

## Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Sets FY 2023-2024 Employer Contribution Rates for Teacher Plans



On October 14, the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Board of Trustees [met](#) to review actuarial results for five statewide Retirement Plans (State Employees, Teachers, JRS, SPORS, and VaLORS) and the associated other post-employment benefits (OPEBs). Most relevant for county governments, employer contribution rates for the Teacher plan are expected to be reduced during the coming biennium from the current rate of 16.62% to 14.76%. The [VRS Board](#) unanimously approved the contribution rates. These rates have been sent to the Governor and money committees for consideration in preparation of the upcoming budget. If confirmed by the Governor and the General Assembly, this is likely to yield significant savings to the state and local governments, who share the costs associated with funding the Teacher plan.

During the meeting, the system actuary [presented](#) the results of the June 30, 2021 actuarial valuation of the statewide pension plans and associated OPEBs programs. The rates for both plans benefited from the [historic](#) 2021 fiscal year investment returns; however, the teacher rate further benefited from the funding of the deferred contributions one year ahead of schedule with a \$61.3 million infusion by the General Assembly in June 2021 which was applied to the 10-year deferred contribution balance. VACo has traditionally supported and encouraged such actions by the General Assembly as a prudent use of General Funds that yields long-term benefits to both state and local governments.

VRS uses the actuarial valuations for [employer contribution rate](#) setting on odd years in advance of the next biennium. The rates for the Teacher plan are presented in October, while the other most important plans to local governments (Political Subdivisions plans) are presented in November. The VRS staff actuary will present summary information for local governments at the Board's next meeting on November 16, with rates mailed to localities after January 1, 2022. Final contribution rates will be available at the conclusion of the 2022 General Assembly and will take effect on July 1, 2022, for FY 2023 and FY 2024.

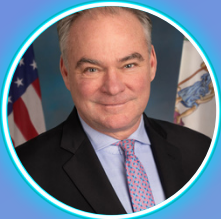
**VACo Contact:** [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)



# 87th VACo Annual Conference Keynote Speakers

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021

8:30AM



US Senator  
Tim Kaine



Jeff Schapiro  
Richmond Times-Dispatch  
Political Columnist

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021

9AM



Governor  
Ralph Northam



Dr. John Thomas  
Managing Partner  
DecideSmart

VACo Annual Conference | November 14-16  
Hilton Norfolk The Main

**Register Today!**



## Clarke County is home to oldest Virginian



Clarke County resident Viola Brown, who celebrated her 110th birthday on October 4, is now the oldest person in the Commonwealth, according to a [website that tracks supercentenarians](#) (individuals who are 110 or older).

The Clarke County Board of Supervisors proclaimed October 4, 2021, “Viola Roberts Lampkin Brown Day,” and Board Chair David Weiss presented a [framed proclamation](#) to Mrs. Brown on her birthday. Viola Roberts was born October 4, 1911, in Hume, VA, the youngest of James and Maria Roberts’ 13 children. When she was 7, Viola, her mother, father, and a brother went to work on a farm in Berryville, VA. Viola married in 1936 and moved to a home on Josephine Street, where she still lives.

Mrs. Brown’s birth date is verifiable through Census reports and her marriage licenses.

Story and photos of Mrs. Brown and Board of Supervisors Chair David Weiss courtesy of Clarke County.

## Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Considers Legislation to Simplify Administration of the Hybrid Plan for both VRS and the Employer Community



