

Governor Northam Announces General Assembly to Convene August 2 for a Special Session Addressing the State Budget and Allocation of Federal Funding



On June 23, Governor Ralph Northam issued a [proclamation](#) summoning the members of the General Assembly to convene for a Special Session beginning on August 2. The purpose of this special session will be to appoint judges and address budgetary matters, including the appropriation of federal relief funds. This will be the third Special Session of the General Assembly to take place during the 2020-2022 biennium.

In May, Governor Northam and Democratic leaders in the General Assembly released a [statement](#) outlining their legislative priorities for the session, which included a declaration of intent to allocate much of the state's \$4.3 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds towards five specific needs: fully deploying broadband across the Commonwealth; upgrading state and local public health services; helping small businesses by fully funding the Rebuild Virginia grant program and other economic development programs; shoring up the solvency of the Unemployment Trust Fund; and rehabilitating and upgrading public school buildings throughout Virginia.

Prior to the announcement of the Special Session date, VACo sent a [letter](#) to the Governor and Chairs of the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee outlining our priorities. These overlap with several of the intentions from the May statement such as broadband and school modernization, but also include dedicated funding for wastewater and stormwater improvements as well as for costs associated with the expansion of COVID-19 workers' compensation presumptions for certain employees. More information on this last point can be found in a [letter](#) VACo sent in May to the Governor and Chairs of the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee.

VACo will continue to engage with the Administration and General Assembly on these issues and looks forward to a productive conversation on the best use of state and federal funds to help Virginia continue to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and make long-term investments in the future of the Commonwealth.

VACo Contacts: [VACo Legislative Team](#)

Capitol Contact ALERT!

Confusion Over the Ability of Public Employers to Offer Comp Time to Employees

ACTION: Contact House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Members to Support Clarifying Budget Language in the Special Session

[HB 2063 \(Mullin\)](#) as enacted during the 2021 Special Session I by the General Assembly requires an employer to compensate certain employees at a rate not less than one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay, defined in the bill, for any hours worked in excess of 40 hours in any one workweek. The bill includes provisions for calculating overtime premiums due to fire protection and law-enforcement employees by certain public sector employers. Confusion over this bill will likely require action by the General Assembly during the upcoming summer special session.

When this bill was heard by the General Assembly, it was consistently presented by the patron as merely conforming Virginia Code with the existing provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to allow workers to pursue overtime claims against their employers in state court, as opposed to having to go through the time and expense of seeking restitution in federal court. The legislation had no major fiscal impact.

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) published FAQ's ([#11](#)) post-session that interpret the bill to eliminate the long standing FLSA provision that allows state and local public employers the flexibility to provide "comp time" to employees as compensation for overtime work, and instead requires payment of cash wages. VACo contacted the Northam Administration to seek clarification on this view. We have received confirmation that the Office of the Attorney General agrees with the DOLI interpretation, though there is no written opinion or formal legal reasoning available. VACo encourages members to consult with their county attorneys as to the interpretation of the legislation.

Interpreting the legislation to end the ability of public employers to award comp time in lieu of wages for overtime would have major fiscal and scheduling implications for both state and local governments. The fallout from not being able to provide comp time may cause local governments and the state to adopt major overhauls of their use of overtime which will impact their ability to deliver vital services and provide flexibility to their employees. VACo has been in contact with Delegate Mullin and has confirmed that this was not the intent of the legislation.

Please contact members of the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee to urge them to **support** a budget amendment during the upcoming General Assembly Special Session that would clarify and preserve the ability of public employers to continue to award comp time to eligible employees.

VACo has also asked counties for information regarding number of employees impacted and fiscal impact for FY 2022 if they were to follow DOLI's interpretation of the bill.

KEY CONTACTS

Senate Finance and Appropriations

[Senator Howell](#), [Senator Saslaw](#), [Senator Norment](#), [Senator Hanger](#), [Senator Lucas](#), [Senator Newman](#), [Senator Ruff](#), [Senator Vogel](#), [Senator Barker](#), [Senator Edwards](#), [Senator Deeds](#), [Senator Locke](#), [Senator Petersen](#), [Senator Marsden](#), [Senator Ebbin](#), [Senator McClellan](#)

House Appropriations

[Delegate Torian](#), [Delegate Sickles](#), [Delegate Plum](#), [Delegate Tyler](#), [Delegate Bulova](#), [Delegate McQuinn](#), [Delegate Carr](#), [Delegate Krizek](#), [Delegate Aird](#), [Delegate Hayes](#), [Delegate Hurst](#), [Delegate Jones](#), [Delegate Reid](#), [Delegate Cox](#), [Delegate Knight](#), [Delegate Morefield](#), [Delegate Fariss](#), [Delegate Rush](#), [Delegate Davis](#), [Delegate Austin](#), [Delegate Bloxom](#), [Delegate Brewer](#)

VACo Contacts: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#) and [Phyllis Errico, Esq.](#)

State General Fund Revenues Continue Strength in May; State Budget on Track for Surplus

Secretary of Finance Aubrey L. Layne, Jr. brought positive news to the Senate Finance and Appropriations and House Appropriations Committees in his last briefing to the “money committees” in his current role, as state General Fund revenues (GF) are on track to generate a significant surplus for FY 2021, bolstered by growing strength in the economy and several infusions of federal assistance. May GF revenues increased by 66.2 percent relative to last May; although the majority of this increase is attributable to adjustments in income tax filing deadlines, revenues have also performed well over the course of the fiscal year. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, revenues have increased by 17.8 percent, far ahead of the forecast of 2.7 percent. Secretary Layne suggested that revenues are likely to continue to perform well given the current economic “tailwinds” of business reopening and federal assistance. He pointed out that since the onset of the pandemic, an estimated \$26 billion in federal assistance to state and local governments has flowed into the state, with an additional \$51 billion in aid to individuals and businesses.

