



## Let's meet in person at the VACo County Officials' Summit

Thursday, August 19, 2021 | [Draft Agenda](#)

It's been a long time since we were all together. But that will change at the VACo County Officials' Summit on August 19 when VACo members will meet in person for the first time in 18 months.

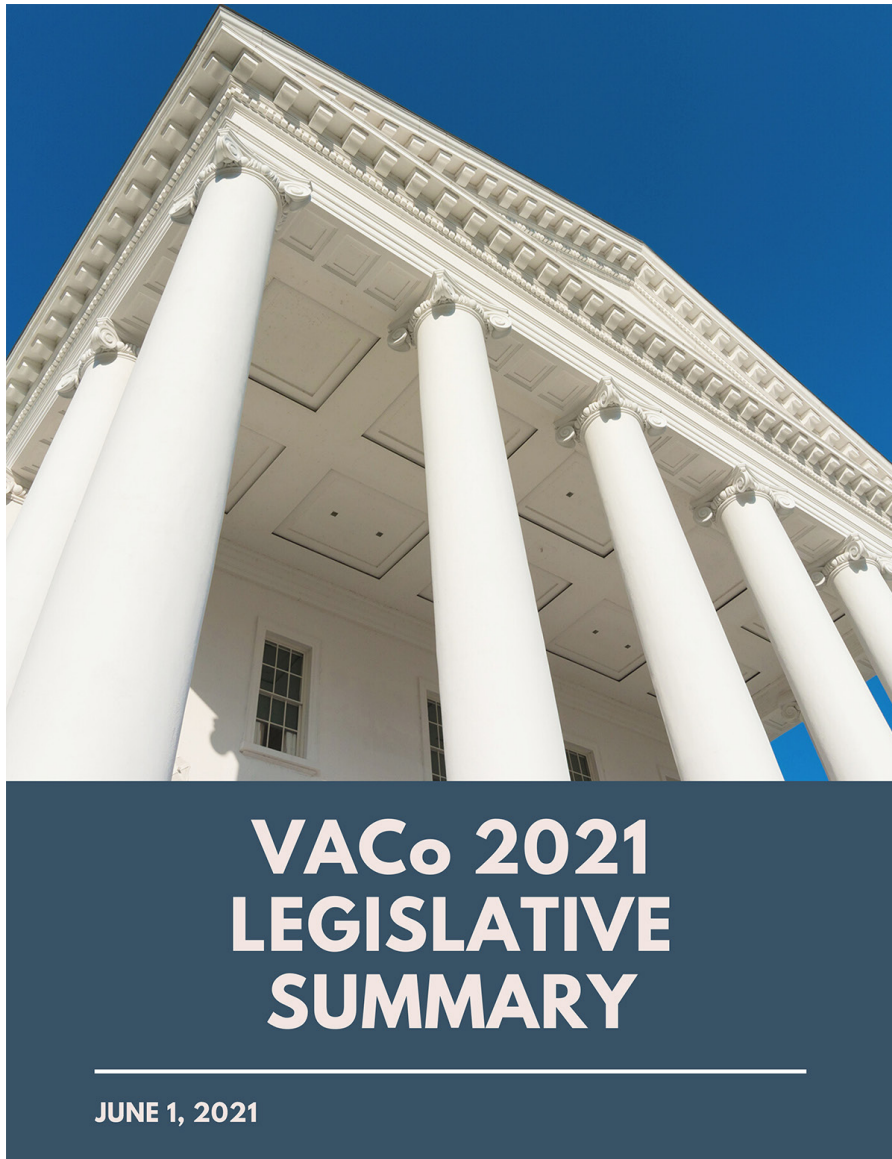
Don't miss this opportunity to see old friends, network with new acquaintances, and feel the energy in the room as you and your peers convene for a one-of-a-kind political discussion.

For the past several years, the VACo County Officials' Summit has brought state and federal election candidates together to talk about the issues facing Virginia and her localities. This year will be no exception. The plan is to hear from candidates for the Commonwealth's highest offices.

Please join us as we talk politics with the candidates on Thursday, August 19, 2021 in Richmond. More details will be released soon. We look forward to a great event.

[Registration Form](#) | [Register Online](#) | [Draft Agenda](#) | [Book Your Hotel Room](#)

# VACo releases 2021 Legislative Summary



The [Legislative Summary](#) details the actions of the 2021 General Assembly as well as other special sessions. It also includes information on legislation of interest to counties.

This edition contains links to bills through the General Assembly's Legislative Information System and includes studies and statistics of importance to counties.

[Read VACo's 2021 Legislative Summary](#)

**VACo Contact:** [Legislative Team](#)

## Wyatt Pearson joins Frederick County as Director of Planning and Development



Wyatt Pearson joined the management team at Frederick County Government as Director of Planning and Development on May 4, 2021.

Mr. Pearson has served the past four years as the Strasburg Town Manager, working closely with the Town Council and citizens to advance community goals. Before being appointed Town Manager in 2017, Wyatt served Strasburg as their Planning and Zoning Administrator.

County Administrator Kris Tierney believes “Wyatt will bring excellent skills and knowledge to an important department within Frederick County Government. We look forward to welcoming him to our team.”

Among his skills and abilities and achievements while with the Town of Strasburg, Mr. Pearson lists:

- Reviewing and analyzing site plans, rezonings, special use permits, and subdivision requests
- Conducting reviews and analyses concerning comprehensive land use law, public facility planning, changes to zoning and subdivision regulations, and growth management
- Participation in the procurement of multiple projects utilizing both Requests for Proposals and Invitations to Bid
- Acquisition and administration of transportation grant funding
- Phases 2 and 3 of the Streetscape project, completion of the Community Development Block Grant Project in downtown, and the completion of the Gateway Trail Project

Mr. Pearson earned a Master's of Urban and Regional Planning and Bachelor's of Environmental Policy and Planning from Virginia Tech. He also holds graduate certificates in Environmental Policy and Geographic Information Systems. Wyatt currently resides in Strasburg with his wife Elle, and their son Heath.

## Body-Worn Camera Workgroup Receives Updates on Grant Awards, Planned Staffing Study

On June 2, the workgroup examining the effect of body-worn cameras on the state's public safety and judicial systems held its first meeting of 2021. This workgroup is an extension of an initial effort conducted by the Compensation Board in 2018, as directed by budget language, to review the effects of the use of the cameras on the workload of Commonwealth's Attorneys. Budget language in 2019 directed the Secretary of Public Safety to convene a larger workgroup to continue to review the issue, and expanded the group's scope to encompass the state's public safety and judicial agencies as a whole. The budget language also directed Commonwealth's Attorneys to collect certain data regarding the amount of body-worn camera footage received from their local law enforcement agencies and time spent redacting these videos. Budget language in 2020 and 2021 continued the workgroup to enable more extensive data collection. The workgroup's report is now due November 15, 2021.