# Virginia Retirement System

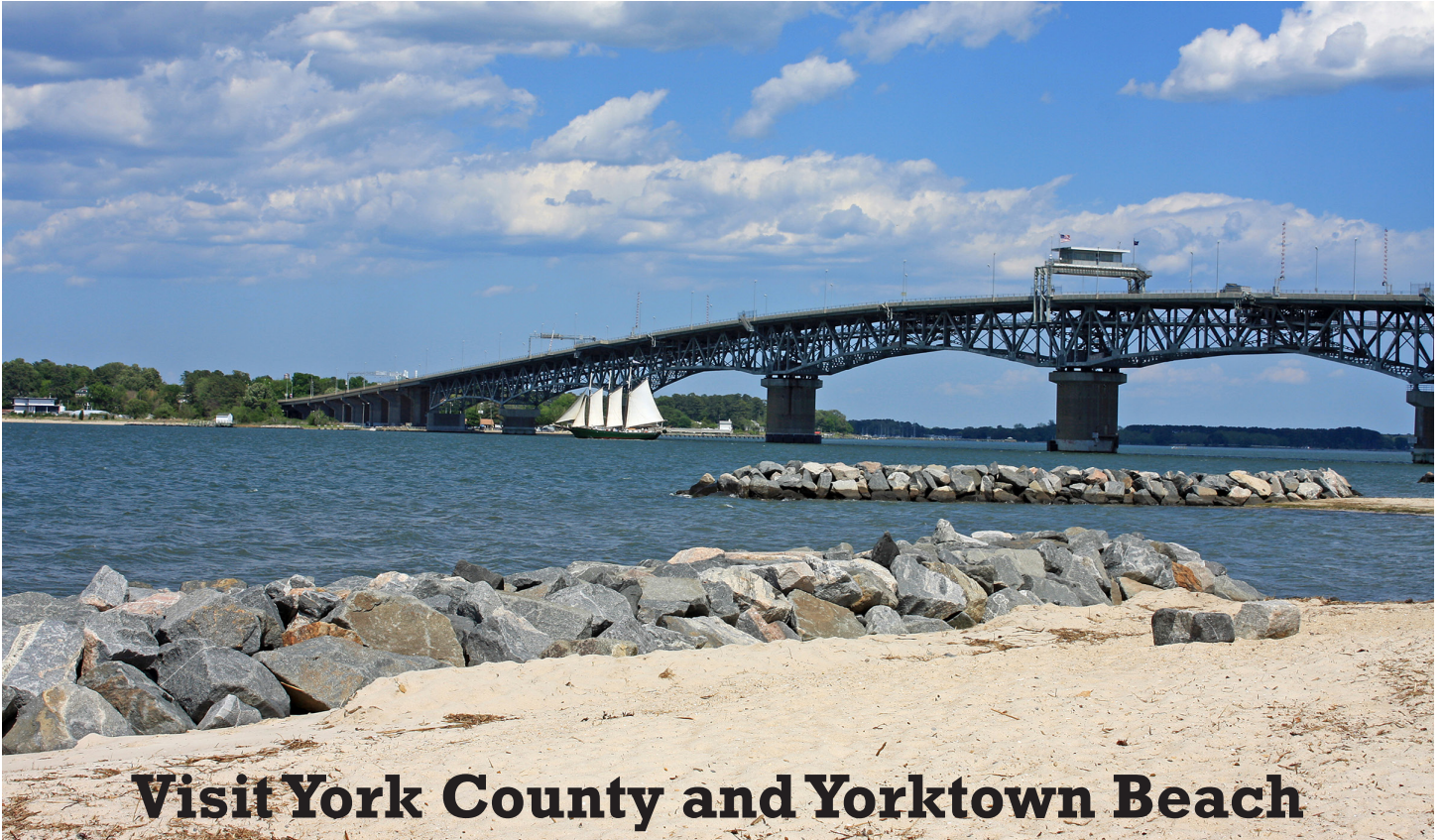
On October 14, the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Board of Trustees received a [presentation](#) from VRS staff on potential legislation to streamline administration of the systems Hybrid plan. The proposal would separate the defined contribution (DC) employer contributions from the defined benefit (DB) employer contribution rate. The employer contributions are currently combined during employer rate setting. This proposal is intended to simplify administration of the Hybrid plan for both VRS and the employer community, improve contribution accuracy for both the DB and DC plans, ensure member DC contributions are made concurrently with employer pay periods, and ease administrative burden for VRS and participating employers. While the legislation would be intended for the 2022 session, it would have a delayed implementation date of July 1, 2024, to allow time for communications and implementation for both VRS and its 800+ participating employers.

By way of background, with the blended monthly contribution rate the DC employer contributions are funded first, and the remaining employer contributions go to the DB plan. The current process requires estimating the DC contributions. As a result, in some cases the estimate might cause DB plan funding to be impacted. In addition, the current structure can lead to DC reconciliation issues in large part because the combined rate requires VRS to use the DB business rules for DC contributions as opposed to traditional DC plan contribution rules.

The draft legislation text is intended to rectify these issues and can be viewed [here](#).

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





## Visit York County and Yorktown Beach

Located in Historic Yorktown, this 2-acre public beachfront caters to family fun and is one of the only beaches in Hampton Roads to feature a Mobi-Mat and Mobi Chair for visitors in wheelchairs.

The beach is perfect for sunbathing, boating, swimming, and fishing. An ADA-accessible fishing pier and grassy picnic area are also available to guests. You can rent kayaks, paddleboards, and bikes from Patriot Tours & Provisions to explore the area. You can also book a ticket on the Schooner Alliance for a History, Pirate Adventure, or Sunset Sail on the York River.

The beach offers free public parking in several lots throughout town with a complimentary Trolley service to transport guests and their beach gear. There are also restrooms, nearby hotels, bed & breakfasts, shops, and several restaurants.

The beach picnic area is open year-round and can be requested for company outings, picnics, family reunions, and other approved uses after filing for a special permit from York County.

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





VACo is stronger together - united in our passion  
for serving our communities.