The largest threat to the economic recovery, in the Secretary’s view, is inflation and the degree to which recent price increases are transitory or longer-term in nature. The Consumer Price Index increased by 0.8 percent in April and is 4.2 percent above its April 2020 level. The Federal Reserve Open Markets Committee, in its [statement](#) following its June 15 meeting, affirmed its goal of allowing inflation “moderately above 2 percent for some time so that inflation averages 2 percent over time and longer-term inflation expectations remain well anchored at 2 percent,” and members’ median projection for core inflation for 2021 is now 3 percent (up from 2.2 percent in March). Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, in June 22 [prepared remarks](#) to the U.S. House’s Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, conceded that inflation has increased in recent months, but attributed this growth to short-term issues such as supply bottlenecks, stating, “As these transitory supply effects abate, inflation is expected to drop back toward our longer-run goal.”

In Virginia, major state revenue sources continue to perform well across the board. Individual income tax withholding has increased by 4.4 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, reflecting both wage and job growth, and comfortably outpacing the predicted 2.7 percent increase. Nonwithholding collections are up by a startling 69.2 percent on a year-to-date basis (far ahead of the annual estimate of 4.4 percent growth), reflecting stock market gains but also potentially the effects of adjusted due dates last year, which may distort year-over-year comparisons. Sales tax collections continue to perform well, with growth of 11.1 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis (as compared with a forecast of 4.7 percent growth); this increase reflects some return to purchases at brick-and-mortar retailers, which had shifted to online sales during the pandemic. Strong recordation tax collections continue to reflect the super-charged housing market, although Secretary Layne predicted that this pace would not continue, due to constraints on the supply of housing.

Governor Northam is scheduled to present final revenue figures for FY 2021 to the money committees on August 18, and is likely to announce a large surplus, potentially as high as \$2 billion. Constitutional and statutory provisions will govern the disposition of a portion of these funds, and Secretary Layne discussed with both committees the requirements for contributions to the state’s Revenue Stabilization Fund (the “rainy day fund” created in the Constitution) and Water Quality Improvement Fund, as well as the Revenue Reserve Fund (an additional cash reserve created by statute to provide additional flexibility in making deposits and withdrawals) in the event of a revenue surplus. For example, with a surplus of \$1 billion, an estimated \$462 million would be required to be deposited to the Revenue Stabilization Fund and the Water Quality Improvement Fund. Secretary Layne’s presentation may be found at [this link](#).

Although the Governor’s proclamation announcing the August 2 start date for a special session to appropriate funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) had not been issued at the time of the money committees’ meetings, developing a plan for use of the state’s federal relief dollars was clearly a priority for members of both committees. Senate Finance and Appropriations Chair Janet Howell indicated that she is soliciting priority spending ideas from Senators, and House Appropriations Committee staff [provided an overview](#) of funding streams in ARPA at the Committee’s June 23 meeting. Both Committees received [a presentation](#) from Rita McClenny, President and CEO of the Virginia Tourism Corporation, recommending the use of \$50 million in ARPA funds to assist the state’s tourism industry in recovering from pandemic-related losses. She pointed out that in April 2021, travel expenditures were 30 percent less than pre-pandemic baseline levels and the leisure and hospitality sector represented 45.4 percent of total job losses in Virginia. Recovery has been “piecemeal,” with areas of the state offering more outdoor activities recovering more quickly than others. The proposed deployment of ARPA funds would support additional marketing efforts by the Virginia Tourism Corporation and assist localities with local marketing expenses and revenues foregone by destination marketing organizations due to reductions in transient occupancy taxes. House Appropriations staff indicated that state agencies have been asked to submit proposals to the Administration, which plans to share them with the money committees this week. Staff Director Anne Oman pointed out that legislators may only appropriate funds through the end of FY 2022 in the current biennium budget, and that there is an opportunity to revisit spending decisions in future years, as state Fiscal Recovery Funds need not be obligated until December 2024.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Department of Taxation Releases Draft Guidelines for Local Plastic Bag Tax



On June 25, the Department of Taxation released draft guidelines for administration of the plastic bag tax, which was authorized in [legislation](#) that passed in 2020 (localities are authorized to impose the tax by ordinance, beginning January 1, 2021). The legislation provides that the tax will be administered by the Tax Commissioner in the same manner that the retail sales and use tax is administered, and requires the Tax Commissioner to develop and make available guidelines for implementation of the tax.

The draft guidelines are available at <https://www.tax.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/draft-disposable-plastic-bag-tax-guidelines.pdf>.

Comments on the draft may be submitted to Steve Klos, Policy Analyst at the Department of Taxation, at tax-guidelines@tax.virginia.gov by July 15. This process is being used to develop the final draft guidelines that that will be subject to the 30-day public comment period through the [Virginia Regulatory Town Hall](#) after publication in the [Virginia Register of Regulations](#).

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



Visit Tazewell, Russell, Wise, and Scott Counties and Clinch River State Park

Governor Ralph Northam recently celebrated the official opening of Clinch River State Park, Virginia's 41st state park and first blueway state park. Consisting of 696 acres, the park is situated across several small anchor properties and connected by multiple canoe-kayak access points along a 100-mile scenic stretch of the Clinch River.

"With the dedication of Clinch River State Park, we will both protect and showcase one of the most beautiful and ecologically diverse places in our Commonwealth," said Governor Northam. "Located in the heart of Appalachia, this park will be a highlight of the robust outdoor recreation economy in Southwest Virginia and draw even more visitors to the region. The opening of our newest state park comes as we celebrate 85 years of Virginia's state park system and the countless opportunities that our state parks provide."

Clinch River State Park is the first of its kind in Virginia, based around a river instead of a land mass. The anchor properties and launch points comprise a "string of pearls," or a collection of properties that run through Tazewell, Russell, Wise, and Scott Counties where outdoor enthusiasts can access the river, learn about the river's ecological diversity, and enjoy the beauty of what The Nature Conservancy has deemed "One of the Last, Great Places." The Clinch River blueway provides a network of multi-activity recreational trails, marked by routes on a navigable waterway with launch points, camping sites, and points of interest for canoeists, paddle boarders, and watermen.

The Clinch River is among the most productive and biodiverse waterways in the Northern Hemisphere, sustaining more than 48 vulnerable animal species, including 29 varieties of rare freshwater mussels and 19 species of fish. Rare plants, mammals and birds also thrive along the river's edge.