At the June 2 meeting, the workgroup received an update on the new Body Worn Camera Grant Program, which was initially established through an appropriation of \$6.4 million in the state budget during the 2020 Special Session. (Legislation enacted in the 2021 legislative session established the Body-Worn Camera System Fund in statute to assist state or local law enforcement agencies with the costs of purchasing, operating, and maintaining body-worn camera systems.) The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) administers the program, and grants require a 50 percent local match. The Department released its initial solicitation for applications in December 2020, with a final deadline of February 26, 2021. Awards totaling approximately \$1.3 million were made. Tracy Matthews with DCJS noted that the local match was a barrier for some jurisdictions in making use of the funds, especially as the program was created in the middle of the fiscal year.

Robyn de Socio, Executive Secretary of the Compensation Board, reported on the data collection from Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices that is required by the Appropriation Act language. Response rates have dropped from 55 percent of affected offices reporting data to 32 percent. However, additional budget language included in 2021 directs the Compensation Board to contract with the National Center for State Courts to perform a time study of Commonwealth's Attorneys' duties and responsibilities as part of a required examination of Commonwealth's Attorneys' staffing standards. Review of body-worn camera footage will be included in this time study. A report with the results of the study and recommended revisions to staffing standards is due November 1, 2022. This effort is a promising approach to gathering comprehensive data on the workload effects of body-worn cameras and a potential avenue for the state to adjust its support of Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices to reflect prevailing practices instead of basing staffing solely on statutorily-mandated responsibilities. State funding to meet existing Compensation Board staffing standards for Constitutional offices remains a priority for VACo, and budget action in the 2021 Appropriation Act to fund an estimated 25 percent of positions due to Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices was a welcome effort.

The meeting concluded with an overview of body-worn camera technology used by the Newport News Police Department and the evolution of the program over recent years, and an opportunity for stakeholder updates. Representatives of the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys noted that new technology is being explored that expedites attorney review of camera footage by generating a rough transcript of the footage. With respect to the group's next steps, work group members expressed interest in advocating for reappropriation of the unused Body-Worn Camera Grant Program funds for use in a subsequent fiscal year, as well as reducing the required local match. Members also expressed support for the comprehensive time study being conducted by the Compensation Board.





A special and unique part of history is found here at Mabry Mill. Originally built in 1910, the historic water-powered grist mill, sawmill and nearby blacksmith shop provide a view of pioneer life along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Self-guided tours include a sorghum mill, soap making kettle, and an “old time” whiskey still.

Enjoy Mabry Mill Restaurant’s renowned buckwheat cakes, country ham, and Virginia barbeque during your visit to the most famous attraction along the Parkway.

Afterwards, stop by the Gift Shop and pick up your own pack of grits, cornmeal and buckwheat flour to take home for yourself or as a gift.

#### **MAY – OCTOBER**

Restaurant & Gift Shop Hours: Everyday 730am - 6pm

Live bluegrass music every Sunday 1-4pm

**SOURCE:** [VisitFloydVa](http://VisitFloydVa.com)





## Become a Certified Supervisor

The Virginia Association of Counties offers the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program: an opportunity for county supervisors to learn how to more effectively and efficiently lead in their communities.

Since its inception in 2005, more than 80 supervisors representing more than 40 counties have completed this training program, earning credentials as a certified county supervisor. Of greater importance, each supervisor has gained the insight, perspective, and confidence needed to address the challenges and opportunities of the local governance experience.

The Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program features a five-course curriculum, designed to maximize engagement and enhance scholarship. Each course begins with a six-hour topically driven, classroom session, followed by seven weeks of relevant reading assignments and 90-minute virtual sessions to discuss situation-based exercises. The final component of each eight-week course is a concluding six-hour classroom session, which includes a review of the reading and assignment material.

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

**Inventing Your County's Future: The Role of Community Planning**

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

**Opening Session** | May 28  
Location TBA

**Closing Session** | August 6  
Location TBA

**Registration Deadline** | May 10

**Governance in the 21st Century: The Role of Leadership**

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

**Opening Session** | September 10  
Location TBA

**Closing Session** | October 29  
Location TBA

**Registration Deadline** | August 13

# NACo Leadership Training Is Being Used By Two-Thirds Of U.S. Counties

If you are like most county leaders, you are looking for proven succession planning solutions, workforce training that actually works, and professional development opportunities to make existing leaders better and emerging leaders ready. Look no further!

The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy ([www.naco.org/skills](http://www.naco.org/skills)) is now being used for succession planning and workforce training by nearly two-thirds of all counties in the U.S. because of its success. Consider these key performance indicators from administrators who enrolled their county leaders, managers, and supervisors:



The program and its associated results has been described as “Unprecedented!” by county officials, business executives, and academics. This is not too surprising based on feedback like this:

- *“This leadership program is a game changer! It creates in you an appetite to be the best leader you can be. And it leaves you feeling empowered with tools you can implement immediately.”* – **HR Supervisor**
- *“This program provided me with new tools to enable, motivate and retain employees. It has helped me better serve my staff and the public.”* – **Commissioner**
- *“This program has given me the knowledge to be more confident in my ability to lead. It has strengthened the abilities I have and helped point out the things I need to work on. I would highly recommend this course to anyone!”* – **Administrator**
- *“What I found to be invaluable is the shared insight from various exceptional business leaders. The variation of material through videos, lessons and assignments was phenomenal. As a trainer this approach meets the needs of all learners.”* – **Staff Development Specialist**

Nearly 2,000 county leaders have experienced this program just this year. The next start happens in August. Take advantage of available NACo scholarships and join your peers, colleagues, and county leaders in the next NACo High Performance Leadership Academy. Enroll at [www.naco.org/skills](http://www.naco.org/skills).

# Coalition of Small and Rural Schools to Host Virtual Summit on School Infrastructure



The Coalition of Small and Rural Schools of Virginia ([COSARS](#)) is hosting a virtual Summit on School Infrastructure on **June 10, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** As has been reported multiple times by VACo, but most recently in [Episode 3](#) of the VACo County Pulse, many local governments and school divisions across the Commonwealth are struggling with the ever-increasing challenge of financing construction and modernization of K-12 infrastructure.

