

Larry Johnson takes the lead as NACo president



NACo's new executive team, elected July 12 at the 2021 Annual Business Meeting in Prince George's County, Md. are (l-r): Immediate Past President Gary Moore, Boone County, Ky. judge/executive; President Larry Johnson, commissioner, DeKalb County, Ga.; First Vice President Denise Winfrey, board member, Will County, Ill. and Second Vice President Mary Jo McGuire, commissioner, Ramsey County, Minn. **Photo by Denny Henry**

By Mary Ann Barton
NACo CountyNews

DeKalb County, Ga. Commissioner Larry Johnson was sworn in as NACo's new president Monday afternoon at NACo's 2021 Annual Business Meeting in Prince George's County, Md. Johnson began his journey to the top spot when he was elected second vice president of NACo in 2019 at the Annual Conference in Clark County, Nev.

"When I was growing up, I couldn't imagine being here today," Johnson said in his acceptance speech. "I'm the product of two teenage parents and sometimes it seemed like the world was against me. But

I never would give up. I wish my mom could be here to see me now."

Delegates at the association's 86th Annual Conference elected Johnson to lead the executive team along with Boone County, Ky. Judge Executive Gary Moore, immediate past president; Will County, Ill. board member Denise Winfrey, who becomes NACo's first vice president and Ramsey County, Minn. Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire, who was elected second vice president in a three-way election.

Johnson laid out his vision for his year ahead in a speech to county officials. "I am pleased to announce that I will focus on the theme 'Counties thrive,'" Johnson said. "We'll focus on six areas," he said, noting that the THRIVE

acronym stands for: Technology, Health, Readiness, Infrastructure, Vulnerable Populations and Economic Opportunity.

"I hope you all will join me because this is not a one-man show," Johnson said. "NACo, we're going to go on this ride together."

The 2021 Annual Conference was the first large gathering of NACo members since early 2020, when county officials gathered in Washington, D.C. for the Legislative Conference, just ahead of the big shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

See more coverage of the Annual Conference [online here](#).

[Click here for a list of NACo committee chairs](#)

Governor Announces Significant State Budget Surplus for FY 2021



Governor Northam announced on July 14 that Virginia's FY 2021 General Fund surplus is estimated at \$2.6 billion, based on preliminary figures. While a complete analysis will be released on August 18, when the Governor speaks to the "money committees," initial data released by the Administration indicates that Virginia's core revenue sources, income tax withholding and sales and use taxes, turned in solid performances, growing by 4.7 percent and 12.4 percent, respectively. Payroll withholding was projected to grow by 2.7 percent and 4.7 percent growth was projected for sales taxes. The Governor pointed out that both brick and mortar retail and online sales experienced growth (7.6 percent and 32.3 percent, respectively).

The special session that will convene August 2 is not expected to address the FY 2021 surplus, focusing instead on directing the use of federal relief funds provided to the state through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and judicial appointments. The Governor will have an opportunity to propose uses for the budget surplus funds in his outgoing budget, which will be presented to the money committees in December. Constitutional and statutory obligations will require a significant portion of the surplus to be deposited in the Revenue Stabilization Fund and the Water Quality Improvement Fund.

Later in the week, the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) [announced](#) that the state's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point in June, and now stands at 4.3 percent. Relative to June 2020, total nonfarm jobs grew by an estimated 190,400, representing a 5.1 percent increase, with the largest job gains in the leisure and hospitality and trade and transportation sectors. While unemployment rates have not returned to pre-pandemic levels (Virginia's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 2.6 percent in February 2020), the June unemployment rate is 4.5 percentage points lower than a year ago, and Virginia continues to outperform the national rate, which is 5.9 percent. A few days after the VEC report, the Virginia Lottery announced more good news, reporting record-setting profits of \$765 million for FY 2021, \$57 million above projections. Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee Chair Janet Howell pointed out in an [article](#) in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* that additional lottery revenues, which support K-12 education, will assist in funding the costs associated with rebenchmarking the Standards of Quality in the upcoming biennium.

While the state's bottom line appears to be healthy, some concern remains at the national level about rising inflation. The Consumer Price Index [increased](#) by 5.4 percent in June relative to the previous year, driven largely by used car prices, according to the Federal Reserve. In [prepared remarks](#) to Congressional committees, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said, "Inflation has increased notably and will likely remain elevated in coming months before moderating," but attributed the increase to supply constraints and pent-up demand for services, as well as "base effect" distortions created by comparing current prices with those that were unusually low last year as a result of the pandemic.

