

## Jeffrey C. McKay Elected VACo President

The membership of the Virginia Association of Counties elected Fairfax County Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay as 2020-2021 President during VACo's 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, which was held virtually. [McKay and other newly elected officers](#) started their terms at VACo's Annual Business Meeting on November 11.

McKay succeeds Nottoway County Supervisor Stephen W. Bowen, and becomes the 10<sup>th</sup> President from Fairfax County since 1935. Penelope A. Gross, who led the association in 2014-15, was the most recent President from Fairfax County.

"I'm honored to be elected by my colleagues to serve as President of VACo," McKay said. "I look forward to continuing to work with leaders across the Commonwealth in advocating for our localities."

McKay was born and raised on the historic Route One Corridor in Lee District. He earned a B.S. in Public Administration from James Madison University, and is a graduate of the Sorensen Institute of Political Leadership at the University of Virginia.

McKay served as chief of staff for then-Supervisor Dana Kauffman for more than a decade before winning the election as Lee District Supervisor in November 2007. McKay served his home district for a dozen years and was known for his work on equity, education, affordable housing, transportation, revitalization and the environment.

In 2013, McKay joined the VACo Board of Directors, and since then, he's been a thoughtful, knowledgeable, and strong advocate for counties and local government. He's a voice that other supervisors listen to because he understands the dynamics of urban, suburban and rural Virginia.

"Jeff has been a trusted and respected leader in the association since he was first elected to the Board of Directors," VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said. "When we discuss tough legislative issues – Jeff consistently has shared a fair and sound perspective, particularly in the areas of transportation, education and the environment. Jeff is a strong leader, and we are lucky and excited to have him as our next President."

McKay was elected to serve as Fairfax County Chairman in November 2019. He succeeded Sharon Bulova, who retired after serving three terms as chair and more than 30 years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

McKay has chaired the Fairfax County Board's Transportation, Revitalization, Budget and Legislative Committees. As Budget and Legislative Chairman, he has fostered relationships with federal and state elected officials, as well as the school board.

He is also a regional leader, twice serving as chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and currently sitting on the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. He works with his counterparts on initiatives to better the quality of life for Fairfax County residents, having also served on the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

McKay lives in Lee District with his wife Crystal, his children Leann and Aidan, who attend Fairfax County Public Schools and of course, their latest retired racing Greyhound, Pascal.

"There is so much we can accomplish when we work together, and I'm excited to get started," McKay said.



# VACo Releases 2021 Legislative Program



After months of steering committee meetings, lively debate and participation through the Association's legislative process, VACo adopted its [2021 Legislative Program](#). The Legislative Program is organized according to VACo's Steering Committees.

[VACo's 2021 Legislative Program](#) addresses priorities in the realms of Economic Development and Planning, Education, Environment and Agriculture, Finance, General Government, Health and Human Services, and Transportation.

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



# Special Session Budget Finalized; Preparations for 2021 Budget Cycle Underway



Governor Northam approved the revised biennium budget this week, completing the final piece of legislative business from the 2020 Special Session. The Governor had proposed ten amendments to the budget conference report passed by the legislature on October 16. The legislature considered these amendments on November 9. Of particular interest to local governments, the Governor had proposed revisions to the language and funding allocations related to the state's distribution of its Coronavirus Relief Fund allocation, including language regarding the deadline by which unspent funding would be transferred to the Unemployment Compensation Fund. The House declined to take action on this amendment, effectively rejecting it and returning the budget to the Governor with the legislature's language for this item. With the Governor's approval of the budget, the Coronavirus Relief Fund language reverts to the legislature's October 16 language, which would provide that unspent allocations as of December 18, 2020, would be transferred to the Unemployment Compensation Fund. VACo is awaiting formal guidance from the Secretary of Finance as to the process by which localities' unspent funds will be recouped and will share this information when we receive it.

With the 2020 Special Session now complete, the legislature turned this week to preparations for the 2021 session. The Administration's revenue reforecasting process is underway, and the Governor is scheduled to present his next budget proposal in approximately four weeks, on December 16. This week the "money committees" held their annual pre-session retreats to receive briefings from staff and discuss key budget priorities in advance of the upcoming session.



The House Appropriations Committee's retreat, held November 17, featured presentations on the [health of the national and regional economy](#), the [effect of the pandemic on K-12 enrollment](#), and [Lottery revenues, as well as Committee staff's preliminary revenue forecast and overview of expected spending priorities and budget pressures](#). Staff Director Anne Oman encapsulated the experience of 2020 with the word "unprecedented" while reviewing the magnitude of the changes made to the state budget since the beginning of the year. State revenues have generally performed better than the August reforecast, with particular strength in sales tax and recordation tax collections, although income tax withholding has underperformed projections. Committee staff predict an upward revision to growth estimates in the December reforecast. HB 5005, the budget signed by the Governor this week, projects a decline in General Fund (GF) revenues of 1.8 percent in FY 2021 and growth of 3.9 percent in FY 2022; Appropriations staff estimate 1.6 percent growth in FY 2021 and 2.6 percent growth in FY 2022 (which would be growth from a larger FY 2021 base than predicted in HB 5005). These projections translate into an additional projected \$1.3 billion in GF revenues above the budget approved this week.

State agencies have already begun compiling budget requests, which include mandatory budget drivers (such as the Medicaid forecast and medical costs for individuals incarcerated in state correctional facilities) and high-priority requests, such as broadband investments, support for the Virginia Employment Commission, and needs associated with a mass COVID-19 vaccination program. Committee staff suggested that in developing their budget priorities, members may wish to revisit spending items that were included in the budget passed by the legislature in March, but unallotted in April and converted to reductions in August. Staff cautioned members that considerable uncertainty remains about the course of the pandemic and timing of vaccine distribution, potential federal assistance, and long-term effects of the pandemic on patterns of work and consumption and on the state's safety net. While the state has captured substantial savings in Medicaid managed care rates in this biennium, significant GF dollars are projected to be required to fund the state's share of the program in the next biennium. Lastly, staff highlighted a structural imbalance in the second year of the biennium, where spending is reliant on a balance carried forward from the previous fiscal year.

The Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee convened for its retreat two days later. Committee members received briefings on [the national economy](#), [Medicaid spending](#), [the effects of the pandemic on K-12 education](#), [higher education](#), and [transportation](#), in addition to [Committee staff's revenue projections and analysis of major budget pressures](#). Similar to House Appropriations staff, Senate Finance and Appropriations staff expect revenues to perform better than expected in the August forecast, citing strength in sales tax (buoyed by online sales) and recordation tax collections (bolstered by continued low interest rates). Senate Finance and Appropriations staff expect income tax withholding to improve, pointing to expected wage growth due to increases in higher-wage jobs, despite an overall predicted decline in employment. Staff project GF growth of 2 percent in FY 2021 and 2.7 percent in FY 2022, with the caveat that uncertainty remains regarding the course of the pandemic and the timing of the vaccine. Staff also noted that the legislature will need to make policy decisions regarding conformity to the federal income tax provisions included in the CARES Act, which could have a significant impact on state revenues. Other expected budget pressures include potential additional needs for the state's COVID-19 response, restoration of unallotted spending items, salary increases for state and state-supported local employees and teachers, and further criminal justice reform proposals. The Medicaid forecast in the next biennium and the need to ensure structural balance were also cited as long-term pressures for Committee members to consider. Staff suggested using one-time revenues for investments such as building up the state's reserves, using cash for capital projects, and replenishing the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

**VACo Contact:** [Katie Boyle](#)





## Visit Tazewell County and the Pocahontas Exhibition Mine

The Pocahontas Exhibition Mine is the only of its kind in Virginia. Located in the town of Pocahontas in Tazewell County, the mine takes visitors underground to see how coal was produced in the 19th century. The 13-foot coal seam was first mined in 1882 and an operation remained there for 73 years. Pocahontas coal also once fueled the American Navy.

