

# Let's Summit Together

VACo  
County  
Officials'  
Summit



IN-PERSON ON  
AUGUST 19, 2021

# Good News as JLARC Presents VRS Oversight Report



## Virginia Retirement System

As part of their July 6 [meeting](#), the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) presented an oversight report of the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) as required by the [Code of Virginia](#). The health and well-being of VRS is important to local governments as it administers retirement programs and other benefit programs for state and local government employees, including teachers. VRS receives funds from employer contributions, employee contributions, and investment income.

While information on returns is still being finalized, VRS reported exceptionally good news that as of March 2021, the annual return was 28.3 percent, and the total VRS Trust fund grew by \$19.5 billion to exceed a historic high of \$100 billion in assets. The Trust fund exceeded benchmarks for all periods and the fund continues to benefit from improved market conditions. This could be one of the strongest fiscal years ever reported for VRS.

Meeting or exceeding VRS investment benchmarks is critical to ensuring that employer contributions meant to amortize long-term unfunded liabilities remain low. As previously [reported](#), recent actuarial assumption changes, especially pertaining to mortality, could have negatively impacted employer contribution rates by necessitating increases for the next biennium. However, the substantial returns on revenue will likely negate these increased liabilities and contribute to keeping employer contribution rates steady.

VRS serves more than 772,000 total members, retirees, and beneficiaries and has 597 participating local political subdivisions. Based on assets, VRS is the 18<sup>th</sup> largest public and private pension systems in the United States, and 41<sup>st</sup> largest in the world. In 2020, VRS paid out \$5.3 billion in benefits. Around 86 percent of VRS retirees remain in Virginia. The two largest VRS pension asset areas are the Teachers plans and the Political Subdivision Employees plans, both by assets and number of members.

The full JLARC report and slides from the VRS presentation can be found [here](#) and [here](#) respectively.

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

## Dr. Charlette Woolridge named Greenville County Administrator



The Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce that Dr. Charlette T. Woolridge has been hired as County Administrator for Greenville County. Dr. Woolridge has extensive experience in local government, including service as the Brunswick County Administrator from April 2006 to present.

In addition to earning a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University, Dr. Woolridge earned her Master's Degree and Bachelor of Science Degree. She also earned her Certificate in Public Administration, and successfully completed a number of senior executive leadership programs. She serves on many boards and commissions, including her appointment by the Governor of Virginia to the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center Board and the Virginia Resource Authority.

She currently serves as Chair of Virginia's Growth Alliance, and as Assistant Governor for Rotary International, District 7600, Area 9. She is a past Chair of the Southside Virginia Community College Board. Dr. Woolridge will commence her service as Greenville County Administrator on Monday, August 9, 2021.

## King George County Board of Supervisors Appoints New County Administrator



The King George County Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Christopher R. Miller as its new County Administrator. Mr. Miller, who has almost twenty years of experience in regional and local government management throughout the country, succeeds Dr. Neiman Young, who resigned in January. Former County Administrator Travis Quesenberry has served as Interim County Administrator during the recruitment process. At a special called meeting on June 29, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an employment agreement with Mr. Miller.

Board Chair Annie Cupka said, "We are pleased to welcome Mr. Miller to our community and look forward to his leadership of the County workforce and in the implementation of the Board's vision for the County. The Board was impressed by his knowledge, experience, and demeanor and believes that Chris will be an excellent fit for King George County and the region. We are gaining a tested manager with a track record of achievement in strategic planning, facilitation, citizen service and staff development and empowerment."

The Board of Supervisors conducted a national search for the new County Administrator, assisted by The Berkley Group, of Bridgewater, Virginia. The Berkley Group received applications and conducted initial interviews with the most qualified candidates. It then assisted the Board with selecting finalists for interviews with the Supervisors.

Mr. Miller received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science from the University of Northern Colorado and a Master of Public Administration degree from The University of Colorado School of Public Affairs. Mr. Miller started his career in public service in the City of Louisville, Colorado where he held the positions of Staff Analyst and Assistant to the City Administrator. He then served as City Administrator of Lamar, Colorado from 1994 to 1999 and as the first City Administrator of Bay Minette, Alabama from 1999 to 2006. After his service as a local government manager, Mr. Miller moved into regional government, serving as the Deputy Executive Director and then Executive Director of the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission from 2006 to 2016. In his most recent position Mr. Miller served as the Executive Director of the Northeast Texas Regional Mobility Authority, a quasi-independent government entity located in Tyler, Texas and serving a fourteen-county region with over 800,000 residents for the delivery of transportation related services. Mr. Miller is a member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), where he was recognized as a Credentialed Manager.