# VACo 2021 Annual Conference

November 14-16  
Hilton Norfolk The Main

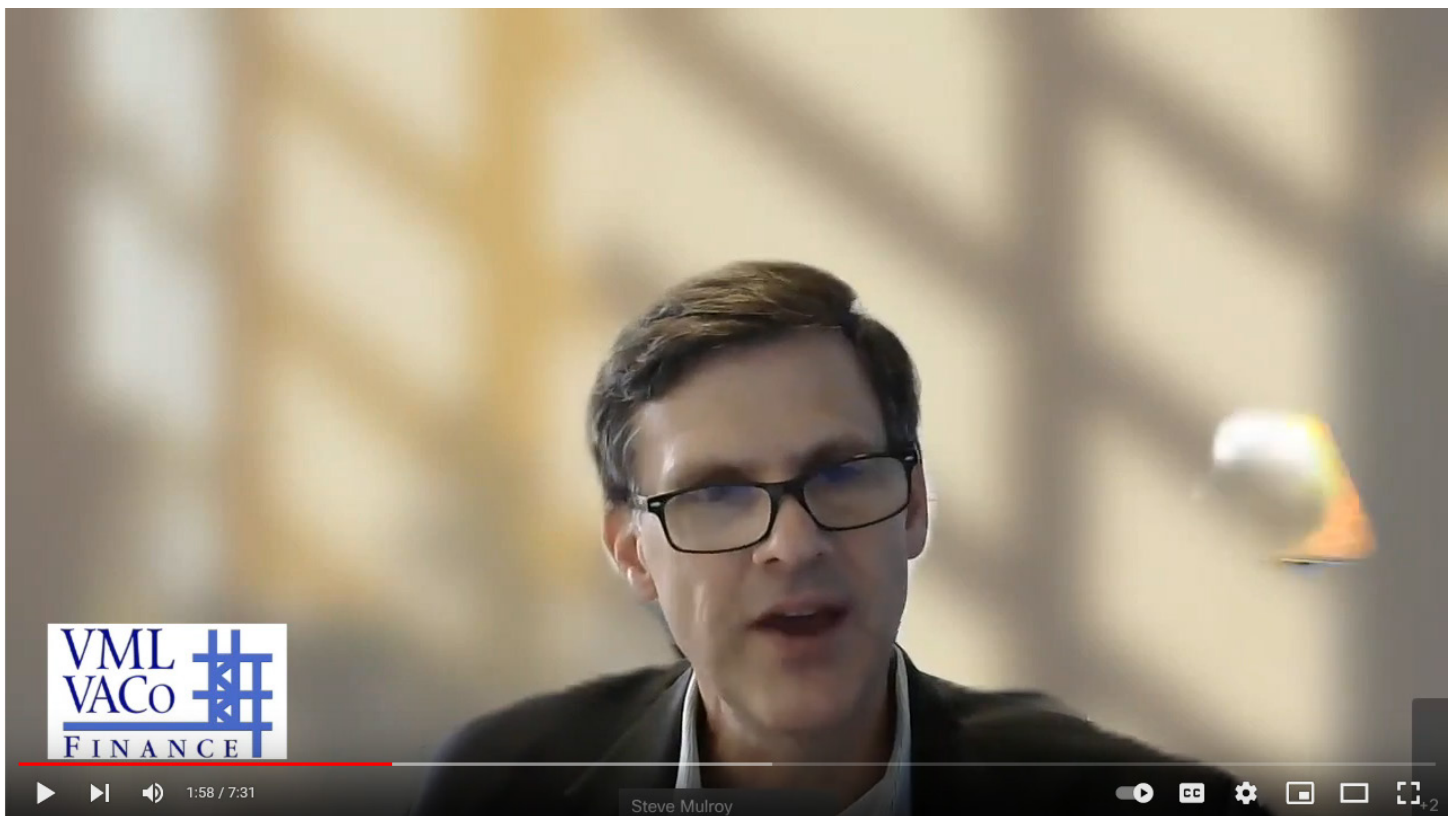
CHECK OUT OUR DRAFT AGENDA

Contact Valerie Russell at [vrussell@vaco.org](mailto:vrussell@vaco.org) to register today.



# Premier Partner Spotlight

## VML/VACo Finance VIP Program



## VIP Program

Manage Operating Funds

- Requiring immediate access
- Over 1-3 years

The VIP Program through VML/VACo Finance is an investment pool to consider. Dean Lynch and Steve Mulroy explore this established, streamlined program for localities.

**How can VML/VACo Finance help you?** For more information, please visit [www.valocalfinance.org](http://www.valocalfinance.org).

Watch the [Premier Partner Video](#)



## Join us for a Qualtrics/VACo Webinar

# qualtrics<sup>®</sup> XM


Qualtrics has partnered with government agencies and organizations to help combat the opioid epidemic. The Qualtrics platform allows organizations to collect, analyze, and report on human data to track opioid usage and treatment, improve treatment programs and services, and maintain data security and personal privacy. State and local agencies are utilizing Qualtrics for opioid and substance abuse tracking in the following ways:

- Automate communication and form distribution to engage and track patients upon service-reception and other interesting moments
- Display and report on patient data and other metrics in real-time on role specific dashboards and reports
- Improve quality of services by analyzing key drivers of program effectiveness

Some of the partnerships that we have for combating the opioid crisis are:

- City of Philadelphia
- Colorado Department of the Attorney General
- Atlantic County New Jersey Sheriff's Office
- State of Maryland
- State of Delaware

Click on  
image to  
enlarge



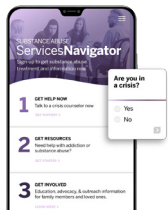
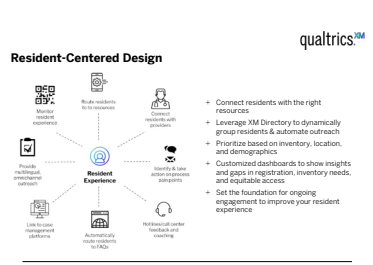
**XM FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**Services Navigator for Substance Abuse**

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated a substance abuse and opioid epidemic ravaging American communities for several decades with 29% of Americans reporting starting or increasing substance use as a way of coping with stress or emotions related to COVID-19. Overdoses have also spiked by nearly 20% since the onset of the pandemic according to the CDC.

The Qualtrics Services Navigator for Substance Abuse helps governments put the resident experience at the forefront and makes it easier for everyone, regardless of age, socio-economic background or technical ability, to easily navigate the treatment and recovery process. With the apply of the Qualtrics XM Platform, governments can design and improve the experience for their community at every step of the process.

**QUALTRICS SERVICES NAVIGATOR BENEFITS**

- **Increase public awareness & program effectiveness**  
Improve access to information and care while providing a personalized digital experience for residents in need. Tracking feedback from advisory and educational programs can help increase support as well as identify content and process changes to address.
- **Reduce costs & optimize budget allocation**  
Decreasing manual labor and continuously identifying experience, process, and technology gaps provide opportunities to drive efficiencies, cut costs, and reallocate funding where it will drive most impact.
- **Streamline workflows & reporting**  
Integrate ticketing, automated reminders and notifications to increase the capacity of your case management workforce. By allowing your team to focus on clients most in need they improve outcomes as well as their own resilience.
- **Inclusive by design**  
Serve at-risk communities, individuals with limited access to technology, and multilingual populations with personalized messaging across multiple outreach methods.