In 2015, the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) decided to partner with the mine in an effort to preserve some of the history of coal mining in southwest Virginia. Mine safety workers within DMME inspect the exhibition mine to make sure it is safe for visitors. DMME also awarded the mine with a community outreach grant to purchase signs with educational and historical information about coal mining in Virginia.

The Pocahontas Exhibition Mine is open April through September, Thursday through Saturday 10 a.m.- 5p.m. and Sundays 12pm- 4pm. Groups that include 12 or more people can schedule a tour through December by calling 276.945.9522 or by sending an email to [pocahontasva@comcast.net](mailto:pocahontasva@comcast.net).

**SOURCE:** [Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy Website](#)



Join us for the VACo Virtual

# CHAIRPERSONS' INSTITUTE



FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021 | \$175 | [DRAFT AGENDA](#)

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

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

COUNTY/ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

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

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON THE CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax completed registration form with credit card information to 804.788.0083.

Or please make check payable to VACo. Mail check and completed registration form to 1207 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

Or [click here](#) to register online.

Registration Fee: \$175

PLEASE CONTACT  
VALERIE RUSSELL AT  
[VRUSSELL@VACO.ORG](mailto:VRUSSELL@VACO.ORG)  
WITH ANY QUESTIONS.







VACo's Associate Membership Program is the most efficient and cost-effective way to showcase your company to decision makers from Virginia's 95 counties. This access can play a major role in your marketing efforts, and it benefits counties by identifying potential suppliers in a broad range of services. See how these four VACo Associate Members can help your county.



**Draper Aden Associates**  
Engineering • Surveying • Environmental Services  
*Lasting Positive Impact™*

**Jeffrey Lighthiser, PE**  
CEO/President

**Phone:** 804.264.2228

**Email:** [jlighthiser@daa.com](mailto:jlighthiser@daa.com)

**Website:** [www.daa.com](http://www.daa.com)

[VACo Page Link](#)



**Nationwide®**  
is on your side

**Debbie Turner**

Program Director

**Phone:** 704.258.5084

**Email:** [turned11@nationwide.com](mailto:turned11@nationwide.com)

**Website:** [www.nrsforu.com](http://www.nrsforu.com)

[VACo Page Link](#)



**Advantus**  
STRATEGIES

**Robert G. Crockett**  
President

**Phone:** 804.228.4500

**Email:** [rcrockett@advantusstrategies.com](mailto:rcrockett@advantusstrategies.com)

**Website:** [www.advantusstrategies.com](http://www.advantusstrategies.com)

[VACo Page Link](#)

**P M A**

ARCHITECTURE

**Jeff Stodghill, AIA**  
President

**Phone:** 757.596.8200

**Email:** [TJS@pmaarchitecture.com](mailto:TJS@pmaarchitecture.com)

**Website:** [www.pmaarchitecture.com](http://www.pmaarchitecture.com)

[VACo Page Link](#)



## VACo Recognizes Graduates of the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program



The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) recognized the [15<sup>th</sup> graduating class of the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program](#) during VACo's 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

The Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program provides training to enhance the leadership and decision-making skills of county supervisors in the Commonwealth.

The three graduates of the 18-month certification program are:

- **Jeremy R. Bennett** | Virginia Association of Counties | [Photo](#)
- **Mary W. Biggs** | Montgomery County | [Photo](#)
- **Hubert W. Pannell** | Halifax County | [Photo](#) | Photo courtesy of Ashley Hodge/Gazette-Virginian

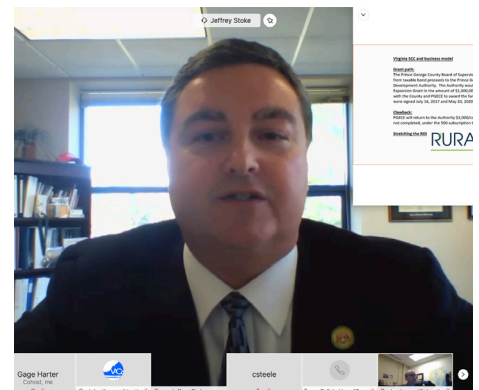
The Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program was created to provide VACo members with an opportunity to learn how to more effectively lead their communities.

"Congratulations to our newest graduates for completing one of VACo's premier educational programs," VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said. "We are closing in on 100 graduates from more than 40 counties since the program's first class in 2006. I was proud to join the ranks of other graduates in 2016, and happy to see Mary Biggs, Hubert Pannell and Jeremy Bennett represent the class of 2020. I'm sure they will agree that this is a master's degree level program, and would encourage more supervisors to participate."

The Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program provides an overview of the issues, expectations, and practices associated with serving as a county supervisor as well as detailed information about local government. The program consists of five core courses that span 65 hours of classroom instruction and 35 hours of home study. The program focuses on leadership development, duties and responsibilities of public officials, community planning, local government finance, and collaborative governance.

For more information about the County Supervisor Certification Program, contact Karie Walker at [kwalker@vaco.org](mailto:kwalker@vaco.org) or 804.343.2504.





## COUNTIES CHARTING A NEW COURSE

It was indeed an exceptional Annual Conference. Thank you attendees, exhibitors, partners, sponsors, legislators and speakers for making the few days we were together memorable.

We hope your Annual Conference experience will benefit your community and make Virginia and her Counties stronger. We look forward to seeing you again soon at one of VACo's education events.

[\*\*Annual Conference Recap\*\*](#)



## JLARC Releases Report on Children's Services Act



Members of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) were briefed by Commission staff on November 9 on the results of an extensive review of the Children's Services Act (CSA) approved in 2019. JLARC staff were directed to review the administration of CSA, with a particular focus on private special education services, as well as state and local oversight of the program, and to determine whether changes would be warranted to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services provided to children and families. JLARC staff recommended several major changes to the program, including allowing CSA funding to be used for services delivered within public schools and transitioning the administration of private day placement funding from CSA to the Virginia Department of Education.

JLARC staff concluded that spending on private special education day school placements has been the primary factor in overall CSA spending growth, more than doubling since FY 2010 and representing 44 percent of all CSA spending in 2019. Rising costs are attributable to increases in enrollment (which has grown by 50 percent over the past ten years due to larger numbers of children being newly enrolled in private day placements each year, children being placed at younger ages, and children spending more time in private placements); rate increases; and increases in the use of services provided by private day schools (such as attendance for more school days per year and use of additional related services, such as speech therapy). The report points out that Virginia relies on out-of-school placements to a greater degree than 37 other states, and cites the prohibition on use of CSA funds in the public school setting as a contributing factor in hampering local school divisions' ability to serve children with special needs, as well as potentially limiting public schools' ability to offer transition services to ease students' return to public school from a private placement. Staff recommended that the legislature consider allowing CSA funds to be used within the public school setting to fund services that a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team determines are necessary to prevent a more restrictive out-of-school placement, or to help students transition back to public school from a residential or private day placement. VACO has historically supported enhancing local school divisions' ability to serve children with high-level needs.

JLARC staff also recommend the transfer of funding for private special education day placements to the Virginia Department of Education, arguing that CSA serves merely as a funding stream for these



placements, while the placement decision rests with the IEP team in the local school division. This change could have significant effects on local budgets, particularly if the long-standing sum-sufficiency provisions associated with private day placements were revisited, or local match rates were revised. In recognition of the potential negative effects on localities, the report recommends that the legislature consider providing for the transfer of funds, paired with a directive to the Department of Education to develop a detailed plan to administer the funding so that it provides services for children with the most severe needs who are at risk of an out-of-school placement, ensures equal access to all school divisions, and “minimizes the fiscal impact of the new funding policy on localities.”