Mr. Miller shared these thoughts about his appointment, "I am excited to be returning to local government where I can more directly assist the elected officials and staff in serving the County residents. I was attracted to King George County by its location and natural beauty and believe that my experience in planning and transportation can help to achieve the Board's goal of accommodating reasonable growth while maintaining the County's quality of life and rural character. I appreciate the confidence that the Board has shown in me, and I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know and serve the employees and citizens of King George County."

Mr. Miller will assume his duties as King George County Administrator on July 12.





## Visit King and Queen County and the King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum

The Courthouse Tavern Museum presents the old Fary's Tavern building as a turn-of-the-19th-Century Tavern, including a restored dining room, parlor and two bedrooms. It is the oldest surviving building in the Courthouse Historic District. King & Queen County purchased the Tavern in 1941 from its last owner and used the building for county offices. It was restored by the Historical Society in 1999 with funding by matching grants from the State of Virginia and the Jessie Ball duPont Fund.

The Museum's main exhibit is on the history of King and Queen County. It tells the story using artifacts donated or loaned by residents, including early fossils and shark's teeth, a piece of a cannon used in the 1600s at Fort Mataponi, a spy glass used in the Revolution and the Civil War by a King and Queen family, an 18th century ladies' cloth cap, and pictures of early schools and churches.

The Museum also has a current exhibit featuring early tools used in King and Queen County, including farmers' tools, watermen's tools, and carpenters' tools. Also on display are new state-of-the-art touch screen videos showing tours of exhibits, the courthouse green area, tavern history and rural farming customs. Publications are available on King & Queen County's History.

The Museum is owned by the County and is leased to the Historical Society. The Historical Society provides volunteers and is responsible for exhibits, education, acquisitions, endowment and related activities.

Visit the [Tavern Museum's Official Website](#) | **SOURCE:** [King and Queen County](#)





## 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





## Marcus Alert Implementation Plan Released

***Governor Ralph Northam formally signed [Senate Bill 5038](#), sponsored by Senator Jeremy McPike, and [House Bill 5043](#), sponsored by Delegate Jeffrey Bourne, on November 5, 2020.***

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) have released the state plan for the implementation of the Marcus-David Peters Act, a requirement of legislation enacted during the fall 2020 special session and the product of five months of work by a stakeholder group, which met 12 times this year between January and May. A [summary of the state plan](#) has been posted on the DBHDS website; the full plan is also available at [this link](#).

The Marcus-David Peters Act was enacted as a result of the death of Marcus-David Peters, a biology teacher who was shot and killed by police while experiencing a behavioral health crisis, and builds on earlier efforts to improve outcomes for individuals experiencing similar crises when they interact with the criminal justice system. The Act seeks to ensure that the behavioral health system is the first responder in such situations, to the extent possible, and that when law enforcement must be the first responders, the response is specialized and informed by additional training. VACo hosted a webinar with DBHDS and DCJS staff in December 2020, which provides an outline of the Act; a recording is available at [this link](#). A follow-up webinar recorded as part of VACo's County Pulse Legislative Series in June 2021 may be found at [this link](#).

The Act required DBHDS and DCJS to develop the written implementation plan by July 1, 2021, in preparation for the first five Marcus Alert programs being established by December 1, 2021. The legislation specified certain required elements in the plan, including an inventory of existing efforts (such as crisis intervention

team training and mobile crisis teams), protocols for the diversion of calls from 911 to a crisis call center, and a summary of existing funding for emergency and crisis services.

The plan outlines the overall vision for a statewide behavioral health crisis service continuum, to include community-based crisis supports – someone to call (a point of entry that is easy to identify and coordinated with, but separate from, 911); someone to respond (a system that provides 24/7 coverage, which may include telehealth, for on-scene stabilization, assessment, and planning); and somewhere to go (defined as a place “that turns no one away and provides a range of crisis supports that are appropriately matched to the risk of harm of the situation,” and accepts both walk-ins and law enforcement drop-offs). It catalogs existing efforts underway, including Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Centers, crisis stabilization units, mobile crisis and co-responder teams, and outlines existing state and local funding supporting components of the crisis system.