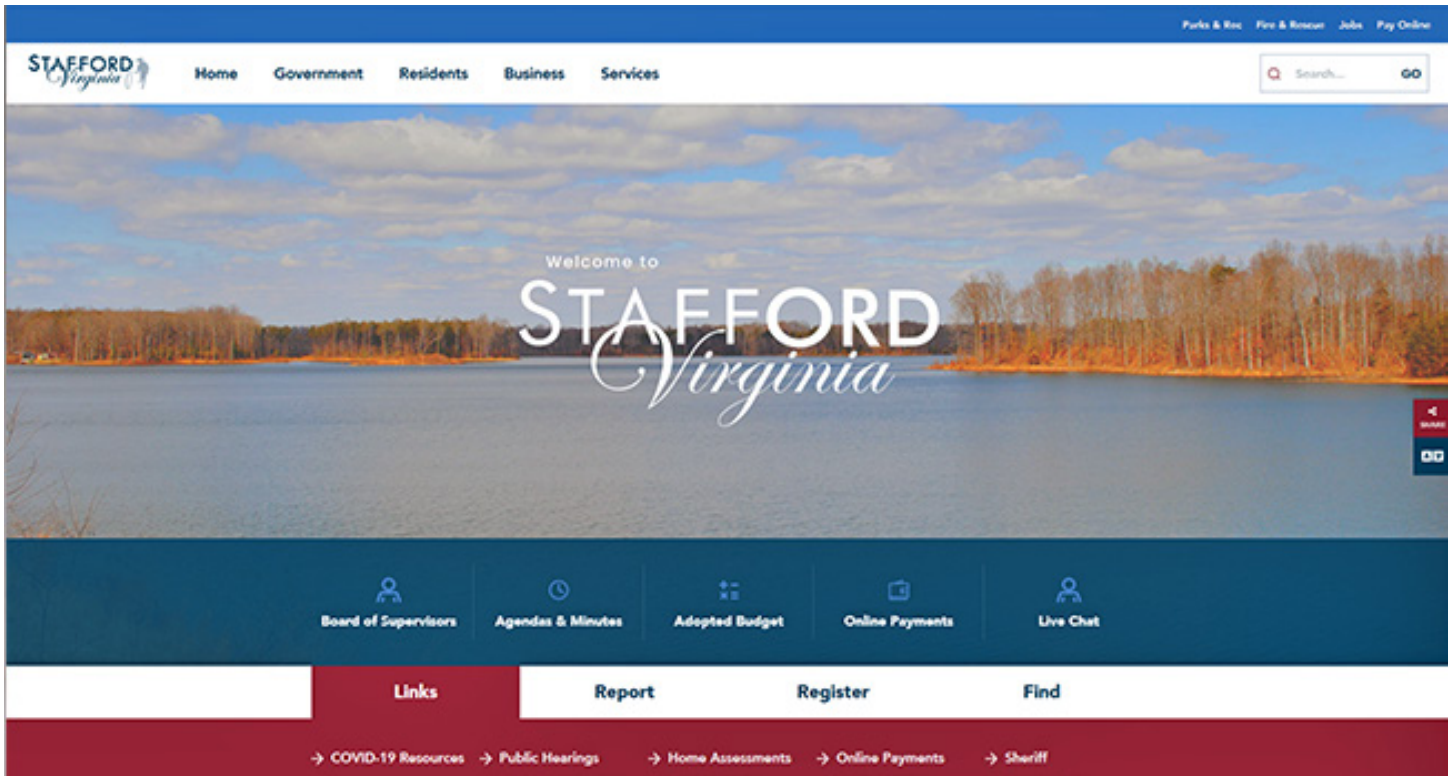
During the course of the day there will be two panel discussions. The first panel will include Members of the General Assembly and will be moderated by Dr. Carol Cash from Virginia Tech. The other panel will include school superintendents who will discuss the impact a new facility has had or could have, on their community. There will also be sessions covering the differences between school facilities in well-resourced and under-resourced localities, the impact of the physical environment on student learning, and how COVID-19 relief funds can be used to address these issues. A brochure with a full agenda may be viewed [here](#). Interested individuals or teams may register for the June 10 event [here](#).

VACo appreciates the attention of the Coalition of Small and Rural Schools of Virginia to this issue and looks forward to working with them and other K-12 education stakeholders to advocate for action by the General Assembly to provide additional state resources and local authority to local governments to ensure that we have the tools needed to provide modern and safe learning environments for students across the Commonwealth.

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



# Stafford County to Launch New, More Accessible County Website



Stafford County will officially launch its new website on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. Designed to be more accessible and responsive across diverse platforms, a team that includes more than 20 departments, offices, and agencies across Stafford worked together to complete the user-driven and information-focused redesign.

The site domain name will remain the same – [www.staffordcountyva.gov](http://www.staffordcountyva.gov).

The website implements an array of accessibility features to ensure that the site is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The new site goes beyond standard compliance and includes options such as changing fonts, text spacing, contrast and cursor sizing – all features designed to address the needs of individuals with a spectrum of differing abilities. The new website will feature a comprehensive user-experience tool that monitors and automates accessibility, quality assurance, data privacy and performance.

Responsiveness across devices is vital when website visitors come to the site from various platforms, whether on a desktop, tablet or mobile device. Stafford's new site has a mobile-first design and should make the mobile user experience much more fluid.

The County will also welcome newly designed websites for our Parks and Recreation Department and the Fire and Rescue Department. These sites will also include the various features described above to ensure that our community can access information efficiently and when they most need it.

The County took this opportunity to redesign the website as the pandemic demonstrated the need was there. While there were plans to redesign, the County applied monies granted from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

Stafford County anticipates the launch of these three new experiences for the public and believes it will be an accommodating and navigable resource for all.

## Virginia Department of Transportation Asks for County Input on Orphan Drainage Outfalls Survey



The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) seeks input from county governments to evaluate the scope of drainage outfalls without an assigned maintenance entity across the Commonwealth. These unassigned drainage systems, known colloquially as “orphaned outfalls,” may accumulate years of neglect and lack of maintenance. This type of unmaintained water drainage system can lead to severe erosion problems for some property owners directly impacted by them.

As previously [reported](#), budget language from 2020 requested by VACo directs VDOT to evaluate the scope of drainage outfalls and recommend to the General Assembly cost-effective solutions and means in which to fund them. VACo has offered to facilitate this process and needs county government’s help to clarify the scope of the problem and identify funding and policy solutions by answering a short survey VDOT has prepared in consultation with VACo. This [survey](#) was sent electronically to County Administrators and responses are due by June 11.

