

Commission on School Construction and Modernizations Endorses VACo Legislative Priority and Other Recommendations to Improve K-12 Infrastructure



On December 1, the Commission on School Construction and Modernization [met](#) to review additional information from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) on K-12 infrastructure and formally recommended more than half a dozen policy prescriptions to the full General Assembly. Included in the policy recommendations is an expansion statewide of the special taxing [authority](#) first given by the General Assembly to Halifax County in 2019 and then expanded to eight additional localities in 2020. This remains a legislative priority for VACo and will likely be a topic of discussion during the 2022 session of the General Assembly. VACo strongly encourages its members to urge your legislators to support this effort.

Other recommendations made by the Commission include an endorsement of VDOE's and the Department of Treasury's [recommendations](#) to make the Literary Fund loan program more competitive and attractive to school divisions as a funding source for school capital projects. As previously [reported](#), though it is a permanent and perpetual school fund established in the Constitution of Virginia for public school purposes, the vast majority of LF revenues are used by

the state to pay the state's share of Teacher Retirement transfers to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). Since the financial crisis in 2008, the retirement benefit transfers have significantly increased while loans have virtually ceased. This means that not only are public schools not reaping the intended benefits, but the lack of revolving loans has begun to negatively impact the Literary Fund's long-term health and accessibility.

The Commission also recommended the creation of a new grant fund, separate from the Literary Fund to help localities finance constructions and renovations. Such a fund would be modeled on unsuccessful legislative efforts proposed by [Delegate O'Quinn](#) and [Senator Stanley](#) during the 2021 session, both of which were [supported](#) by VACo. Potential sources of funding for this fund could include dedicated general fund revenue surpluses and the portion of [casino gaming proceeds](#) dedicated to school construction and renovation.

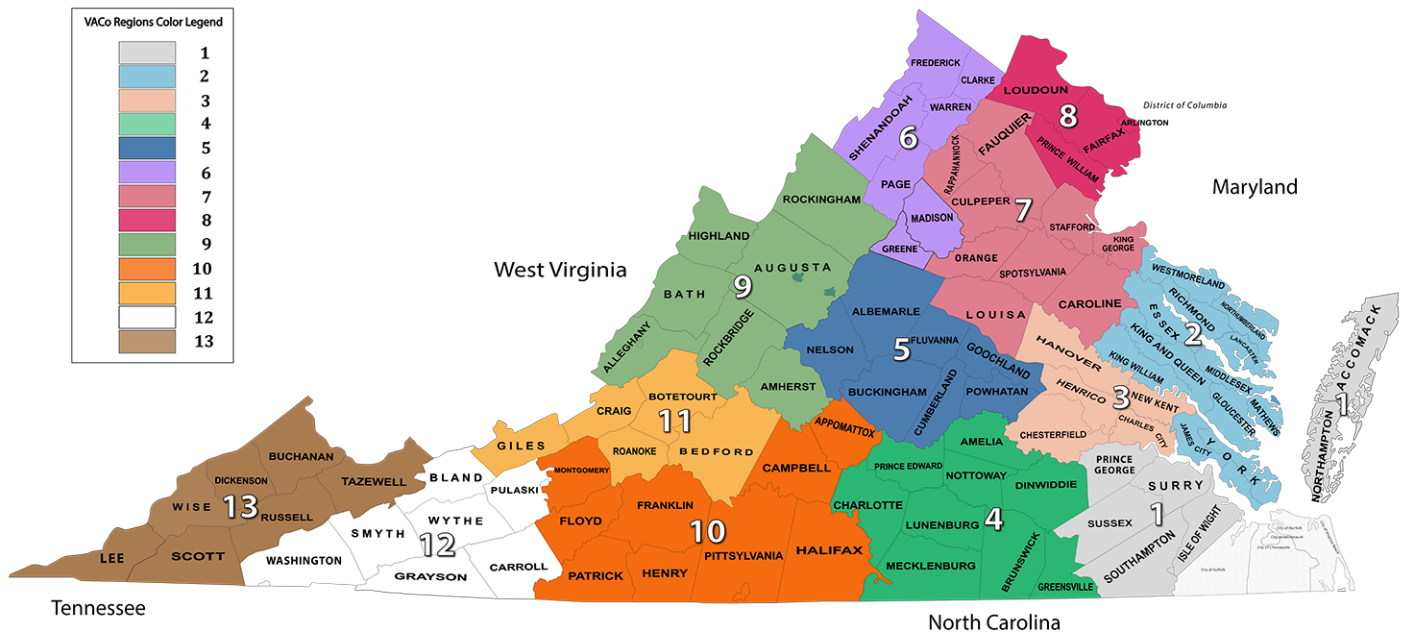
Somewhat troublingly, a proposal to allow school boards to keep end-of-the-year unexpended funds allocated to them by their local governing body – with or without the consent of the local governing body – was narrowly endorsed by the Commission on a divided vote. This potentially resurrects a legislative [effort](#) from 2019 that was opposed by VACo and defeated in subcommittee. Many local governing bodies already voluntarily engage in the practice of allowing school boards to retain unexpended funds, however maintaining the discretion to do so allows local governing bodies financial flexibility to respond to unexpected crises or revenue shortfalls. VACo has recently increased education opportunities and partnerships that promote improved relations and best practices for working with school boards that would hopefully make such a proposed mandate moot. VACo continues to oppose efforts that would subvert this authority given to localities.

Additional information was provided to the Commission in a [presentation](#) from VDOE. Not surprisingly, data from VDOE supports the conclusion that school divisions with higher fiscal stress, on average, have older buildings and longer periods between major renovations. A survey of school divisions revealed 322 renovation projects totaling \$3.2 billion not captured in Capital Improvement Plans. This further underscores the need for action by the General Assembly as more than half of all K-12 school buildings in the Commonwealth are more than 50 years and the cost to replace all of them would total more than \$25 billion.