The plan sets out a framework for triage of emergency calls, with an expectation that law enforcement will still participate in responding to some calls that are particularly emergent in nature. Local plans will have some flexibility to tailor their responses within this overall framework, given resources in each community. In general, routine calls (Level 1) are to be transferred from 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) to the new statewide crisis call center, which will also serve as the access point to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. A new number, 988, has been designated as the national number to call to be connected to these resources, beginning in July 2022, and the state plans to undertake a public outreach campaign to raise awareness of this number to call in case of behavioral health emergencies. Calls where clinical intervention is needed, but are deemed to be of moderate urgency, require a behavioral-health led response and are considered Level 2. Situations involving active aggression are considered Level 3 and would require co-response by behavioral health and law enforcement. Unpredictable and potentially life-threatening situations would be classified as Level 4 and would require immediate response from law enforcement. Local programs are expected to be able to use regional mobile crisis teams provided through the STEP-VA initiative to provide behavioral health system responses, but the report acknowledges that coverage sufficient to enable a response within one hour (or 90 minutes in rural areas) will not be achieved until July 2023, and it is expected that some local programs will include additional teams, whether supplied through the local Community Services Board or additional private providers.

The plan addresses a number of other elements of implementation of the Marcus Alert system, including:

- State training standards for law enforcement and behavioral health providers
- Training for PSAP dispatchers
- Initiatives to improve racial equity in access to behavioral health services in the community
- Requirements for local plans, to include protocols for transferring calls from 911 to 988; protocols for an agreement between each mobile crisis hub and any law enforcement agency that will provide backup; and protocols for a specialized law enforcement response to a behavioral health crisis
- The Act’s requirement for each locality to establish a voluntary database to be made available to the 911 and Marcus Alert system that allows individuals or their parents or guardians to provide mental health and emergency contact information to assist in responding in case of an emergency
- Plans for future work on reporting and evaluation

Sustained state efforts will be required to ensure a successful implementation of this complex legislation, and VACo will continue to advocate for these vital resources. In addition to the funding discussion in the implementation plan, budget language directs the Compensation Board to survey sheriffs’ offices to determine resources that may be necessary for staffing and training necessary to comply with the Act. That report is due November 1, 2021.

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





## Regions 1 and 2 Discuss Education, Broadband, and More

Counties in VACo's Regions 1 and 2 convened virtually on June 29 for a wide-ranging discussion on key issues of concern that highlighted the unique challenges facing these areas of the Commonwealth as well as needs that are widespread among counties across the state. VACo was pleased to be joined by Delegate Amanda Batten and representatives of Delegate Martha Mugler and Delegate Margaret Ransone, as well as Secretary of Education Atif Qarni and Deputy Secretary of Education Kathy Burcher.

Delegate Batten reminded attendees of the upcoming special session, which had been under discussion for several months and now is officially scheduled to begin August 2. The focus of this session will be the appointment of judges to the Court of Appeals and the allocation of federal relief funding flowing to the state through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Secretary Qarni offered an overview of the Administration's recent work in the K-12 and higher education arenas, notably the successful work with the legislature to hold school divisions harmless from funding losses that may have otherwise occurred due to fluctuations in enrollment as a result of the pandemic; VACo strongly supported these efforts. Secretary Qarni also highlighted efforts to improve access to early childhood education and promote affordable degree and career pathways in higher education, two priorities of the Administration. Both Secretary Qarni and Deputy

Secretary Burcher addressed the issue of school capital needs, noting that the Commission on School Construction and Modernization has been gathering data on school divisions' infrastructure needs and capital improvement plans (additional detail may be found in [the June 25 edition of County Connections](#)), and that the Administration is reviewing what types of improvements might be eligible expenses under ARPA's Fiscal Recovery Funds as well as the most recent round of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief included in ARPA. VACo members encouraged additional state assistance with the shared responsibility of K-12 education, pointing out that localities make a significant effort in supporting positions that are not recognized by the Standards of Quality (SOQ), a situation that places additional stress on local finances when the state provides its share of a salary increase for SOQ-recognized positions, as localities must provide both the local match for those positions, plus the entirety of the funding for non-SOQ positions.