Once completed, information from the survey will be used to help compile a final report on the issue. The full text of the interim report which details this workplan may be viewed [here](#). Questions about this survey should be directed to Chris Swanson at [chris.swanson@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:chris.swanson@vdot.virginia.gov). More information on drainage on Virginia’s roads can be found [here](#).

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

## Regions 4 and 10 Kick Off 2021 Regional Meeting Season



Counties in VACo Regions 4 and 10 opened the 2021 series of regional meetings with a robust discussion of successes, challenges, and opportunities. VACo is grateful to Senator Frank Ruff for participating in the meeting and sharing his reflections on the 2021 General Assembly and his predictions for a planned special session later this summer. Senator Ruff discussed his concerns about pressures on local budgets and thoughts about potential uses for the federal funds that Virginia will receive through the American Rescue Plan Act, such as certain capital infrastructure projects.

As the United States Treasury had released its Interim Final Rule with guidance on uses of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in the American Rescue Plan Act the day before the meeting, planned uses of the funds and the process for making decisions about the funding were timely topics of conversation. Attendees discussed their plans for weighing potential uses for the funds, to include the use of internal committees to vet ideas, and their initial ideas for uses of the funds to meet local needs, including emergency medical services needs and broadband access.

Evan Feinman, Governor Northam's Chief Broadband Advisor, provided an update on recent infusions of state funding into the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative and his office's ability to offer technical support to local governments with broadband projects. He also discussed the additional federal funding for broadband in the American Rescue Plan Act; in addition to the state's Fiscal Recovery Funds, a separate funding allocation for capital projects is expected to provide an estimated \$220 million to Virginia that can be used for broadband projects. Mr. Feinman encouraged counties that may want to use their local Fiscal Recovery Funds for broadband projects to coordinate with the state, as there may be opportunities to work in partnership to maximize these dollars. Further details about the state's plans for these federal funds will be forthcoming.

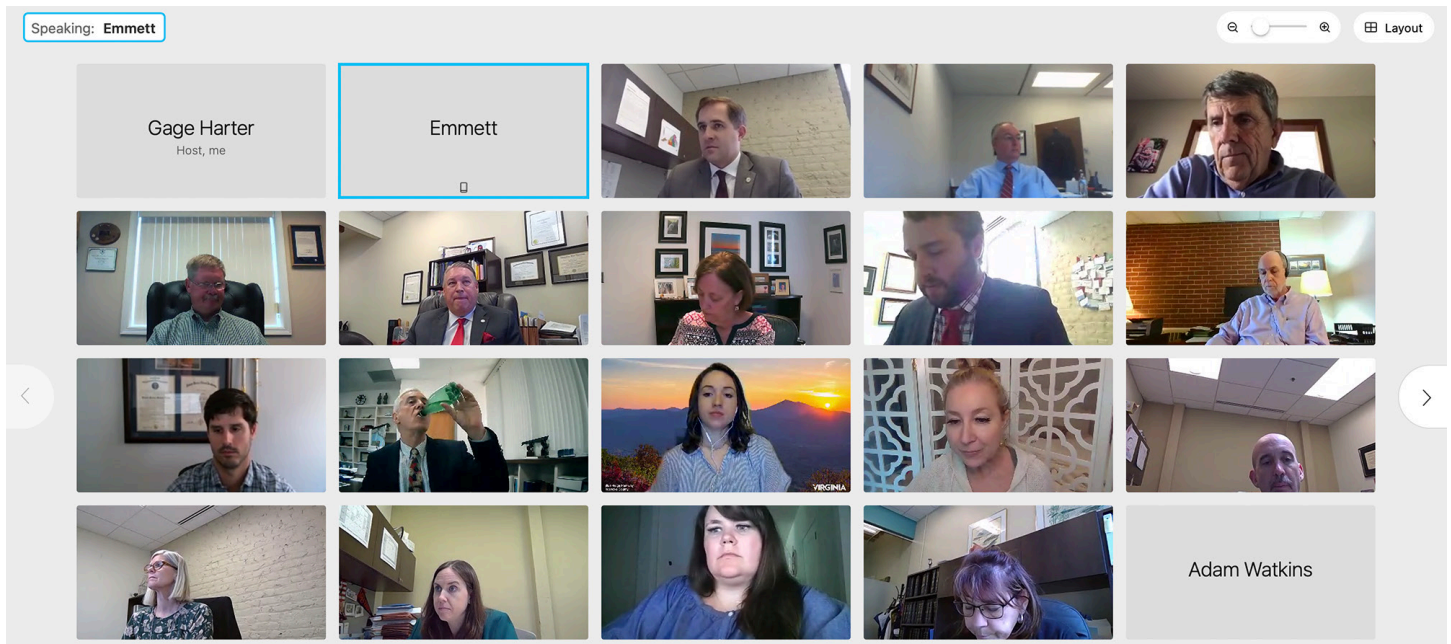
Attendees concluded the meeting by participating in a roundtable discussion about top issues in each county. The need for broadband access and economic development were common themes; among other issues, participants also cited school capital improvements, transportation, and the Children's Services Act as areas of priority interest. Several county representatives discussed taxation and land use-related issues surrounding the installation of large-scale solar projects.

VACo appreciates the participation of members, legislators, special guest speakers, and sponsors in the meeting.

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



## Regions 9 and 11 Meet to Share Priority Issues



Counties in VACo Regions 9 and 11 held a virtual meeting on May 25 to share priority issues, discuss potential opportunities in the upcoming special session, and receive a briefing on economic competitiveness in the region. VACo extends its appreciation to Senator Emmett Hanger, Delegate Tony Wilt, Delegate Ronnie Campbell, and Delegate Chris Runion for their participation in the event. The legislators reflected on the 2021 General Assembly and provided a preview of the expected special session this summer. Senator Hanger pointed out that the state budget is in a far better posture than expected last spring, allowing legislators to restore some spending items that had been unallotted, or frozen, last April, and enabling additional deposits to the state's reserves. Senator Hanger also discussed the importance of counties communicating their wishes as the state makes decisions about use of the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act; he noted that focusing on one-time expenditures, such as wastewater improvements, would be preferable, a view that Delegate Wilt echoed in cautioning against overreliance on federal support in developing future state budgets. A question regarding the proliferation of large-scale solar installations generated a robust discussion among the legislators, with Delegate Campbell suggesting that he was concerned about government picking winners and losers among energy sources and Delegate Runion pointing out the importance of preserving agricultural land.