VACo [supports](#) the work of the Commission to bring attention to the issue of K-12 infrastructure needs and produce recommendations to the General Assembly to provide additional state funding or local financing options to ensure that all of the Commonwealth's students have access to safe and modern learning environments. VACo staff were present for the meeting and provided comments to the Commission. A full recording of the meeting may be viewed [here](#).

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

Virginia Association of Counties Regions



Revised 3/15/17

1207 E. Main Street, Suite 300 • Richmond, VA • 23219-3627
www.vacolorg



Share your thoughts to the VACo Region Reapportionment Committee

VACo's reapportionment committee has been formed under the leadership of Chair Steve Bowen and Vice Chair Penny Gross and is in the process of collecting information to assist in the reapportionment process. The committee seeks your input on regional representation on the VACo Board of Directors.

Please share your thoughts by [clicking on this link](#) and filling out the form.

Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Reviews FY 2023-2024 Employer Contribution Rates for Political Subdivision Plans, Chief Investment Officer Ron Schmitz to Retire



On November 16, the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Board of Trustees [met](#) to review an actuarial [report](#) for political subdivisions. The actuarial valuation provides a basic source document for information regarding actuarially determined contributions (employer rates) as well as the funded status of pension and other post-employment benefit (OPEB) plans. This valuation is then used to set employer contribution rates for the coming biennium. On average, there will be a slight increase in contribution rates (0.46%) due to changes in liability assumptions, especially on plans with Hazardous Duty measures. These increased liability assumptions were mostly offset by the [historic](#) 2021 fiscal year investment returns.

As previously [reported](#), 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. Individual employer contribution rates for the political subdivision plans will be 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.

According to the actuarial report, over a third - 35.3% - of political subdivisions plans are over 100% funded. Just over half - 50.8% - of active members are covered in political subdivisions that are funded in 80%-90% range. On a market basis, funded status improved, with the number of political subdivisions with funded ratio over 100% almost doubling from 35.3% to 66.8%. This increase indicates the *potential* for lower contribution rates at the next rate setting effective July 1, 2024. For comparison, whereas the unfunded liability using market value of assets for the Teachers Plan is at \$11.6 billion, the unfunded liability for the political subdivision plan (in aggregate) is \$615.2 million.

Also during the meeting, Chief Investment Officer Ronald S. Schmitz advised the VRS Board of Trustees' Administration and Personnel Committee that he plans to retire at the conclusion of calendar year 2022, which coincides with his employment contract. During Ron's tenure, the VRS Trust Fund has almost doubled in size, moving from \$51 billion in 2011 to \$101.8 billion, as of June 30, 2021, the board will engage Korn Ferry to conduct a national search for the CIO position, beginning early next year. VACo thanks CIO Schmitz for his service to the Commonwealth.

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

Visit Lee County and the Great Stone Face Rock



Folklore says that the face was carved by Cherokee Indians honoring their chief at the time. The name of the Chief is unknown. Others believe that the face has evolved over time by wind and rain.

Nevertheless it's a great photo opportunity for a visitor looking for something different! Stone Face Rock is located just outside of Pennington Gap and can be seen from 421 North.

SOURCE: [Virginia is for Lovers](#)

CHAIRPERSONS' INSTITUTE



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022 AND SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022
\$350 ATTENDEE | [AGENDA](#) | OMNI RICHMOND HOTEL

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

EMAIL: _____

COUNTY/ORGANIZATION: _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____

NAME ON THE CARD: _____

Hotel Reservation Details: Lodging costs are not covered in the registration fee. The Chairpersons' Institute is held at the Omni Richmond Hotel, 100 South 12th Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Room rates start at \$162 (single room occupancy). To reserve a hotel room, call 804.344.7000 by January 31, 2022, with this code: **Government Legislative Day 2022 Group** or reserve a room at this [Omni Richmond Hotel link](#).

Fax completed registration form with credit card information to 804.788.0083.

Or please make check payable to VACo. Mail check and completed registration form to 1207 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

PLEASE CONTACT
VALERIE RUSSELL AT
VRUSSELL@VACO.ORG
WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

Registration Fee: \$350 Attendee | \$175 Guest

Or [click here](#) to register online.



Refund Policy: Requests for registration refunds are honored if received by January 21, 2022. Substitutions are allowed in the event a supervisor is unable to attend. For more information, call VACo at 804.788.6652.



NRM-10010M1.3 (04/20)

What you learn today can create a better tomorrow.

Your financial future is in your hands, so **get the insights, guidance and educational materials you need** to make the most of your deferred compensation plan.

To learn more, you can now meet virtually with your Nationwide® Retirement Specialist at our next event.

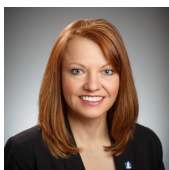
WEBINAR: RETIREMENT MYTHS & REALITIES

Separating fact from fiction for retirement planning confidence.

December 8, 2021 from 12:00 Noon to 12:30 PM

Register now at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8577181773908267788>



For more information contact:

Lynn Robinette
434-534-5673
lynn.robinette@nationwide.com



For more information contact:

Selmon Robinson
540-505-4406
robins26@nationwide.com

Scan to schedule a virtual appointment.



Nationwide Retirement Solutions and Nationwide Life Insurance Company (collectively "Nationwide") have endorsement relationships with the National Association of Counties, the International Association of Fire-Fighters Corporation, the United States Conference of Mayors and the National Association of Police Organizations.

Information provided by Retirement Specialists is for educational purposes only and not intended as investment advice. Nationwide Retirement Specialists and plan representatives are Registered Representatives of Nationwide Investment Services Corporation (NISC), member FINRA, Columbus, Ohio.