Joint Subcommittee on Mental Health Transitions to New Behavioral Health Commission; Focus Remains on State Hospital Overcrowding



Discussions at the July 15 meeting of the Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century took on fresh urgency as a result of the temporary closure of five state hospitals to new admissions, which was announced by Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Commissioner Alison Land on July 9. The Joint Subcommittee advanced a package of potential funding solutions for further discussion at the upcoming special session in the hope that some of the federal relief funding coming to the state through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) may be able to ameliorate the census pressures at the state hospitals while work continues to build out a comprehensive, community-based system of crisis services.

Commissioner Land made a [presentation](#) to the Joint Subcommittee regarding the situation at the state hospitals and the Department's funding requests for the special session. As in previous presentations, she discussed the dangerous situation presented when state hospitals are frequently operating at or above 100 percent capacity, while staffing levels can be as low as 60 to 70 percent in some facilities. Before the pandemic, state facilities had more than 1000 vacant positions; at the time her presentation was prepared, that number had increased to 1547. The Department attributes this high rate of attrition to inadequate compensation as well as concerns that staffing shortages exacerbate, such as assaults on staff and mandatory overtime in some facilities. In summarizing the situation, Commissioner Land told Joint Subcommittee members, "Our safety net is no longer safe."

In the short term, the Department will use \$25 million from its emergency fund to pay bonuses to hospital staff, in an effort to improve retention, and to contract for additional staff for the facilities that

are temporarily closed. However, this funding will only support the contract staffing for 13 weeks. The Department's priority requests for ARPA funding include \$75 million to bring direct care staff salaries closer to being competitive; \$6 million for additional security and safety infrastructure and contract staffing; \$3 million to improve discharge planning; and \$5 million to expand a pilot program to support individuals with dementia in nursing homes (and avoid state hospital admissions for these patients).

A workgroup of the Joint Subcommittee has held several meetings this spring and summer with a focus on state hospital overcrowding, including the strain on law enforcement, who at times are waiting with patients in emergency departments for days until a bed becomes available. Legislators and advocates have also pointed to the harmful effects on patients, who may not be receiving psychiatric care while they wait and can be further traumatized by the experience. The workgroup, chaired by Senator Monty Mason, submitted [a series of recommendations](#), all of which the full Joint Subcommittee agreed to advance for further discussions.

The recommendations included the following proposals:

- Funding to expand existing Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Centers (CITACs) to enable 24/7 operation.
- Funding to expand the scope of services offered in up to five existing CITACs to establish regional receiving centers.
- Funding for staff recruitment and retention at state hospitals.
- Funding for private behavioral health facilities to enable opening of beds that are currently licensed but not staffed. A proposal reported in the media would allow 58 beds to open if the state provided \$8.5 million to support staffing costs.
- Funding to incentivize private facilities to accept more challenging patients.
- Exploration of options to reduce the impact of serving the forensic population on bed availability for civil patients, to include establishment of forensic-only facilities.
- Incentives for private hospitals to provide security necessary for law enforcement to transfer custody of an individual subject to a temporary detention order to the facility.
- Expansion of the existing contract for alternative transportation to allow the contractor's staff to wait with individuals subject to temporary detention orders (currently, the contract only covers transportation of these individuals).
- Funding for overtime pay for deputies who must wait with individuals for available beds.

Several items on this list were also recommended by DBHDS, including expansion of CITACs, funding for staffing at state hospitals, and expansion of the alternative transportation contract.

July 15 was the Joint Subcommittee's last meeting in its current form. Legislation passed this year creates a stand-alone Behavioral Health Commission, which held its inaugural meeting later that day to elect a chair and vice-chair and begin the process of organizing the new body. Senator Creigh Deeds was chosen as chair, with Delegate Patrick Hope selected as vice-chair. The Commission is expected to continue its work throughout the summer with temporary support from the Division of Legislative Services while it works to hire staff.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)



Dr. JJ Orth, Chairman of the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors, shown alongside Carol Steele, Gloucester's Acting County Administrator

Visit Gloucester County and the new LOVE Sign

We were honored to be joined by some special guests during today's LOVE Sign Ribbon Cutting, including Dr. JJ Orth, chairman of the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors and Carol Steele, Gloucester's Acting County Administrator!