The report also discusses the role of the Office of Children’s Services (OCS), suggesting that it largely oversees program compliance rather than promoting program effectiveness. It recommends directing OCS to take a more active role in monitoring local programs’ performance and assisting underperforming programs; in advance of such an expansion of the Office’s responsibilities, it would be required to develop a plan for any staffing and operations modifications that would be necessary.

Other recommendations in the report include:

- Requiring private special education day schools to report tuition rates annually as a condition of receiving state funds and directing the state entity supervising the program to develop a standardized reporting process and template to enable rate comparisons.
- Requiring local CSA programs to report data to OCS on timeliness for enrolling children in services so that OCS could provide assistance to programs with relatively long waits for services. JLARC staff found that although the service planning process conducted by the Family Assessment and Planning Team is generally beneficial, there may be a delay in the start of services in some localities; the report notes that more data is needed to determine the reasons for this variation.
- Requiring local CSA programs to serve children in the “non-mandated” eligibility category. This is another recommendation with potential impact on local budgets.
- Directing the State Executive Council to assess the potential creation of a competitive grant fund to address gaps in services.
- Directing OCS to work with the Department of General Services and the Office of the Attorney General to determine potential benefits of statewide contracts for children’s services and develop contracts to be made available to local programs “where beneficial and feasible.” VACo has historically supported additional assistance with contracting, particularly for smaller localities.

The full report is available at [this link](#); JLARC staff’s presentation may be found at [this link](#).

**VACo Contact:** [Katie Boyle](#)



## Commonwealth Transportation Board Invites Public Comment on draft FY 2021-2026 Six Year Improvement Program

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is inviting public comment for a virtual [meeting](#) on November 24 at 9 a.m. to review the draft FY 2021-2026 Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP). The Six-Year Plan includes funding for public transportation facilities, commuter and public transportation programs, and all interstate and primary highway projects that are being studied, designed, and constructed throughout Virginia over six fiscal years. The [CTB](#) updates the program each year as priorities are revised, project schedules and costs change, and study results are known.

Chapter 1289 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly directs that the FY2020-2025 SYIP adopted by the CTB in June 2019, as amended, will remain in effect through June 30, 2021 or until such time as a new SYIP is adopted that is based on the official Commonwealth Transportation Fund revenue forecast reflecting the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the CTB did not adopt a revised SYIP by July 1 as is normally required by [33.2-214\(B\)](#) of the Code of Virginia. Previously approved projects in the amended FY 2020-2025 SYIP have continued to be developed and delivered according to their schedules.

Proposed additions to Item 430 of the Budget Bill considered in the Special Session of the General Assembly provide that the CTB may use previously allocated funds not currently needed to support project delivery to mitigate impacts from the revenue reductions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and replace those allocations in the year needed to support current project schedules. Further, the Secretary must report funding actions planned to be taken, including a listing of programs and projects impacts as well as any deviation from the proposed plan. This plan was presented to the CTB on October 20, 2020 and may be accessed [here](#).

Due to major transportation revenue shortfalls resultant from the economic impacts of COVID-19, an allocation restructuring strategy will be implemented for the Revenue Sharing Program in order to utilize previously allocated funds not needed to support current project delivery needs to mitigate impacts from the revenue reductions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and replace those allocations in FY 2021-2024 as necessary to support current project schedules. No existing funding commitments will be reduced, and no existing projects will be delayed due to the proposed restructuring strategy. New FY2021 Revenue Sharing project selections will receive FY2025 and FY2026 allocations. The biennial solicitation cycle for Revenue Sharing will continue with future awards in the last two fiscal years of the SYIP. Without this flexibility, CTB would need to establish a process in the near term to determine which projects and/or programs to cancel to address revenue reductions.

The FY 2021-2026 SYIP COVID-19 Update will be presented to the CTB for approval in December. In addition, any deviation from the proposed plan presented to the CTB in October will be provided at that time. More information and instructions on how to access the November 24 meeting can be found [here](#) and in the notice. If you are unable to attend the meeting, online comments will be accepted until December 3.

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



### Public Meetings

#### Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2021-2026 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will consider your comments as it develops the FY2021-2026 Six-Year Improvement Program. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds. Meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/default.asp> beginning November 13, 2020.

These projects will be discussed at the start of the Nov. 24, 2020, public meeting of the CTB, which will be conducted using electronic communications in accordance with Item 4-0.01.g. of Chapter 1289 (2020 Acts of Assembly), as the COVID-19 emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble in a single location.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operation of the CTB and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties and responsibilities. All board members will be participating remotely. The public may view the meeting via live stream by clicking the "View stream" button at the following link: [http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/public\\_meetings/live\\_stream/default.asp](http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/public_meetings/live_stream/default.asp).

There will be opportunity for public comment following the presentation of projects at the start of the CTB workshop meeting. When announced, public comment can be made by calling 470-285-4495, followed by PIN 392 182 855#. Callers will be placed on hold until others in queue ahead of them have had the opportunity to speak. In the event there is an interruption in the meeting broadcast, call 804-729-6495.

The public is invited to share feedback on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding through participation in this virtual public meeting or submitting comments through the online form, by email, or by posted mail by Dec. 3, 2020.

For information on roads and highways projects: [Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov](#), or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1401 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219 or online form found at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/default.asp>.

For information on rail and public transportation projects: [DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov](#), Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.

*The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, its services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).*

**Click to enlarge**



# Mental Health Study Group Receives Updates on Impact of COVID-19, Other Issues Affecting Behavioral Health System

The Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century met electronically on November 16 to take stock of the effects of the pandemic on the state's behavioral health system and to plan for possible legislative and budget initiatives for the upcoming 2021 legislative session, as well as to discuss the long-term future of the Joint Subcommittee's work.

Subcommittee members received a briefing from Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee Legislative Analyst Mike Tweedy, who provided an [overview](#) of budget actions related to behavioral health funding during the April reconvened session and the recently-concluded special session. Due to the economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic, \$441.9 million in health and human services-related funding was unallotted, or paused, during the April reconvened session, of which approximately \$135 million was community-based mental health funding. The Governor's August budget proposed to convert most of the unallotted funding into budget reductions. The legislature was able to restore \$222.4 million in HHR spending, largely by offsetting the restored spending with expected savings in Medicaid managed care rates. Key funding restorations included \$30.2 million to continue the rollout of STEP-VA services; \$17.5 million to support discharge assistance planning to help individuals return home from state hospitals, and \$7.5 million for pilot projects with private hospitals to reduce the census pressures on state hospitals, which continue to struggle with overcrowding. The legislature also provided \$3 million to support community care or mobile crisis teams that will respond to behavioral health crises pursuant to the "Marcus Alert" legislation passed during the special session, as well as funding for state staff to implement the program.

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Commissioner Alison Land [reported](#) on the impact of the pandemic to state hospitals, which have struggled with growing numbers of admissions in the past several years. In order to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spreading within the facilities, the Department has been working with Community Services Boards (CSBs) to assist in discharging patients who no longer have a clinical need for hospitalization. An Executive Order issued in August allows state hospitals an exemption from serving as the "bed of last resort" for individuals not under an emergency custody order if the hospital is already operating at 100 percent capacity – a provision which Commissioner Land acknowledged has caused some delays in admissions, but has not left anyone without a bed. Several hospitals have also had to close to new admissions temporarily due to COVID-19 outbreaks. Commissioner Land reiterated the need for community-based services to assist in individuals' return home from state hospitals and to avoid the need for hospitalization; other elements of the Department's strategy for census mitigation include workforce recruitment and retention efforts and work with CSBs and community hospitals to divert admissions. Commissioner Land provided an update on the status of STEP-VA, the state's major initiative to offer a standard array of community-based services statewide. The budget signed by the Governor this week includes a restoration of approximately \$11 million in funding for crisis services (mobile crisis and crisis dispatch), an element of STEP-VA that will also assist in implementation of the Marcus Alert legislation.