Nationwide and the Nationwide N and Eagle are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. ©2021 Nationwide



Workgroup Report Recommends Additional State Support for Local CSA Programs



[Agencies](#)
[Governor](#)
[Search Virginia.Gov](#)

[Home](#)
[About](#)
[Parents & Families](#)
[Local Government](#)
[Resources](#)
[Statistics and Publications](#)
[Contacts](#)



What's New:
 VDH link on CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19): <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>

Applications

- Local Government Reporting
- OCS Helpdesk
- CANVAS 2.0
- Policy Public Comments Form
- Virginia Learning Center (CSA)
- Service Fee Directory
- Training Calendar
- CANS Training
- Account Management System
- Virginia Systems of Care Website

Welcome to OCS


Welcome to the website for the Children's Services Act (CSA) and the Office of Children's Services (OCS). This website is one part of our effort here at OCS to provide the highest quality information and support to the public, our state government partners, and local CSA programs in the spirit of "empowering communities to serve youth." The site contains a wealth of materials and I am confident it is a valuable resource.

In the 2020 fiscal year, CSA served over 15,000 children and families in the 133 cities and counties in the Commonwealth. With a combined state and local budget of over \$435 million, CSA is a major contributor to supporting the system of care in Virginia. We are proud partners with state agencies, local government, public and private service providers, and parents and families in improving lives and communities. Thank you for visiting the CSA website.

Scott Reiner, Executive Director

[A report](#) has been released with recommendations for improving the state's support of local Children's Services Act program administration. This report has its roots in last year's study of the Children's Services Act by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, which generated a series of recommendations, including a recommendation that the General Assembly direct the Office of Children's Services (OCS) to provide for the effective implementation of the Children's Services Act by monitoring local program administration and working with those programs that are "underperforming" to develop a corrective action plan.

The November 2020 JLARC report pointed out that OCS's statutory authority to intervene with local programs extended only to enforcing compliance with statutes and policies, and that OCS's ability to ensure effective program implementation was unclear. As a result, legislation was enacted during the 2021 General Assembly session to add to the OCS Executive Director's responsibilities in statute a requirement to provide for the "effective implementation of the Children's Services Act...in all localities by (i) regularly monitoring local performance measures and child and family outcomes; (ii) using audit, performance, and outcomes data to identify local programs that need technical assistance; and (iii) working with local programs that are consistently underperforming to develop a corrective action plan for submission to the Office [of Children's Services] and the [State Executive] Council." Language in the 2021 Appropriation Act directed OCS to report on the implementation of these new requirements,

to develop a plan to modify its staffing and operations “to ensure effective local implementation of the Children’s Services Act,” and to collect information from local CSA programs regarding program staff and local and state administrative funding on an annual basis in order to target technical assistance to the programs in most need. The 2021 Appropriation Act also included funding for a new position at OCS to assist in carrying out this enhanced oversight responsibility.

OCS convened a workgroup to help develop the implementation plan required by the 2021 budget language; VACo participated in this workgroup, which met several times in the fall. The workgroup discussed ways that OCS could monitor local programs for signs of distress, based on data sources already available, audit report findings, and potential indicators that could be developed in the future. Workgroup members discussed the importance of context in evaluating certain data points and the need to engage local programs prior to making assumptions about program effectiveness. The report recommends bolstering OCS’s ability to assist local programs by adding four staffers, in addition to the position funded in the 2021 Appropriation Act, who would serve as regional consultants to support local programs, similar to the structure of regional support within the Department of Social Services.

OCS included information on administrative funding for local programs in the report, pointing out that state General Fund support for administrative costs is approximately \$2.1 million per year, with \$1.1 million in local matching funds. This funding is divided among the local CSA programs such that each locality receives the larger of \$12,500 or an amount equal to two percent of the total state pool allocation; in FY 2022, 95 localities received a total of less than \$20,000, including the local matching funds, and 114 of 130 local programs received less than \$50,000. Localities reported providing an additional \$5.7 million above the \$3.2 million in state/local administrative funds to support local CSA programs. The report notes, “As the program has grown more complex and greater accountabilities instituted, localities have uniformly made known that the state administrative support is insufficient.” The report recommends that the state provide additional administrative funding to bring all local programs to a minimum allocation of \$50,000 (including the local match), contingent on localities hiring a full-time CSA coordinator or demonstrating why a full-time coordinator is not needed and explaining how the funds would be used to support the local program.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council recommends legislative draft bills for 2022 session



On November 10 the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council (FOIA Council) held its last meeting of 2021 and voted to recommend three legislative drafts.

A revised version of [HB 2000 \(Roem\)](#), which was introduced in the 2021 legislative session, was endorsed by the FOIA Council. This bill would allow every citizen of the Commonwealth, and representatives of newspapers and magazines with circulation in the Commonwealth, and representatives of radio and television stations broadcasting in or into the Commonwealth to make four free two-hour FOIA requests per 31 consecutive days. Then after the 8 free hours per person per month, the highest rate that a locality could charge is \$33/hour unless they successfully petition the court for a higher fee. The draft bill also requires public bodies to post on their website a written policy (i) explaining how the public body assesses charges for accessing or searching for requested records and (ii) noting the current fee charged, if any, by the public body for accessing and searching for the requested records.

This bill, which gives 8 free hours of FOIA requests per person, per month (or 96 free hours per person per year), would overwhelm even the best staffed localities as the FOIA officers would still have to respond to all requests within the 5-workday deadline. Currently FOIA allows public bodies to charge actual costs incurred in accessing, duplicating, supplying, or searching for the requested records. VACo opposes this bill which presents an enormous policy change and a large fiscal and administrative burden for all public bodies.

The FOIA council also endorsed [HB 2196 \(Mullin\)](#), which allows for the release of law enforcement disciplinary records upon completion of disciplinary investigations. The bill in its current form provides a definition of “law-enforcement disciplinary records” and does allow for the redaction of some personal contact information.

The council also considered and endorsed a draft bill dealing with the concept of electronic meetings outside of a state of emergency. The proposal includes the option for a public body to add to their electronic meeting policy the ability for the public body to meet remotely under certain circumstances. VACo supports this draft and worked on it with a group of stakeholders including VML, the Coalition for Open Government and the Press Association.