The sign is located beside Whitley's Peanut Factory at Gloucester Point, which also happens to be the location of Gloucester's Tourist Information Center.



The new sign is part of the "WanderLove" campaign, which is being used by the Virginia Tourism Commission, to promote road trips throughout Virginia as a way to re-enter travel as the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

The Gloucester "LOVE" sign is specifically designed to promote the County's Tourism slogan, "For History, For Beauty, For Fun." Stop by and check it out!

SOURCE: [Gloucester County Government Facebook](#)



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



Premier Partner Spotlight

THE BERKLEY GROUP



Local Government **STRONG**

Join Dean Lynch and Drew Williams, CEO, as they discuss The Berkley Group's array of services to local governments. With the release of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, The Berkley Group is also assisting communities to develop a roadmap to maximize return on investment by offering community engagement, strategic planning, capital improvement planning, project management and administration.

The Berkley Group is the go-to consultant for Virginia counties and their communities. For more information, please visit www.bgllc.net. What doors can we open for you?

Watch the [Premier Partner Video](#)



Premier Partner Spotlight

CONDUENT



CONDUENT

CONTACT US

Dan Seid | Senior Sales Executive
47068 Stillwood Place | Sterling, VA 20165
Phone: 202.345.7131
Email: Daniel.Seid@conduent.com
Website: www.conduenttransportation.com

Dean Lynch visited with VACo Premier Partner Dan Seid from Conduent, exploring the organization's customized speed enforcement and red light programs available to localities across the Commonwealth. Conduent's established history of comprehensive traffic programs in the mid-Atlantic region on the state and local level can provide added benefits in the areas of expertise and the procurement process.

Watch the [Premier Partner Video](#)

Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) Webinar and Grant Cycle Application Opening Soon



On July 20, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Rail and Transit Subcommittee [met](#) and provided updates on the Transit Ridership Incentive Program ([TRIP](#)), and on the following day the full CTB [approved](#) final policy for the program. As previously [reported](#), TRIP was created as part of the omnibus transportation [bill](#) from the 2020 session of the General Assembly, and is designed to improve regional transit service in large urban areas and reduce barriers to transit access for low income individuals. To accompany these two goals, TRIP is divided into two sub-programs, TRIP- regional connectivity and TRIP- zero fare and low income.

The Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) is a new statewide grant program dedicated to improving transit's regional connectivity in urban areas with a population in excess of 100,000 and reducing barriers to transit use by supporting low income and zero fare programming.

The TRIP FY 2022 Mid Grant Cycle Application will open August 2, 2021, and will close on September 17, 2021, at midnight. However, there will be an extension granted to letters of support and other procedural attachments. DRPT will host a [TRIP webinar on July 29](#), to review application materials, discuss the timeline, and answer any questions. Application Guidelines can be accessed [here](#).

Additional program materials and details can also be found on the [DRPT TRIP webpage](#).

If any questions or comments arise, please contact TRIP@drpt.virginia.gov or contact the program manager:

Lauren Fishbein
Statewide Program Manager
Lauren.Fishbein@drpt.virginia.gov
c: (804) -351-6791

As a member of the Virginia Faces of Transit Coalition, VACo [supports](#) additional state and federal support for public transit and transportation improvements in general.

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

JLARC seeks information from counties on how land use ordinances may affect supply of housing – responses due August 4



In November of 2020 the Virginia Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission ([JLARC](#)) adopted a [study resolution](#) for a Review of the Commonwealth's Housing Needs. A component of the study includes a mandate to "identify factors that limit the supply of housing, including zoning requirements." Related to this component of the study, JLARC staff reached out to all County Administrators with the following message and instructions for completing an [online survey](#) of local zoning ordinances:

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC), the non-partisan policy evaluation and oversight agency of the Virginia General Assembly, is currently conducting a review of housing needs in the Commonwealth. As part of their review, JLARC staff are conducting a survey of all Virginia localities to collect information on their zoning, land use, and development approval policies and practices. Data collected from the survey will help ensure that findings and recommendations that result from JLARC's review reflect local practices and experiences as accurately as possible.