Jennifer Faison, Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, shared an update on the CSBs' work to ensure continuity of services during the pandemic. CSBs swiftly pivoted to providing services through telehealth, and will be assisting DBHDS with staffing the "warm line" that is assisting Virginians who are struggling with mental health needs during the pandemic. She discussed the importance of continuing to build on evidence-based models to support the goals of the Marcus Alert legislation.

Senator Creigh Deeds, who chairs the Joint Subcommittee, announced that the subcommittee's three workgroups would meet in the coming weeks and decide on potential legislative or budget requests for the 2021 session. Since legislators will be restricted in the number of bills they may introduce in the upcoming session and the session may be limited in duration, the Joint Subcommittee's initiatives may also be somewhat limited this year. Members also discussed the December 1, 2021, expiration of the Joint Subcommittee's authorization, with several members expressing a desire to establish a permanent separate entity to work on mental health issues, rather than incorporating this portfolio into the work of another existing study commission.

**VACo Contact:** [Katie Boyle](#)



## Virginia Board of Education Approves 2020 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia



As part of their November 19 business [meeting](#), the Virginia Board of Education ([VBOE](#)) approved the 2020 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia. The draft [report](#) notes the disruptive impacts of COVID-19 on public education in the Commonwealth and the challenges facing local school divisions as they continue to fulfill their responsibilities to provide and maintain educational programs of high quality. This information will be formally presented to Governor Ralph Northam and the General Assembly on December 1.

COVID-19 has highlighted several pressing issues facing school divisions in addition to long-term challenges that existed prior to the start of the pandemic. Student access to broadband infrastructure, digital devices for students to access virtual instruction, and additional virtual supports for students with special needs and younger students were identified as particular concerns as many school divisions have not fully returned to in-person learning environments, and instead have opted to conduct instruction for the 2020-2021 school year virtually or using hybrid models. Though the number of school divisions conducting in-person and hybrid models increased from September to November of this year, these numbers are subject to change as local pandemic conditions fluctuate and more divisions may opt towards virtual instruction if conditions worsen.

This reinforces the importance of closing the digital divide in Virginia and addressing issues of broadband



access and affordability. According to a [report](#) earlier this year from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), fully one fifth of Virginia students (K-12 and college) lack either high-speed internet or a computer in the home, both of which are essential for successful distance learning. Students living in rural areas are less likely to have broadband internet in the home compared to urban students. However, nearly 40% of all students without broadband live in or around Virginia's cities. Half of all students without devices live in urban areas. Further inequities exist regarding Black and Latinx students.

Additionally, VBOE's annual report concludes that many preexisting long-term challenges unrelated to COVID-19 remain. Virginia schools continue to be underfunded. When adjusting for inflation, state per pupil support for K-12 education has not been restored to pre-recessionary levels more than 10 years after the end of the Great Recession. According to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission's (JLARC) report *Virginia Compared to the Other States: 2020 Edition*, Virginia ranks 26<sup>th</sup> of 50 for state and local per pupil funding for Pre K-12 education, and 40<sup>th</sup> of 50 for state per pupil funding. This despite Virginia localities investing \$4.1 billion above the required local effort to fund the Standards of Quality in FY 2019.

The report also alluded to a short-term drop in student enrollment, otherwise known as average daily membership (ADM) as many parents choose to home school their children, delay enrollment by a year in kindergarten, or seek other non-public education options for their children. This is an issue that has implications on the state share of funding of K-12 education through Direct Aid. During the 2020 special session of the General Assembly, VACo and other education stakeholders successfully advocated that ADM funding be held harmless due to the unusual conditions brought on by COVID-19. According to a recent [presentation](#) made to the House Appropriations Committee, school divisions are experiencing an unprecedented 3.2% drop in enrollment, which equates to approximately 40,000 students. If funding based on ADM is not held harmless going forward, local governments could see a reduction of \$199 million in state funding for K-12. VACo will continue to advocate on this issue during the 2021 regular session of the General Assembly.

VBOE is required by [code](#) and the state [constitution](#) to submit an annual report by December 1 that includes but is not limited to, a complete listing of the current SOQs and changes recommended by VBOE, an overview of the accreditation status of schools, and reporting requirements of local school divisions. A copy of the draft report may be accessed [here](#).

During their meeting, VBOE also heard a [presentation](#) from Alleghany County and the City of Covington on their joint proposal to consolidate the school divisions of both localities. Section [§ 22.1-25](#) of the Code of Virginia outlines this process and the role of local governing bodies, school boards, and VBOE. Benefits of this consolidation are estimated to include improved educational opportunities for students in both localities and projected reductions in overlap in central office administration alone yielding \$900,000 in savings per year. VACo recently approved adding a position supporting additional state resources and incentives that allow counties to voluntarily consolidate or regionalize K-12 services to increase operational efficiencies to the [2021 legislative program](#).

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



## Body-Worn Camera Workgroup Receives Updates on Data Collection, New Grant Program



The workgroup examining issues surrounding the effect of body-worn cameras of the public safety and judicial systems met on November 13. This workgroup, chaired by Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran, is an extended and expanded version of an initial study group convened by the Compensation Board in 2018 to review the effects of body-worn cameras on the workload of Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices. In an effort to better gauge the amount of time prosecutors must spend reviewing body-worn camera footage, language was included in the 2019 Appropriations Act requiring Commonwealth's Attorneys to collect data on the amount of footage received from law enforcement and time spent redacting footage, and to report this data quarterly. This language was continued in the 2020 Appropriations Act, which also extended the workgroup so that more robust data could be collected.

Robyn de Socio, Executive Secretary of the Compensation Board, [reported](#) at the November 13 meeting on the data collected for FY 2020. Participation among Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices, with 48 offices reporting at least partial data (representing 55 percent of the 87 offices with body-worn cameras in use in their localities), had improved from fall of 2019 (when 42 percent of offices reported data for the first quarter). Participating offices, which tended to represent localities where body-worn cameras are most widely used, reported receiving approximately 11,853 hours of footage each month across 46 offices (which would represent an average of approximately 258 hours per office per month). Workgroup members recommended continuing the study to allow more complete data to be generated, and representatives of the Commonwealth's Attorneys pledged to continue working with Ms. de Socio to improve participation in the data collection efforts.

Erik Smith of the Department of Criminal Justice Services [presented information](#) on the new body-worn camera grant program that was included in the state budget passed during the special session and signed by the Governor this week. Legislation sponsored by Senator Bryce Reeves to create a special fund to assist state or local law enforcement with the costs of purchasing, operating, and maintaining body-worn camera systems passed the Senate but failed to emerge from the House Appropriations Committee; instead, the concept was embedded in the state budget, which provided \$6.4 million in FY 2021 for one-time grants to law enforcement agencies to cover one-time costs such as equipment, data storage, and technology. A 50 percent local match is required. The Department plans to solicit grant applications in December and make awards in March 2021.

State funding to meet current Compensation Board staffing standards for Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices remains a priority for VACo. The budget passed by the General Assembly in March included funding for 25 percent of the positions owed under current staffing standards, but these dollars were unallotted in April and eliminated in August.