**Resident-Centered Design**

- Connect residents with the right resources
- Leverage XM Directory to dynamically group residents & automate outreach
- Prioritize based on inventory, location, and demographics
- Customized dashboards to show insights and gaps in registration, inventory needs, and equitable access
- Set the foundation for ongoing engagement to improve your resident experience

**Secure, trusted platform with proven scale for public sector needs**

- The Qualtrics XM Platform meets the strictest security requirements: it is ISO 27002 and FedRAMP compliant and HITRUST certified, which means its technology platform provides customers the tools they need to manage HIPAA compliance
- Secure, verified data collection for aggregation and analysis by federal, state and local government and health departments
- Trusted choice of more than 80 federal agencies and 300 state and local governments for sensitive public sector needs



**Get Help**  
Our Call Center is here to help you get started with Qualtrics XM.

**Ready to see more? — Book your demo**  
Contact [sales@qualtrics.com](mailto:sales@qualtrics.com)

# ARP Funds: Allowable Uses Part 1

With the infusion of ARP money into your entity's finances, it is vital that the rules, and more importantly, the allowable uses of those funds are made clear so that you and your public entity can maximize the value of every single dollar.



[View Part 1 of our resource video](#) on those allowable uses today, as we prepare to issue Part 2 with additional information.

The video chapters within this resource have been provided for ease of finding the right guidance on the right topic.

- Chapter 1: Allowed Use #1: Public Health Expenses
- Chapter 2: Allowed Use #2: Negative Economic Impacts
- Chapter 3: Allowed Use #3: Revenue Loss
- Chapter 4: ARP Pool Benchmark Calculation
- Chapter 5: Exceptions to Allowed Use #3
- Chapter 6: three+one Is An Allowable Use



**Flexible pool**  
of ARP money  
to spend in  
almost **any way**



## State General Fund Revenues Continue Strong Growth as Budget Development Moves Forward



State General Fund revenues demonstrated continued strength in September, a significant month for revenue collections and a key data point in the development of revenue forecasts for the upcoming biennium budget. In presentations to the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees this week, Secretary of Finance K. Joseph Flores characterized the economy as continuing to progress despite “potholes” associated with the delta variant of the COVID-19 virus and supply chain disruptions.

Total state General Fund revenues increased by 18.4 percent in September, and have grown by 10.6 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, in contrast to a forecasted 8 percent decline. Income and sales and use tax collections – described by Secretary Flores as the “bread and butter” of General Fund revenues – continued to demonstrate strong growth, with individual income tax withholding up 9.7 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, well ahead of the forecast of 1.7 percent growth. Nonwithholding collections grew by 25.2 percent in September (when the first estimated payments for FY 2022 were due); Secretary Flores noted that this growth was attributable to a strong stock market and larger numbers of taxpayers making estimated payments. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, collections have declined by 12.2 percent, although the forecast projected a steeper drop of 25.4 percent. This revenue source has historically

[More on Next Page](#)



been volatile, and in recent years the bulk of non-withholding collections have been concentrated in the last quarter of the fiscal year. Overall, net individual income tax collections are up 7.6 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, in contrast to a forecasted 7.6 percent decline; however, when adjusting for anomalies in the timing of filing and processing returns last year, these revenue collections have grown by 15 percent on a year-to-date basis.

Sales and use tax collections, reflecting August sales, have grown by 16.7 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, well ahead of the forecasted 4.2 percent decline. Secretary Flores noted that rising prices generated by inflation are likely a factor in these collections. Recordation tax collections turned in the strongest July-September quarterly performance since July-September 2006, reflecting a robust housing market, as well as refinancings spurred by low interest rates.

The development of the 2022-2024 biennium budget is well underway. State agencies' deadline to submit budget requests was October 1, and the Governor met with the Joint Advisory Board of Economists (JABE) October 13. Secretary Flores reported to the money committees that there was consensus among JABE members that economic growth would likely slow in the remaining months of calendar year 2021, with growth picking up in the beginning of calendar year 2022. The "money committees" will hold their annual retreats in mid-November to discuss economic trends and priority issues for the upcoming session. The Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates will meet November 22, and the Governor will present his proposed biennium budget, as well as amendments to the FY 2022 budget, on December 16. Secretary Flores's presentation is available at [this link](#) and the revenue report is available at [this link](#).

In addition to the revenue update from Secretary Flores, the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee received a [briefing](#) from Virginia Lottery Executive Director Kevin Hall at its October 19 meeting. Mr. Hall reported that FY 2021 represented the Lottery's most successful year ever, with record-breaking growth in sales and profits for K-12. The Lottery reported \$3.3 billion in sales and \$765 million in profits for K-12, a 30 percent increase from the previous year. Mr. Hall also provided an update on sports betting in the Commonwealth, which was recently legalized. Ten operators are currently licensed, with five additional applicants under review; from January to August 2021, the state collected \$11 million in tax revenue from the 15 percent excise tax on adjusted gross revenues of permit holders, of which most (\$10.8 million) was directed to the General Fund, with a small set-aside to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services for the Problem Gambling Treatment and Support Fund as required by statute.

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

## Commonwealth Connect Coalition Updates and Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) Updates

The [Commonwealth Connect Coalition](#) recently announced that [VATI](#) awards are expected to be announced in December. As previously [reported](#), the FY22 grant round closed on September 14 and in total, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) received:

- 57 applications representing **84** localities
- **\$943,300,424** in requested funding
- **\$1,159,125,288** in matching funds
- Approximately **292,000** proposed locations served
  - This number will change due to duplicative locations in different applications, the FCC finalization of RDOF awards, and the VATI challenge process.