VACo Contact: [Phyllis Errico, Esq., CAE](#)

JLARC Presents Transportation Infrastructure and Funding Report



As part of their November 8 [meeting](#), the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) presented an oversight report, Transportation Infrastructure and Funding in the Commonwealth, which included recommendations to improve systems and funding structures. The report was conducted at the request of Delegate Terry Austin. VACo supports continued study and action to address the causes for declining growth in transportation revenues and to develop recommendations to grow revenue over time to meet increasing demands for new construction and maintenance for existing transportation infrastructure.

The report found that from FY 2019 to FY 2021, annual state transportation revenues increased by \$578 million (16 percent). These increases came about through a combination of tax rate increases, new revenue sources, and general growth in retail and motor vehicle sales. The 2020 [changes](#) further diversified the state transportation revenue base, which receives dedicated revenue from motor fuel

[More on Next Page](#)

taxes, retail sales taxes, vehicle sales taxes, and a variety of fees. The legislature also added regional taxes, increasing revenues from regions by about \$300 million.

The report also found that Virginia's transportation infrastructure is in better condition than most other states. Virginia ranks 13th among states for pavement condition and 17th for bridge condition. Funding increases over the last decade and policy changes have resulted in substantial improvements in pavement condition and the condition of other assets, such as bridges. However, more than one-quarter of the bridges are very close to being rated structurally deficient. Structurally deficient bridges typically need to be fully replaced, while bridges in slightly better condition can often be rehabilitated at a much lower cost.

In 2020, as part of a larger emergency response to the pandemic, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) took several actions to address revenue shortfalls in the state's transportation budget. Some of these actions affected the revenue sharing program, which provides smaller-scale grants to localities for transportation projects. No new grants were issued under the program for FY21–24, and the window between when grant applications are submitted and funds are received was extended from one-to-two years to five-to-six years. These actions allowed VDOT to continue maintenance activities and avoid disrupting ongoing improvement projects.

However, now that the temporary reduction in revenues due to the pandemic appears to have [passed](#), the extended five-to-six year window may be unnecessary. The General Assembly could restore some or all funding for new projects in the FY23–24 grant cycle, if there is an FY 2022 revenue surplus or if new projections show FY 2023–2024 revenues could be higher than previously predicted. VACo supports restoration of this funding.

Regarding Rail and Transit, the report found that more than 90 percent of facilities and fleet vehicles are in a state of good repair, as are 70 percent of non-fleet vehicles. All major rail asset types (vehicles, track, and facilities) in Virginia are, on average, in better condition than transit agencies nationally. However, challenges lurk on the horizon stemming from the pandemic, which includes a \$226 million gap in state capital assistance to transit agencies over the next five years, as well as substantial reductions in ridership, and as a whole, fare losses of 57 percent. These challenges could be met if transportation revenues continue to rebound and ridership levels return to pre-pandemic levels.

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

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

Local Lobbyist Registration legislation endorsed by Conflicts and Ethics Advisory Council

At its meeting on November 23, 2021, the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council endorsed revised draft legislation requiring local lobbyist registration with the clerk of a local Board of Supervisors or City or Town Council. This draft revives a concept that was introduced in the 2020 legislative session [SB 383 \(McPike\)](#) offered by Senator McPike. The bill was passed by indefinitely with a letter of referral to the Council in 2020.

Senator McPike was present at the meeting to support his concept for the original bill, which seeks to provide transparency regarding compensated individuals seeking to influence local officials and requires such persons to register with the local clerk and pay a \$25 dollar registration fee on an annual basis. The registration would identify the person and the subject matter which the person seeks to influence. The registration shall be kept by the local clerk for five years, and failure to register is a class 1 misdemeanor. The bill as originally drafted prompted a number of concerns raised by VACo and VML. Many of these concerns were shared by members of the Council who then offered amendments to the draft that were adopted by vote of the Council to be incorporated into a final draft with the Council's endorsement.

VACo Contact: [Phyllis Errico, Esq., CAE](#)

<p>VACo/VML/VAPDC/ Virginia Rural Center</p> <h2>Local Government Day</h2>  <p>VACo/VML/VAPDC/ Virginia Rural Center</p> <p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT DAY</p> <p>www.vaco.org</p>	<h3>Event Details</h3> <p><u>LOCATION</u> Omni Richmond Hotel</p> <p><u>TIME & DATE</u> Thursday, February 3, 2022 Cost: \$100 Day Briefing only (Noon-2pm) \$100 Reception only (530pm) \$150 for both \$175 late registration</p> <p><u>AGENDA</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>9am</td> <td>VACo Board of Directors</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11am</td> <td>Registration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1130am</td> <td>Lunch</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Noon</td> <td>Local Government Day</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Afternoon</td> <td>Visit the Capitol to speak with legislators</td> </tr> <tr> <td>530pm</td> <td>Reception</td> </tr> </table> <p>Hotel Reservation Details: Lodging costs are not covered in the registration fee. Local Government Day is held at the Omni Richmond Hotel, 100 South 12th Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Room rates start at \$162 (single room occupancy). To reserve a hotel room, call 804.344.7000 by January 24, 2022, with this code: Government Legislative Day 2022 Group or reserve a room at this Omni Richmond Hotel link</p> <p>FAX COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM WITH CREDIT CARD INFORMATION TO 804.788.0083.</p> <p>OR PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO VACo. MAIL CHECK AND REGISTRATION FORM TO 1207 EAST MAIN STREET, RICHMOND, VA 23219.</p>	9am	VACo Board of Directors	11am	Registration	1130am	Lunch	Noon	Local Government Day	Afternoon	Visit the Capitol to speak with legislators	530pm	Reception	<h3>REGISTRATION</h3> <p>NAME <input type="text"/></p> <p>TITLE <input type="text"/></p> <p>COUNTY/ORGANIZATION <input type="text"/></p> <p>EMAIL <input type="text"/></p> <p>CREDIT CARD NUMBER <input type="text"/></p> <p>EXPIRATION DATE <input type="text"/></p> <p>NAME ON CARD <input type="text"/></p> <p>CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE</p> <p>Refund Policy: Requests for registration refunds are honored if received by January 14, 2022. Substitutions are allowed in the event a supervisor is unable to attend. For more information, call VACo at 804.788.6652.</p>
9am	VACo Board of Directors													
11am	Registration													
1130am	Lunch													
Noon	Local Government Day													
Afternoon	Visit the Capitol to speak with legislators													
530pm	Reception													