Attendees held a roundtable discussion regarding top issues in each county. School funding for staffing as well as capital needs and the importance of broadband for economic development were highlighted by several participants. Several county representatives also spoke to the need for more realistic reimbursement for the costs of housing state-responsible inmates in local and regional jails, as well as the need for state support for Constitutional offices that is a more accurate reflection of staffing needs in these offices. Transportation needs and the importance of preserving local land use authority were also areas of interest among participants.

VACo was pleased to be joined by representatives from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, who provided an overview of the Local and Regional Competitiveness Initiative. Adam Watkins, Manager, and Emily Fay, Senior Analyst, explained that this project began in 2020 with a self-assessment, which was used to develop benchmarked results documenting regional strengths and potential opportunities to enhance competitiveness. Strengths identified in Regions 9 and 11 included entrepreneurship and infrastructure, and opportunities included attracting new businesses as well as finding ways to retain existing businesses and to help these businesses expand.

VACo is grateful to our members, legislators, sponsors, and VEDP guests for a productive and informative meeting. Regional meetings assist VACo staff by informing our steering committee discussions and advocacy efforts.

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



## FY22 Virginia Statewide Business District Resurgence Grant Fund: How-to-Apply Webinar



During the month of June, Virginia DHCD will host a how-to-apply webinar for the new **FY2022 Virginia Statewide Business District Resurgence Grant Fund**, which seeks to advance and accelerate the post-pandemic recovery of Virginia's business and commercial districts. Specifically, these funds will support historically economically disadvantaged communities and other business districts that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Through expanding organizational and business support grants, funding is envisioned to provide a more inclusive framework for community-driven, comprehensive revitalization and vitality. Learn more about the webinar and grant program below!

The objectives of the grant funds will be to:

- Provide grants that serve small, women-owned, minority-owned, and immigrant-owned businesses within a targeted business district;
- Provide grants for consultant services, technical assistance and training opportunities for entrepreneurs and small business owners;
- Provide grants for consultant services, technical assistance and training opportunities for commercial and mixed-use building owners, and aspiring small-scale real estate developers;
- Offer capacity building technical services to create and strengthen local networks and organizations supporting community and economic development in targeted business districts; and
- Create local or regional e-commerce platform for micro, small and sole proprietorship businesses that are producing, creating and making products in Virginia.

Click [here](#) to check out the program one-pager for additional information!

The how-to-apply webinar will be held on June 15, 2021, and interested applicants can register to attend and learn more about eligibility, application submission requirements, grant selection and more specific program information!

**REGISTER HERE**

# VIG Training for Local Governments

*conducted by the UVA Institute for Engagement & Negotiation (IEN)*

## Collaborative Leadership for Success

**Tuesday, July 13 & Thursday, July 15, 10–11:30 am**

\$100 VIG members, \$150 non-members; \$50 discount available if you register for both

Leadership is not something you're born to do, nor is it a black box of mysterious qualities. In today's world, successful organizations from local governments to high-powered businesses are using the principles of collaborative leadership to create more effective high-performing teams which increases your organization's ability to generate more effective solutions to complex issues and work across organizational and political boundaries. In this short training, you will:

- Explore the eight Collaborative Leadership competencies, and how you might integrate these into your local government or organizational processes
- Learn how to use consensus, not for decision-making but as a powerful tool for building understanding and collaborative leadership
- Gain insight into the role of Emotional Intelligence in your organization's success
- Come away with strategies to foster collaborative leadership in your organization

## Conflict Management Skills

**Tuesday, July 20 & Thursday, July 22, 10–11:30 am**

\$100 VIG members, \$150 non-members; \$50 discount available if you register for both

Conflict is all around us, every day. Whether the conflict is personal or professional, how we manage conflict often determines our well-being, levels of anxiety, levels of satisfaction, our ability to help shape creative solutions, and so much more. In this short training, you will:

- Gain skills in how to listen effectively to reduce conflict
- Learn how to navigate the five conflict-management styles to maximize success while gaining insight into your own conflict-management styles
- Learn the five strategies to effective conflict management
- Come away with strategies to better manage the every-day conflicts in your life

**Questions?** Contact VIG training coordinator Mike Scheid, [mike.scheid@virginia.edu](mailto:mike.scheid@virginia.edu) or 804.371.0202

<https://commerce.coopercenter.org/ccps/login.php>

## Survey Assistance Needed for Community Black Bear Project Funding

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and Clemson University invite you to [take a quick survey](#) regarding Virginia's BearWise Cost-Share Program. Whether your community has received funding from this program or not, your perspective on this program and human-bear interactions in your locality can greatly help improve DWR's assistance to your community.

To learn more about the program and help assist its future applications, please take the survey [HERE](#). The American black bear population has made a remarkable recovery across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Black bears presently occur in 92 of Virginia's 95 counties. This can pose challenges for the public in learning to coexist with their new neighbors.

Local governments can help residents reduce or mitigate human-bear interactions in many ways. For instance, each year, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) allocates funding to assist towns, cities, and counties of the Commonwealth to reduce human-black bear conflicts. Proposed projects aim to secure or remove food sources, such as garbage, with equipment maintained in working order by the applicant for a specified time period. This non-grant funding is made available as a cost-share; all applicants are required to contribute financially, in-kind, or in combination, for a 30% match of the project cost.

For more information on the BearWise Community Cost-Share Program, please visit [DWR's BearWise website](#).

If you have any questions about this survey or the BearWise Program, please contact DWR's Seth Thompson at [seth.thompson@dwr.virginia.gov](mailto:seth.thompson@dwr.virginia.gov).

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





# REMINDER - Webinar on Broadband Funding



Through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Virginia localities will receive an estimated \$1.6 billion in federal funding. Uses for this flexible funding include investments in broadband infrastructure. VACo has heard from many counties who are interested in using these funds to expedite universal broadband coverage in unserved communities – both in rural and urban settings. Therefore, the Virginia Local Broadband Network (VLBN), in partnership with the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo), the Virginia Municipal League (VML), and the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) will be hosting a webinar to discuss this funding and broadband. There will be two opportunities to participate - **June 9 at 11am and again at 4pm**. If you or members of your team would like to attend, please [register here](#).





## You're Invited: DRPT's Statewide Rail Plan Survey and Public Meeting

### We need your feedback

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation invites you to participate in a survey to share your comments on the future of rail in the Commonwealth. Your feedback is important in helping our team develop Statewide Rail Plan (SRP) projects, policies, and initiatives that will guide future growth and development in Virginia. [Click here](#) to provide your feedback on the SRP.

We encourage you to share this [survey link](#) with your colleagues and distribution lists. The survey will be available until June 13, 2021.