[READ MORE OF GOVERNOR NORTHAM'S RELEASE](#)



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](#)

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



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.



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Mandatory Property Tax Exemptions Survey Underway; Responses Due July 21



COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Language was included in the 2021 Appropriations Act at the request of VACo and VML to direct the Commission on Local Government to undertake a review of the effects of mandatory property tax exemptions on local government finances, to include potential recommendations to mitigate the effects of these exemptions on localities. As part of the study, Commission staff have sent a survey to local governments to ascertain revenue impacts of the exemptions mandated by the recent passage of several Constitutional amendments (tax exemptions for disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and the surviving spouses of servicemembers who are killed in action).

VACo strongly encourages counties to participate in the survey. Responses are due by July 21, 2021. Questions may be directed to David Conmy at david.conmy@dhcd.virginia.gov.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Commission on School Construction and Modernization Holds Second Meeting and School Infrastructure Tour Kicks Off



Photo courtesy of King and Queen County Public Schools - (left to right) Justin Ballard, S.B. Ballard Construction; J.T. Kessler, Virginia School Boards Association; and Jeremy R. Bennett, VACo.

On June 3, the Commission on School Construction and Modernization [met](#) and reviewed data presented by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) on the state of the Commonwealth's K-12 physical infrastructure. This is the first time that VDOE has reported on this information since a 2013 study during the McDonnell Administration. The information presented confirmed what many county officials already know - more than half of all school buildings in the state are more than 50 years old and fully renovating these buildings would require a multi-billion-dollar effort. VACo [supports](#) the work of the Commission to bring attention to this issue and produce recommendations to the General Assembly to provide additional state funding or local financing options to ensure that all of the Commonwealth's students have access to safe and modern learning environments.

Understanding that the issue of school infrastructure is of continued importance to many of our members, VACo is pleased to announce our partnership with Virginia's Coalition of Small and Rural Schools (COSARS), the Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS), the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA), the Virginia Municipal League (VML), Virginia First Cities, and Fund Our Schools to host a statewide First-Hand Look at School Infrastructure Across Virginia tour. This initiative was announced at a recent COSARS [summit](#) and will comprise tours of schools facilities in each of the eight superintendent regions of the Commonwealth to bring awareness to the public and the General Assembly on the need and opportunity to modernize Virginia school facilities. VACo staff was honored to [attend](#) the inaugural tour at King and Queen Elementary School. More information on the tour locations, dates, and how to RSVP can be found [here](#).

During the June 3 Commission meeting, [data](#) from VDOE was [presented](#) by State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. James Lane, who was tasked by the Commission at its April [meeting](#) to survey school divisions

on their existing infrastructure, population projections, and Capital Improvement Plans (CIP). Among their findings, VDOE determined that:

- Aside from widespread enrollment declines due to COVID-19, student enrollment is expected to increase in northern Virginia and decrease in south and southwestern Virginia over the next 5 years, with total growth across the state estimated at 4.69% by 2026.
- School divisions report many school buildings either at/above capacity (41%) or nearing capacity (29%).
- Half of school buildings are more than 50 years old.
- Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) projects total over \$9.8B, with the most common projects identified as renovations, HVAC repair/replacement, and grounds & parking lot maintenance.
- Since COVID-19, 62% of divisions completed HVAC renovations to address deficiencies highlighted by the pandemic.
- State financial support for school facility capital and debt service costs is limited to loan programs and a portion of state Lottery funding. For FY20, divisions reported \$1.105B in school facility capital costs, \$476.1M in debt service costs, and \$7.158B in outstanding debt on school facilities.

Across the Commonwealth, school divisions reported owning 2,005 school buildings, which includes all elementary, middle, high, and combined schools, as well as alternative centers, career and technical centers, special education centers, and preschools. More than half of these facilities are elementary schools. Although half of school buildings are at least 50 years old, in one instance a school building still in use was built 184 years ago. The amount of funding needed to replace all school buildings over 50 years old (1,040 buildings) is estimated to cost \$24.8 billion.

Conversation at the Commission also focused on historic state and federal support for school infrastructure. Most notably, during the Great Depression, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) financed 4,383 new schools and renovated thousands more in the U.S. from 1935-40. In 1938, the federal government funded 45% of local construction costs. In subsequent decades, federal funding for capital costs significantly decreased to less than 1% of local costs. Virginia state government was active in school construction during the early 1900s. However, in the 1930s, responsibility for two major areas of infrastructure was changed - with passage of the Byrd Road Act, the state took over responsibility for county road construction with the understanding that localities would be primarily responsible for school construction. Beginning in the 1960s, the state moved primarily toward providing loans only - through the Literary Fund and the new Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA).

While passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) included additional [federal funding](#) directly to local school divisions through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III), there are several [limitations](#) on use of these funds for major schools construction or modernization projects. These limitations mainly consist of the requirement that use of these funds in general must be related to COVID-19 prevention, preparation and response. Use of funds for school construction is allowed but discouraged primarily due to the required liquidation date, which is two years sooner than the state and local fiscal recovery funds date under ARPA. School facility upgrades related to the public health emergency are permitted, such as HVAC system upgrades and improvements and repairs to support public health. However, some school divisions may decide that upgrading the HVAC system on a century old facility with a litany of other infrastructure limitations may not be the best use of funds.

The Commission digested this information and will use it to formulate recommendations to the General Assembly. A full recording of the meeting may be downloaded [here](#).

VACo continues to support efforts to create additional state resources and additional funding options for localities for capital and school construction costs and appreciates the work of the Commission on School Construction and Modernization and other K-12 education and local government stakeholders on this front. We strongly encourage our members to speak with their representatives in the General Assembly about this issue.

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

Joint Subcommittee on Mental Health Holds Workgroup Meetings; State Hospital Overcrowding Remains Major Focus



Work groups of the Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century have met throughout the month, reviewing legislation referred to the Joint Subcommittee and wrestling with the pressing issue of overcrowding in the state hospital system and its spillover effects on law enforcement. It is anticipated that proposals to direct some of the federal resources provided through the American Rescue Plan Act toward addressing hospital staffing needs or other ways of mitigating the census pressures may be under consideration in the special session this summer.