Virginia Pauses on Adopting Federal Covid-19 Vaccination and Testing Mandate Pending Legal Challenges

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) notified stakeholders that the Virginia Safety and Health Codes Board removed from its December 3 agenda consideration of adopting the new federal standard for COVID-19 vaccination and testing (OSHA 2nd COVID-19 ETS).

The reason for delaying action is because a 6th Circuit Court of Appeals decision on several dozen court challenges to the mandate is pending. Should the federal mandate survive the legal challenge it will apply to Virginia counties with 100 or more employees.

VACo Contacts: [Joe Lerch, AICP](#) and [Phyllis Errico, Esq., CAE](#)

VACo releases its 2022 Legislative Priorities

Click on the cover to read the 2022 VACo Legislative Priorities



How Virginia Counties Can Bring Renewed Purpose to Historic Civic Centers



By Andrew Moore and
Gary Walker

History runs deep in each of Virginia's 95 counties. For centuries, county courthouse greens and municipal centers served as vibrant civic spaces where citizens come together. Current needs have forced many Virginia counties to reconsider these spaces. We firmly believe that county leaders should transform historic buildings or incorporate new construction in historic areas to create modern facilities that continue to serve as civic gathering spaces rather than create new complexes on greenfield sites far from traditional county centers.

Three best practices are vital to revitalize your county's historic civic spaces and ensure they meet the needs of today's citizens.

First, ask for input early. Think hard about your stakeholders and what matters to them. That buy-in will be critical as plans are crafted. Another benefit of involving citizens is that they'll be more likely to engage with the enhanced civic spaces.

Second, embrace traditional design principles. Citizens recognize the civic importance of courthouses and municipal buildings because of well-established architectural and spatial clues. Traditional elements also have the benefit of staying power. For example, brick and stone are

[More on Next Page](#)



[Click here](#)
to see more
photos of the
new Charlotte
County
Courthouse

durable and associated with meaningful institutions. Likewise, traditional approaches boast an efficient use of space and are often more energy efficient than contemporary architectural trends.

Third, less can be more. An intense focus tying new and existing facilities together will ensure that renovated or new buildings honor an area's historic significance and blend with the existing character, often a source of pride for residents.

Charlotte County offers an insightful case study. Following a feasibility review of the historic courthouse square, a new courthouse was designed to complete the square and through a connection to the historic Circuit Court Clerk's office, enabled a secure, consolidated facility for the various courts. The feasibility study also helped courthouse users understand that an efficient design could both respect the historic nature of the place and maximize stewardship of the County's resources, while meeting the [Virginia Courthouse Facility Guidelines](#).

New construction seamlessly fit in with the traditional fabric of the courthouse green and the existing courthouse, designed by Thomas Jefferson. The new building relied heavily on traditional design principles, ensuring a connection to the existing structures while providing the additional space and modern amenities required.

Feedback about the courthouse complex is overwhelmingly positive because the new building evokes the community's existing architecture, while preserving the area's walkability and sense of place.

These three lessons should guide Virginia counties as they consider how to enhance historic civic centers to foster growth and greater efficiency while boosting civic engagement and community pride.

Gary Walker is the current Chair of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors. He has served on the Board since 1996. He can be reached at gwalker@charlottecountyva.gov.

Andrew Moore AIA, LEED AP BD+C, CDT is a Senior Principal at Glavé & Holmes Architecture in Richmond, VA. As founder and Director of the firm's Urban Architecture Studio, he seeks to create buildings and places that enhance community life in the public realm. He can be contacted at amoores@glaveandholmes.com.

VACo's Jeremy Bennett named to Virginia Business Magazine's "100 People to Meet in 2022." Congratulations Jeremy! A well-deserved recognition!

Go-Getters | [100 People to Meet in 2022](#)

Buffy Barefoot

President Virginia Beach,
TowneBank
Virginia Beach



Born and raised in Hampton Roads, Buffy Barefoot hasn't strayed far from the ZIP code she grew up in. After attending Virginia Tech, she spent 18 years with Bank of America and the past nine with TowneBank. "I just like working with different companies in the community and assisting them with their financial needs in order to help them achieve their goals and dreams," says Barefoot, who oversees the bank's largest region, with five branches and almost 30% of the market share in Hampton Roads. A member of Lead Virginia's class of 2021, Barefoot loves the community aspect of her job. "We make decisions based upon the needs of our community and our decision-making process is localized. We know the folks that we are doing business with. They are our neighbors."



Jeremy Bennett

Director of intergovernmental
affairs, Virginia Association
of Counties
Richmond

As director of intergovernmental affairs for the Virginia Association of Counties, Jeremy Bennett works to find common ground among Virginia's counties, from Accomack

to York. It's helpful that local government issues tend to be bread-and-butter ones like school funding, which Virginia splits between state and local governments. Local governments appropriate about \$4 billion above what is required by Virginia for education, and state funding has not returned to what it used to be before the Great Recession, says Bennett, a member of Lead Virginia's 2021 class. This General Assembly session, Bennett will advocate for counties to receive increased education funding or to be granted funding methods beyond property taxes, particularly for school construction and modernization, given that about half of Virginia public schools are more than 50 years old.



Congratulations!

