school system to provide their children with basic needs and suddenly did not have that accessibility. In June, the Fund's priorities expanded to include recovery efforts, including getting people back to work, helping them remain stable in their homes, and supporting school systems with technology and training as they plan for reopening.

We are grateful for the continued support through new donations. The uncertainty of the current economic conditions and duration of the pandemic creates the need to constantly reevaluate the focus of the Fund. Unlike other potential disasters, we know that this activation will require a longer period for donation generation and disbursement in the community. It's also likely that other disasters will occur in the midst of the current pandemic and economic crisis as we enter the hurricane season.

Through the important lessons learned and the many new partnerships formed in this coordinated and regional response to the pandemic, our region will be well prepared to activate and mobilize again as needed. We have built a strong framework that utilizes both the expertise of our partners who represent all sectors and the generosity of community members. It not only takes all of us to address and overcome the challenges of disaster, but also to build resiliency for our community as we move forward.



[Click to view](#)

Bertha Judge Named Prince George County Director of Social Services



Prince George County Administrator Percy Ashcraft has announced that Bertha Judge has been appointed Director of Social Services.

Judge assumed the responsibilities on August 17. She is currently the Director of Social Services in Sussex County. Judge is no stranger to the department. She worked for Prince George County from 2011-18 as Administrative Manager in the Social Services Department before leaving to take the Director's position in Sussex.

"We are very fortunate to be able to welcome Bertha back to Prince George County," commented Ashcraft. "She has worked extremely hard to grow within the profession, and has the confidence and willingness to achieve ultimate success."

Judge inherits a department that has been extremely busy the last few months serving citizens amidst the coronavirus pandemic. With higher unemployment in Prince George that is three times above the norm, many citizens are seeking benefits for the first time.

"Bertha understands the challenges of our residents," Ashcraft said. "Her leadership style fits perfectly into the opportunities ahead to continue to advance the department." Judge inherits a department that has an annual budget of five million dollars and has 27 employees. The director is also heavily involved with the Children's Services Act (CSA) responsibilities and issues related to emergency management and family displacement in times of disaster.

Judge received her bachelor's degree from Saint Paul's College, and her master's in administration and resource management from Central Michigan University.

Judge, who lives in Prince George County, was chosen from a pool of 56 applicants.

Robert C. Dubé appointed Fire and Emergency Medical Services Chief



At its meeting on August 17, 2020, the Louisa County Board of Supervisors appointed Robert C. Dubé as Chief of the County's Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The County conducted an extensive search which yielded over 30 applicants for the position. Dubé will begin work in early September.

"The leadership capabilities, qualifications and experience that Robert brings to the position would be desirable in any locality, regardless of size or complexity," said Duane Adams, Mineral District Supervisor and representative on the department's Management Oversight Group. "We're tremendously fortunate to have someone with those qualities and strong ties to our community."

Dubé brings over 40 years of public service experience to the position, primarily in fire and emergency management. He most recently served as Fire Chief for the City of Alexandria and as Deputy Director for the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. Dubé also served as the Louisa's Chief of Fire and EMS from 2008 through 2011, and as County Administrator from 2011 through 2014. During his tenure as Louisa's Chief, he oversaw the implementation of 24/7 emergency services coverage and critical consolidation efforts within the department, and his leadership was crucially important in the aftermath of the major earthquake which impacted the County. His prior experience also includes service as the Operations Chief for Virginia Task Force One, a multi-functional international search and rescue team.

"It's an honor to join a great team and serve this community again," said Dubé. "I'm humbled and grateful for the opportunity to work together with our Board, career staff, and volunteer personnel to continually improve our services to the citizens of Louisa."

A resident of Louisa County, Dubé holds an Associate's Degree in Fire Science Administration, a Bachelor's Degree in Public Safety Administration, and a Master's Degree in Executive Leadership. He began his fire service career in Loudoun County in 1974 as a volunteer and was a member of the Leesburg and Sterling Volunteer Fire Departments.



Recently, Virginia became the **first state in the country to implement a free COVID-19 exposure notification app** using the Apple/Google Bluetooth Low Energy framework. The app is called [COVIDWISE](https://www.covidwise.org) and was developed in an unprecedented, public-private partnership between VDH, Google, and Apple. Simply put, COVIDWISE allows you to anonymously notify others if you test positive for COVID-19, and notifies you if you've likely been exposed to the virus based on positive reports from other app users.