The June 8 meeting of the work group focusing on Emergency Custody Orders and Temporary Detention Orders and their effects on law enforcement, which is chaired by Senator Monty Mason, featured a series of short presentations by stakeholders who were asked at a previous meeting to return with additional information and potential solutions. John Jones, Executive Director of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, [presented](#) the results of a survey of sheriffs and advocated for the state to fund additional psychiatric beds and the associated staffing, as well as to expand the scope of the current contract for the state's alternative transportation provider to allow these non-law enforcement staff to wait with individuals under temporary detention orders until beds at state hospitals become available, thus freeing law enforcement officers to return to regular duties. Jennifer Wicker of the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association [provided data](#) from a survey of private hospitals on "boarding" of individuals in the emergency department while they await a psychiatric bed and discussed workforce challenges facing private hospitals, which limit their ability to open additional beds.

Alison Land, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, [provided](#) sobering statistics regarding census levels at the state hospitals and discussed efforts to recruit and retain staff; she emphasized that because overall compensation is not competitive, particularly for a challenging work environment, the Department is losing staff more quickly than they can be recruited. In addition to the Department's work to improve recruitment and retention, she offered several options to address the census in the near term, including the expansion of the scope of the alternative transportation contract, pilot projects to care for individuals with dementia outside of the state hospitals,

additional focus on expediting discharges, and an investment in crisis receiving centers as alternative sites for individuals in crisis to be stabilized and receive outpatient services. Commissioner Land offered similar thoughts to the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee the following week, a presentation which met with concern from committee members, especially Chair Janet Howell, who characterized the need to address workforce issues in the state hospitals as a “moral imperative.”

Jennifer Faison, Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, provided an overview of a recent [report](#) on the state’s system of Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Centers (CITACs), which was completed in 2020; the report discusses expanding the hours of availability of the existing sites and expanding the services offered (a concept of interest to CSBs, as long as it does not reallocate funding from existing centers). Ally Singer Wright, Program Director for the Virginia Mental Health Access Program (VMAP), concluded the meeting with a [presentation](#) on the program, which seeks to address the shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists by enhancing the capacity of primary care physicians to treat mental health needs and assisting families in locating additional regional services.

The Special Populations Work Group, chaired by Delegate Vivian Watts, also discussed ways to reduce the state hospital census at its June 22 meeting, although the conversation focused on forensic patients and ways to reduce both jail and state hospital stays for individuals with mental illness. Christine Schein, Deputy Director of Forensic Services at DBHDS, also discussed the role of CITACs and their potential expansion in her [presentation](#). She also noted that special mental health dockets in the court system have demonstrated success and could be further expanded to additional courts. She encouraged consideration of ways to streamline court-ordered evaluations and competency hearings for forensic patients, who now make up approximately 40 percent of the state hospital census. The work group expressed interest in receiving additional information on this topic, particularly with respect to the concentration of forensic patients in certain hospitals. In addition, the workgroup will consider an element of legislation that passed earlier this year dealing with the ability of courts to consider evidence related to an individual’s mental condition at the time of an alleged offense; the bill directs the Joint Subcommittee to make recommendations about the standard of danger to self or others that may be appropriately applied in the imposition of mandatory mental health treatments for individuals who are found not guilty under the provisions of the bill.

The Involuntary Commitment and Emergency Services Work Group, chaired by Delegate Patrick Hope, discussed two bills that were referred to the Joint Subcommittee over the last two legislative sessions. [HB 2329 \(Cox\)](#) deals with the release of an individual within 96 hours of an involuntary commitment order and would require both the psychiatrist treating the person and a second psychiatrist to determine that the person no longer meets the criteria for involuntary commitment before the individual could be released. [SB 1049 \(Deeds\)](#) seeks to provide ways for family and other supportive individuals to participate in the involuntary commitment process, discharge planning, and mandatory outpatient treatment process, as approved by the individual subject to the involuntary commitment or other processes. Several stakeholders participating in the meeting encouraged consideration of the psychiatric advance directive process as a way to meet the goals of the bill. Stakeholders also weighed in with broad consensus on the value of reorganizing the statutes governing mandatory outpatient treatment to make them less confusing (a previous stakeholder group had recommended legislation making more substantive changes to the statutes, which passed during the 2021 session with a delayed enactment date to allow for additional revision if necessary).

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Updates on the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and Potential Impact to County Governments



Due to unprecedented strains placed upon the unemployment system by the economic impacts of the COVID-19, Virginia's Unemployment Trust Fund ended the first quarter of 2021 with a negative balance of \$400,000. This figure represents a glaring contrast with the \$1.4 billion balance of the Trust Fund that existed a year ago, prior to the pandemic. Unless action is taken by the General Assembly to supplement the Trust Fund, employers throughout the Commonwealth will likely see tax increases to preserve the Trust Fund's solvency. This would include local governments.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) taxes are paid primarily by employers on the wages paid to employees. These taxes flow into state UI trust fund accounts maintained at the U.S. Treasury. These same accounts are the source of benefit payments to eligible claimants in the regular state UI program. There are no federal requirements for the amount of funds that should be kept in a state's trust fund; however, each state operates on a forward funding basis by building up reserves in anticipation of paying a higher amount of benefits during recessionary periods. More information on UI tax rates may be found [here](#).

There are three components that make up Virginia's unemployment insurance tax. The first is the base tax rate which is experience rated and unique to each employer depending on their

individual loss history. The second is the pool charge, which is the socialization across all covered employers of all benefit charges that cannot be charged to individual employers. The final component is the fund builder, which is imposed on all covered employers when the trust fund balance factor defined in Code Section [60.2- 533](#) falls to or below 50%. The fund builder assessment is an additional 2%. Employers also pay federal unemployment tax of \$420 per employee. Because Virginia's unemployment laws conform to federal law, Virginia employers receive a 90% reduction in their federal unemployment tax. If Virginia borrows from the federal government and does not repay within the terms set by the federal government, the Commonwealth could be considered out of conformity and Virginia employers would lose this reduction. More information on Virginia's UI system can be found [here](#).