### Virtual Public Meeting

We would also like to invite you to view a pre-recorded public meeting on the [SRP project website](#) now through June 13, to learn about the Statewide Rail Plan initiatives and to provide your feedback.

For any Plan-related questions, please feel free to reach out to Nick Ruiz at [nick.ruiz@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:nick.ruiz@drpt.virginia.gov)

- [DRPT\\_SRP\\_PublicMeetingEmail\\_20210519.pdf](#)



# Welcome to the VACo County Pulse Legislative Series

## *Episode 5 - Marcus Alert*

VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch speaks with VACo Director of Government Affairs Katie Boyle about the Marcus Alert legislation.

The Marcus Alert was created by legislation passed in the 2020 Special Session. Its overall goal is to ensure that an individual experiencing a behavioral health crisis receives a response from the behavioral health system, to the extent possible, and that when a law enforcement response is necessary, the response is specialized and informed by additional training on how to handle these situations safely.

[Watch the VACo Pulse.](#)



## Vlog: 8 cashvest® Benefits for Your Entity

As your entity prepares to receive ARP funding, cashvest® continues to be a resource for our public sector and higher-ed partners. As a comprehensive fin-tech platform, cashvest® provides several specific benefits.

[Watch the VLOG.](#)



# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

## American Rescue Plan Act

### Featured Events



### Featured Resources



## American Rescue Plan Act

### GENERAL RESOURCES

- American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 – [Full Text of Bill from Congress.Gov](#)
- VACo Overview – [American Rescue Plan Act Enacted; Legislation Expected to Provide Significant Resources to Virginia Counties](#)

### RESOURCES ON CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

- NACo Overview – [State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds](#)
- Questions posed by NACo to U.S. Treasury Regarding State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds – [NACo Letter to White House Treasury on Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund](#)
- Questions posed by Government Finance Officers Association, National Association of State Treasurers, National Association of State Budget Officers, and National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers – [Click here for the questions](#)

### RESOURCES ON OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING IN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

- American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund
  - The National Association of Counties (NACo) has provided a [very helpful dashboard](#) that is

# VACo's American Rescue Plan Act Toolkit

The recently-enacted American Rescue Plan Act contains significant resources for Virginia counties. VACo has launched a page on its website to serve as a resource hub for implementation of the new law, including analyses of the legislation and questions submitted to the Department of the Treasury regarding the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, as well as information on other sources of funding in the Act. VACo will continue to share additional information, such as Treasury guidance, on this page as it becomes available.

The toolkit may be found at [American Rescue Plan Act - Virginia Association of Counties \(vaco.org\)](https://www.vaco.org/american-rescue-plan-act).

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





With the release of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) funds, local governments have the opportunity to address the economic fallout and unequal impact of COVID-19. This is an incredible opportunity to increase trust in local government and tell your community's story of recovery. The Berkley Group can help your community develop a roadmap to maximize return on investment and take the pressure off of managing all aspects of the funds and projects by offering the following services:

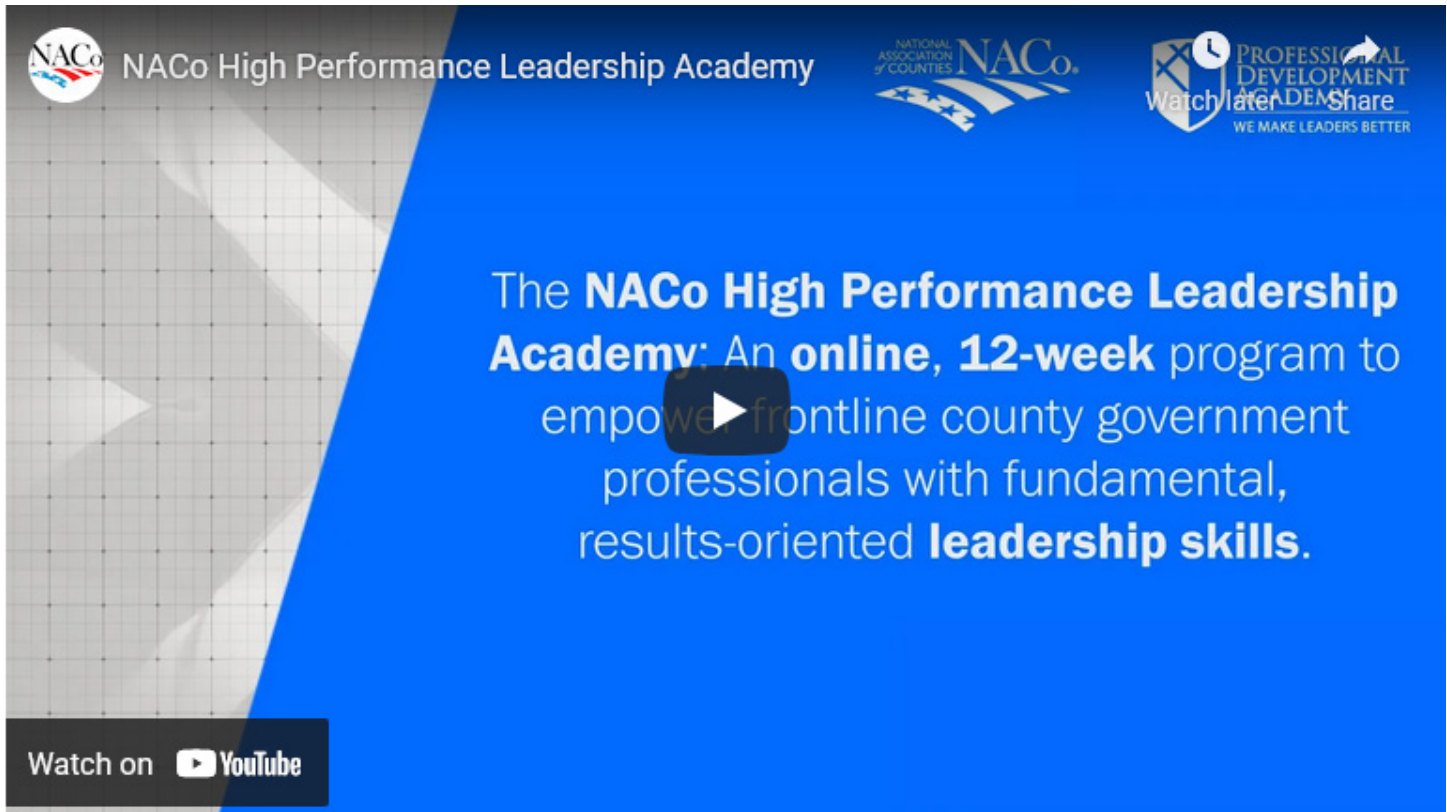
- Community Engagement;
- Strategic Planning;
- Capital Improvement Planning;
- Project Management; and
- Program Administration.