This effort is an example of Virginia leading the way forward during the most pressing pandemic of our lifetimes, with the goal of reducing the risk for your friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues and helping Virginia stay safe and healthy.

We are asking you to join us in the effort:

1. Visit the App Store or Google Play Store and download COVIDWISE
2. Share information about COVIDWISE with your friends, colleagues, and family members. A sample email is attached, along with several graphics.
3. Post & share your support on social media. Sample social media posts are attached.

COVIDWISE was created with both public health and public trust in mind. It's easy to use, protects your privacy, and helps secure the health and safety of our communities. No location data or personal information is ever collected, stored, or transmitted via COVIDWISE. In addition, the use of the app is 100% voluntary and can be deleted at any time.

Join the fight against COVID-19! Together, we will move Virginia forward.

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

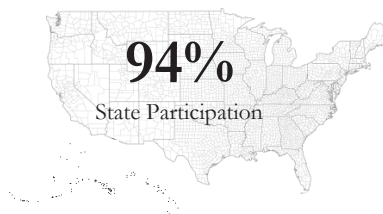


Take Your Leadership Skills to the Next Level With the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy

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).

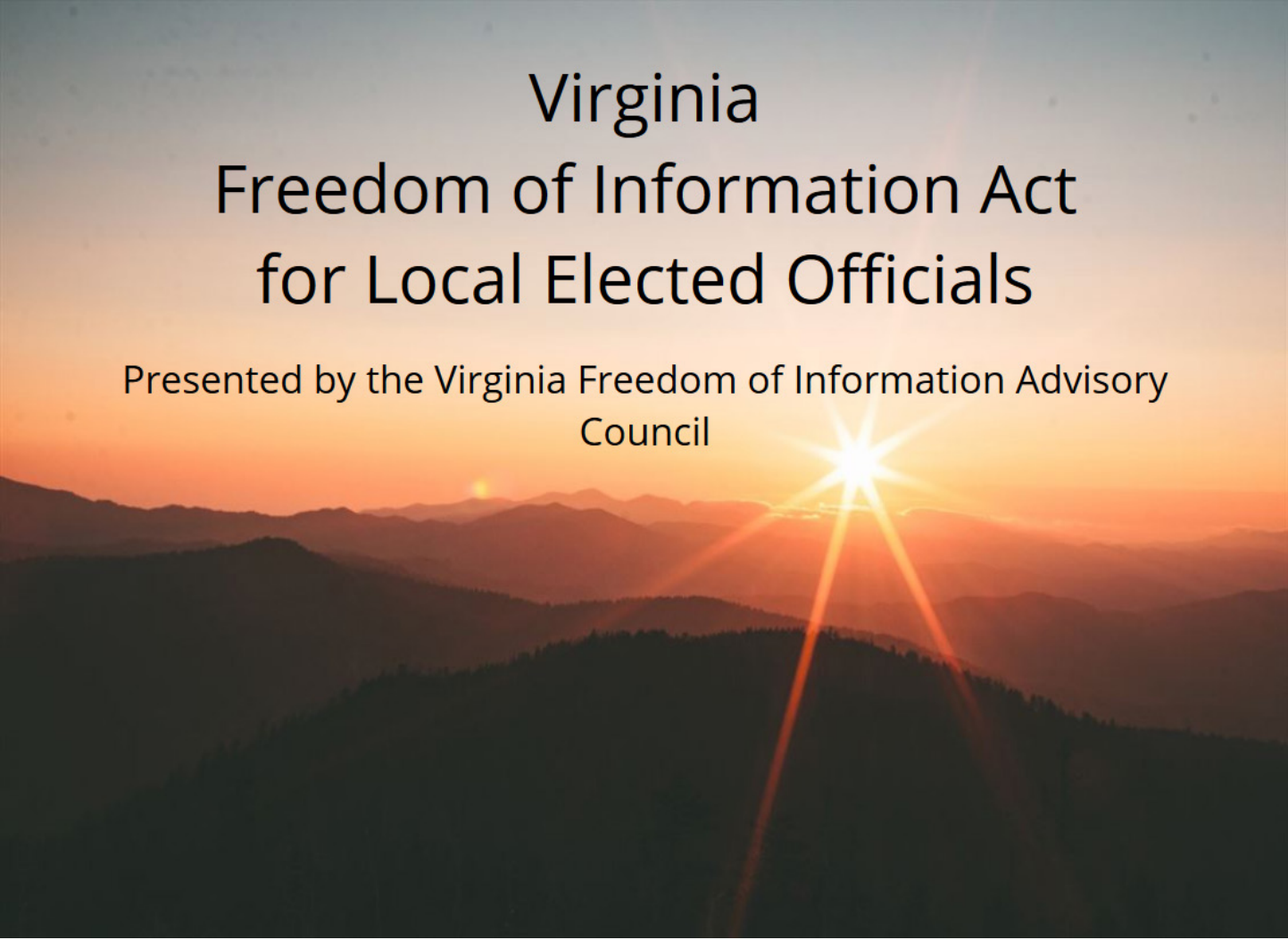
UPCOMING COHORTS



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

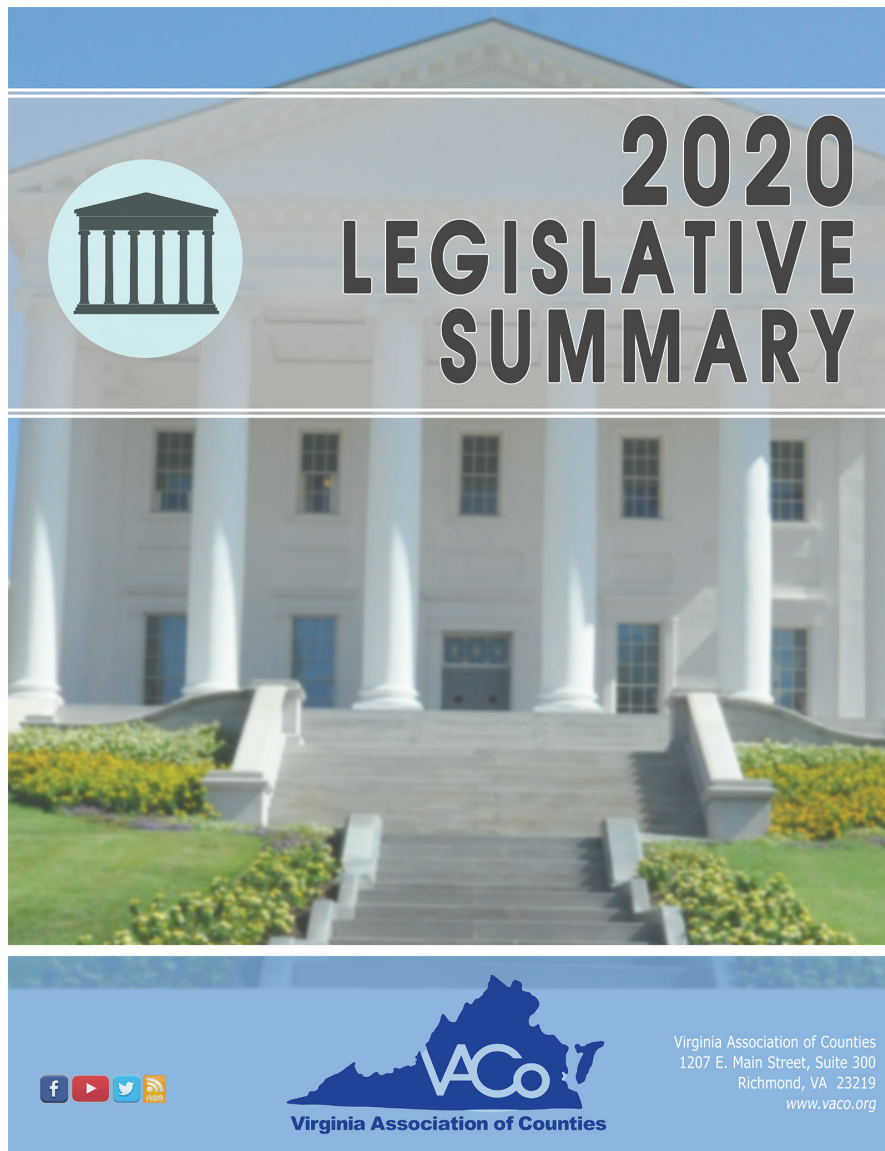
Local elected officials - § 2.2-3704.3

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.