On June 10, Ellen Marie Hess, Commissioner of the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), provided [updates](#) on the status of Virginia's Unemployment Trust Fund. This was followed by a [presentation](#) by Governor Northam's Chief Workforce Development Advisor, Dr. Megan Healy to the House Appropriations Committee on June 24. During 2020, UI initial claims spiked to 1,369,045, nearly a million higher than the previous year. Fortunately, Virginia's unemployment rate continues to decline and now stands at 4.7%; however, this is still above the pre-pandemic rate of 2.6%.

Given the current status of the Trust Fund, without an additional infusion of funds by the General Assembly, employers could see UI taxes jump by 400% in 2022. This would comprise increases to both the base tax rate and pool charge. These were concerns that VACo discussed in a July 2020 [webinar](#) with staff from VEC.

In May of this year, Governor Northam and Democratic leaders in the General Assembly released a [statement](#) outlining their legislative priorities for the upcoming August 2 Special Session, which included a commitment to add funding to the Trust Fund. According to guidance from U.S. Treasury on the use of America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fiscal Recover Funds, deposits into state Unemployment Trust Funds are an acceptable use of funds. Out of the \$4.3 billion in ARPA fiscal recovery funds available to the state, Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne has recommended use of at least \$1 billion to help replenish the fund towards solvency and forestall a tax increase on employers, though House Appropriations Committee staff have indicated that a small dollar amount may achieve the same results.

Replenishment of the Unemployment Trust Fund was included by VACo as a priority in a [letter](#) recently sent to Governor Northam and Chairs of the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee on the use of state ARPA funds. VACo will continue to provide updates on this and other issues likely to be addressed during the Special Session.

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

State Executive Council Issues Notices of Intent to Develop Two CSA Policies



On June 10, the State Executive Council for Children's Services (SEC) approved Notices of Intent to Develop Policy for two proposed revisions to SEC policies. These policies, dealing with family engagement and the multidisciplinary teams that may be convened by local CSA programs in lieu of the Family Assessment and Planning Team, respectively, reflect revisions and updates to existing policies. As part of the [strategic plan](#) adopted by the SEC in 2019, the Office of Children's Services has convened a workgroup to review CSA policies to ensure that they are in alignment with initiatives in partner agencies (such as implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act, which makes significant changes to the use of federal Title IV-E funding). VACo is participating in this workgroup, along with CSA coordinators, state agency representatives, and several representatives of the SEC. The family engagement and multidisciplinary teams policies are the first to be discussed by the workgroup.

Proposed revisions to SEC Policy 3.2 are intended to assist with implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act by providing additional detail regarding the process by which multidisciplinary teams may be established by local CSA programs. The SEC's [notice](#) describes the intent of the proposed revisions as "updat[ing] the policy to reflect the format and organization of current SEC policies" and "clarify[ing] the expectations for the alternative multidisciplinary teams."

Proposed revisions to SEC Policy 3.3, Family Engagement, as discussed by the workgroup are intended to emphasize a broad concept of family. As the [notice of intent](#) describes the proposed revisions, the amendments to the policy will: "update the policy to reflect the format and organization of current SEC policies; update the policy to reflect current understanding of the definitions and meaning of "family"; provide [a] definitive Values Statement reflecting the beliefs in the CSA in family-centered practices and the System of Care; eliminate obsolete sections and requirements and replace them with current best practice with regard to engaging families in the CSA process; specify reasonable expectations for local CSA programs with regard to family engagement while retaining local flexibility and autonomy in the implementation of those expectations; [and] specify expectations for the Office of Children's Services in providing resources to support local CSA programs in the successful implementation of the revised policy."

These proposals are currently in the Notice Stage, where the SEC has indicated its intent to pursue a particular policy, and public comment is being solicited for 30 days, with the public comment period closing on July 16, 2021. The SEC is scheduled to decide whether to proceed to the Proposed Stage (where the proposed text of the policy would be made available for 60 days of public comment) at its meeting on September 9, 2021.

Public comment will be accepted through the [Public Policy Comments Form](#) on the CSA website through 5 p.m. on July 16, 2021.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

REMINDER - 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.

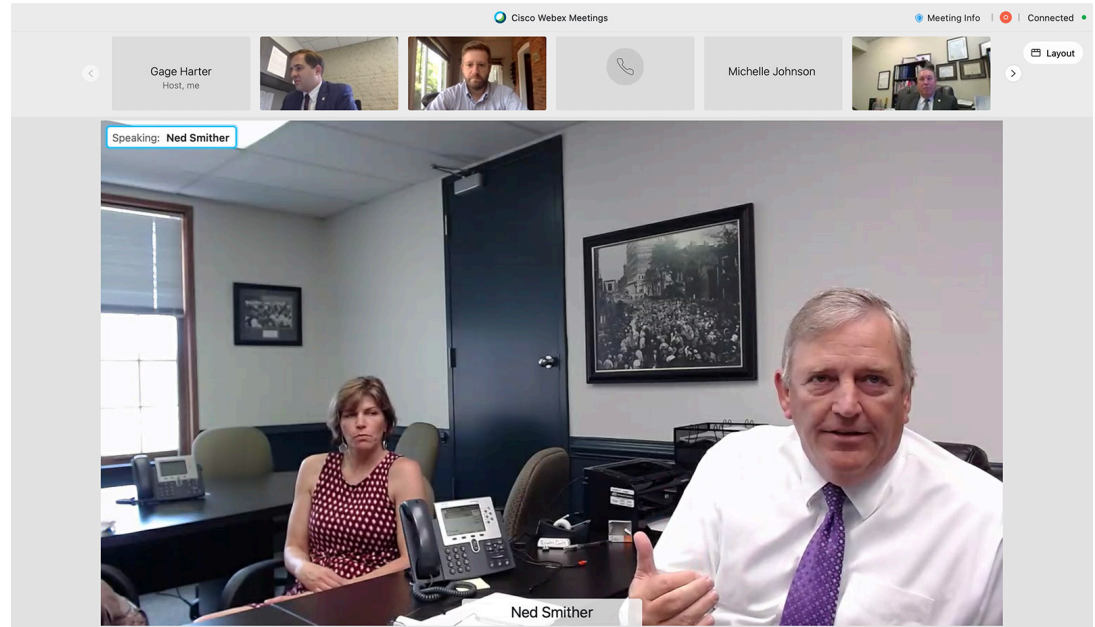
For more information on the BearWise Community Cost-Share Program, please visit [DWR's BearWise website](#).