VACo staff provided an update on resources available to assist counties in determining how they will deploy their ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as well as requests to the state for use of the State Fiscal Recovery Funds in ways that will assist local governments in achieving shared policy goals. Attendees then participated in a roundtable discussion where each county had an opportunity to share top issues and concerns. Common threads included the importance of resources and tools to address school capital needs; needs associated with pandemic-related learning loss; the limitations of the Local Composite Index in reflecting individual counties' circumstances; the critical importance of broadband access; concerns about law enforcement funding and staffing needs; and the need for transportation improvements, including bridges and other infrastructure needs such as dredging. Counties also spoke to the needs of regional jails, particularly with respect to their housing of state-responsible inmates; resources needed by regional water and sewer authorities; challenges presented by large solar installations; increasing needs for social services, including foster care and adult services; the importance of replenishing the state Unemployment Trust Fund; and financial pressures created by the state's interpretation of legislation from the 2021 session regarding governments' ability to provide compensatory time to certain employees in lieu of paid overtime.

VACo is grateful to our members, speakers, legislators, planning district commission representatives, and sponsors for another productive meeting. Regional meetings provide invaluable information to VACo about county needs and interests, and we appreciate our members' engagement in the process.

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

## Governor seeks to align state COVID-19 workplace regulations with CDC guidelines

*Deadline of July 31 to comment on proposal*



In January of this year the Virginia Safety and Health Codes Board adopted a permanent workplace standard for Infectious Disease Prevention: SARS-CoV-2 Virus That Causes COVID-19 ([16VAC25-220](#)). The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) has drafted revisions to this standard which now account for the widespread deployment of vaccines in the workforce. Specifically, many of the restrictions and requirements (such as physical distancing and wearing of face coverings) for workplace safety and environment will not apply to fully vaccinated individuals. DOLI has provided a 30-day comment period on the [draft revised standard](#). The [online comment portal](#) closes at midnight on July 31, 2021.

In addition to the proposed changes [Governor Ralph Northam has recommended changes](#) to [16VAC25-220-10E](#) of the regulations. Under the current standard an employer's compliance with any recommendation of the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to mitigate disease related hazards or job tasks "... provided that the CDC recommendation provides equivalent or greater protection than provided by a provision of this standard, the employer's actions shall be considered in compliance with this standard." The Governor is seeking removal of the condition that any CDC recommendation provide equivalent or greater protection than any provision of the state standard. The result of this recommended change would give the option to employers to comply with CDC guidance without having to additionally comply with the regulations of the proposed permanent state standard. Upon completion of the comment period the board will meet to consider additional changes, including the Governor's recommendation, and then vote to adopt amendments to the permanent standard.

**VACo Contacts:** [Joe Lerch, AICP](#) and [Jeremy Bennett](#)



## Counties are encouraged to participate in online solar survey



On July 13, 2021, the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at UVA and the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) will email an invitation to participate in a statewide, online solar survey to the planning director (or equivalent management role) of every county and independent city in Virginia.

The purpose of the Virginia Solar Survey is to collect data and information related to each local government's experience, readiness, efforts, and needs related to solar policy and solar development. A summary report will be issued, and the information will be used to track solar trends across the state and to prioritize the development of future support, resources, and programming. VACo assisted Weldon Cooper and DMME in the drafting of the survey and will provide a link to the summary report once it is available.

[Click here to view a copy of the survey.](#)

For more on the survey, contact Elizabeth Marshall, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at UVA: [emm2t@virginia.edu](mailto:emm2t@virginia.edu)

**VACo Contact:** [Joe Lerch, AICP](#)





## County of Powhatan, Virginia

3834 Old Buckingham Road  
Powhatan, VA 23139

### Press Release

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2021

Contact:

Edward N. "Ned" Smither, County Administrator

Email: [nsmither@powhatanva.gov](mailto:nsmither@powhatanva.gov) Phone: (804) 598-5612

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### Powhatan County Hires Director of Planning



**POWHATAN, VA** – Frank Hopkins has been hired in the position of Director of Planning for Powhatan County. His start date will be July 19, 2021. Mr. Hopkins succeeds previous Director of Planning, Andrew Pompei.