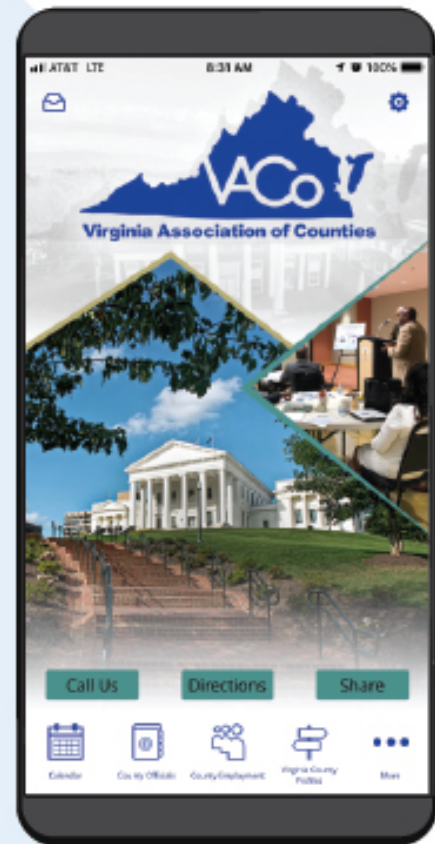
This edition contains links to bills through the General Assembly's Legislative Information System. Also included in the document are studies and statistics of importance to counties.

[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.

VIRGINIA COUNTY SUPERVISORS' MANUAL

EIGHTH EDITION, 2019



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Virginia County Supervisors' Manual 8th Edition - NEW FOR 2019



The Eighth Edition (2019) of VACo's **Virginia County Supervisors' Manual**, is now in stock. The Supervisors' Manual is the number one resource on the framework of county government and the responsibilities of the county board.

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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).



CHIEF OF POLICE | Prince William County
| Posted August 19



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT | James City County
| Posted August 14



CLINICAL ASSISTANT | James City County
| Posted August 14



ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR - PLANNING, ZONING & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS | Gloucester County
| Posted August 14



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER | Montgomery County
| Posted August 14



DEBT MANAGER | City of Chesapeake
| Posted August 14



BUILDING INSPECTOR | New Kent County
| Posted August 14



SYSTEMS ANALYST II

| City of Chesapeake | Posted August 13



BUILDING OFFICIAL |

Town of Pulaski | Posted August 13



DIRECTOR OF

MAINTENANCE | Henry County
| Posted August 12



FISCAL SERVICES

MANAGER | Gloucester County
| Posted August 12



PLANNER I/II | Central

Shenandoah Planning District Commission
| Posted August 12



FINANCE MANAGER | Caroline Detention Facility
| Posted August 12



LEAD

TRANSPORTATION PLANNER | George Washington Regional Commission/FAMPO
| Posted August 12



DEPUTY SHERIFF |

Montgomery County | Posted August 12



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

| Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority
| Posted August 12



PRETRIAL OFFICER |

Gloucester County | Posted August 12



EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

MANAGER | Prince William County
| Posted August 12



BENEFIT PROGRAM

SUPERVISOR | Montgomery County
| Posted August 12



FAMILY SERVICES

SUPERVISOR | Montgomery County
| Posted August 12



DIRECTOR OF BUDGET

& MANAGEMENT | Fauquier County
| Posted August 11



DIRECTOR OF CABLE

ACCESS | County of Roanoke | Posted August 11



UTILITY ACCOUNT

REPRESENTATIVE | James City County
| Posted August 7



CUSTODIAN I | James City

County | Posted August 7



GROUNDSKEEPER I/II/III

| James City County | Posted August 7



**CIVIL ENGINEER II/
III – STORMWATER & RESOURCE
PROTECTION DIVISION** | James City
County | Posted August 7



PLANNING DIRECTOR
| Prince William County | Posted
August 7



CITY MANAGER | City of
Buena Vista | Posted August 7



TAX TECHNICIAN I |
Montgomery County | Posted August 7



LAB SUPERVISOR |
Augusta County Service Authority
| Posted August 5



**ENVIRONMENTAL CODES
COMPLIANCE OFFICER** | King and
Queen County | Posted August 4



**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
LIAISON** | Prince William County |
Posted August 3



GRANTS COORDINATOR
| West Piedmont District
Commission | Posted August 3



**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR/
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR** |
West Piedmont Planning District
Commission | Posted August 3



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



**FIREFIGHTER/
CREDENTIALED 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



**DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
SOCIAL SERVICES** | Prince George
County | Posted July 31



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

VALUE OF VACo



ADVOCACY

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



EDUCATION

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



MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

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



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

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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