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

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



Counties in Regions 3 and 5 Meet June 8; Broadband and Transportation Top Issues



Counties in Regions 3 and 5 met virtually on June 8 for a discussion of county priorities and key areas of interest, with conversation largely focused on opportunities to enhance broadband coverage and new approaches to meeting transportation needs in the region. In addition to briefings from Chief Broadband Advisor Evan Feinman and Deputy Secretary of Transportation John Lawson, VACo was pleased to be joined by Senator Ghazala Hashmi, Delegate Lee Ware, Delegate Carrie Coyner, and Delegate Rodney Willett.

Mr. Feinman emphasized that achieving universal broadband access remains a priority for the Administration, noting that the expected influx of resources from the American Rescue Plan Act will expedite achievement of this goal. He encouraged localities to “think big” in planning broadband projects that will make use of these federal funds, and advised attendees to plan projects that achieve universal coverage (rather than projects that “cherry pick” more densely populated areas, making it less economically viable to serve the remaining areas). He reminded attendees that the state’s staff are available to provide technical assistance and strongly encouraged counties to take advantage of this resource. Several counties shared updates on successful projects and planned expansions for future coverage.

Deputy Secretary Lawson provided an update on the status of transportation funding, noting the passage of significant transportation legislation in 2020, including an omnibus transportation funding package and bills creating both the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority and the Central Virginia Transportation Authority, which serves Planning District 15 (which includes the counties in VACo’s Region 3 and several counties in VACo’s Region 5). During the most recent round of “Smart Scale” funding allocations, approximately \$1.4 billion was available to be awarded, a significant increase relative to previous funding levels, but needs continue to outstrip available funds, as evidenced by the \$7.5 billion in project requests originally submitted for consideration.

The legislators in attendance underscored the importance of the federal resources that will be deployed in the Commonwealth during the upcoming special session on the American Rescue Plan Act. Both Delegate Ware and Delegate Willett discussed the critical need for broadband access in their respective districts, with Delegate Willett noting that broadband affordability is a key concern for his constituents. Delegate Willett also indicated that he expects school repair and renovation to be areas of interest in the coming months. He affirmed that great strides have been made in enhancing early childhood education, but noted that more remains to be done to ensure access to pre-K opportunities. As the Chair of the House Health, Welfare, and Institutions Committee’s subcommittee on behavioral health, he is particularly interested in adolescent mental health, suggesting that the General Assembly will likely need to revisit staffing levels for school counselors in light of the stresses caused by the pandemic. Delegate Coyner pointed out that despite the influx of helpful federal funding, those dollars are one-time in nature and some needs must be met on an ongoing basis with state dollars, notably teacher salaries. She expressed interest in continuing to work on issues related to substance use disorder and affordable housing.

County representatives in attendance shared their priority issues, with transportation, broadband, and education frequently cited as areas for additional state investment. Continued state support for the rollout of standardized services at Community Services Boards through the STEP-VA program and additional state investment in Medicaid waivers for individuals with developmental disabilities were also discussed, as well as the importance of protecting county land use authority and the ability to address waste management needs.

VACo is grateful to our speakers, sponsors, legislators, planning district commission representatives, and county participants for the productive meeting.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

County Leadership Development: Bolster your Succession Plan

As a county leader, you manage several priority-1 decisions, activities, and initiatives every day. Perhaps the most important is personnel development – working hard to make other existing leaders better and emerging leaders ready. As you conduct this work with existing and emerging leaders to make your county stronger, you deserve to have a program that is easily scalable to accommodate your workforce, a program that is non-disruptive to busy schedules, and cost effective so that you have an immediate return on investment. Your county's succession plan is necessary to ensure the future success of your organization. We have that program for you: the [NACo High Performance Leadership Academy](https://www.naco.org/skills), the **12-week, online leadership program** led by General Colin Powell.



Participants have described it as *“the most beneficial use of my time as it relates to leadership training,” “highly inspirational and reinvigorating,”* and *“a good to great opportunity!”* that has *“impacted my life immensely”* and has been *“a once in a lifetime”* experience.

“This isn’t your run-of-the-mill leadership class. The insights from global leaders as well as weekly break-out groups were invaluable.” – Director of Human Resources

“Whether formal leadership is a journey you are beginning or a journey you are already on, this course brings you back to the heart of leadership. It provides an opportunity to look at your roadmap, reflect on your attitude and mindset, remind you of the crucial aspects of leadership and equip you with frameworks and concepts to refine your competencies and increase your capacity to lead others successfully.” – Manager of Diversity, Training & Development

Enroll your existing and emerging leaders today at www.naco.org/skills.

Pathway to Recovery® Series- The Power Of Liquidity Data

WWW.THREEPLUSONE.US



Pathway to Recovery® Series - The Power Of Liquidity Data

Join Garrett Macdonald, Beau Blevins, and special guest, Dean Lynch, as they discuss the “Pathway to Recovery®” and how liquidity management can position your entity for success managing ARPA Funds in 2021 and beyond.

This webinar will demonstrate how your entity can leverage data and technology to formulate a strategy that increases the value of public funds. We will highlight important steps and tips that can be applied to stretch newly released ARPA funds to their greatest potential. In this rising rate environment, yield can be hard to find, however, this presentation will address the importance of liquidity and how it contributes to the safety and maximization of your tax dollars' value.

<https://www.naco.org/events/pathway-recovery-series-power-liquidity-data>



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](#)



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 gharter@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 gharter@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](#)

Gerard H. Durkin Named Chesterfield's New Budget Director

Named acting director a year ago, Durkin to officially take over department starting June 14



CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, VA — A member of Chesterfield County's Budget and Management Department, who last year assumed the role as acting county budget director, will officially be overseeing the department he joined in 2018.