*Please follow the link below to complete JLARC's survey by **Wednesday, August 4, 2021**.*

<https://jlarc.checkboxonline.com/Local-Land-Use>

For more information about JLARC, visit <http://jlarc.virginia.gov>. For questions about the survey, contact Ellie Rigsby at landusesurvey@jlarc.virginia.gov or 804-371-4565. Local administrators and planning directors should have also received an email from JLARC about the survey. Anyone with the link can access the survey. Please limit responses to one per locality.

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



VACo at NACo Annual Conference

The Virginia delegation at the NACo Annual Conference weighed in on the Second VP candidate for NACo leadership and participated in policy directives. Attending were almost 50 county leaders from across the Commonwealth.





IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: News and Resources from the 2021 NACo Annual Conference

Thank you to all who participated in the 2021 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference, as we celebrated our successes, shared lessons learned and laid the groundwork for a brighter future for our counties, parishes and boroughs.

Below, find [new NACo resources](#), [County News conference coverage](#), [videos](#) and more.

CATCH UP ON CONFERENCE ACTION

2021–2022 AMERICAN COUNTY PLATFORM

Conference delegates adopted resolutions on pressing federal policies that make up the American County Platform.

[ACCESS THE PLATFORM](#) | [EXPLORE NACo's LATEST POLICY BRIEFS](#)

COUNTY NEWS CONFERENCE COVERAGE

Explore session recaps, highlights of new NACo resources and more.

[READ MORE](#)

SESSION RECORDINGS

Visit the [on-demand section on NACo's events and education hub](#) to access a selection of workshop recordings from the conference.

[GO TO EDUCATION ON-DEMAND](#)

Governor Northam Announces Virginia to Invest \$700 Million in American Rescue Plan Funding to Achieve Universal Broadband by 2024

Governor Ralph Northam recently announced that Virginia plans to invest \$700 million in American Rescue Plan funding to expedite the deployment of last-mile broadband infrastructure to unserved areas and close the digital divide within the next three years. This proposal will accelerate the Governor's 10-year goal for achieving universal internet access from 2028 to 2024, with the majority of connections obligated within the next 18 months. In May, Governor Northam and General Assembly leaders released a joint statement outlining shared priorities for allocating the \$4.3 billion in federal funds available to the Commonwealth from the American Rescue Plan.

The Governor made the announcement at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon and was joined by U.S. Senator Mark Warner, State Senator Janet Howell and Delegate Luke Torian, who chair the General Assembly's money committees, and State Senator Jennifer Boysko and Delegate Roslyn Tyler, who lead Virginia's Broadband Advisory Council. Governor Northam also reported that the Commonwealth has successfully bridged half of the digital divide, with an estimated 233,500 unserved locations remaining.

"It's time to close the digital divide in our Commonwealth and treat internet service like the 21st century necessity that it is—not just a luxury for some, but an essential utility for all," said Governor Northam. "The pandemic has reinforced how important high-quality broadband is for the health, education, and economic opportunity, and we cannot afford to leave any community behind. With this historic \$700 million investment, universal broadband is now within our reach. I am grateful to Senator Warner for fighting to include this funding in the American Rescue Plan, which will be key to the success of local connectivity efforts and to ensuring every Virginian has affordable, reliable, and equitable access to high-speed internet."

Since 2018, the Commonwealth has awarded approximately \$124 million in broadband grants and connected over 140,000 homes, businesses, and community anchors. Governor Northam and the General Assembly made historic investments—\$50 million in 2020 and an additional \$50 million in 2021—in the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI), a public-private partnership that provides targeted financial assistance to extend broadband service to areas currently unserved by a provider. With this \$700 million allocation of federal dollars and continued state investment, the Commonwealth has the necessary resources to meet the tremendous demand from localities and broadband providers and close the digital divide in Virginia.

"With telehealth and telework becoming permanent staples across the nation, access to broadband is more critical than ever," said U.S. Senator Mark R. Warner. "Earlier this year, I was proud to help deliver more than \$3.7 billion dollars in direct fiscal relief for the Commonwealth through the American Rescue Plan, including hundreds of millions of dollars for broadband. I'm hopeful that my friends in the General Assembly will use \$700 million of that funding to expand access to broadband, thereby creating economic opportunity and ensuring that every Virginian can meaningfully participate in our 21st century economy."