**VACo Contacts:** [Katie Boyle](#) and [Chris McDonald](#)



## COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program: Applications Due by November 30, 2020



Virginia has allocated additional federal Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) available pursuant to the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) for the purpose of allowing municipal utilities providing electric, gas, water and wastewater services to set up local utility relief programs for their customers impacted by COVID-19.

Counties and cities, in partnership with a municipal utility that is overseen by a local governing body, will be able to apply to for funding to set up locally administered utility relief programs to assist their customers with arrearages that have not been paid to the municipal utility as a result of the customer experiencing economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The arrearage assistance will cover the period from March 1, 2020-Oct. 31, 2020. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will be facilitating an application process for localities to apply in partnership with their municipal utilities to utilize the COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program to create local relief programs for eligible customers subject to abiding by U.S. Treasury guidance and other regulatory matters concerning the use of CRF funds.

Additional details about the application process for localities and municipal utilities will be distributed by DHCD and posted on the DHCD website once they become available in the coming weeks.

Eligibility rules and information for members of the public who may be seeking municipal utility relief will be made available by participating municipal utilities in the upcoming weeks. Customers should contact their municipal utility for information.

**Applications to the SCC for the COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program are due by Close of Business on November 30, 2020.** The Application can be found via the DHCD memo (linked below). For questions, please contact DHCD at [utility@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:utility@dhcd.virginia.gov).

For more information on this the COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program, please see the following:

- DHCD's Utility Relief Website: <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/utilityrelief>
- DHCD's Memo on the Relief Program: [Memo sent to Municipal Utility Directors; and City, County, and Town Chief Administrative Officers Regarding the COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program \(November 19, 2020\)](#)

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



**Introduction to Records & FOIA**

- All public records are presumed open unless specifically exempt
- Definition of "public record" (§ 2.2-3701)
  - all writings and recordings that consist of letters, words or numbers, or their equivalent . . . however stored, and regardless of physical form or characteristics
  - prepared or owned by, or in the possession of a public body or its officers, employees or agents
  - in the transaction of public business.
  - Note: draft versions are public records

12

1:24:31 / 1:43:31

## Freedom of Information Act Training and News

Over 140 people registered for FOIA training hosted by VACo and held on November 16. A new law that went into effect on July 1, 2020 requires certain local officials to take specific FOIA training every two years. Alan Gernhardt, Executive Director of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council, conducted the 2-hour virtual training session, answering a variety of questions from participants as the session went along. This session qualifies for the statutory mandatory training and can be viewed [here](#).

## 2020 FOIA Subcommittees meet and advance recommendations to the full FOIA Council

The three ongoing FOIA subcommittees met this past week to look at recommendations to the full FOIA Council. The Phishing Subcommittee met to consider HJR 628 (2019) Heretick, the Criminal Incident Information Subcommittee considered HB 5090 Hurst and the Electronic Meetings subcommittee looked at two proposals seeking more flexibility for electronic participation by members of a Public Body HB 321 Levine and codification of electronic meetings provisions during an emergency. For more information please visit the [Virginia Freedom of Information Act Advisory Council website](#).

## Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council meets to consider Local Lobbying registration

On November 18, the Council met to consider [SB 383 \(McPike\)](#), which was referred to the Council after being passed by indefinitely in the Senate Local Government Committee in the 2020 regular session. Although not specifically endorsing the bill as drafted, the Council directed the staff to draft legislation for local lobbying similar to state lobbying requirements. The Council is not scheduled to meet again prior to the 2021 legislative session so it is unlikely we will see a bill in the upcoming session.

**VACo Contact:** [Phyllis Errico, Esq.](#)



## Supervisors' Certification Graduates Hold Reunion



On October 23, graduates and current students joined VACo President Steve Bowen and instructors Mike Chandler and Martha Walker for the Certified Supervisors' Program Virtual Class Reunion. It was a walk down memory lane together, with alumni from the first graduating class in 2006 up to the class of 2020! Seven graduating classes were represented from diverse counties across the Commonwealth!

The VACo Certified Supervisors' Program examines leadership from five different perspectives that can have an invaluable impact on county leaders. New and seasoned supervisors moving through the program get to know each other, and all participants bring unique contributions to the program's success.

A theme emerged at the 2020 reunion as students shared their takeaways from the program over the years - Family, Support, Networking, Gratitude. Supervisors from all walks of life and various chapters in their careers say they form bonds with one another in this program, and that a sense of family and a community of support emerges from the experience. They have a common goal, to serve Virginia counties effectively. And they are grateful for each other, and committed to the support that they share, in this effort.

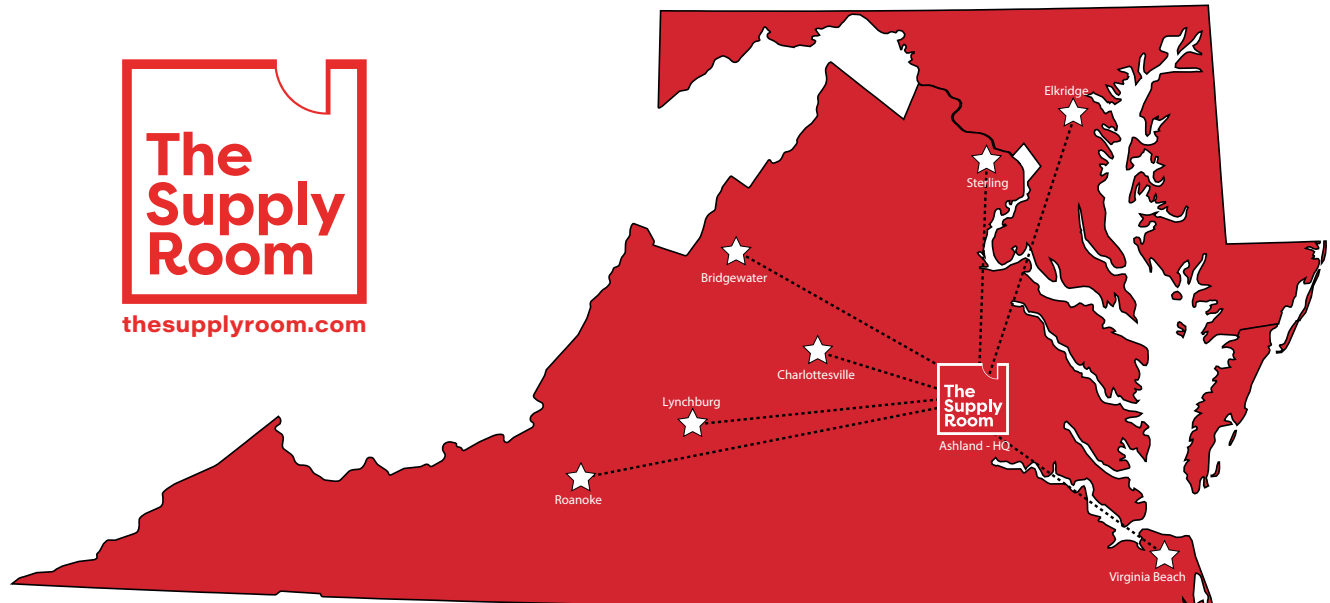
Aetna generously sponsored this gathering! Thank you, Heidi Shafer, Senior Business Consultant, and Marcus Duckworth, VP of Client Management, for joining us! As always, we couldn't do what we do without you, and we value your support!

And, many thanks to Steve Bowen, Mike Chandler, Martha Walker and our supervisors, for sharing part of your day with us at the virtual reunion! It was a great time because you were there! We can't wait to see everyone in 2021 for the next reunion at the VACo 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on November 13-16, 2021 at the Hilton Norfolk The Main! So, please mark your calendars! VACo extends our appreciation to all those who have and continue to contribute to the success of this leadership program!