The next coalition meeting will be held in person (with a virtual option available) at [the Rural Summit at Longwood University](#). Attendees to the coalition do not need to register for the larger summit but will only be able to attend the coalition meeting and no further events. The agenda is [here](#).

### November 5 - Commonwealth Connect Coalition Meeting

11-11:45am | Blackwell Hall (Rotunda Building) - Martinelli Room | Longwood University

Webinar link (video and audio) - [meet.google.com/tok-vwav-nup](https://meet.google.com/tok-vwav-nup)

Conference Call (audio) – 615-952-0257 PIN: 487 531 193#

### Active Broadband Solicitations

Requestor	Type	Issue Date	Close Date	Purpose
<a href="#">Pittsylvania County</a>	RFI	10/5/21	10/26/21	Broadband for Unserved Citizens

### Upcoming Events and Deadlines:

- **October 21 – VATI Challenges Due**
- **October 29 - Utility Leverage Program Updated Guidelines Released**
- **November 8 – Broadband Availability Map Guidelines Released**
- **November 18 – Deadline for VATI Challenge Rebuttals**
- **December 3 – DHCD Notifies All Parties of VATI Challenge Determination**
- **December – Anticipated Announcement of VATI Awards**

VACo encourages members to reach out if you have any additional questions or concerns regarding VATI or other Broadband related issues.

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

# Chesterfield County Hires New Director of Real Estate Assessments



Melvin Bloomfield, who served as the City of Richmond's deputy director of real estate assessments for the last seven years, has been hired to lead the Department of Real Estate Assessments in Chesterfield County.

Bloomfield officially began his new role as the county's chief real estate assessor on October 4.

The Department of Real Estate Assessments is responsible for annually determining the fair market value of all residential and commercial real estate in Chesterfield County, for the purpose of computing local property taxes. It also maintains accurate and up-to-date records on all locally assessed property in the county.

Bloomfield graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a bachelor's degree in Real Estate and Urban Land Development. He has more than 20 years of experience – the past 17 in Richmond -- performing residential and commercial real estate assessments, inspections and appraisals. He was promoted to deputy director of real estate assessments in July 2014 and served as the city's interim director from July 2016 to June 2017.

"I am excited about coming to Chesterfield County and working with its leadership team," Bloomfield said. "I look forward to adding my leadership and years of experience that will assist Chesterfield's Real Estate Assessment office in fulfilling its mission and continue to create fair and equitable real property assessments across the county."



## Governor Northam Announces \$2 Billion Public-Private Broadband Investment

RICHMOND—Governor Northam recently announced that Virginia has received a record number of local and private sector applications to match state broadband investments, putting the Commonwealth on track to become one of the first states to achieve universal broadband access by 2024. Virginia anticipates more than \$2 billion in total broadband funding, thanks to local and private sector matching funds that go beyond the \$874 million in state appropriations since the Governor took office in 2018.

“Broadband is as critical today as electricity was in the last century,” said Governor Northam. “Making sure more Virginians can get access to it has been a priority since I took office, and the pandemic pushed us all to move even faster. Virginia is now on track to achieve universal broadband by 2024, which means more connections, more investments, easier online learning, and expanded telehealth options, especially in rural Virginia.”

The Virginia Telecommunication Initiative is the Commonwealth’s broadband program. It was started in 2017 to fund public-private partnerships to extend broadband service to areas unserved by an internet service provider. When the most recent application round closed last month, the program received 57 applications from 84 localities, requesting \$943 million to connect more than 250,000 Virginia homes and businesses. These applications leverage \$1.15 billion in private and local matching funds. The Department of Housing and Community Development is reviewing applications and expects to award the funds by the end of the year.

Virginia has taken dramatic steps on broadband since Governor Northam took office in 2018, as Virginia’s first rural Governor in a generation. He set out a clear goal: achieve universal access to broadband within 10 years. The goal was bold, as Virginia’s broadband program was investing just \$4 million a year and 660,000 Virginians did not have access to high-speed internet.

Since then, Governor Northam and the General Assembly have awarded \$124 million in grants to connect more than 140,000 homes, businesses, and community organizations. The Virginia Telecommunication Initiative has awarded 39 projects in 41 different counties, supported by over \$94 million in matching private and local funds. Along with private investment and federal broadband grants, the Commonwealth has reduced the digital divide by 65 percent. Plans accelerated further in August, when Governor Northam and the General Assembly allocated \$700 million in American Rescue Plan funding to broadband, moving the original goal for achieving universal access to 2024.

“Ensuring that rural Virginians have access to broadband is the number one way we can make sure they have equal access to the economic, educational, and health opportunities that broadband provides,” said Broadband Advisory Council Vice-Chair Delegate Roslyn Tyler. “No Virginian should be left behind. Thanks to Governor Northam’s commitment to get universal broadband done, we’re seeing record levels of public and private sector matching funds, and we’ll have this critical infrastructure available to all Virginians more quickly than we imagined.”

“Broadband is a vital resource for communities across the Commonwealth,” said Broadband Advisory Council Chair Senator Jennifer Boysko. “Broadband access allows our citizens to connect to their workplaces, schools, and doctors, and broadens their opportunities and choices about where to live and work. The Northam administration’s investment in broadband, paired with these matching funds, will get universal broadband access to Virginians in record time.”

The overwhelming response to this year’s Virginia Telecommunication Initiative grant round demonstrates that Virginia has built an innovative and successful model for bridging the digital divide.