"Localities and broadband providers have stepped up over the past three years and helped the Commonwealth connect thousands of unserved Virginians," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball. "With today's announcement, large regional projects that achieve universal service can be funded across the Commonwealth without delay."

Because Governor Northam prioritized broadband expansion well before the pandemic, Virginia is on track to be one of the first states in the country to achieve universal broadband service. In 2019, the Governor worked with the General Assembly to establish a pilot program that 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.

"The Commonwealth continues to prioritize funding for universal broadband access and I'm encouraged to see these investments coming ahead of schedule," said Senator Janet Howell, Chair of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee. "This appropriation of federal dollars will go a long way towards supporting the investments that the Commonwealth has already made to bridge the digital divide."

"Funding for broadband is more critical now than ever," said Delegate Luke Torian, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee. "We must continue to ensure that all citizens of the Commonwealth have access to quality internet access."

"The Broadband Advisory Council has long prioritized funding to reduce the cost of broadband access and connect unserved Virginians," said Senator Jennifer Boysko, Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council. "With this investment of American Rescue Plan dollars, we will greatly accelerate our progress."

"I have lived in a rural area my entire life and I know that the Commonwealth benefits as a whole when we lift up all communities," said Delegate Roslyn Tyler, Vice Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council. "This investment will have a tremendous impact on countless Virginians and allow our communities to prosper and grow."

Video of announcement is available on Governor Northam's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.



Virginia Earns Back-to-Back Titles in CNBC Ranking, Remains “America’s Top State for Business”

Governor Ralph Northam recently announced that CNBC, a world leader in business news, has named Virginia as America’s “Top State for Business” in 2021. The Governor joined CNBC at the Port of Virginia for a live broadcast where the winner was revealed following an extensive study of 85 distinct metrics across 10 competitiveness categories. CNBC’s scorecard highlighted the Commonwealth’s education system, workforce, and commitment to equity and inclusion.

Following the announcement, Governor Northam held a [press conference](#) with leaders from the General Assembly to discuss the pragmatic, forward-looking policies that propelled the Commonwealth to reclaim the top spot in 2019 and made Virginia the first state to win back-to-back titles in CNBC’s ranking.

“Virginia continues to be the best place to do business because of our world-class education institutions, talented workforce, and shared commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion,” said Governor Northam. “I am proud of what this coveted recognition says about the policies we have put in place and how they are driving growth and innovation across our Commonwealth. Our success is a blueprint for creating a vibrant economic climate in the post-pandemic world—and proves that when you lift everyone up, when you treat people right, and when you celebrate diversity, it’s also good for business.”

With previous wins in 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2019, Virginia surpassed Texas for most years as the top state for business since CNBC debuted its ranking in 2007. This year, CNBC adapted its formulas to address the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impacts, with a new focus on areas like health care, inclusiveness, and sustainability. Information about the methodology used by CNBC to determine America’s Top States for Business in 2021 is available [here](#).

States can earn a maximum of 2,500 points across the 10 categories, and Virginia received a total of 1,587 points. In its 2021 ranking, CNBC noted Virginia’s highly educated workforce, strong economy, and stable business environment. The study also gives Virginia top scores for education, infrastructure, and technology and innovation. Read more about Virginia’s 2021 ranking [here](#).

Since Governor Northam took office in January 2018, the Commonwealth has created nearly 90,000 new jobs and secured more than \$45.4 billion in statewide capital investment, including approximately \$7 billion in distressed communities. With major investments from global leaders like Amazon, Facebook, and Micron, and companies of all sizes choosing to locate or expand their operations in Virginia, businesses continue to recognize the Commonwealth’s competitive advantages.

Under Governor Northam’s leadership, Virginia has made historic investments in early childhood education, increased funding for historically Black colleges and universities, and worked to expand degree programs in computer science and technology at public higher education institutions to help meet the increased demand for tech talent. Virginia’s workforce investments also include the new G3 program, which launched this month and makes tuition-free community college and financial support for other expenses available to low- and middle-income students who pursue jobs in high-demand fields.

Investing in infrastructure has been an essential component of Virginia’s ongoing work to create economic opportunity, facilitate commerce, and improve the quality of life. This includes improvements to the heavily traveled I-81 corridor, an expansion project that will once again make the Port of Virginia the deepest port on the East Coast, and the Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative to build a 21st-century statewide rail network across the Commonwealth.