Hopkins brings over 10 years of local government experience. His most recent position was Zoning Administrator for the City of Winchester, Virginia. He has worked in several Virginia localities, including Fairfax, Loudon and Harrisonburg.

Hopkins earned his undergraduate degree from Christopher Newport University, and his Master of Public Administration/Public Management from James Madison University, specializing in planning, program evaluation/performance measurement and strategic leadership. He is a Certified Zoning Administrator through the Virginia Association of Zoning Officials.

County Administrator Ned Smither said "We are looking forward to Mr. Hopkins joining our team! Our Planning Department is such an integral part of Powhatan's future and Mr. Hopkins will help guide us through the many challenges and opportunities as they develop"

Assistant County Administrator Bret Schardein commented "This role is critical in implementing the County's vision to preserve our rural character while attracting quality business development. We were impressed by both Frank's technical expertise and the way in which he approaches the work with a customer-service mindset. We look forward to welcoming him to Powhatan and the team."

Mr. Hopkins said, "I am very excited and honored to become the Planning Director for Powhatan County. I will do my best to ensure that the citizens, County Administration, and elected leaders receive the best customer service and land use guidance. I look forward to being an integral part of Powhatan's future and continued success."

# Governor Northam Celebrates Groundbreaking on Northern Neck Broadband Project

***Partnership will deliver universal internet access to region, connecting approximately 7,200 unserved locations***

WARSAW—Governor Ralph Northam yesterday joined Dominion Energy Virginia, All Points Broadband, and Northern Neck Electric Cooperative to celebrate the groundbreaking on the first phase of a project that will deliver fiber-optic broadband access to approximately 7,200 currently unserved households and businesses in Virginia's Northern Neck region. This phase of the project will use a \$10 million grant from the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative, along with federal and local funding and private investment, to bring internet access to all remaining unserved locations in King George, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland counties.

"Expanding access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet has been a top priority since the start of our administration—and the pandemic has only underscored the urgency in bridging the digital divide," said Governor Northam. "By leveraging federal, state, local investment and private capital, this project will bring connectivity and opportunity to rural, unserved communities in the Northern Neck. We need to think big to make universal broadband a reality in our Commonwealth, and this regional initiative is exactly the type of unique partnership that will deliver on this promise."

This partnership between electric utilities and broadband providers was made possible through a pilot program established by the General Assembly in 2019, which promotes collaboration between localities, electric utilities, and internet service providers to connect unserved areas to high-speed internet. In just two years of the pilot program, Virginia's utility companies have helped connect more than 13,000 homes and businesses across the Commonwealth. Earlier this year, Governor Northam signed bipartisan legislation that makes the pilot program permanent.

Dominion Energy is installing over 200 miles of fiber from Fredericksburg to Kilmarnock, which will serve as the backbone for the project. This fiber capacity can be used for operational needs and for broadband access, reducing broadband deployment costs for internet service providers. Under the agreement, All Points Broadband, the internet service provider for the partnership, will lease the "middle-mile" fiber installed by Dominion Energy in the company's electric service area in these four counties. All Points Broadband is expected to begin installing the "last mile" portion of the network that will connect unserved homes and businesses in the fourth quarter of 2021.

"Bridging the digital divide is a complex challenge that requires new business models and new ways of thinking," said Jimmy Carr, CEO of All Points Broadband. "The Northern Neck initiative is a model of what can be achieved through a combination of public-private and electric-utility partnerships, and we are excited to bring more projects like this one to fruition."

"We are thrilled to see this project on Virginia's Northern Neck moving forward and are excited to work with our partners to help bridge the digital divide in the communities we serve," said Ed Baine, President of Dominion Energy Virginia.

"Governor Northam and his administration, and bipartisan leadership in the General Assembly, have determined that bridging the digital divide in Virginia is a top priority," said Ajit Pai, immediate past chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and partner at Searchlight Capital Partners, All Points' lead sponsor. "Building on the forward-looking, bipartisan framework that Virginia has established, Searchlight is committed to investing in more partnerships like the Northern Neck initiative, so we can finally solve this challenge together."

Northern Neck Electric Cooperative will work alongside Dominion Energy and All Points Broadband to extend the network, improving their electric grid and power poles along the way.

