



# VACo VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE



November 9-11, 2020

1

## WORKING TOGETHER

The Annual Conference provides an opportunity to learn from each other and to discuss issues that affect us all.

2

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Governor Ralph Northam is confirmed to speak. Also Bob Holsworth will analyze the 2020 Elections.

3

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

From the budget to education to energy - there are an array of breakout sessions sure to interest all attendees.

4

## VACo BUSINESS

The Annual Conference is a time to conduct the business of VACo. Be a part of the process.

# REGISTER TODAY!



COST - \$50 COVERS ALL EVENTS

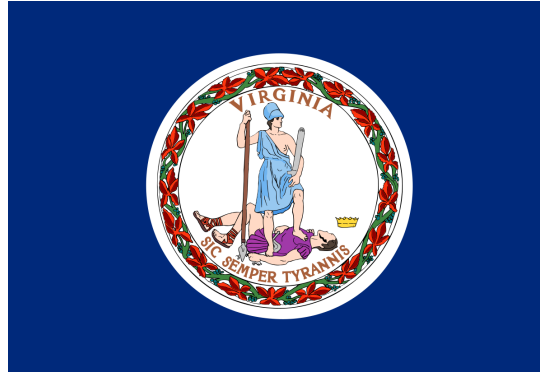
[REGISTRATION FORM](#) | [ONLINE REGISTRATION](#) | [DRAFT AGENDA](#)



PHOTO CREDIT | Ashley Hodge/[Gazette-Virginian](#)

Karie Walker of Virginia Association of Counties (left), presents Halifax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Hubert Pannell with a certification for completing the Virginia Certified County Supervisors Program as his wife Ruby and other family members celebrate his achievement.

## State General Fund Revenues Trending in Line with August Reforecast



Secretary of Finance Aubrey L. Layne, Jr., briefed members of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee on state revenue collections on September 15. While September collections (which will include estimated income tax payments for individuals and corporations, and August sales taxes) will provide a clearer picture of General Fund revenues, Secretary Layne suggested that revenue trends through August appear to support the revised revenue forecast in the Governor's budget proposal that was presented to the legislature in August.

Total General Fund (GF) revenues decreased by 0.2 percent in August (in part reflecting one less deposit day), but have increased by 11.6 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis. A large portion of this growth is attributable to nonwithholding collections affected by adjusted tax deadlines. Individual income tax withholding collections decreased by 4 percent in August, and have declined by 1.9 percent on a year-to-date basis, trailing the forecast of 2.4 percent growth; by contrast, sales tax collections have outperformed expectations, increasing by 15 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, instead of the forecasted 9.7 percent decline. According to Secretary Layne, all of the growth in this revenue source is attributable to online sales, while traditional brick-and-mortar retailers continue to struggle. Growth in sales taxes may also reflect a temporary boost in consumption underpinned by federal stimulus spending, which may not be extended in the near future. Continued low interest rates have bolstered the real estate market, which is reflected in an increase of 31.3 percent in recordation tax collections in August.

The Administration is preparing for an updated revenue reforecast, which will be incorporated in the Governor's budget when it is presented December 16 for consideration by the 2021 General Assembly. The reforecast will be developed in consultation with the Joint Advisory Board of Economists, which will meet November 4, and the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates, which will meet November 23. Secretary Layne told committee members that although considerable uncertainty remains about the course of the economic recovery, it is likely that the December reforecast will not differ significantly from the August forecast – a sobering note of caution with respect to potential restorations of spending items that were included in the budget passed by the legislature in March but unallotted in April.

Secretary Layne also provided an update on use of the Coronavirus Relief Fund, outlining previously committed uses and proposals that are under review. The Administration is considering using funds for additional testing and contact tracing, as well as support for state hospitals, which have struggled to manage already-high census numbers during the pandemic. He also mentioned a recent proposal to use \$200 million for K-12 needs, such as testing, PPE, and support for remote instruction, and assured committee members that the state will find uses for its share of the funds rather than returning unspent dollars to the federal government; bolstering the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund would be one possibility. He noted that localities have used their allocations for similar priorities to those of the state, such as public health, public safety, K-12, and PPE, and suggested that distributing funds to localities has allowed the federal funding to be targeted to meet community needs and has proven to be an efficient way to make use of these resources.

Secretary Layne's presentation may be found at [this link](#).

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)



Please note that VACo bylaws changes will be up for membership vote at the VACo Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday, November 11 at 10am. The meeting will be held on a Webex virtual platform. A copy of the current bylaws can be found [here](#) and the [proposed amendments](#) as recommended by the VACo Board of Directors are as follows in red:

The amendments are as follows in red.

#### **ARTICLE V**

##### **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Section 2. *Delinquency*. No County whose membership dues are not fully paid at least prior to the date of the annual Business meeting shall be considered in good standing or entitled to vote at such meeting **unless emergency conditions exist and an agreement has been made by the County to pay in full by the end of the fiscal year.**

#### **ARTICLE VI**

##### **MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS AND VOTING**

Section 1. *Annual Business Meeting*. At least one Annual Business Meeting of the members of the Association shall be held each year at such place and on such dates as may be determined by the Board of Directors. **The Annual Business meeting may be held by conference call or other electronic means and votes may be taken.**

#### **ARTICLE IX**

##### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 6. *Meetings*. The Board of Directors shall hold quarterly regular meetings at such time and place as the Board may prescribe. Notice of all such meetings shall be given to the members not less than thirty days before the meeting is held. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or at the request of any three Directors elected from separate Regions of the Association. **Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held by Conference call or other electronic means and votes may be taken.**

#### **ARTICLE XVII**

##### **AMENDMENTS**

Section 3. *Emergency Amendment Provisions*. If emergency circumstances exist making it impracticable to amend the bylaws at the Annual Business Meeting or special meeting of the Association, the Board of Directors may modify the bylaws subject to ratification by the Membership at the next Annual Business Meeting.