We honor our Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program Graduates at Board of Supervisors Meetings



VACo's Karie Walker honored Patrick County Supervisor Clyde DeLoach for his graduation from the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program. Congratulations Supervisor DeLoach!

County Names New Assistant County Administrator and Deputy County Administrator

Angela Hill was promoted to Deputy County Administrator/CFO, effective October 28



Brad St. Clair named Assistant County Administrator, effective December 6



Brad St. Clair has been named Assistant County Administrator for Montgomery County, effective Dec. 6, 2021. Angela Hill, who most recently served as Assistant County Administrator and CFO was promoted to Deputy County Administrator/CFO, effective Oct. 28, 2021.

"Angie is very dedicated to our organization, and has stepped into various leadership roles since joining Montgomery County as Finance Director in 1997," said County Administrator Craig Meadows. "She knows our organization extremely well, and she has a strong desire to serve and to lead. I am very fortunate to have her vast knowledge, talent and ability as part of my senior leadership team."

As Deputy County Administrator/CFO, several of the County's department directors will report directly to Hill. Hill will also coordinate long-range strategy and direction with the County Administrator with regard to all County operations.

"I'm proud to continue serving Montgomery County in my new role," said Hill. "I have been fortunate to spend many years learning this organization and developing relationships. I am honored to have the opportunity to help lead our County forward, building collaboration and productivity among our employees and providing services to our citizens in the best ways possible."

Prior to joining the county, Hill, a CPA, worked as an auditor at Brown Edwards & Company, LLP, a regional certified public accounting firm, where she specialized in governmental audits.

Brad St. Clair was hired after a search and interview process was conducted for an Assistant County Administrator.

"The County was fortunate to have a number of very qualified candidates for this position, and after completing the interview and review process, it was clear that Brad provides the best combination of education, experience, and leadership to serve the County in this new role," said County Administrator Craig Meadows.

As Assistant County Administrator, St. Clair is responsible for oversight of Emergency Services, Human Services, the Animal Care & Adoption Center, and Parks and Recreation.

"While my career path to date has led me in service to others through various roles in law enforcement, one thing has always remained the center of why I do what I do: I've always welcomed the opportunity to help others," said St. Clair. "I know my work and life experiences to date have led me to this new role. I'm thankful that I get to work with a variety of departments and to continue to help our citizens and our employees."

St. Clair began his career with Montgomery County in 1999. Over the past two decades, he has advanced through the ranks of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. In 2017, he was named Chief Deputy Sheriff, overseeing a staff of 125 employees in that role.

In addition, Brad served as the Interim Executive Director of the New River Valley Emergency Communications Authority in 2019-2020, and successfully led the authority through an extremely challenging period after the departure of the previous executive director.

Brad earned an associate's degree in forensic science from New River Community College and both a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in business administration from Liberty University. Brad also earned a graduate certificate in Criminal Justice Studies from the University of Virginia, and he completed senior leadership training at the FBI National Academy in Quantico. He has participated in leadership courses at the University of Richmond and the University of Memphis during his career as well. From 2016 to 2019, Brad served as an adjunct professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Radford University.

"In addition to Brad's experience and education, it is evident that he shares Montgomery County's vision of exceptional citizen service for our community," said Meadows. "I am pleased that Brad will be joining us in County Administration, as we work to strengthen our focus on the future of our County for our citizens and businesses."



**For Immediate Release
December 1, 2021**

For more information contact:
Stephanie Straub
Assistant County Administrator
(540) 661-5407

ORANGE COUNTY ANNOUNCES SENIOR LEADERSHIP PROMOTIONS

Orange County, VA – Orange County is pleased to announce the promotion of Glenda Bradley to Deputy County Administrator and Stephanie Straub to Assistant County Administrator of Operations effective December 1, 2021.



Glenda Bradley came to Orange County in the role of Finance Director in June 2011. She has served as an Assistant County Administrator since 2016 with a focus on Finance and Management Services. She brings over 30 years of experience in local government to her new role as Deputy County Administrator, having previously served as Finance Director for Northampton County, Virginia; the Cities of Kinston and Sanford, North Carolina and the Town of Wake Forest, North Carolina. Ms. Bradley received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from East Carolina University, and her graduate certificate in Public

Administration from the University of Virginia School of Continuing and Professional Studies. She has also completed the Senior Executive Institute sponsored by the Cooper Center for Public Service. Ms. Bradley looks forward to continuing to serve the citizens of Orange County as Deputy County Administrator.

Stephanie Straub joined Orange County as a Procurement and Grant Coordinator in December 2012 and has held the positions of Financial Management Specialist, Director of Management Services, Assistant to the County Administrator, and Public Information Officer. Mrs. Straub received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of William and Mary and completed the Senior Executive Institute sponsored by the Cooper Center for Public Service. During her tenure with Orange County, Mrs. Straub has been responsible for capital improvement planning, procurement, and communications. She has also helped implement several capital projects including broadband and the public safety communications system. She is a proud local government management professional who is passionate about serving rural localities.



For more information, contact Stephanie Straub at sstraub@orangecountyva.gov.

###

Chesterfield Names New Deputy County Administrator



Chesterfield County recently announced Clay Bowles as its new deputy county administrator for community operations.

Bowles currently serves as the county's director of general services. He takes over for Scott Zaremba, who retired as of December 1.

The Board of Supervisors is expected to appoint Bowles during its December 15 meeting, and he will then begin his new role effective immediately. A national search to hire a new Director of General Services will begin soon.

Bowles, who has been with Chesterfield for 21 years, comes to his new position after serving the past five years as the Director of General Services.

Prior to that, Bowles was the assistant director of that department as well as the chief of administration for the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office from April 1999 to October 2014. In his new position, Bowles will lead the community operations division, which includes the departments of general services, information technology, parks and recreation, libraries, and risk management. He will also serve as the liaison to the offices of the Commonwealth's Attorney and Sheriff's Office.