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



## VACo Premier Partnership established 2020



2020 is a year like no other and **The Supply Room** quickly pivoted to respond to our customers' needs by expanding our janitorial and cleaning offering and sourcing personal protective equipment (PPE) from trusted manufacturers and partners.

So far in 2020, we have provided Virginia's counties, school districts, colleges and universities with more than **1.2 Million** pieces of PPE and carry a wide variety of products in qualified categories for Coronavirus Relief Funds under the CARES Act, including:



**3-ply surgical masks**

**KN & N-95 masks**

**Branded cloth masks**

**Face shields**

**Gloves**

**Surgical gowns**

**Desk shields for schools**

**Touchless thermometers**

**Barriers & sneeze guards**

**Air filtration equipment**

**Social distancing and health & safety signage**

**Cleaning, sanitizing, & disinfecting chemicals and supplies**

**Gel and liquid hand sanitizer**

**Sanitizer stands**

**Disinfecting wipes**



### Proudly serving Virginia's counties since 1951

Our partnership with VACo is newly established, but our history in Virginia is not. The Supply Room was founded in Ashland, VA in 1951. Our core product offering includes:

- Personal protective equipment
- Janitorial and cleaning supplies and equipment
- Office and school furniture with full-service interior design capabilities
- Office supplies
- Coffee and breakroom supplies and equipment
- Technology supplies and services
- Promotional and branded products



### Who we are:

As a third-generation family-owned and -operated business, we are the second-largest independent office supplier in the country. With 7 locations across the Commonwealth we offer free, next day delivery with no minimum order requirements to our customers. We are a proud SWaM-certified small and woman owned business (WS-6360.) Multiple purchasing options:

- Commonwealth of Virginia Office Supplies Contract - Contract #: E194-72924
- Omnia Partners Office Supplies Contract - Contract #R190301
- Custom program developed specifically for your County





## Montgomery County, MD and Main Street Connect Launch Initiative Aimed at Closing the Digital Divide

Montgomery County, MD and a non-profit called Main Street Connect have announced a joint initiative that will offer low-income and special needs residents of the newly opened Main Street Apartments in the city of Rockville access to free, high-speed home internet.



Founded in 2017 by Jillian and Scott Copeland, Main Street Connect was inspired by the Copelands' son, Nicolas, who has developmental disabilities. Like many parents with similar situations, the Copelands' search for long-term housing for Nicolas produced very few options in which he could thrive. Hoping to alleviate similar situations for other families, the Copelands started Main Street Connect with a mission to create affordable and inclusive housing that offers residents – of all abilities – the opportunity for dynamic opportunities and community engagement.

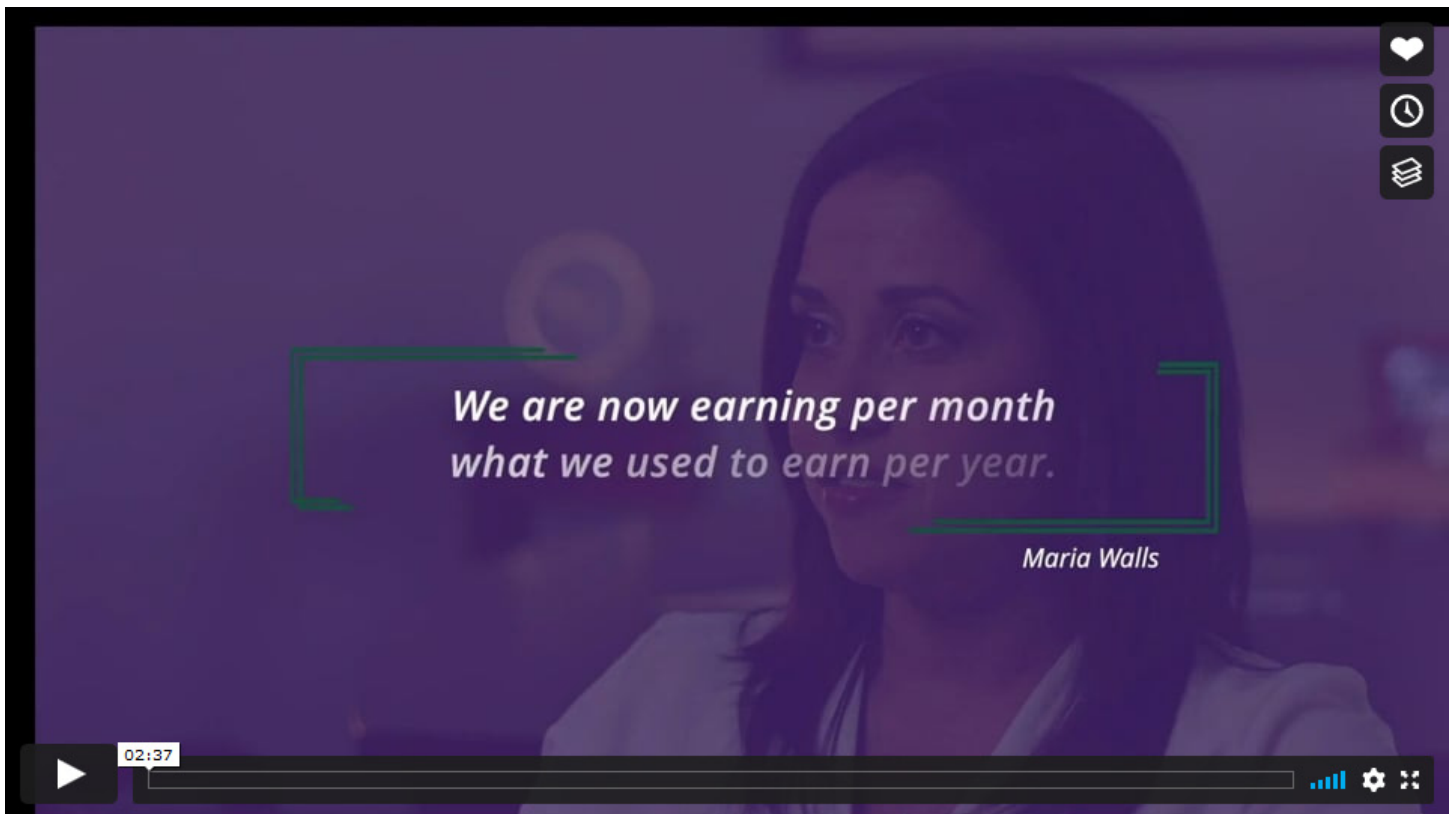
"Affordable access to the internet is crucial and the need for a safe and reliable connection is more important than it has ever been," said Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich. "With the help of our partners, we are excited to bring robust internet connectivity and home Wi-Fi to eligible residents of Main Street Apartments at absolutely no cost. We believe that the internet should be accessible for everyone and we are happy to be working with Main Street Connect to offer it to their residents, many of whom depend on the internet to work, learn and grow."

The project brings together Montgomery County and Main Street Connect with technology leaders Plume and **Positron Access Solutions**. Montgomery County will be providing symmetrical speeds of 50 Mbps+ (upload and download), as well as internet bandwidth to support Wi-Fi service in all public areas in the building. Plume, a leading smart home experience company, will provide an enhanced home Wi-Fi offering to residents free of charge. That service includes strong, consistent Wi-Fi coverage, online security, parental and access controls and 24/7 customer service. **Positron, a leading enabler of high-speed internet services over in-building coax or telephone pairs, is providing the broadband access equipment necessary for residents to connect to Montgomery County's free internet.**

Pierre Trudeau, president and CTO of Positron Access, said: "Our GAM access solution can provide broadband internet services of up to 1Gbps using the existing in-building coaxial or telephone wiring, thereby eliminating the need for additional construction and related costs associated with installing new fiber to every door. We are very pleased that the County was able to reuse the coax cabling to offer a fiber-like user experience to the tenants of Main Street Apartments, and we are very proud to be a part of this first Montgomery County digital equity initiative."