## Visit Brunswick County and the LOVEworks Sign

**L** represents wood, highlighting the county's role as a major producer in the forestry industry. (The wood used was donated by Lawrenceville Building Supply.)

**O** represents Brunswick Stew, as the county is proclaimed to be the original home of Brunswick Stew.

**V** represents the Tobacco heritage that is rich in Virginia's southern region and specifically in Brunswick County.

**E** represents brick, a long term-industry still present in Brunswick County which is also prevalent on downtown Lawrenceville's historic government buildings. (The brick used was donated by Lawrenceville Brick.)

#LOVEbrunswick

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](https://www.Virginia.org/LOVE).

**SOURCE:** [Virginia is for Lovers](https://www.Virginia.org/LOVE)

# VACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020 | NOON



**Governor Ralph Northam**

[REGISTRATION FORM](#) | [ONLINE REGISTRATION](#) | [DRAFT AGENDA](#)

## Virginia Association of Counties 2020 Annual Conference Virtual Agenda

### Monday, November 9

- 9am VACo Board of Directors Meeting
- Noon Governor Ralph Northam
- 2pm **Breakout Session:** The Budget  
**Speaker:** Jim Regimbal, Principal, Fiscal Analytics

### Tuesday, November 10

- 9am **Breakout Session:** Economic Development and Workforce Development – Coming Out of the Pandemic
- 11am **Breakout Session:** The Future of Education
- 1pm **Breakout Session:** Broadband
- 3pm Nominations Committee Meeting

### Wednesday, November 11

- 9am Dr. Robert Holsworth | DecideSmart, LLC  
Important federal elections will be decided before VACo's Virtual Annual Conference. Dr. Holsworth will give his smart and stylish analysis on their implications to Virginia.

# Discover the VSAE Health Plan from VACo Premier Partner Asset Protection Group



VACo has been working diligently over the past two years with its partners to develop a unique health insurance plan for members. We are proud to say The VSAE Health Plan is now a reality.

VACo's partnership with the Virginia Society of Association Executives (VSAE) and its member associations has enabled us to join with many other associations in order to achieve volume-based health insurance discounts normally only available to large national and multi-national corporations.

By design and by virtue of the partners we've selected, our plan has been built from the ground up with the express purpose of driving down the cost of care for our county members. With nationally recognized partners such as CIGNA, Gerber, Vitality, MD Live and many others, our plan provides complete transparency and control over claims, data, reporting and cost. Furthermore, our plan provides the ability for employers to retain up to 100% of their unused claim cost dollars. If you are interested in learning more about our plan, please complete our brief survey below.

- 1) Name of County?
- 2) Number of full time (30 hours a week or more) and number of part time employees?
- 3) Name of Current Health Insurer, if Anthem, is it Local Choice?
- 4) Are you fully-insured, level-funded, or self-funded?
- 5) How many employees are enrolled in your plan?
- 6) What is your renewal date?
- 7) Does your County offer a group Medicare Plan?
- 8) Are you interested in receiving more information about the VSAE Health Plan?

If yes, please send your survey answers to VACo Premier Partner and VSAE Health Plan Coordinator, Monty Dise of Asset Protection Group at 804.423.7700 ext. 309 or [mdise@apgroupinc.com](mailto:mdise@apgroupinc.com).



# CONDUENT



During the 2020 General Assembly session, the Virginia Legislature enacted [HB 1442 \(Jones\)](#) authorizing state and local law-enforcement agencies to operate [photo speed monitoring devices in or around school crossing zones and highway work zones](#), which are often dangerous areas for both pedestrians and drivers.

VACo and VACo Premier Partner Conduent will examine this important legislation during a webinar scheduled for September 21 from 1-2pm. This virtual event is an opportunity to learn more about the impacts and opportunities of [HB 1442](#), and provides you with a chance to ask questions of experts in the field of public safety.

Please RSVP to Karie Walker, VACo Coordinator of Programs and Development, at [kwalker@vaco.org](mailto:kwalker@vaco.org) or 804.343.2504.

In the meantime, familiarize yourself with some of Conduent's offerings for **photo enforcement** – [www.conduenttransportation.com/publicsafetydemo](http://www.conduenttransportation.com/publicsafetydemo).

If you're interested in talking about a potential automated speed enforcement program in your community, please contact Conduent's Dan Seid at [Daniel.seid@conduent.com](mailto:Daniel.seid@conduent.com) or 202.345.7131. He can answer your questions.

VACo encourages all County Administrators and Supervisors to attend. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you on September 21.

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

# Qualified Immunity Bill Fails to Advance in Senate



A bill proposing sweeping changes to Virginia's sovereign immunity laws has failed to advance in the Senate and has been instead sent to the [Boyd-Graves Conference](#) for further study and analysis.

[HB 5013 \(Bourne\)](#) was one of many bills introduced by legislators during this special session proposing extensive reforms of various criminal justice laws and procedures. Specifically, HB 5013 targeted and chipped away at sovereign immunity, proposing several changes to current law.