Gerard H. Durkin has been named budget director of the county's budget and management department. He assumes the roles and responsibilities overseeing the department starting Monday, June 14.

The budget and management department is staffed by 11 employees and is responsible for developing, presenting and ultimately implementing the county's \$1.5 billion budget once its approved by the Chesterfield Board of Supervisors. The department also monitors economic conditions to better plan allocations of taxpayers' dollars in future budgets and conducts any debt service and bond payments on behalf of the county.

"Gerard assumed the role of acting budget director during a time of great economic uncertainty to the county," said Chesterfield County Deputy Administrator for Finance and Administration Matt Harris. "Throughout this pandemic, Gerard has proven that he's ready to move into this role in an official capacity, and I'm happy to have him in take over this important role."

A Scotland native, Durkin joined the budget and management department in 2018 as a principal budget analyst. Last year, Durkin was appointed acting budget director, where he helped guide the county through a series of fiscal changes during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic – including historic salary step increases and raises for law enforcement, educators and county government employees, and the allocation of federal economic relief money. Prior to joining Chesterfield County, Durkin worked for the City of Richmond in a variety of budget and management roles.

"I am humbled and honored to lead a dedicated team of budget professionals that work to uphold the county's strong financial integrity, and for the opportunity to grow my career with Chesterfield as it continually innovates to serve the needs of its residents," Durkin said.

VIRGINIA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW LEADERS



The Virginia Transit Association (VTA) unanimously elected **The Honorable Justin Wilson** as President of the Association at its 2021 Spring Board meeting.

Mr. Wilson was elected Mayor of the City of Alexandria in November 2018. He previously served 8 years on the City Council and as Vice Mayor. Mr. Wilson represents the City regionally on the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and served as the Chair of the Alexandria Transit Company Board of Directors which operates the City's DASH bus service. Mr. Wilson is employed by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) as a Senior Director.

The VTA also unanimously elected **The Honorable Deanna Reed** as Vice President of the Association.

Ms. Reed was sworn into office for Harrisonburg City Council on January 3, 2017, and then selected by her fellow council members as mayor. Becoming mayor of Harrisonburg made her the first African American female mayor in Harrisonburg's history. Mayor Reed currently serves as the Director of Community and School Partnerships for On the Road Collaborative, a non-profit youth empowerment organization. She serves as a council representative on the Virginia Municipal League Legislative Committee, Virginia Municipal League Human Development and Education Committee.

The **Honorable John McGlennon** will transition to becoming our Immediate Past President. Mr. McGlennon serves on the James City County Board of Supervisors representing the Jamestown District. He joined the Government Department Faculty at the College of William and Mary in 1974 and is currently a Professor of Government. Mr. McGlennon serves as Chairman of the Virginia Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC) where he has been the appointed representative for the Virginia Association of Counties since 2013.

Mr. William Harrell, CEO and President of Hampton Roads Transit (HRT), was reelected as Treasurer.

Mr. Josh Baker, CEO and General Manager of the Alexandria Transit Company (DASH Bus) was reelected as Secretary.

VTA is a nonprofit corporation of transit professionals from public and private organizations; it includes transit systems from across the state, businesses that serve transit systems and local government officials and organizations concerned about transportation, mobility, affordable access to employment and quality of life issues.

Founded in 1977, the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) provides public education and legislative advocacy to support public transportation throughout the Commonwealth.

[Click here to read press release with photos.](#)

Virginia announces \$18 million Community Flood Preparedness Fund grant round

Grants will help communities statewide address recurrent flooding, sea level rise and extreme weather.



RICHMOND — The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation recently announced the opening of the first grant round for the new [Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund](#).

During the next 90 days, communities across Virginia will be able to apply for \$18 million in grants to address the effects of recurrent flooding, sea level rise and extreme weather.

“Today, Virginia is taking an important next step to combat flooding — the most common and costly natural hazard we face,” Governor Ralph Northam said. “The Community Flood Preparedness Fund will provide an estimated \$75 million a year to improve the resilience of our Commonwealth, including targeted funding for Virginia’s most vulnerable and underserved communities.”

The General Assembly voted to establish the fund during the 2020 session. The fund is financed by the sale of carbon emission allowances under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI, which Virginia joined in January 2021.

“Virginia worked hard to become a part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and the effort is now paying off,” said Secretary of Natural Resources and Chief Resilience Officer Matthew J. Strickler. “The Community Flood Preparedness Fund will better prepare Virginia to address the threat of floods caused by a warming climate.”

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, in cooperation with the Virginia Resources Authority, will administer the fund and grant program. DCR oversees the state’s floodplain management program.

“DCR is ready to accept grant applications for the Community Flood Preparedness Fund,” DCR Director Clyde Cristman said. “We know many people across the Commonwealth have been waiting for this day, and we are excited it has arrived.”

Information about the fund, eligibility rules, application procedures and instructions are available in the fund’s grant manual, which is posted at www.dcr.virginia.gov/cfpf.

The manual underwent a public comment period earlier this spring. It builds on fund guidelines developed by DCR with public input in December 2020. Both documents prioritize projects that are in concert with local, state and federal floodplain management standards, local resilience plans and the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan.

“The Community Flood Preparedness Fund will be critical to implementing future projects associated with the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan,” said Rear Adm. Ann Phillips (Retired), Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection. “As we enter another Atlantic hurricane season with ‘above average’ storms predicted, there’s no time to waste.”