For more information on Positron visit [www.positronaccess.com](http://www.positronaccess.com) or contact Sandra Cohen at [scohen@positronaccess.com](mailto:scohen@positronaccess.com). This press release was originally posted on <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/>





VACo Premier Partner cashvest® by three+one® is a financial technology organization that deploys liquidity analysis, to help counties leverage new data resources, and maximize the value of every dollar on deposit.

[Click on video](#) to learn more about cashvest by three+one.

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





## Public sector passion and specialization

Delivering strategic solutions to Virginia counties



Baker Tilly's public sector practice partners with local governments across the country to meet their operational needs. Our public sector advisory team delivers leading-edge management consulting support to help counties grow and succeed even during the most challenging times. From executive recruitment and talent management to organizational restructuring and performance optimization, **our local government Value Architects™ are dedicated to enhancing communities across Virginia and the U.S.**

### Talent management services

- Classification and compensation consulting, including variable pay systems, pay equity analyses and executive pay
- CAO and employee performance systems
- Strategic workforce planning and job architecture
- Proactive succession planning
- Employee development and career strategies

### Performance optimization services

- Strategy and performance management, including risk assessments and internal audits
- Organization and operations assessments
- Business process improvement
- Enterprise technology solutions, including IT/cybersecurity risk assessments

### Learn more about our public sector experience

[State and local government services](#)

[Municipal advisory services for local governments](#)

[Public sector human capital](#)

[Public sector performance optimization](#)

[Public sector executive recruitment](#)

[Risk advisory](#)

### Thought leadership resources

Check out some of our recent insights relevant to state and local governments:

[CommuniTIES: A Baker Tilly public sector podcast](#)

[Three signs your organization needs an operational review](#)

[Coronavirus resources for state and local governments](#)

#### Connect with us:

Steve Miner  
Managing Director, Talent Management  
[steve.miner@bakertilly.com](mailto:steve.miner@bakertilly.com)

David Eisenlohr  
Managing Director, Performance Optimization  
[david.eisenlohr@bakertilly.com](mailto:david.eisenlohr@bakertilly.com)





## VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust Elects Trustees at FY2021 Annual Meeting



**Meghan Coates**, Director of Finance for Henrico County, has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust by participants. At the same meeting, participants of the Pooled OPEB Trust reelected **Jeffrey Weiler**, Executive Director of Fairfax County Retirement Systems, and **H. Roger Zurn, Jr.**, Treasurer of Loudon County. Trustees serve three-year terms with the newly elected Trustees serving until the FY2024 annual meeting.

Comprised of local government officials from participants in the **VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust**, the nine-member Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Pooled OPEB Trust. The Pooled OPEB Trust is Virginia's only OPEB pooled trust and the largest OPEB pooled trust in the US. As of fiscal year-end June 30, 2020, the Pooled OPEB Trust had total investments of \$1.318 billion. The Trust's large scale offers participants well-diversified portfolios at lower costs, while providing access to a nationally recognized investment advisor and top institutional fund managers.

Coates succeeds **Ned Smither**, former Director of Finance for Henrico County, whose tenure saw the steady growth of Pooled OPEB Trust's assets.



[Explore the Interactive Map](#)

## How Zencity Can Help You Manage Severe Weather in Your Community

Tornadoes and hurricanes and wildfires, oh my! Natural disasters and hazardous weather create significant challenges for local governments, requiring focused management, real-time communication with residents and significant manpower to best mitigate the repercussions.

There are many crisis management preventative measures to take, including advanced planning and rehearsals. However, in life or death situations technology can help ten-fold, accelerating and expanding access to critical systems and resources.

### A Proactive Approach

Local governments are taking advantage of social media and online alerts to help spread awareness and important communications/digital resources in real time. The ability to communicate rapidly with those who are in need of information, is of the utmost importance when time is of the essence, and Zencity was built with this in mind.







## Celebrate Your County's Most Innovative Programs

### 2021 NACo Achievement Awards

Applications are now open for the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2021 Achievement Awards. Please join us in celebrating 51 years of county innovation by applying today.

Since 1970, the NACo Achievement Awards have recognized outstanding county government programs and services. Through a non-competitive application process, noteworthy programs receive awards in 18 categories that cover a vast range of county responsibilities. By participating, your county can earn national recognition.

NACo will highlight the 18 “best of category” winners, as well as feature all winners in NACo materials and online. We also provide a customizable press release for you to share the good news with the media and residents.

We encourage all counties, parishes and boroughs to apply.

**EARLY BIRD APPLICATION DEADLINE:** March 8, 2021 (save \$25 off the application fee)

**REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE:** March 31, 2021

For more information, please review the Achievement Awards online brochure, or email [awards@naco.org](mailto:awards@naco.org) with any questions.

**APPLY TODAY**



# VIRGINIA ECONOMIC SUMMIT & FORUM ON WORLD TRADE



VIRTUAL EVENT | DECEMBER 4, 2020 | WWW.VACHAMBER.COM

*Building Economic Resiliency in Virginia*

CO-HOSTS:

VA CHAMBER  
FOUNDATION

VEDP

International  
Trade

## 2020 Virginia Economic Summit & Forum on World Trade

**December 4, 2020 | 9:30 AM - 12:10 PM | Virtual Event | Registration Fee: \$45**

### [REGISTER NOW](#)

The Virginia Chamber is pleased to present the Virginia Economic Summit & Forum on World Trade.

Now hosted as a virtual conference, attendees will have the opportunity to hear directly from business leaders and trade experts on how the Commonwealth can build economic resiliency and remain among the top states for business.

A highlight of this year's event will also include the official kick-off of Virginia's next strategic plan, Blueprint Virginia 2030. We hope you will join us to learn more about how you can play a role in developing this new statewide business plan for the Commonwealth.

*Agenda and additional event details coming soon!*

### [CONFIRMED SPEAKERS](#)

**Stephanie Agee**, Vice President of International Trade, Virginia Economic Development Partnership

**Woody Fowler**, President & CEO, Williams Mullen

**Darren Honaker**, Commercial Director, Industrial Systems, TMEIC

**David Klain**, Senior Principal and Vice President, International, Dynamis

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

**Suzanne Suraya**, International Sales Manager, ExploreLearning

**Warren Thompson**, President & Chairman of the Board, Thompson Hospitality Corporation

**Kathy Warden**, Chairman, CEO and President, Northrop Grumman Corporation

**Rufus H. Yerxa**, President, National Foreign Trade Council





## Applications for the 2021 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards are now being accepted

Apply to have your project or program recognized at the highest level in the Commonwealth.

The [Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards](#) recognize successful and innovative efforts that improve Virginia's environment. The awards program is run annually by DEQ in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation. There are four broad categories of awards:

- [Sustainability](#)
- [Environmental Project](#)
- [Land Conservation](#)
- [Implementation of the Virginia Outdoors Plan](#)

The application period will end at 5 p.m. on December 9, 2020. Please reach out to Meghann Quinn at [Meghann.Quinn@DEQ.Virginia.gov](mailto:Meghann.Quinn@DEQ.Virginia.gov) with any questions.

[LEARN MORE](#)



## 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).





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.