The bill sought to do the following:

1. Create a civil action for the deprivation of a person's rights by a law-enforcement officer and provides that a plaintiff may be awarded compensatory damages, punitive damages, and equitable relief, as well as reasonable attorney fees and costs.
2. Stipulate that sovereign immunity or any other immunities or limitations on liability or damages shall not apply to such actions and that qualified immunity is not a defense to liability for such deprivation of rights.
3. Provide that any public or private entity that employs or contracts for the services of a law-enforcement officer owes a duty of reasonable care to third parties in its hiring, supervision, training, retention, and use of such officers under its employment or contract.

As originally introduced, HB 5013 also would have held a state or local government liable for the actions undertaken by an *off-duty* law enforcement officer. This, however, was amended by the House Appropriations Committee after hearing the concerns of multiple stakeholders, including VACo.

HB 5013 underwent a perilous journey through the House of Delegates. First, it narrowly passed out of the House Committee for Courts of Justice by a vote of 12-9 and was re-referred to the House Appropriations Committee. There, the bill failed by a vote of 11-11 but was eventually reconsidered (with the aforementioned amendment) and passed 12-9. Once the bill was before the full House of Delegates, it initially failed by a vote of 47-48-3, but was reconsidered a few days later and only just passed by a vote of 49-45-2.

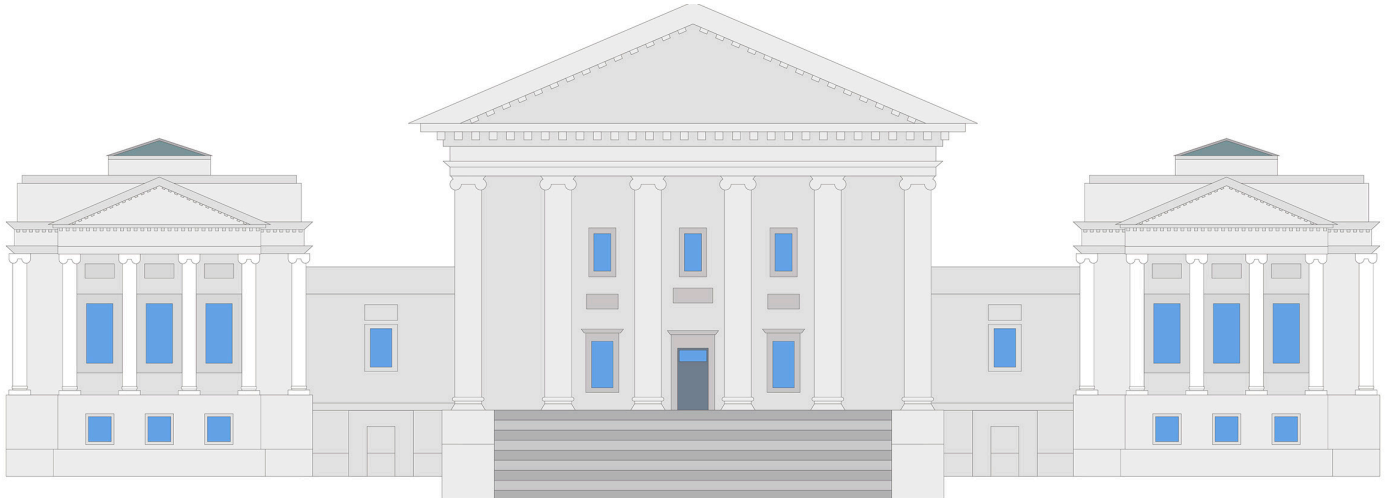
HB 5013 was finally heard late last week by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. After extensive debate, the Committee opted to pass the bill by indefinitely and instead referred the topic to [the Boyd-Graves Conference](#). The Boyd-Graves Conference is a highly respected committee comprised of experienced civil trial lawyers and judges. The Conference studies pressing legal issues and, if needed, recommends needed changes to the Code of Virginia and the Rules of Court relating to state court civil litigation. The Senate Committee on the Judiciary took a similar approach with [SB 5065 \(Morrissey\)](#), as was detailed in the [September 3 newsletter](#).

VACo has long held a position opposing substantive changes to sovereign immunity and as such opposed this bill. VACo staff fully expects this topic to be revisited at the outset of the 2021 Legislative Session.

**VACo Contact:** [Chris McDonald, Esq.](#)



## Workers' Compensation COVID-19 Presumption Legislation Updates



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, health care workers, and school board employees is potentially headed towards a positive outcome for local governments. On September 3, [SB 5066 \(Saslaw\)](#) was considered by the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee who ultimately declined to act on the bill before the Committee moves on to consider House legislation and the budget. This effectively limits the bill's chances of passage.

As previously [reported](#), the bill would add COVID-19 to the list of illnesses presumed to be incurred in the course of employment for multiple categories of first responders, health care workers, and school board employees. The legislation has potentially significant negative fiscal impact to local governments in the tens of millions of dollars. These considerations had been raised by VACo's advocacy efforts and were mentioned in the Committee debate.

The House version of this legislation, [HB 5028 \(Jones\)](#), passed the House on September 4<sup>th</sup> on a vote of 61-37 before being heard by the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee, who voted unanimously to report and refer the bill to the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Commerce and Labor Committee members noted the substantial fiscal impacts of the legislation and it is hoped that Senate Finance and Appropriations will treat HB 5028 in a similar manner to SB 5066.

According to the fiscal impact [statement](#) from the Commission on Local Government, "A majority of localities...noted the that the bill would increase workers compensation, Line of Duty Act (LODA), and volunteer accident insurance premiums. Localities also noted that the unfunded mandate imposed by the provisions of the bill would be financially detrimental, would open the door to more virus type ailments being added to workers' compensation defined illnesses, which could potentially increase litigation."