The Northam Administration has also put a strong focus on advancing policies that make Virginia more welcoming and inclusive, ensure people are treated fairly and equitably, and make it as easy as possible for Virginians to participate in democracy.

Watch the full CNBC interview with Governor Northam [here](#).

Chesterfield County Awarded Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 40th Consecutive Year



CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, VA — The Chesterfield County Accounting Department was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30.

This is the 40th consecutive year Chesterfield has received this prestigious award, continuously meeting the changing financial reporting requirements.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the county.

“Achieving the high standards set by the GFOA for the certificate program is increasingly difficult with each passing year,” said Donna Arrington, director of Accounting for Chesterfield. “Receiving this honor for the 40th straight year is a testament to the hard work and commitment to excellence of the many county and school staff who collaborate in compiling this report and to the guidance and leadership received from the highest level of county administration.”

The county’s comprehensive annual financial report was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive “spirit of disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. The Government Finance Officers Association established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program in 1945.

It encourages and assists state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then recognizes individual governments that achieve that goal.

OMNIA[®]

PARTNERS



OMNIA Partners is excited to announce new cooperative contracts you can access immediately. Drive efficiency, effectiveness and real savings within your organization by utilizing the below contract solutions.

Technology Solutions, Products, and Services

- Access to innovative technology products and services to participating agencies large and small.
- Includes a diverse portfolio of technology products, digital experiences, and technology solution agreements with numerous distribution partners.
- These industry-leading suppliers offer world class technology solutions.

[VIEW SOLUTIONS](#)

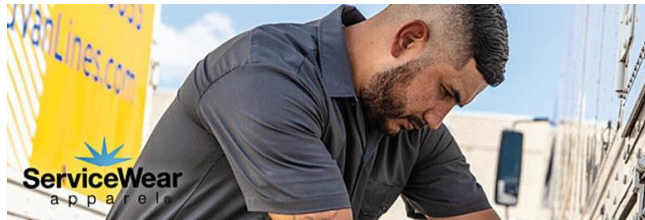
Pest Control Products and Services

- Pest control services now available from two nationally recognized brands, **Terminix Commercial** and **Orkin**.
- This contract includes pest control services such as inspections, cleaning and disinfection, wildlife removal, monitoring and more.
- Exclusive pricing and value-adds for participants of OMNIA Partners.

[VIEW CONTRACTS](#)

OMNIA[®]

PARTNERS



Apparel, Uniforms, Accessories, Products and Services

- This new contract with **ServiceWear Apparel** offers participants special pricing and discounts for all workwear needs with no additional charge for larger sizes.
- Contract offering includes stock, non-stock, and made to measure garment processes with over 6,000 customization options available, and a 14-business-day turnaround on stock garments.
- Participants will have access to enhanced support from dedicated account management and customer service representatives.

[VIEW CONTRACT](#)

Proctoring Solutions: Live Online and Automated

- **PSI** provides participating agencies with access to an innovative and secure alternative to traditional in-person testing methods.
- Offerings include a range of solutions that seamlessly integrate with existing learning management systems and support every test development phase.
- PSI integrates the human aspect of proctoring with its online solutions, even when administering exams remotely.

[VIEW CONTRACT](#)

Interested in our entire portfolio? [View all contracts.](#)



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:

