

Virginia Association of Counties

2020 Annual Conference Recap



Monday, November 9

- 9am **VACo Board of Directors Meeting**
- Noon **Governor Ralph Northam**
- 2pm **Breakout Session:** State Budget Update | [Session Video](#)
[Regimbal Presentation](#)

Tuesday, November 10

- 930am **Breakout Session:** Economic Development and Workforce Development – Coming Out of the Pandemic | [Session Video](#)
[Johnston Presentation](#) | [Moret Presentation](#)
- 11am **Breakout Session:** The Future of Education | [Session Video](#)
[Bergeron Presentation](#) | [Perrigan Presentation](#) |
[Owczarski Presentation](#)
- 1pm **Breakout Session:** Broadband | [Session Video](#)
[Stoke and Hartell Presentations](#)
- 3pm **Nominations Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, November 11

- 9am **Dr. Robert Holsworth** | [Session Video](#)
- 10am **Annual Business Meeting** | [Agenda](#) | [Session Video](#)

Preconference Breakout Sessions

The Future of Housing | [Breakout Session Video](#) | Sponsored by Virginia Housing

Erik Johnston | Director | DHCD

Susan Dewey | CEO | Virginia Housing

The lack of affordable homes to rent or own across the Commonwealth is a growing problem that has been further highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic. This session will provide an overview of the problem, existing resources to address it, and a discussion of how Virginia will plan to meet both existing and growing demand.

Emerging Risks for County Governments | [Breakout Session Video](#) | Sponsored by VACORP

Chris Carey | Administrator | VACORP | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

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

Communicating during the Pandemic | [Breakout Session Video](#)

Jeff McKay | Fairfax County Chairman | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

William McCarty | Isle of Wight County Supervisor | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Dr. Joseph Casey | Chesterfield County Administrator | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

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

Energy of Tomorrow: Incorporating Wind and Solar in a Modernized Grid | [Breakout Session Video](#) | Sponsored by Dominion Energy

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

John Warren | Director | Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

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

Snapshots of Innovative County Programs | [Breakout Session Video](#)

Kevin Massengill | County Administrator | Dinwiddie County

Dawn Missory | Citizen Information and Resources | Chesterfield County | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Raul Torres | Executive Director | Human Rights Office | Prince William County | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Denise McPhail | Outreach and Education Coordinator | Prince William County | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

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

Surviving to Thriving: Providing Financial Wellness as an Employer | [Breakout Session Video](#) | Sponsored by First Financial Group of America

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

Rich Mangiere | Account Development Coordinator

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

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

A Special Message from NACo President Gary Moore to VACo Members | [Judge Moore's Video](#)

Boone County, Kentucky Judge/Executive Gary Moore was elected NACo President on July 20, 2020.

Steering Committee Presentations

Economic Development and Planning Steering Committee | [Steering Committee Presentation Video](#)

Christy Morton | Vice President-External Affairs | Virginia Economic Development Partnership | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

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

Education Steering Committee | [Steering Committee Presentation Video](#)

Holly Coy | Assistant Superintendent for Policy, Equity, and Communications | Virginia Department of Education | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Kathy Glazer | President | Virginia Early Childhood Foundation | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Karin Bowles | Director of Strategy | Virginia Early Childhood Foundation | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Updates and discussions on K-12 education and childcare.

Finance Steering Committee | [Steering Committee Presentation Video](#)

Aubrey L. Layne Jr. | Secretary of Finance | Commonwealth of Virginia | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

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

Health and Human Resources Steering Committee | [Steering Committee Presentation Video](#)

Scott Reiner | Executive Director | Office of Children's Services | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Nannette M. Bowler, J.D. | Deputy Commissioner | Human Services | Virginia Department of Social Services | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Andrew Crawford, LCSW | Director | Bedford County Department of Social Services | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Rebecca J. Morgan, M.Ed. | Director | Middlesex Department of Social Services | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

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

Health and Human Resources Steering Committee | [Steering Committee Presentation Video](#)

Kathy E. Vesley | President and CEO | Bay Aging | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Regina Sayers | Executive Director | Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

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

Transportation Steering Committee | [Steering Committee Presentation Video](#)

Catherine McGhee, P.E. | Director of Research and Innovation | Virginia Department of Transportation | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Lisa Guthrie | Executive Director | Virginia Transit Association | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Danny Plaughter | Deputy Director | Virginia Transit Association | [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

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

Energy Steering Subcommittee | [Steering Committee Presentation Video](#)

Cliona Robb | Director | ThompsonMcMullan P.C.

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

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