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](#)

## Troubling “Tipping Fee” Language Included in Governor’s Proposed Budget



Troubling language has been introduced in the Governor’s proposed budget revisions that seeks to implement a new solid waste disposal fee, or a “tipping fee,” for each ton of solid waste received at a landfill.

[Budget Item 372 E](#) proposes the following:

*E. The Secretary of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, shall study and develop a plan to require landfill operators pay a solid waste disposal fee, or a tipping fee, for each ton of solid waste received at the landfill. Such fee shall be in addition to any fee established by a locality pursuant to § [15.2-2159](#), Code of Virginia. The plan shall include recommendations for the amount and structure of any proposed fee, and recommendations for use of any revenue that may be generated from such fee. The plan shall be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly no later than November 1, 2020.*

VACo has long held a position opposing the imposition of a state fee, tax, or surcharge on water, sewer, solid waste, or any other service provided by a local government or authority. More specifically, VACo has historically opposed the imposition of a tipping fee, including previously introduced bills dating back to 2004 ([HB 1462 \(Dillard\)](#)).

Many counties are reliant on their landfill host agreements in order to generate revenue that is critical to their budgets. The adoption of a new tipping fee would significantly and detrimentally impact the operations of localities across the Commonwealth and impose even greater financial burdens than those they are already enduring in the time of COVID-19.

VACo has expressed opposition to this language to the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. VACo members should contact their Delegates and Senators sitting on these committees to express their opposition as well.

**VACo Contact:** [Chris McDonald, Esq.](#)

## Governor's Advisory Commission on Opioids and Addiction Discusses Progress and Challenges



The Governor's Advisory Commission on Opioids and Addiction met September 14 and received updates on progress in combating addiction through improved access to treatment through the Medicaid program, as well as community efforts to enhance prevention, education, treatment, family support, and recovery. Commission members also received a briefing on the emerging issue of use of illicit stimulants such as cocaine and methamphetamine.

Dr. Chethan Bachireddy and Ashley Harrell with the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) outlined progress in enhancing the availability of substance use disorder treatment for Medicaid recipients through the Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services (ARTS) program, which extended Medicaid coverage to certain additional services and improved payment rates for others. ARTS is now in its third year, and has significantly enhanced the number of providers offering services such as office-based opioid treatment and intensive outpatient programs. Similarly, there have been significant increases in the number of Medicaid members receiving substance use disorder treatment and a decline in emergency department usage among Medicaid members with substance use disorder. Additional flexibility in providing services via telehealth that was permitted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has also increased access to treatment. Moving forward, DMAS will be working to improve access to services for Medicaid-eligible individuals who are involved in the criminal justice system, including a reentry pilot program to link individuals to treatment in the community. Language included in the Governor's budget in December 2019 and retained in the budget as passed by the General Assembly, but subsequently unallotted in April, would have directed DMAS to seek federal approval to provide care coordination services to Medicaid-eligible inmates for 30 days prior to release from incarceration; this concept may be revisited in the future as more resources become available. The DMAS presentation is available at [this link](#).

Commission members received [a presentation](#) from community leaders in the Roanoke Valley, who have worked for two years with a large group of stakeholders to develop a "Blueprint for Action." This plan for a three-year collective response to the problem of substance use disorder seeks to improve prevention, in addition to "ensuring that there are always pathways to healthy and sustainable living for those affected by addiction." The Blueprint's five priority areas were developed by working groups of experts and include prevention and education; treatment; crisis response and connection to care; child and family support; and recovery. Each priority includes several specific action steps. The group plans to continue to identify resources and needs, develop a financial model and secure funding sources, and use the Blueprint in advocacy efforts for policy changes to support these local efforts.

Dr. Jon Zibbell of RTI International [provided information](#) on the growing use of illicit stimulants and the particular dangers of use of these substances in tandem with opioids (such as fentanyl) or non-opioid depressants (such as alcohol). Dr. Zibbell pointed out that opioid-involved overdose deaths with co-occurring cocaine or methamphetamine use grew by 429 percent from 2015 to 2017; the specific combinations of drugs tend to vary by region, race, and socioeconomic status. There are also a growing number of deaths associated with the use of methamphetamine without opioids, possibly attributable to more potent methamphetamine circulating or to the use of the drug by individuals with underlying health conditions.

Commission members discussed the importance of reentry programming for individuals returning to the community from incarceration; the need for more access to inpatient treatment, which often has long wait lists; and the benefits of expanded telehealth options.

## Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee Receives VRS Overview Report



### Virginia Retirement System

As part of their September 15 [meeting](#), the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee received an investments and administrative overview [presentation](#) from Chief Investment Officer Ron Schmitz and Executive Director Patricia Bishop of the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). The health and well-being of VRS is important to local governments as it administers retirement programs and other benefit programs for state and local government employees, including teachers. VRS receives funds from employer contributions, employee contributions, and investment income.

The Virginia Retirement System achieved a 1.4% return, net of fees, on its investment portfolio for fiscal year 2020. The trust fund ended the year with approximately \$81.6 billion, which is a slight decrease from FY 2019 as the unfunded liabilities of the fund have risen over investment returns. However, total fund performance exceeded benchmarks. The portfolio included approximately \$31.0 billion in public equity, \$11.3 billion in credit strategies, \$12.5 billion in fixed income, \$11.2 billion in real assets, \$10.2 billion in private equity, \$1.2 billion in private investment partnerships and \$2.4 billion in public strategies portfolio, as of June 30, 2020. The VRS total population comprises 742,143 members.