Take this time to reimagine your community - building a strong and socially equitable foundation for the future.



**Darren K. Coffey, AICP** | Director of Strategic Partnerships  
434-981-2026 | [www.bgllc.net](http://www.bgllc.net)

# Acknowledging Virginia Graduates from the NACo Leadership Academy



Forty-nine (49) Virginia county staff members participated in the NACo Leadership Academy, a 12-week online program that empowers front-line county government employees with fundamental leadership skills. Across the country, 812 county employees participated.

Virginia County staff to complete the Academy are:

- **Trevor Henry**, Assistant County Executive, Albemarle County
- **David Puckett**, Deputy Fire Chief, Albemarle County
- **Mary Stebbins**, Social Services Deputy Director, Albemarle County
- **Angela Rice**, Family Services Supervisor, Alleghany County
- **Bettie McCulley**, Administrative Services Manager, Alleghany County
- **Dawn Riddle**, Director, Alleghany County
- **Ricky Baldwin**, Lieutenant, Bedford County
- **Stephen Anders**, Sergeant, Bedford County
- **Sonny Daniels**, Lieutenant, Bedford County
- **Alfreda Jarrett Reynolds**, Economic Development, Brunswick County
- **Chandra Vaughan**, Solid Waste Director, Brunswick County
- **Leslie Weddington**, Assistant County Administrator, Brunswick County

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- **Michael Blum**, Systems Engineer, Campbell County
- **Jonathan Pingilley**, Network & Systems Administrator, Campbell County
- **Tomeka Smith**, Director of Finance, Caroline County
- **Laura Loveday**, Comprehensive Planner-Development, Culpeper County
- **Heather Hostinsky**, Office Manager-Building & Zoning, Essex County
- **Alexander Taylor**, IT Specialist, Essex County
- **Sidney Johnson**, Supervisor, Essex County
- **Gary Rzepecki**, Parks and Recreation Director, Fauquier County
- **Kelly Belanger Harris**, Assistant County Administrator, Fluvanna County
- **Brandy Rosser**, General Services Director, Franklin County
- **Cora Gnegy**, Tourism Marketing Director, Giles County
- **David Gottschamer**, IT Department, Grayson County
- **James Frydl**, Director of Planning & Zoning, Greene County
- **Mark Taylor**, County Administrator, Greene County
- **James Howard**, Social Services Director, Greene County
- **Gary Cifers**, Acting County Administrator, Greensville County
- **Meagan Doggett**, Management Team-Commissioner of Revenue, Isle of Wright County
- **Jason Purse**, Assistant County Administrator, James City County
- **Rebecca Vinroot**, Social Services Director, James City County
- **Ryan Ashe**, Chief, Fire Department, James City County
- **Stephanie Burton**, Train/Development Coordinator, James County
- **Betty Dougherty**, Social Services Director, King & Queen County
- **Betty Stevens**, Accounts Administrator, Lancaster County
- **Mike Turner**, Ashburn District Supervisor, Loudoun County
- **Lauren Eanes**, Registrar, Madison County
- **Jason Frye**, EMS Captain, Northampton County
- **Sheila DeYoung**, EMS Division Chief, Northampton County
- **M. Terri Christman**, EMS Division Chief, Northampton County
- **Bret Schardein**, Deputy County Administrator, Powhatan County
- **Joshua Lee**, Assistant Director-Area Agency on Aging, Prince William County
- **Anthony Toigo**, Constituent and Legislative Affairs Officer, Stafford County
- **Kelly Moore**, Director of Finance, Sussex County
- **Gage Harter**, Director of Communications, Virginia Association of Counties
- **Jodi Saffelle**, Human Resources Manager, Warren County
- **Mike Berry**, Public Works Director, Warren County
- **Laura Taylor**, Director of Business and Finance, Wise County
- **Pascal Baumeler**, Chief of IT Infrastructure, York County

Congratulations to all of these individuals who completed the program. To learn more about the Academy, [visit the NACo website here.](#)



**End To End Computing (EEC)**  
a vetted GSA HACS approved contract holder  
has developed ...

# A Tailored Cybersecurity Program for VACo members



Carlton Harris CTO of EEC will join Dean Lynch Executive Director of VACo in this month's premier partner spotlight to discuss how VACo members can take advantage of our tailored cybersecurity program to make cybersecurity services more accessible. This program will feature:

**01**

## Cyber Hygiene Assessment

A complementary cyber hygiene assessment program for members to identify gaps in their cybersecurity program and strategize methods for closing those gaps.

**02**

## Informative Training

A series of joint training sessions scheduled throughout the year to registered members. Sessions will also include training collateral for combating common threats and best practices.

**03**

## Special Membership Pricing

A catalog of discounted pricing to VACo members.  
(Ability to leverage GSA schedule for ease of procurement.)



Carlton Harris CTO of EEC

**View this VACo  
Premier Partner  
Spotlight Video**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnmFDYIHKol>



[www.eecomputing.com/events](http://www.eecomputing.com/events)



[www.eecomputing.com](http://www.eecomputing.com)

[info@eecomputing.com](mailto:info@eecomputing.com)

833-720-7770



IT'S ALMOST TIME TO HIT THE  
VIRTUAL ROAD FOR THE...

# VACo 2021 REGIONAL MEETINGS

REGIONS 4&10 – MAY 11

REGIONS 9&11 – MAY 25

REGIONS 3&5 – JUNE 8

REGIONS 1&2 – JUNE 29

REGIONS 6,7&8 – AUGUST 3





## Enter the 2021 VACo Achievement Awards

Dear VACo Members –

It's time for the 2021 Achievement Awards Program. Any county department is eligible to compete so ENTER NOW!

[Achievement Awards Submission Form](#)

All entries are required to be submitted in electronic form. No paper copy submissions are necessary. The electronic copy should be a PDF or WORD file. Email entries to Gage Harter at [gcharter@vaco.org](mailto:gcharter@vaco.org).

Submissions must be received by July 1, 2021.

Last year, we processed 76 entries and selected 21 winners from 14 Counties. VACo presented awards at 14 Board of Supervisors Meetings, recognized winners at the virtual Annual Conference, and issued a news release to statewide media.

The judges for the 2021 Achievement Awards will be announced soon.

VACo has received more than 800 entries over the past decade. Last year's Best Achievement winner was Prince William County for its "Human Rights Student Leadership Council" program.