"We are proud of the role Northern Neck Electric Cooperative has played to bring this project to today, and the example this initiative has set for other regions throughout Virginia," said Brad Hicks, President and CEO of Northern Neck Electric Cooperative.

"We are pleased to see construction begin on this project to bring much needed broadband access to the Northern Neck," said Senators Ryan McDougle and Richard Stuart and Delegate Margaret Ransone. "This critical service will improve quality of life and economic prosperity and help move our region forward."

All Points Broadband, Dominion Energy, Northern Neck Electric Cooperative and the Counties of King George, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland announced an agreement on the project in April 2020. Lancaster and Middlesex Counties have subsequently joined the regional initiative. Work on the project is underway using a phased approach, including an application by Dominion Energy to the State Corporation Commission which was approved in March 2021. The partners have secured \$18.8 million in state and federal funding to help bring a fiber-to-the-home broadband network to presently unserved locations in the initial four counties.

Residents of the Northern Neck can visit [fiber.allpointsbroadband.com](https://fiber.allpointsbroadband.com) to register their location, determine whether their location is included in the project's initial phase, and sign up for future project updates.



VIRGINIA'S PATH FORWARD

## Time Capsule Replacement Project

### The Project

Governor Ralph Northam has announced plans to replace a 134-year old time capsule embedded in the pedestal foundation of the Robert E. Lee statue located at Monument and Allen Avenues in Richmond. The Governor is inviting Virginians to suggest new artifacts that will be installed when the statue is removed.

Governor Ralph Northam has [launched a project](#) to create a new time capsule representing the Commonwealth, and is inviting Virginians to submit artifacts to be considered for inclusion in the capsule. The time capsule will be replacing an old capsule that was embedded in the pedestal of the Robert E. Lee statue in 1887.

This is a great opportunity for communities to reflect on how Virginia has changed in the past 134 years, and what items represent who we are as a Commonwealth today. Below is a message from the Governor's Office.

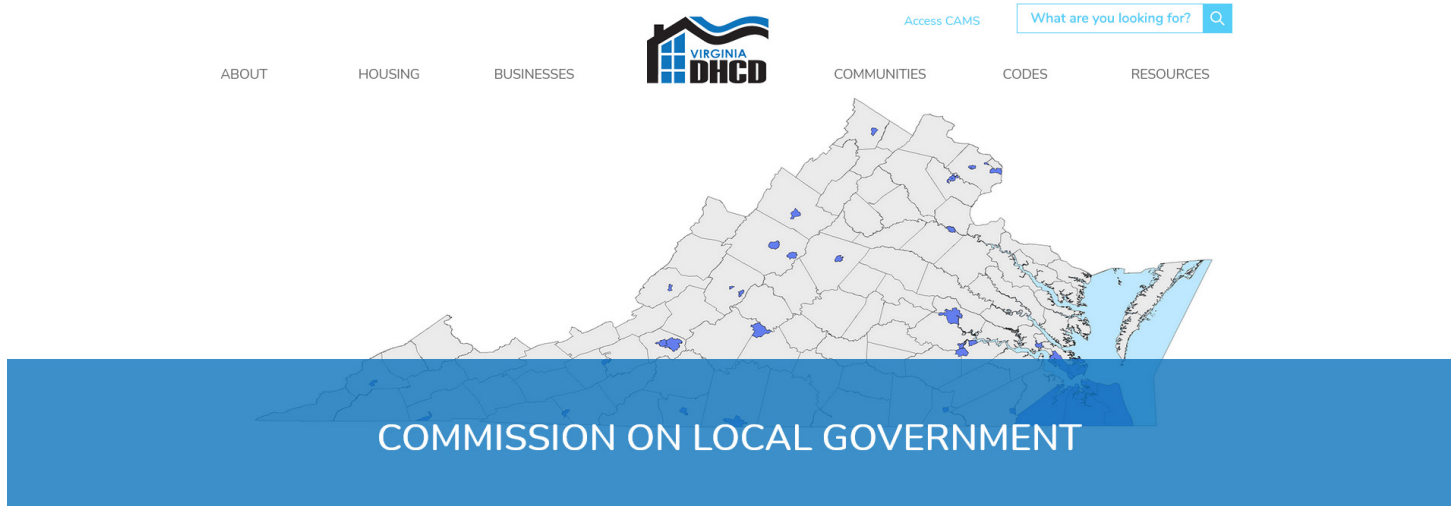
*Virginia Counties and Local Leaders - We would love your help in spreading the word about Governor Northam's [plans](#) to replace a 134-year old time capsule embedded in the pedestal foundation of the Robert E. Lee statue in Richmond. The Governor invites you and your communities to suggest artifacts for a new time capsule that represents the inclusive, welcoming Commonwealth that we are building together.*