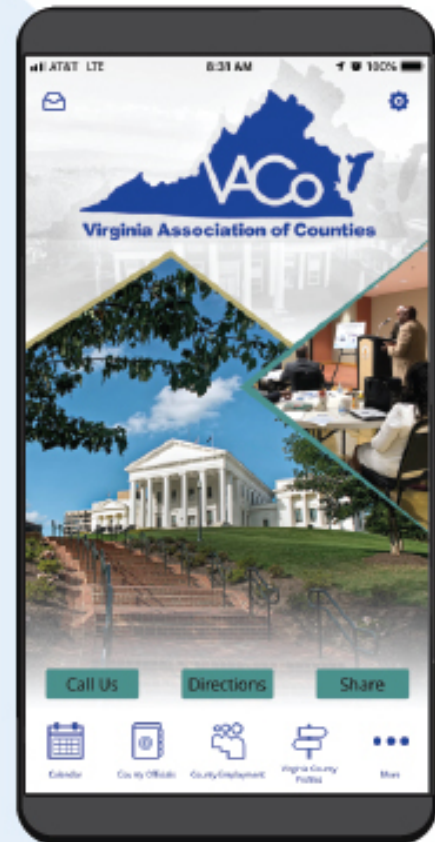
COVIDWISE was created with both public health and public trust in mind. It's easy to use, protects your privacy, and helps secure the health and safety of our communities. No location data or personal information is ever collected, stored, or transmitted via COVIDWISE. In addition, the use of the app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

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



# 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

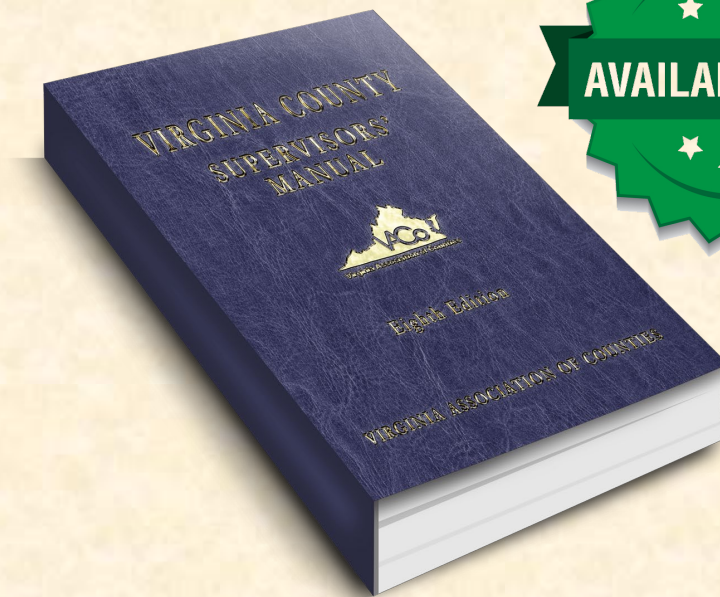
### Downloading the app is easy...

- 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.





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).



**PARKS SUPERVISOR – MAINTENANCE** | Gloucester County  
| Posted November 18



**FINANCE OFFICER** | Patrick County  
| Posted November 17



**EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER** | Hanover County  
| Posted November 17



**TOWN MANAGER** | Town of Bluefield  
| Posted November 17



**DEPUTY REGISTRAR** | Gloucester County  
| Posted November 16



**ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY** | Fauquier County  
| Posted November 16



**AUTOMATION ANALYST** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted November 16



**PLANS EXAMINER** | James City County  
| Posted November 13



**PARK ATTENDANT (SEASONAL)** | James City County  
| Posted November 13



**PERMIT TECHNICIAN** | James City County  
| Posted November 13



**CONVENIENCE CENTER ATTENDANT SOLID WASTE DIVISION PT** | James City County  
| Posted November 13



**CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL** | James City County  
| Posted November 13



**CONVENIENCE CENTER ATTENDANT SOLID WASTE DIVISION TEMP** | James City County  
| Posted November 13



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT PT** | Montgomery County  
| Posted November 13



**TRANSPORTATION MANAGER** | Goochland County  
| Posted November 13



**SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTOR** | Goochland County  
| Posted November 13



**COMBINATION COMMERCIAL INSPECTOR I** | Albemarle County  
| Posted November 13



**COMBINATION RESIDENTIAL INSPECTOR I** | Albemarle County  
| Posted November 13



**FINANCE DIRECTOR** | Carroll County  
| Posted November 13



**UTILITY TECHNICIAN** | Hanover County  
| Posted November 12



**TAX TECHNICIAN I** | Montgomery County  
| Posted November 11



**BUILDING & ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTOR** | Rockingham County  
| Posted November 10



**SENIOR HUMAN RESOURCES ANALYST (COMPENSATION & COMPLIANCE)** | York County  
| Posted November 10





**TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT SPECIALIST II-III** | Montgomery County | Posted November 10



**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS LIAISON** | Arlington County | Posted November 10



**DIRECTOR OF GENERAL PROPERTIES** | Franklin County | Posted November 10



**DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** | Franklin County | Posted November 10



**SUPERVISING REAL ESTATE APPRAISER** | Fairfax County | Posted November 9



**DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE SERVICES** | City of Portsmouth | Posted November 9



**PLANS EXAMINER** | City of Portsmouth | Posted November 9



**COUNTY ASSESSOR** | Montgomery County | Posted November 9



**DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES** | City of Charlottesville | Posted November 9



**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES** | Franklin County | Posted November 9



**PLANNER/GIS TECHNICIAN** | Fluvanna County | Posted November 9



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR** | Surry County | Posted November 6



**PLANNER** | Berkley Group | Posted November 6



**FINANCE DIRECTOR** | Wythe County | Posted November 6



**WASTEWATER OPERATOR TRAINEE** | New Kent County | Posted November 5



**REFUSE SITE ATTENDANT PT** | New Kent County | Posted November 5



**FISCAL PROGRAM MANAGER** | City of Winchester | Posted November 5



**BENEFIT PROGRAMS SUPERVISOR** | City of Winchester | Posted November 5



**CODE INSPECTOR II** | City of Alexandria | Posted November 5



**PLANS EXAMINER II** | City of Alexandria | Posted November 5



**BUYER** | Gloucester County | Posted November 5



**SENIOR BUDGET & PROGRAM ANALYST** | Gloucester County | Posted November 5



**COMBINATION INSPECTOR** | City of Williamsburg | Posted November 4



**FIREFIGHTER/EMT** | Frederick County | Posted November 4



**IT APPLICATIONS ANALYST** | Accomack County | Posted November 4



**IT SERVICE DESK LEAD** | Accomack County | Posted November 4



## 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



President  
**Jeffrey C. McKay**  
Fairfax County



President-Elect  
**Meg Bohmke**  
Stafford County



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



Second Vice President  
**Ann H. Mallek**  
Albemarle County



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



Immediate Past President  
**Stephen W. Bowen**  
Nottoway County

## VACo STAFF

**Executive Director** | Dean A. Lynch, CAE  
**Director of Intergovernmental Affairs** | Jeremy R. Bennett  
**Director of Government Affairs** | Katie Boyle  
**General Counsel** | Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE  
**Director of Communications** | A. Gage Harter  
**Director of Technical Services** | John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA  
**Director of Local Government Policy** | Joe Lerch, AICP  
**Director of Government Relations** | Chris J. McDonald, Esq.  
**Administrative Secretary** | Valerie M. Russell  
**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.

1207 East Main Street | Suite 300  
 Richmond, VA 23219-3627  
 Phone: 804.788.6652 | [www.vaco.org](http://www.vaco.org)

County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