VACo encourages all Counties, big and small, to enter the 2021 Achievement Awards Program. Please contact [gcharter@vaco.org](mailto:gcharter@vaco.org) with questions or for more information.

[Achievement Awards Submission Form](#) | [Achievement Awards Website](#) | [2020 Achievement Awards Press Release](#) | [Browse all of the 2020 Entries](#) | [Past Achievement Award Winners](#) | [Past Judges](#)





## REGISTER TODAY FOR THE 2021 NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL | JULY 9-12 | PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md.*

Please join county elected and appointed officials from across the country in Prince George's County, Maryland for the [National Association of Counties \(NACo\) 2021 Annual Conference & Exposition](#). Network, learn and connect through in-person and virtual attendance options and thoughtfully designed events.

**The Annual Conference is the premier national opportunity for counties to exchange cutting-edge practices, elect the association's leadership and shape NACo's federal policy agenda for the year ahead.**

**REGISTER TODAY**

**VIEW SCHEDULE\***

*\* Due to evolving public health circumstances, **the conference schedule is tentative and subject to change** based on expected conference attendance, capacity considerations and public health protocols.*

## REBOOTING EDUCATION WITH FURNITURE AND SANITATION

It's 2021 and schools are faced with the complex task of getting students, faculty, and staff back into classrooms safely. This task will require a variety of well thought out plans. Plans that address the logistics and scheduling of a greater number of smaller class sizes and plans that support keeping those spaces clean. With extensive experience, The Supply Room can help ease the stress of designing and executing these plans.

### FURNITURE



Desk and table shields with mobile and multi-functional furniture is one key factor in making spaces both safe and flexible. Creative plans will include scenarios for how and when to turn a gymnasium, cafeteria, or common area into a classroom and back in minutes. Flip-top tables can be nested and moved aside quickly when not in use. These tables and shields can also create health checkpoints, sanitation stations, and help direct the flow of traffic at building entrances and in common areas. This combined with clear and consistent signage will ensure students and faculty have the time and space to keep safe.

### SANITATION

Knowing the difference between cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing and when to do each is the second key to developing your plan. To start, what is the difference?

- **Cleaning:** removes visible dirt, soil and debris – it does not disinfect.
- **Disinfecting:** eliminates bacteria, fungi and certain viruses – it does not remove dirt.
- **Sanitizing:** reduces the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements – it does not fully eliminate them.



Sanitizing and disinfecting products also vary in their dwell time (the length of time that a chemical must be in contact with the surface and remain wet, in order to achieve the product's advertised kill rate.) Dwell times can range from a matter of seconds to 10 minutes. Our janitorial and sanitation experts are here to help recommend the best products for your space and put your plan in place.



While the situation with the pandemic is rapidly evolving in every direction, it is important that the solutions you create are adaptable and resilient. Designing a creative plan to keep your faculty and students safe with the ability to flex will help reduce infection and create a stable learning environment. Let's start a conversation – visit our website or call to get help with your plans and implementation today.

# 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).



**DIVISION DIRECTOR – SOLID WASTE** | Spotsylvania County | Posted June 4



**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE INSPECTOR (I, II, III)** | City of Alexandria | Posted June 3



**DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE** | Rockingham County | Posted June 1



**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER** | City of Fredericksburg | Posted June 1



**SENIOR PLANNER** | Chesterfield County | Posted June 1



**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR** | King William County | Posted May 28



**WASTEWATER OPERATOR/MAINTENANCE** | Northumberland County | Posted May 28



**PARKS AND FACILITIES SUPERVISOR** | New Kent County | Posted May 28



**GROUNDS/MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN** | New Kent County | Posted May 28



**BUILDING INSPECTOR/ASST. BUILDING OFFICIAL** | Lancaster County | Posted May 28



**APPLICATION DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR** | City of Roanoke | Posted May 27



**BUDGET ANALYST** | Henrico County | Posted May 27



**PC TECHNICIAN** | Warren County | Posted May 27



**GRANTS & SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR (PT)** | Warren County | Posted May 27



**SYSTEMS LEAD TECHNICIAN** | Warren County | Posted May 27



**ZONING OFFICER** | Warren County | Posted May 27



**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION** | City of Harrisonburg | Posted May 27



**PLANNER** | Hanover County | Posted May 26



**MANAGER III, SOCIAL SERVICES CASE MANAGEMENT** | Prince George County | Posted May 26



**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR** | Virginia Department of Social Services | Posted May 26



## REAL ESTATE

**ASSESSOR** | City of Falls Church  
| Posted May 26



## ASSISTANT

**DIRECTOR - TOURISM** | City of  
Fredericksburg | Posted May 26



## PURCHASING

**MANAGER** | Montgomery  
County | Posted May 26



## PERMIT

**TECHNICIAN** | Frederick  
County | Posted May 25



## PROJECT

**ADMINISTRATOR I** | Western  
Virginia Water Authority  
| Posted May 25



## PROJECT MANAGER

Western Virginia Water  
Authority | Posted May 25



## TOWN MANAGER

Town of Bowling Green  
| Posted May 25



## FAMILY SERVICES

**SPECIALIST - SENIOR** |  
Montgomery County | Posted  
May 25



## FAMILY SERVICES

**SPECIALIST** | Montgomery  
County | Posted May 25



## SENIOR PLANNER

**- PLANNING TRENDS & DATA  
SPECIALIST** | Chesterfield  
County | Posted May 24



## WATER

**ELECTRICAL CONTROL  
SPECIALIST (JOURNEYMAN  
ELECTRICIAN)** | Chesterfield  
County | Posted May 24



## ECONOMIC

**DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST** |  
Amelia County | Posted May 24



## WATER TREATMENT

**PLANT OPERATOR OR  
TRAINEE** | Gloucester County  
| Posted May 24



## BROADBAND

**ANALYST** | Albemarle County  
| Posted May 24



## DIRECTOR OF

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** |  
Albemarle County | Posted May  
24



## HUMAN RESOURCES

**TECHNICIAN** | Amelia County  
| Posted May 24



## LEGAL ASSISTANT

Montgomery County | Posted  
May 21



## DEPUTY COURT

**CLERK** | Montgomery County  
| Posted May 21



## CLERK TO

**THE BOARD/EXECUTIVE  
ASSISTANT** | Gates County, NC  
| Posted May 21



## EMERGENCY

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR** |  
Gates County, NC | Posted May  
21



## COUNTY ENGINEER

Bedford County | Posted May 21



**DIRECTOR OF HUMAN  
RESOURCES** | Albemarle  
County | Posted May 21



## 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

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**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.

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County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