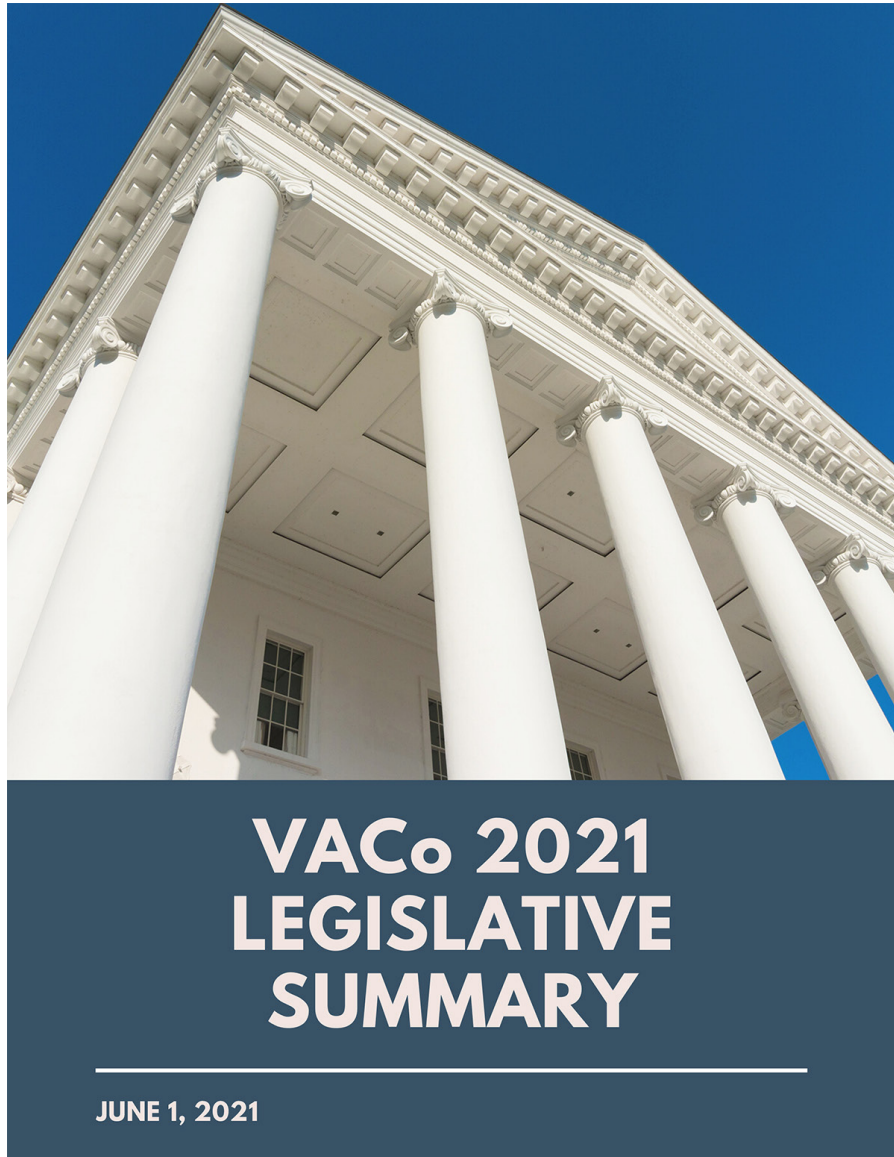
- Community Engagement;
- Strategic Planning;
- Capital Improvement Planning;
- Project Management; and
- Program Administration.

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](#)



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>



www.eecomputing.com/events



www.eecomputing.com

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): _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

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

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

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION:

Charge Options: _____ American Express _____ MasterCard _____ VISA

Card No: _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Email for credit card receipt: _____

Mail completed form to:

Virginia Association of Counties
1207 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627

Or FAX credit card purchases to 804.788.0083

Questions? Call 804.788.6652.



The Virginia Association of Counties accepts employment ads in a PDF file or a link to a job site. Please include information for applying, and a link to other important information. Please do not fax your employment ad. VACo members are not charged for placing an employment ad. The cost is \$50 per ad for non-VACo members. VACo publishes the ad on its website and mobile app as well as the upcoming County Connections issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [Valerie.Russell](mailto:Valerie.Russell@vacounty.org).



MANAGER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | Town of Front Royal | Posted July 22



BUDGET/MANAGEMENT ANALYST | Albemarle County | Posted July 22



DEPUTY CHIEF OF TRANSPORTATION | Albemarle County | Posted July 22



CHIEF ACCOUNTANT - PAYROLL MANAGER | Albemarle County | Posted July 22



DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL CARE, ADOPTION & PROTECTION | Goochland County | Posted July 22



MECHANIC | Prince George County | Posted July 22



UTILITY WORKER | Prince George County | Posted July 22



MANAGER V. UTILITY OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT | Prince George County | Posted July 22



REAL ESTATE ASSESSOR | Prince George County | Posted July 22



FIRE MEDIC PT | Prince George County | Posted July 22



UTILITY PROJECT ENGINEER | Prince George County | Posted July 22



POLICE OFFICER | Prince George County | Posted July 22



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | George Washington Regional Commission | Posted July 22