As previously [reported](#), investment income is critical to ensuring that employer contributions meant to amortize long-term unfunded liabilities remain low. Lower investment returns can lead to increased employer contributions. Increases in employer contributions directly impact the budgets of local governments. VRS will review the status of the retirement plan for teachers in October and for local governments in November of this year in advance of the VRS Board of Directors certifying new employer contribution rates in 2021 for the next biennial budget cycle.

Lastly, the most recent edition of VRS Member News was released and can be read [here](#). Among other content, this edition includes COVID-19 updates, revised plan handbooks, and financial literacy resources.

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



## Resilient Virginia Announces Fall 2020 Resiliency Academy Series

[Resilient Virginia](#) is excited to announce the [Resiliency Academy Fall 2020 series](#), featuring four webinars highlighting the best resiliency planning tools available to help communities build the capacity to maintain critical functionality and vitality in the face of severe disturbances and chronic stressors. While environmental concerns have traditionally been the priority in sustainability planning, the ongoing COVID-19 has highlighted the pressing need to integrate health, social and economic concerns with these plans as well.

Registration for each webinar is just \$20 (\$10 for Resilient Virginia members). More information regarding registration, membership and sponsorship opportunities can be found [here](#).



### September 23 • 1-2:30 PM

#### U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit

**David Herring, Director of Communication & Education at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Program**

**Office**, will demonstrate the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit. This toolkit is a robust website of resources designed to help people find and use tools, information, and subject matter expertise to build climate resilience. It was developed as an inter-Agency initiative that operates under the auspices of the United States Global Change Research Program. The site is managed by NOAA's Climate Program Office and is hosted by NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information. You can find out more about this extensive toolkit that includes a data site that projects climate changes down to the county level, steps involved in resiliency planning, and case studies [here](#).

### October 7 • 1-2:30 PM

#### Climate Ready Communities

**Tonya Graham, the Executive Director of the Geos Institute**, will guide you through their Climate Ready Communities program. The program is a "Do-It-Yourself" approach for local governments that features a Practical Guide to Building Climate Resilience, a support package for using the guide, and other supplemental services. The Guide takes a community through steps of identifying risks and challenges, including social and economic stressors, as well as environmental, climate, and natural disaster risks, with the goal of setting priorities for actions to address these challenges. This field-tested guide, which is provided at no cost and is especially useful to medium-size and smaller communities, can be previewed [here](#).

### October 21 • 1-2:30 PM

#### Community Resilience Planning Guide for Buildings and Infrastructure

**Chris Clavin, Research Environmental Engineer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST)**

**Community Resilience Group**, will present their Community Resilience Planning Guide. This guide was developed with local and state resiliency officials and provides a two-volume set of guidance and practice materials. It not only provides direction on how to plan for and implement measures to improve community resilience in response to disasters, it also introduces science-based tools to measure resilience and to evaluate strategies to achieve it based on economic analysis. You will also hear how the NIST guide has been used in communities across the country. Find out more about this guide [here](#).

### November 11 • 1-2:30 PM

#### Resilient Rural America Project

**Gwen Griffith, Program Director with the Model Forest Policy Program (MFPP), and Ned Gardiner, NOAA's Climate Visualization Project Manager**, will present the Resilient Rural America Project training. RRAP consists of no-cost online modules to guide rural leaders and consultants through a process of risk assessment, identification of resilience strategies, and taking action. It focuses on helping communities become more resilient to extreme weather and changing climate conditions. Resilient Rural America Project empowers rural leaders by sharing practical resilience action strategies and strengthening the capacity of rural communities and experts to work together. More information on the series of self-guided Training Modules that take rural leaders and consultants through a planning process can be seen [here](#).

Questions about the series? Contact Annette Osso, Managing Director, [osso@resilientvirginia.org](mailto:osso@resilientvirginia.org)

VACo Contact: [Chris McDonald, Esq.](#)



## Joint Statement Urging Virginians to Get Influenza Vaccinations to Protect Themselves when Flu Season Arrives as the COVID-19 Pandemic Remains a Public Health Threat

*Endorsed by AARP Virginia, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists – Virginia Section, Ballard Health, Bon Secours, Carilion Clinic, Celebrate Healthcare, Centra Health, Chamber RVA, Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, Chesapeake Regional Healthcare, the Hampton Roads Chamber, HCA Virginia Health System, Lyft, Mary Washington Healthcare, the Medical Society of Virginia, the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Novant Health UVA Health System, the Price William Chamber of Commerce, Quality Insights, the Richmond Ambulance Authority, Riverside Health System, the Roanoke Regional Chamber, UVA Health, the Virginia Academy of Family Physicians, the Virginia Alliance of YMCAs, the Virginia Association of Counties, the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, the Virginia Association of School Nurses, the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the Virginia College of Emergency Physicians, the Virginia Community Healthcare Association, the Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners, the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Virginia Education Association, the Virginia Health Care Association-Virginia Center for Assisted Living, the Virginia Health Care Foundation, Virginia Health Catalyst, Virginia Hospital Center, the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association, the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Nurses Association, the Virginia Pharmacists Association, the Virginia Rural Health Association, and the Virginia School Superintendents Association*

As Virginia prepares for the coming flu season, health care providers and organizations representing state and local government, businesses, educators, and many other stakeholders and communities of interest in the Commonwealth have joined together to issue this joint statement to promote the importance of getting a flu shot – now, more than ever, during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

To support this effort, Lyft, the ride-sharing company, is offering ride credits for people traveling to get a flu shot. Virginians can use the code **VAFIGHTFLU** for rides to and from vaccination sites. Ride credits will be available until Dec. 31, 2020 and additional terms may apply.