# Congratulations!

More Achievement Awards Presentations  
at Board of Supervisors Meetings



**Congratulations Henrico County!**



**Congratulations Franklin County X2!**



# Congratulations!

We love presenting Achievement Awards  
at Board of Supervisors Meetings



**Congratulations Stafford County!**



**Congratulations Arlington County!**



# Congratulations!

We love presenting Achievement Awards  
at Board of Supervisors Meetings



**Congratulations Dinwiddie County!**



# Regional webinars on ARPA funds

## Virginia Tourism's American Rescue Program Announcement



For the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Tourism Recovery Program, VTC will provide a series of educational and training webinars for submitting plans for ARPA funds. Registration is required for all attendees to participate. Please register for the region which your locality identifies.

- **October 19 | 10-11:30am** – How To Webinar | Coastal Virginia (Eastern Shore, Hampton Roads) and Chesapeake Bay | **please check the [recorded webinars page](#)** after 10/26
- **October 19 | 2-3:30pm** – How To Webinar | Northern Virginia | **please check the [recorded webinars page](#)** after 10/26
- **October 20 | 10-11:30am** – How To Webinar | Virginia Mountains & Shenandoah Valley | **please check the [recorded webinars page](#)** after 10/26
- **October 20 | 2-3:30pm** – How To Webinar | Southwest Virginia (includes Blue Ridge Highlands and Heart of Appalachia) | **REGISTER HERE**
- **October 26 | 10-11:30am** – How To Webinar | Central Virginia | **REGISTER HERE**
- **October 26 | 2-3:30pm** – How To Webinar | Southern Virginia | **REGISTER HERE**

### Virginia ARPA Marketing Programs (*Optional Webinar*)

After all the regional webinars are complete, the VTC Brand Team will walk through the resources available for your ARPA-funded marketing efforts including refreshed WanderLove Creative, vetted Paid Media Programs, and helpful Media Planning Guidelines. Registration is not required.

- **November 4 | 2pm**  
Join Zoom Meeting | <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86188582552>



## PRESS RELEASE



### VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool (VIP) Announces New Board Members

**RICHMOND (September 23, 2021)** – At the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Meeting of participants in the VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool, four representatives of the participants were elected to the Board of Trustees, including two first time Trustees. The Board of Trustees, composed of officials who are elected by representatives of participating localities and political subdivisions, has oversight responsibilities and establishes policies for the VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool.

Joining the Board of Trustees for the first time are Clark Case, Town of Leesburg, and Patricia Richie-Folks, MGT, City of Manassas. Incumbent members Jody Acosta, MGT, City of Falls Church, and Jay Bernas, P.E., Hampton Roads Sanitation District, were reelected.

The VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool manages the fixed income assets invested by participating political subdivisions in two funds, the VIP Stable NAV Liquidity Pool and the VIP 1-3 Year High Quality Bond Fund. Founded in 2013, the Trust currently holds approximately \$2.2 billion in assets.

The following were elected to the Board of Trustees for three-year terms expiring at the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Meeting:

**Jody Acosta, MGT**, is the elected Treasurer of the City of Falls Church. She was first elected in 2014 and is currently seeking her third term in office. Jody has over 25 years of professional experience in the fields of finance, banking and accounting. One of Jody's first initiatives after her election as Falls Church's Treasurer in 2014 was to petition her City Council for passage of an ordinance to allow her locality's participation in VIP. The ordinance was passed unanimously and the City of Falls Church has been a participant in the VIP since May 2015.

**Jay Bernas, P.E.** serves as Hampton Roads Sanitation District's (HRSD) Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and is responsible for financing HRSD's \$3 billion ten-year capital program. He recently closed on over \$700 million in WIFIA loans at a weighted average rate of 1.78% for 34 years, which combined with clean water revolving loans, will save Hampton Roads ratepayers over \$500 million compared to market rates. In 2020, he was elected to serve on the board of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and was appointed by the Governor to the Virginia Board of Accountancy.

**Clark Case** has been the Director of Finance and Administrative Services of the Town of Leesburg since September 2014. He is responsible for a cash management portfolio of \$112 million, of which \$48.3 million is invested in the Virginia Investment Pool. Previously, Clark was the Assistant Finance Officer/Treasurer of the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina from 2004 to September 2014. He served 31 years in Winston-Salem in a variety of financial roles.

**Patricia Richie-Folks, MGT**, is the elected Treasurer of the City of Manassas. Patricia was elected in a special election in November of 2016, and won reelection in 2017. As Treasurer, Patricia oversees and manages cash and investments of approximately \$250 million.

*VML/VACo Finance is a leading financial services provider for Virginia local governments and the administrator of the VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool.*

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#### For more information:

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# PRESS RELEASE



## VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust Announces New Board Members

**RICHMOND (September 23, 2021)** – At the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Meeting of participants in the VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust, three representatives of the participants were elected to the Board of Trustees, including two first time Trustees. The Board of Trustees is comprised of officials elected by representatives of participating localities. The Board has oversight responsibility, including establishing the investment policy, for the VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust, the largest of its kind in the nation.

Joining the Board of Trustees for the first time are Jon Munch, CPA, County of Stafford, and Andrea F. Trent, City of Roanoke. Incumbent member Julius Stewart of WMATA (Washington Metro Area Transportation Authority) was reelected to the Board.

The VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust manages the assets invested by political subdivisions to fund retiree health insurance and other post-employment benefits (“OPEB”). Local governments that invest in the Pooled OPEB Trust have reduced the long-term cost of providing benefits by as much as 47 percent, i.e., the portion of the current market value of the Trust coming from investment returns. Established in 2008, the Trust currently manages \$1.725 billion in assets.