*Virginians interested in participating should submit a description of their artifact, the item's size and material, and an explanation of how the object represents Virginia. To submit an artifact for consideration, individuals must own the item or have the ability to obtain it. Artifact submissions will be collected through Tuesday, July 20. For more information about how to participate in the creation of the new time capsule, visit [governor.virginia.gov/timecapsule](https://governor.virginia.gov/timecapsule).*

After the submission deadline, suggested items will be reviewed by a panel. Items selected for inclusion in the new time capsule will be collected by the Governor's Office, placed in a new time capsule, and stored by the Department of Historic Resources until the time capsule is installed.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Tori Feyrer at [tori.feyrer@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:tori.feyrer@governor.virginia.gov).

# Mandatory Property Tax Exemptions Survey Underway; Responses Due July 21



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](mailto:david.conmy@dhcd.virginia.gov).

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)





# 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](#)



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:

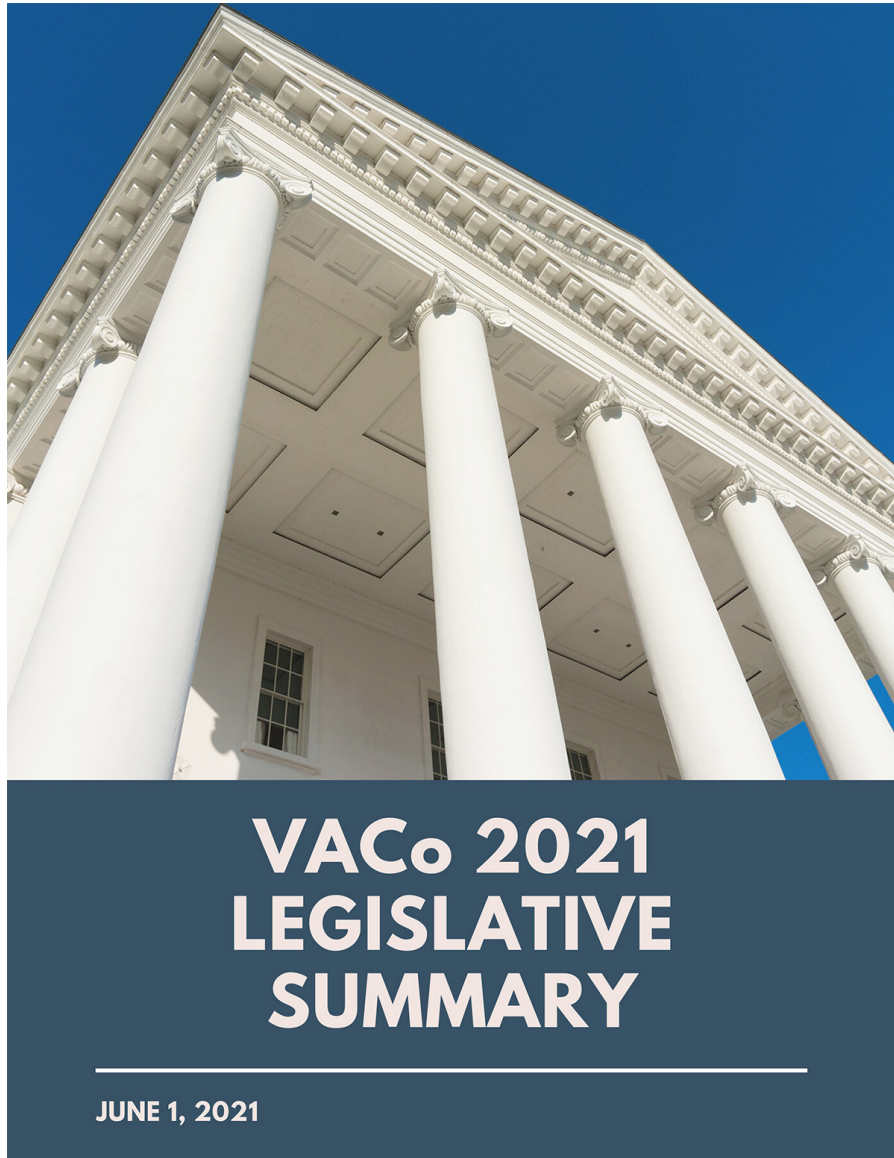
- Community Engagement;
- Strategic Planning;
- Capital Improvement Planning;
- Project Management; and
- Program Administration.