“Millions of Americans get the flu each year. It is estimated that at least 39 million people became ill with the flu during the 2019-2020 flu season (early October through early April), leading to a minimum of 18 million medical visits, 410,000 hospitalizations, and at least 24,000 deaths. In addition to the human cost, the economic impact of the flu related to lost work time, productivity, and medical resource investment amounts to billions of dollars annually.”

“This year, it is more important than ever to get vaccinated considering the continued presence of the COVID-19 viral global pandemic that has already claimed more than 180,000 American lives. While data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that the share of Americans getting flu vaccines has risen in recent years, many people still do not get vaccinated. During the 2018-19 flu season, CDC data shows just 45.3 percent of U.S. adults (ages 18 and older) and 62.6 percent of children (ages 6 months to 17 years) received the vaccine. The Commonwealth outperformed the national average for adults (50.6 percent) and children (69.6 percent) during the 2018-2019 flu season.”

“Everyone in Virginia should receive an annual flu vaccine. This includes people in heavily populated cities and counties and people who live in rural hamlets. It includes healthy and vulnerable Virginians, younger and older people, and those in communities of color. Getting a flu shot is especially important for people in communities with health outcome disparities that have also been hard hit by COVID-19 – data indicates that Black, Latinx, and Asian adults have lower average flu vaccination rates than white adults.”

“As in-person and virtual school years resume and flu season approaches, now is the time to get a flu vaccine. Doing so is an important precaution that provides a measure of relief to those who are vaccinated – it is one less thing to worry about during the time of COVID-19. In addition to flu shots, it is also vital for parents to get their children caught up on any vaccinations they may have missed during the economic shutdown earlier this year, and for all Virginians to begin to ready themselves to get a COVID-19 vaccine when that becomes publicly available.”

“Just as social distancing, wearing masks in public, and frequent hand washing continue to be necessary behaviors to practice for the good of public health, getting a flu shot is important to reduce strain on the economy and the health care delivery system during the continued fight against COVID-19.”

“The flu shot is low or no cost for many Virginians with commercial insurance. All Virginia Medicaid members have access to no-cost flu shots this year during the health emergency. Free clinics also offer no-cost flu shots to uninsured patients based on availability. So please, get a flu shot, and encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to do the same.”



SAVE THE DATE for the  
**2020 Governor's Summit on  
Rural Prosperity**

Gathering Virtually on  
Wednesday, October 21, 2020

PRESENTED BY



**Who Should Attend?**

Administration Officials | Members of the Virginia General Assembly | Policy Makers | Local Government Officials | Business Leaders | Other Rural Stakeholders

# Your Last Chance for the Next 10 Years

Over 88% of households have been counted in the 2020 Census. We are in the final stage of collecting responses for this once-a-decade population count of everyone living in the United States. Don't be left out! Every response matters.



Census takers are currently visiting households that have not yet responded. Households can still respond online at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov), by phone at 844.330.2020, or by completing and mailing back their paper questionnaire. The time to act is now!

**[RESPOND NOW](https://2020census.gov)**



## Attention Northern Virginia Elected Officials!

Since 2018, the Regional Elected Leaders Initiative (RELI) within GMU's Schar School of Policy and Government has brought Northern Virginia's elected leaders together to focus on regional challenges. RELI programs and events are uniquely designed to support, engage, educate and connect Northern Virginia's local elected leaders from the state house to the school house.

This year's webinar series will address the impacts of COVID and social equity on several of Northern Virginia's major public policy challenges:

### **Webinar #1**

***Housing:*** Regional Needs, Historic Land Use and Zoning Impacts, and Paths Forward

Friday, September 25, 10-11:30

### **Webinar #2**

***Economic Development:*** Impacts of COVID in NOVA

Friday, September 25, 12:30-2:00

### **Webinar #3**

***Transportation:*** Moving Adults and Schoolkids In a COVID-Impacted Region

Friday, October 23, 10-11:30

### **Webinar #4**

***Climate Action:*** Opportunities for NOVA Schools and Local Governments

Friday, October 23, 12:30-2:00

To register, visit <https://cpe.gmu.edu/RELI2020>

For more details on the webinar content and speakers: <https://bit.ly/34XNLgt>

## Webinars are sponsored by:



RELI provides quality programs and is guided by an Advisory Board of former elected officials, including several past VACo members: David Albo, Sharon Bulova, Rob Krupicka, Ron Meyer, Randy Minchew, Marty Nohe, and Mary Margaret Whipple.



As a RELI Partner Organization, VACo encourages you to take advantage of these outstanding webinars that will complement VACo's own offerings. For more information, [schaRELI@gmu.edu](mailto:schaRELI@gmu.edu)



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

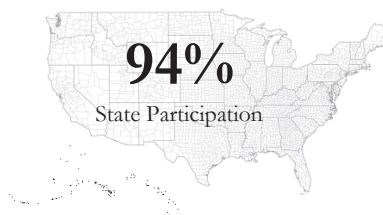


## Take Your Leadership Skills to the Next Level With the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy

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](http://naco.org/skills).

For questions and assistance in enrolling please contact Craig Patenode at [craigp@pdaleadership.com](mailto:craigp@pdaleadership.com). Professional Development Academy/NACo Leadership Academy.