Congratulations to the following newly elected members of the Board of Trustees:

**Jon Munch, CPA**, is the Chief Financial Officer of Stafford County. Prior to becoming the CFO in May 2021, Jon has served in a variety of roles in local government finance during the past 16 years, including in Prince William County, Warren County, and Fauquier County. Jon has also served on the Executive Board of the Virginia Government Finance Officers’ Association, being elected President for the 2014-2015 year.

**Julius Stewart** currently serves as Strategic Financial Plan Advisor in the Office of Management and Budget Services at WMATA. Prior to WMATA, Julius worked in the hospitality industry at the corporate offices of Hilton and Marriott where he held various senior level positions in technology finance. Julius also worked at SunEdison where he helped manage Financial Planning & Analysis activities for its Americas region.

**Andrea Trent** is the Manager of Retirement Plans for the City of Roanoke and has been with the City since 2002. Andrea is responsible for the operations and administration of the City’s Pension Plan, Retirement Health Savings Plan, and 457 Plan. She also serves on the Local Finance Board overseeing the City’s OPEB Trust.

*VML/VACo Finance is a leading financial services provider for Virginia local governments and the administrator of the VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust.*

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### For more information:

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## **Treasury Extends Deadline for American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Fund Reporting**

The United States Department of the Treasury communicated to Fiscal Recovery Fund recipients last week that Project and Expenditure Reports, which were previously due on October 31, 2021, will instead be due on January 31, 2022, for states, territories, and cities and counties. Treasury has indicated that a User Guide with information about submitting these reports will be forthcoming. Information about reporting requirements is available on Treasury's website at [this link](#).

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

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## **Upcoming FOIA Training!**



The FOIA Council will be hosting the following live webinar FOIA trainings this month. The webinars are free to attend and are approved for DCJS and CLE credit. Links to register can be found below and on our [website](#). If you are interested in receiving DCJS or CLE credit, you will need to individually register and attend the webinar so that we can confirm your attendance.

### **[Access to Law Enforcement and Criminal Records](#)** (2 hours)

- October 26, 2021 at 1pm

### **[Access to Public Records](#)** (1.5 hours)

- October 27, 2021 at 10am

### **[Access to Public Meetings](#)** (1.5 hours)

- October 27, 2021 at 1pm

***Please email us at [ric-foiatraining@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:ric-foiatraining@dls.virginia.gov) if you have any questions!***

## 2022 EXCELLENCE IN VIRGINIA GOVERNMENT AWARDS



**VCU** L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2021

For More Information Contact:

Paula Otto, [piotto@vcu.edu](mailto:piotto@vcu.edu)

804.363.9399

### **Excellence in Virginia Government Awards Nominations Open**

The L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University is pleased to announce the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Excellence in Virginia Government Awards (EVGA) on **April 14, 2022** at Noon. EVGA celebrates people and organizations in the public and private sectors who have made significant contributions to the practice of government and the well-being of our communities and citizens.

"These awards recognize outstanding work at all levels of government in Virginia and honor dedicated public service, innovative approaches and commitment to excellence," said Susan T. Gooden, Ph.D., dean of the Wilder School.

Nominations for the 2022 Awards are now open, and will be accepted through November 1, 2021. Nominations are being accepted in seven categories: Community Enhancement, Grace E. Harris Leadership Award, Hill-Robinson Expansion of Freedom, Innovation in Government, Lifetime Achievement, Public-Private Partnerships, and Unsung Hero.

To learn more details about the Excellence in Virginia Government Awards, including criteria and past winners, go to [wilder.vcu.edu/](http://wilder.vcu.edu/)

You can submit your nomination:

- Electronically via this link: [EVGA 2022 Nomination](#)
- Email to [EVGA@vcu.edu](mailto:EVGA@vcu.edu) (word document preferred)
- Mail to EVGA Awards, c/o Paula Otto, L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, VCU Box 842028, Richmond, VA 23284-2028.



## ADVANCING LEADERSHIP FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIALS

Can you imagine what would happen if General Colin Powell, Fortune 1000 CEOs and other executives came together with career coaches and professors from the most prestigious universities to mentor your frontline leaders? What if we could leverage such talent and expertise to advance excellence in county government?

Thanks to the [NACo High Performance Leadership Academy](#), we can.

A 12-week online program was designed — in partnership with the Professional Development Academy — to enable newly elected officials to achieve their fullest potential, making them smarter, more effective leaders.

Additionally, and importantly, the academy is designed to be non-disruptive to newly elected officials' busy schedules. It requires just a few hours of time each week, and there's no travel away from the county required.

The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy will help to retain rising stars in county government and enable them to be better leaders.

"You can't put into words the value of this course. Fantastic moderators and video viewpoints from amazing leaders. Highly recommended for all level of leaders."

– *Polk County Wisconsin Commissioner*

"This program has taught me new leadership tactics, reinforced 30 years of leadership training and experience, and created a nationwide network of leaders." – *Magoffin County Kentucky Judge*

"This program has connected me to others who share the same struggles that I am going through as a leader. This enables me to use them as a support system when needed." – *Wapello County Iowa County Recorder*

Take this opportunity to close the leadership gap. The next programs begin January 2022 and we would love to see you be a part of it.





How awesome was The Supply Room Swag at the County Officials' Summit? [Click here](#) to learn how The Supply Room can help your locality save money and be more efficient.





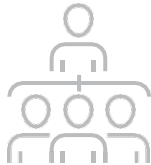
Counties affect the lives of residents every day. When our frontline staff are empowered as leaders, we deliver services more effectively. **The NACo Frontline IT Leadership Academy is a resource that connects your staff with practical leadership training.** FLIT uses an innovative, interactive online learning platform that combines real-time webinars, recorded sessions and small group discussions to deliver effective training without traveling away from the county – saving money and maximizing time.