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:

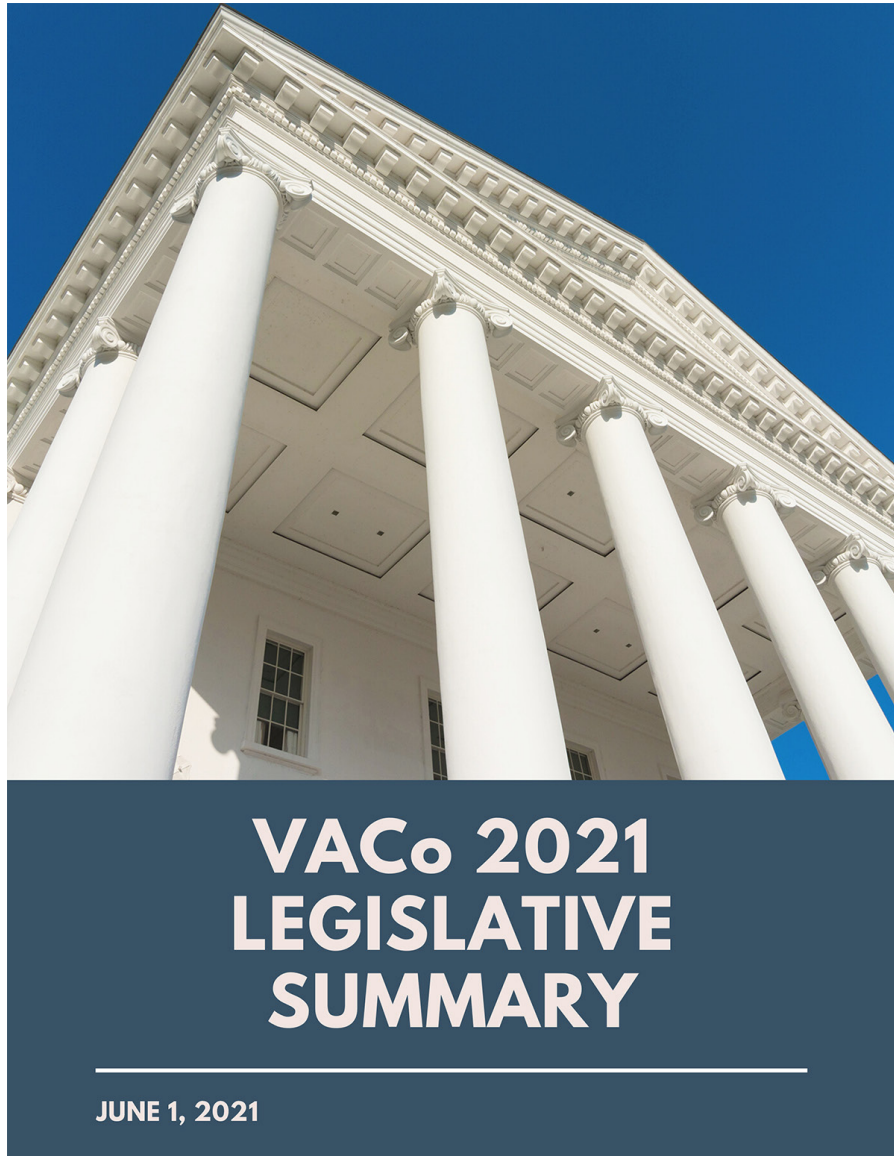
- Community Engagement;
- Strategic Planning;
- Capital Improvement Planning;
- Project Management; and
- Program Administration.

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

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](#)

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 or 804.371.0202

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



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](#)

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=RnmFDYlHKol>



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IT'S 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



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 you 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: _____

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

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

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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).



SEASONAL LABORER | Montgomery County | Posted June 25



CIVIL ENGINEER I – II | Western Virginia Water Authority | Posted June 25



HYDRAULIC MODELING ENGINEER | Western Virginia Water Authority | Posted June 25



MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST | Westmoreland County | Posted June 24



CITY ATTORNEY | City of Portsmouth | Posted June 24



PROCUREMENT MANAGER | Fauquier County | Posted June 24



DEPUTY COURT CLERK | Montgomery County | Posted June 23



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER/ DEPUTY CLERK TO BOARD | Mathews County | Posted June 23



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER | Montgomery County NRV911 Authority | Posted June 23



ASSISTANT REGISTRAR | Grayson County | Posted June 23



COORDINATOR, ANIMAL ADOPTION SERVICES | Prince George County | Posted June 23



GIS ANALYST | Gloucester County | Posted June 23



COUNTY ATTORNEY | King George County | Posted June 22



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR | City of Fredericksburg | Posted June 22



UTILITY PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATOR | City of Fredericksburg | Posted June 22



BUILDING OFFICIAL | Lancaster County | Posted June 22



ON CALL OFFICE ASSISTANT | Westmoreland County | Posted June 22



ASSISTANT REGISTRAR | Westmoreland County | Posted June 22



DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS | Roanoke County | Posted June 22



**ATHLETIC FIELD
MAINTENANCE WORKER** |
Prince George County | Posted
June 22



GIS ANALYST | City of
Harrisonburg | Posted June 22



**CREW SUPERVISOR-
GROUNDS** | City of
Harrisonburg | Posted June 22



**SENIOR UTILITY
SUPERVISOR** | Chesterfield
County | Posted June 22



**WATER ELECTRICAL
CONTROL SPECIALIST
(JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN)** |
Chesterfield County | Posted
June 22



**CAPITAL PROJECTS
MANAGER** | Chesterfield
County | Posted June 22



**DIRECTOR OF REAL
ESTATE ASSESSMENTS** |
Chesterfield County | Posted
June 22



FINANCE DIRECTOR |
Buckingham County | Posted
June 22



**DSS CASE AIDE-
FAMILY SERVICES** |
Montgomery County | Posted
June 22



**DEPUTY SHERIFF-
FEMALE CORRECTIONAL
OFFICER** | Montgomery County
| Posted June 22



**BUILDING CODE
COMBINATION INSPECTOR** |
City of Harrisonburg | Posted
June 21



**ATHLETIC FIELD
TURF SUPERVISOR** | City of
Harrisonburg | Posted June 21



**DEPUTY FINANCE
DIRECTOR** | Warren County
| Posted June 16



**ARBORIST PART-
TIME** | Town of Front Royal
| Posted June 16



**GYMNASTIC
ASSISTANT I** | Gloucester
County | Posted June 16



**DIRECTOR OF
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT** |
Augusta County Service
Authority | Posted June 16



PLANNER II | Prince
George County | Posted June 15



**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR** | Gloucester
County | Posted June 15



**ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES MANAGER** | City of
Harrisonburg | Posted June 15



**COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR** | Frederick
County | Posted June 15



**PLANNING
MANAGER** | Chesterfield
County | Posted June 14

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
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