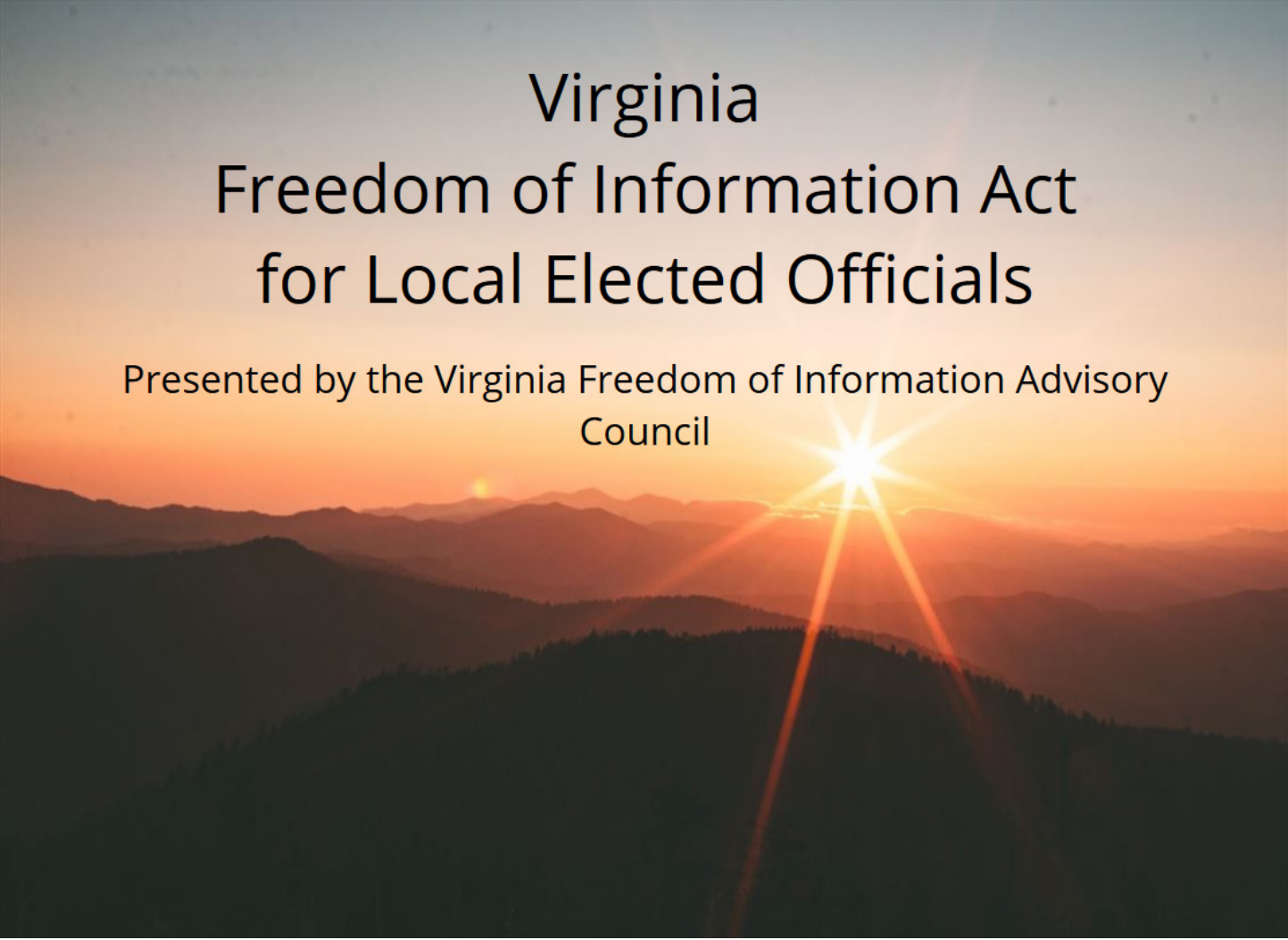


"This is a transformational leadership program that has proven to be the most scalable, cost effective, and efficient way to make your leaders better."

- 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



# 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.

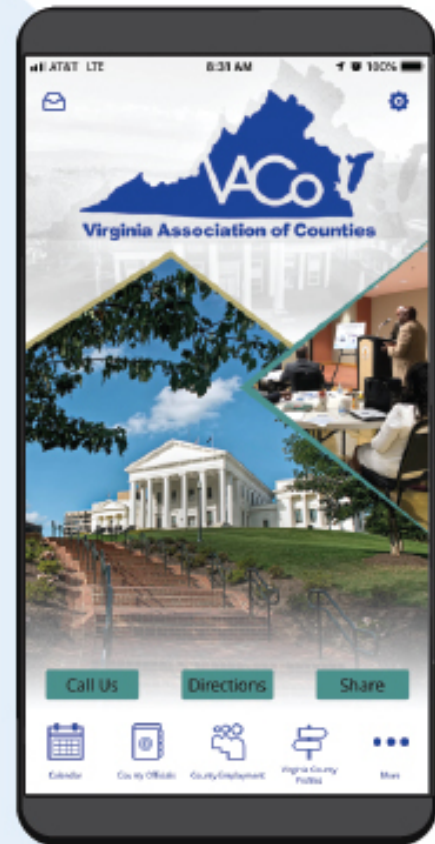
Additionally, there is no quiz, but at the end of the course you will be able to generate your own certificate of completion to keep for your records. The law requires that the clerk of a governing body or school board keep such records for five years. For elected officials that have no clerk, we recommend 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.