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE PT | Fauquier County | Posted July 22



TOURISM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Montgomery County | Posted July 21



FINANCE DIRECTOR | Warren County | Posted July 21



BUILDING OFFICIAL & ZONING ADMINISTRATOR | City of Covington | Posted July 21



PROJECT MANAGER | City of Chesapeake | Posted July 21



GENERAL REGISTRAR/DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS | Prince William County | Posted July 21



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE | Prince Edward County | Posted July 19



UTILITIES ENGINEER | Chesterfield County | Posted July 19



DEPUTY COURT CLERK | Montgomery County | Posted July 19



PLANNER I | Fauquier County | Posted July 19





**CHIEF DEPUTY
COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY** |
Gloucester County | Posted July 19



LEGAL ASSISTANT |
Montgomery County | Posted July 19



**PLANNER or SENIOR
PLANNER** | The Berkley Group
| Posted July 19



**COMMUNICATION'S
OFFICER** | Prince George County
| Posted July 19



**OFFICE MANAGER/
DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD** |
Mathews County | Posted July 19



PRINCIPAL ENGINEER |
Chesterfield County | Posted July 16



BUILDING INSPECTOR |
Hanover County | Posted July 16



**PROCUREMENT
MANAGER** | City of Harrisonburg
| Posted July 16



**FLEET MAINTENANCE
SUPERVISOR** | City of Harrisonburg
| Posted July 16



**ATHLETIC FIELD TURF
TECHNICIAN** | City of Harrisonburg
| Posted July 16



ZONING TECHNICIAN |
City of Harrisonburg | Posted July 16



**DEPUTY COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR** | Mecklenburg
County | Posted July 16



SUPERINTENDENT |
Southside Regional Jail Authority
| Posted July 16



**HUMAN RESOURCES
ANALYST** | City of Fredericksburg
| Posted July 15



**CODE COMPLIANCE
OFFICER** | Hanover County | Posted
July 15



**WATER ELECTRICAL
CONTROL SPECIALIST (JOURNEYMAN
ELECTRICIAN)** | Chesterfield County
| Posted July 14



**IT SYSTEMS ENGINEER
(CD) - GIS PROFESSIONAL** | Hanover
County | Posted July 14



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR |
Middlesex County EDA | Posted July
14



BUILDING OFFICIAL |
Washington County | Posted July 13



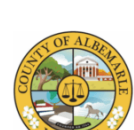
PLANNER II | Fauquier
County | Posted July 13



**DEPUTY DIRECTOR
OF FINANCE** | Rockingham County
| Posted July 13



**COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR** | Allegheny County
| Posted July 12



**HOUSING PROGRAM
SUPPORT SPECIALIST** | Albemarle
County | Posted July 12



**ASSISTANT CITY
MANAGER** | City of Hopewell | Posted
July 12

VALUE OF VACo



ADVOCACY

VACo's lobbying efforts have helped stem the tide of unfunded mandates and have saved Counties millions of dollars every year.



EDUCATION

Our educational programs offer County leaders and staff opportunities to become more effective in their communities.



MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Some of VACo's best moments are when members convene and work to improve communities all over the Commonwealth.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Our business development opportunities offer savings and innovative approaches to delivering services at the County level.

VACo LEADERSHIP



President
Jeffrey C. McKay
Fairfax County



President-Elect
Meg Bohmke
Stafford County



First Vice President
Jason D. Bellows
Lancaster County



Second Vice President
Ann H. Mallek
Albemarle County



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



Immediate Past President
Stephen W. Bowen
Nottoway County

VACo STAFF

Executive Director | Dean A. Lynch, CAE
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs | Jeremy R. Bennett
Director of Government Affairs | Katie Boyle
General Counsel | Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE
Director of Communications | A. Gage Harter
Director of Technical Services | John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA
Director of Local Government Policy | Joe Lerch, AICP
Director of Government Relations | Chris J. McDonald, Esq.
Administrative Secretary | Valerie M. Russell
Director of Administration and Finance | Vicky D. Steinruck, CPA
Coordinator of Programs and Development | Karie Walker

VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

1207 East Main Street | Suite 300
 Richmond, VA 23219-3627
 Phone: 804.788.6652 | www.vaco.org

County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