Bowles holds a bachelor's degree from Randolph-Macon College and a master's degree in public administration from Virginia Commonwealth University.

"We are extremely excited to bring Clay on as our new deputy county administrator," said Dr. Joe Casey, County Administrator. "He's got more than two decades of experience, all right here in Chesterfield, and he understands what it takes for us to succeed and serve our citizens well. From his time with General Services, he has a proven track record of working well with so many. We are very confident in his ability to lead our community operations team and we congratulate him on this new role."

David Rotenizer Joins Montgomery County as Regional Tourism Director

David Rotenizer was named Executive Director of the Montgomery County Blacksburg Christiansburg Regional Tourism Office on November 9, 2021.

"After conducting a search for someone to spearhead our regional tourism program that yielded several great candidates, David was selected to fill the position and continue the great work our Regional Tourism Office has been doing for the past several years," said Craig Meadows, Montgomery County Administrator. "David has a lot of related industry experience and we are fortunate to have him leading our tourism program."

As Executive Director of the regional tourism program, Rotenizer will report to the Blacksburg Town Manager; Christiansburg Town Manager; and Montgomery County Administrator. He will be responsible for managing and initiating programs that foster and support tourism initiatives throughout both towns and the county, working closely with the Montgomery County Tourism Board.

"This is home. I was born in Radford, grew up in Blacksburg and Montgomery County has always held a special place in my heart and soul," said Rotenizer. "I've seen the great work that has been done by my predecessor with the regional tourism program. I welcome this opportunity to pick up where she left off and continue the great work to both support and grow the tourism industry in our community."

Prior to joining Montgomery County, Rotenizer worked for Franklin County serving as Director of Tourism with the Office of Economic Development. Prior to Franklin County, Rotenizer worked for West Virginia State University as an extension agent in community development with specialization in historic preservation and tourism development in partnership with the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority, serving Raleigh County and the City of Beckley. He served as the first Director of Tourism for both Carroll County Office of Tourism and the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation.

In addition to tourism, Rotenizer has a rich background in community development and historic preservation, including ethnography and archaeology. From 2009-2013, he served as site manager for the Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex – a historic site, museum and collections management facility under the auspices of the West Virginia Division of Culture & History. Rotenizer served as an AmeriCorps VISTA with the Carroll County Office of Economic & Educational Development and served a PreserveWV AmeriCorps supervisor through National Coal Heritage Area and the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia.

Rotenizer is no stranger to Montgomery County. Earlier in his career, he served as the Director of Environmental Conservation assisting with the development and launch of the annual Broom' & Bloomin' and Keep the New River New Clean environmental campaigns, as well as development of a county recycling program which included glass, aluminum and used motor oil. He promoted Operation Waste Watch, a K-12 environmental curriculum and was sponsor of the Riner Archaeology & Ecology Club.

Rotenizer is a board member of the West Piedmont Planning District Commission, Blue Ridge Parkway Association, Virginia Association of Destination Marketing Organizations, The Crooked Road: Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, and Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County. Previously, he was board member of the Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Foundation, the Blue Ridge Travel Association, 'Round the Mountain: Southwest Virginia's Artisan Network, Carroll County Historical Society, New River Historical Society, and Archeological Society of Virginia and a charter board member of the Montgomery Museum & Lewis Miller Regional Art Center and the New River Valley Preservation League.

Rotenizer is a graduate of Radford University with a bachelor degree in general studies and a concentration in Appalachian Heritage Resources. He also has completed coursework in anthropology and Appalachian Studies at the University of Kentucky and general studies from New River Community College. Rotenizer is a graduate of the Marketing College of the Southeast Tourism Society. He is graduate of Blacksburg High School.



To learn more about the Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Montgomery County Regional Tourism Office, [visit https://gotomontva.com/](https://gotomontva.com/).



Acknowledging State Graduates from the NACo Leadership Academy

Six Virginia County staff members participated in the NACo Leadership Academy, a 12-week online program that empowers front-line county government employees with fundamental leadership skills. Across the country, 4,500 county employees have enrolled in the NACo Leadership Academy since 2018.

County staff to complete the 2021 August Academy are:

- **Crystal Knott**, Technical Support Manager, Augusta County
- **Chris Edmondson**, Sergeant, Bedford County
- **Cameron Burton**, Director of Library Services, Bland County
- **Wendy Payne**, IT Director, Charles City County
- **Sharon Day**, Financial and Management Services Director, James City County
- **Jason Berry**, County Administrator, Washington County

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



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN SOON

Thank you for participating in the 87th Annual Conference. Below is a link to the recap webpage that includes session videos, recordings, and presentations.

[VACo 87th Annual Conference Recap Webpage](#)

Also, please take a moment to share your thoughts on your experience at the Annual Conference.

[VACo 87th Annual Conference Evaluation Form](#)

Please let us know if you have any questions by contacting Valerie Russell at vrussell@vaco.org. We have a busy 2022 schedule planned so be on the lookout for more information.

Take care and thank you again for all you do for Virginia's counties.



Registration is now open for the 2022 NACo Legislative Conference

February 12–16, 2022 | Washington Hilton | Washington, D.C.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference brings together nearly 2,000 elected and appointed county officials to focus on federal policy issues that impact counties and our residents. Attendees have the opportunity to engage in second-to-none policy sessions, interact with federal officials and participate in congressional briefings and meetings.

This is a one-of-a-kind advocacy opportunity you will not want to miss.

REGISTRATION

Register today to secure early bird rates and hotel availability.

[REGISTER TODAY](#) | [VIEW SCHEDULE](#)

QUESTIONS?

We're happy to help. Contact nacomeetings@naco.org or call 202-942-4292.

90+ cashvest® Awards



Hon. Maria E. Walls, CPA
Beaufort County, SC

three+one® is pleased to announce the public entities and higherEd institutions that are the recipients of the 2021 prestigious 90+ cashvest® Award.