# DOWNLOAD

our new app



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

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

### Downloading the app is easy...

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

# VIRGINIA COUNTY SUPERVISORS' MANUAL

## EIGHTH EDITION, 2019



ORDER YOURS TODAY  
\$75 EACH

(SHIPPING IS INCLUDED)





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



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

### ORDER YOUR ALL-NEW VOLUME NOW

## ORDER FORM

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

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

SHIPPING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

Manuals are \$75 per copy. Number of Copies \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ Check enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_ Make payable to **VACo Services, Inc.**

### CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION:

Charge Options: \_\_\_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ VISA

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email for credit card receipt: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail completed form to:

Virginia Association of Counties  
1207 East Main Street, Suite 300  
Richmond, VA 23219-3627

Or FAX credit card purchases to 804.788.0083

Questions? Call 804.788.6652.





**Virginia Association of Counties**

## **VACo seeks nominations for two Executive Committee positions**

**Second Vice President  
and  
Secretary-Treasurer**

VACo has a long and proud history of leadership. The association thrives and endures today because of those who have served in the past. Now it's your turn - serve VACo and Virginia Counties as a member of the association's Executive Committee.

You must be a current member and an elected official of a County Board.

Interested candidates should email a letter of interest to Fairfax County Supervisor and VACo Nominations Committee Chair Penny Gross at [Penny.Gross@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Penny.Gross@fairfaxcounty.gov) by October 16, 2020.

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).



**PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER** | Franklin County | Posted September 15



**DEVELOPMENT REVIEW SPECIALIST II** | Franklin County | Posted September 15



**COMBINATION COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL INSPECTOR** | Franklin County | Posted September 15



**ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY** | Augusta County | Posted September 15



**COUNTY ATTORNEY** | Fauquier County | Posted September 15



**CUSTODIAL** | Botetourt County | Posted September 14



**VAN DRIVER - PART TIME** | Botetourt County | Posted September 14



**MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN - TEMPORARY** | Botetourt County | Posted September 14



**COMBINATION BUILDING INSPECTOR I** | Botetourt County | Posted September 14



**CSA ACCOUNT SPECIALIST** | Frederick County | Posted September 14



**ACCOUNTING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PT** | New Kent County | Posted September 14



**RECEPTIONIST PT** | New Kent County | Posted September 14



**APPRAISER I** | Fairfax County | Posted September 14



**TAX SPECIALIST** | City of Manassas | Posted September 14



**PURCHASING AGENT** | Gloucester County | Posted September 11



**SPORT/ATHLETIC CLASS INSTRUCTOR** | James City County | Posted September 11



**WATER DISTRIBUTION APPRENTICE** | James City County | Posted September 11



**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** | James City County | Posted September 11



**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** | Town of Culpeper | Posted September 11



**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ZONING** | King William County | Posted September 11



**SANITARY DISTRICT MANAGER** | County of Warren | Posted September 10



**DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES** | Isle of Wight County | Posted September 10



**UTILITY SUPERVISOR - CONSTRUCTION** | Hanover County | Posted September 10



**REGIONAL FINANCE & RECORDS SPECIALIST** | Galax-Carroll Regional Library | Posted September 10



**CLERK OF COUNCIL** | Town of Farmville | Posted September 4



## UTILITY OPERATOR

Hanover County | Posted September 4



## CHIEF FINANCIAL

OFFICER | VA Department of Human Resources Management | Posted September 4



## FAMILY SERVICES

SPECIALIST | Montgomery County | Posted September 3



ROANOKE CIVIL ENGINEER I | City of Roanoke | Posted September 3



## MAINTENANCE

SUPERVISOR | Frederick County | Posted September 2



## PUBLIC SAFETY

COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR | Frederick County | Posted September 2



## CITY ENGINEER

City of Staunton | Posted September 2



## HUMAN RESOURCES

CONSULTANT | City of Charlottesville | Posted September 1



## ASSISTANT

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE DIRECTOR | Town of Culpeper | Posted August 31



## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

OF PLANNING | Chesterfield County | Posted August 31



## DIRECTOR OF

MAINTENANCE | Cumberland County | Posted August 27



## HUMAN RESOURCES

DIRECTOR | Patrick County | Posted August 27



## FINANCE DIRECTOR

Warren County | Posted August 26



## PARK AIDE

Gloucester County | Posted August 25



## PT DEPUTY CLERK FOR

THE CIRCUIT COURT | New Kent County | Posted August 25



## ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Rockingham County | Posted August 25



## DEBT ANALYST/

ACCOUNTANT IV | City of Chesapeake | Posted August 24



## HUMAN RESOURCES

ANALYST II | York County | Posted August 24



## ANIMAL CONTROL

OFFICER | Montgomery County | Posted August 21



## UTILITY SPECIALIST

New Kent County | Posted August 21



## PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Pulaski on Main | Posted August 20



## DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

OF THE REVENUE | Westmoreland County | Posted August 20



## P/T CUSTODIAN

Westmoreland County | Posted August 20



## ASSISTANT PLANT

OPERATOR | Westmoreland County | Posted August 20



## IT PROJECT MANAGER

City of Fredericksburg | Posted August 20



## 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.

## VACo LEADERSHIP



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**Stephen W. Bowen**  
Nottoway County



President-Elect  
**Jeff C. McKay**  
Fairfax County



First Vice President  
**Meg Bohmke**  
Stafford County



Second Vice President  
**Jason D. Bellows**  
Lancaster County



Secretary-Treasurer  
**Donald L. Hart, Jr.**  
Accomack County



Immediate Past President  
**Sherrin C. Alsop**  
King and Queen County

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**Director of Administration and Finance** | Vicky D. Steinruck, CPA  
**Coordinator of Programs and Development** | Karie Walker

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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 Richmond, VA 23219-3627  
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