### THE ACADEMY FOCUSES ON FIVE ESSENTIAL SKILLS:



#### LEAD:

Engage teams and stakeholders to foster positive climates and exceed common expectations



#### ORGANIZE:

Plan, lead and execute organizational change more effectively and consistently



#### COLLABORATE:

Establish alignment and strong partnerships through building stronger relationships



#### DELIVER:

Measure projects and processes to deliver results aligned with county and community priorities



#### COMMUNICATE:

Create clarity, confidence and community

The NACo Frontline IT Leadership Academy empowers frontline county government professionals with fundamental, practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties and residents.

The Academy enrollment fee is \$2,495 per participant. NACo Member County cost per enrollee is \$1,350.

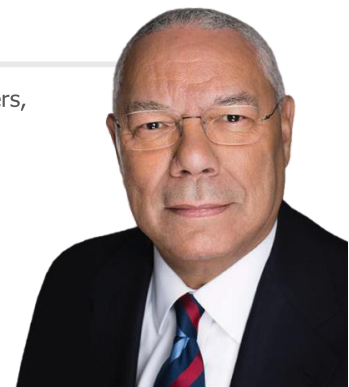
With a curriculum developed by *General Colin Powell* and public and private sector leaders, NACo Frontline IT Leadership Academy gives students the opportunity to learn from world-class faculty. All content is guided by an expert facilitator.

Find out more at [NACo.org/skills](https://NACo.org/skills)

Or contact Luke Afeman

[lukea@pdaleadership.com](mailto:lukea@pdaleadership.com)

503.908.5381



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



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

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

833-720-7770





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.bglc.net](http://www.bglc.net)

## 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

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## Virginia County Supervisors' Manual 8th Edition



The Eighth Edition (2019) of VACo's **Virginia County Supervisors' Manual** is 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**

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

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

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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).



**911 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATOR** | City of Harrisonburg | Posted October 20



**EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION DISPATCHER** | Madison County | Posted October 20



**BUILDING CODES COMBINATION INSPECTOR** | City of Harrisonburg | Posted October 20



**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT** | Westmoreland County | Posted October 20



**TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT SPECIALIST I** | Montgomery County | Posted October 19



**SENIOR PLANNER** | Chesterfield County | Posted October 19



**BUSINESS MANAGER** | Spotsylvania County | Posted October 18



**REAL PROPERTY FIELD INSPECTOR** | New Kent County | Posted October 18



**FIREFIGHTER-EMT** | New Kent County | Posted October 18



**REAL ESTATE APPRAISER I** | Gloucester County | Posted October 18



**SENIOR PLANNER/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR** | Dinwiddie County | Posted October 18



**RECREATION AIDE** | Montgomery County | Posted October 15



**ANIMAL CONTROL CHIEF** | Halifax County | Posted October 15



**LIBRARY BUSINESS MANAGER** | Montgomery County | Posted October 14



**REVENUE TECHNICIAN (WORK AS REQUIRED)** | Gloucester County | Posted October 14



**COMMISSION OF REVENUE DEPT I** | Madison County | Posted October 13



**CHIEF OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** | Madison County | Posted October 13



**ANIMAL SHELTER MANAGER** | Madison County | Posted October 13



**CRIME ANALYST** | City of Winchester | Posted October 13



**ENVIROMENTAL TECHNICIAN** | Hanover County | Posted October 12



**WATER ELECTRICAL CONTROL SPECIALIST (JOURNEYMAN ELCTRICIAN)** | Chesterfield County | Posted October 12



**UTILITIES ENGINEER** | Chesterfield County | Posted October 12



**SENIOR ENGINEERING ASSISTANT** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted October 12



**BUILDING INSPECTOR** | Amherst County | Posted October 12



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** | Campbell County  
| Posted October 12



**PLANNER** | Campbell County | Posted October 12



**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER** | Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools | Posted October 8



**LEAD BUILDING PLANS REVIEWER** | Fauquier County | Posted October 8



**CITY ATTORNEY** | City of Hopewell | Posted October 8



**ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR** | Loudoun County | Posted October 8



**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** | City of Portsmouth  
| Posted October 8



**EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR** | Nottoway County  
| Posted October 7



**OFFICE TECHNICIAN PART TIME** | Montgomery County  
| Posted October 7



**PLANNER I/II** | Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission | Posted October 7



**SHELTER ASSISTANT (PART TIME)** | Montgomery County  
| Posted October 6



**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PART-TIME** | Gloucester County | Posted October 6



**DEPUTY DIRECTOR** | Loudoun County | Posted October 6



**PLANNER II** | Powhatan County | Posted October 5



**DEPUTY COURT CLERK** | Montgomery County | Posted October 5



**HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER** | Surry County | Posted October 5



**CIVIL ENGINEER** | Stafford County | Posted October 4



**SENIOR PROCUREMENT OFFICER** | Spotsylvania County  
| Posted October 4



**RESIDENTIAL PLANS REVIEWER** | Spotsylvania County  
| Posted October 4



**ELECTRICIAN I** | Spotsylvania County | Posted October 4



**FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT** | Spotsylvania County | Posted October 4



**FAMILY SERVICES WORKER I (FOSTER CARE)** | Spotsylvania County | Posted October 4



**COMMUNICATIONS OPERATOR** | Spotsylvania County  
| Posted October 4



## VALUE OF VACo



### ADVOCACY

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



### EDUCATION

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



### MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

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



### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

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

## VACo LEADERSHIP



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Fairfax County



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Stafford County



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**Director of Government Relations** | Chris J. McDonald, Esq.  
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**Coordinator of Programs and Development** | Karie Walker

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

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

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