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)

# 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](mailto: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 \(vaco.org\)](#).

**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=RnmFDYlHKoI>



[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

## 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): \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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).



**UTILITY MAINTENANCE WORKER** | Gloucester County | Posted July 7



**SENIOR UTILITY MECHANIC** | Gloucester County | Posted July 7



**RECREATION AIDE** | Gloucester County | Posted July 7



**PARK AIDE** | Gloucester County | Posted July 7



**MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN** | Gloucester County | Posted July 7



**LIBRARY CLERK - WAR** | Gloucester County | Posted July 7



**CUSTODIAN PT** | Gloucester County | Posted July 7



**SPECIALTY INSTRUCTOR** | Gloucester County | Posted July 7



**DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** | Gloucester County | Posted July 7



**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR** | Gloucester County | Posted July 7



**LANDSCAPING LABORER** | Montgomery County | Posted July 7



**PROCUREMENT OFFICER II** | Spotsylvania County | Posted July 7



**PLANNER II** | Spotsylvania County | Posted July 7



**IT PROJECT ANALYST** | Spotsylvania County | Posted July 7



**IT PROJECT ANALYST - PUBLIC SAFETY** | Spotsylvania County | Posted July 7



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**ASSISTANT COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY** | Spotsylvania County | Posted July 7



**ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTOR I** | Frederick County | Posted July 7



**VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCATE** | Gloucester County | Posted July 7



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR** | Elizabeth City - Pasquotank County EDC | Posted July 6



**FIREFIGHTER & EMS** | Patrick County | Posted July 6



**ASSISTANT  
COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY I** | Gloucester County | Posted July 6



**SENIOR BUDGET &  
ACCOUNTING ANALYST** | Gloucester County | Posted July 6



**EXECUTIVE  
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**BUILDING PERMIT  
TECHNICIAN** | Amelia County | Posted July 6



**FINANCIAL REPORTING  
MANAGER** | Chesterfield County | Posted July 6



**ZONING  
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**FAMILY SERVICES  
SUPERVISOR** | Montgomery County | Posted July 2



**TECHNOLOGY SERVICES  
COORDINATOR - LIBRARY** | Roanoke County | Posted July 2



**ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR** | Harnett County, NC | Posted July 2



**ORGANIZATIONAL &  
DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR** | City of Salem | Posted July 2



**SHELTER ASSISTANT  
PT** | Montgomery County | Posted June 30



**DEPUTY COUNTY  
ENGINEER** | Albemarle County | Posted June 30



**RECORDS MANAGER/  
FOIA COORDINATOR ( MANAGEMENT ANALYST II)** | Fairfax County | Posted June 29



**TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT  
SPECIALIST I - III** | Montgomery County | Posted June 29



**FACILITIES TECHNICIAN  
III** | Gloucester County | Posted June 29



**FOOD SERVICE  
ASSISTANT** | Frederick County | Posted June 29



**PRETRIAL PROBATION  
OFFICER** | Frederick County | Posted June 29



**PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMUNICATION OFFICER 911  
DISPATCH** | Frederick County | Posted June 29



**PARK MAINTENANCE  
TECHNICIAN** | Frederick County | Posted June 29



**MAINTENANCE  
MECHANIC ASSISTANT** | Frederick County | Posted June 29



**SHERIFFS DEPUTY I II** | Frederick County | Posted June 29



**RECREATION  
SUPERINTENDENT** | Frederick County | Posted June 29



**CODE INSPECTOR-  
BUILDING (I, II, III or IV)** | City of Alexandria | Posted June 29

**Chesapeake FACILITY  
MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN II** | City of Chesapeake | Posted June 29



## 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.

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Fairfax County



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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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