To quote our great partner Matthew Chase, CEO of National Association of Counties, ***“We applaud these public #finance #leaders for helping to maximize the value of taxpayer dollars, optimize cash flow, lower borrowing costs, and strengthen protections for public resources.”***

See all the winners at <https://threeplusone.us/blog/90-cashvest-awards-2021/>



Dear VACo Members -

Please consider participating in the Virginia Tech Financial Health Check Case Study Partnership, which is a component of the Public and Nonprofit Financial Management Graduate Certificate Program in the School of Public and International Affairs. **We are seeking a locality partner for Spring 2022 and applications are requested by December 17, 2021 (email to baileysd@vt.edu).**

[Partnership Application](#) | [Partnership Information Brochure](#)

The Financial Health Check Case Study Partnership is a **win-win** for both the community partner and the graduate students. The locality partner will acquire a **customized Financial Health Check report** as the capstone semester project in the SPIA 5674 Financial Health of Public and Nonprofit Organizations course. And the graduate students will gain valuable, real world experience and deepen their understanding through integrating knowledge and practice.

In keeping with the Virginia Tech motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), the field lab, service learning approach was instituted in SPIA 5674 in Spring 2021, with the City of Hampton as the first community partner. Hampton received a robust, Financial Health Check report as the capstone project that semester. Kindly see a video of this Hampton project at the attached link: https://video.vt.edu/media/Virginia+Tech+-+Hampton+Financial+Health+Check+Partnership+Video+Record/1_pz9ppod6

We sincerely look forward to partnering with another locality in Spring 2022! Please contact Dr. Sheryl Bailey at baileysd@vt.edu if you have any questions or additional suggestions.

VACo and VML Host Webinar on Opioid Litigation Settlement and Opioid Abatement Fund



VACo along with VML hosted representatives from the Office of the Attorney General, local government attorneys, and law firms involved in litigation with opioid manufacturers and distributors for a webinar on October 25 to inform localities about participation in the \$26 billion national settlement with Janssen (a manufacturer of opioids) and several opioid distributors. Virginia stands to receive approximately \$530 million over the course of the settlement period, with the exact amount dependent on participation by local governments. Local governments must join the settlement by January 2, 2022, to receive funds; participation requires a locality to adopt resolutions approving a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth and entering into the settlement agreement.

Under the terms of the settlement, 15 percent of the funds will be distributed to participating localities and are not restricted in their use, 15 percent will be distributed to participating localities for abatement purposes, 15 percent will remain with the Commonwealth, and 55 percent will be deposited to the Opioid Abatement Fund, which was established in the 2021 legislative session.

The Opioid Abatement Fund, which will be administered by the Opioid Abatement Authority, will divide its funds as follows: 15 percent to participating localities, 35 percent to participating localities' regional partnerships, 15 percent to state agencies, and 35 percent for any of the preceding purposes or for administrative expenses. The statute creating the Authority states that its purpose is "to abate and remediate the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth through financial support from the Fund, in the form of grants, donations, or other assistance, for efforts to treat, prevent, and reduce opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids in the Commonwealth." The Honorable James Holland, Chair of the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, serves on the Board of Directors of the Authority.

A recording of the October 25 webinar as well as the slide presentation and sample resolutions to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and participation in the settlement may be found on VACo's website at this link: <https://www.vaco.org/legislative/virginia-opioid-abatement-information/>.

VACo Contacts: [Katie Boyle](#) and [Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE](#)



VACo Supervisors' Forum

Friday, April 29, 2022 and Saturday, April 30, 2022
Omni Richmond Hotel



For Immediate Release
November 19, 2021

VAcrop Releases Newly Designed Website and Logo

Contact: Stephanie Heintzleman, Member Services Director
540-986-2706

Over the past few months, VAcrop has been working to develop and launch a refreshed brand platform and website, www.vacorp.org, ahead of the November 2021 VACo Conference.

VAcrop has established itself as an industry innovator, and its fresh, new website and logo better reflect its forward-thinking approach to risk management. While the look has been updated, the daily operations and responsive staff remain unchanged. Members can expect the same consistent level of excellence in service that VAcrop has provided since its inception in 1993.

The updated website further illustrates VAcrop's unwavering commitment to its founding principles. Packed with useful information and easier than ever to navigate; the newly released version also introduces a new "schedule viewer" tool in the secure member portal which allows members to view covered property, vehicles, and equipment, as well as payroll information applicable to workers' compensation coverage. This complements other longstanding website features such as the "claim viewer" and "report generator" tools that empower members to view claim information and create loss runs without ever having to pick up the phone.

VAcrop was founded upon several fundamental principles:

- Providing the most comprehensive coverage possible tailored specifically to the public sector member entities
- Simplifying the process of safeguarding organizations holistically through specialized coverages and risk management services
- Remaining agile and proactive in protecting its member base through innovation
- Maintaining price stability and transparency

Today, VAcrop is the largest group self-insurance pool of its kind in Virginia with more members and more covered exposures than any other. Its continued success is a testament to the value it brings to hundreds of members across the Commonwealth. This updated website will be yet another valuable resource to help members address their risk management needs in the new year and beyond!

#



SurveyNavigator®

Visit our [Virginia SurveyNavigator® website](#)

What is SurveyNavigator®?

- In partnership with VACo, Baker Tilly will be conducting annual online enrollment and training for SurveyNavigator®, the online salary and benefits data service available exclusively to county members that participate in the program, on Dec. 8 and 15, 2021
- SurveyNavigator® is a cooperative venture in which those who contribute their organization's compensation and benefits data can download the data that others put in, providing valuable salary comparison information
- Current participants will receive a refresher training on how to update the pay and benefits data for the current fiscal year so that information will be available in time for next year's budget preparations. Annual updates will keep the data fresh and renewal updates are planned in August of each year.
- We encourage all administrators and human resources professionals to investigate the system by joining one of our webinars to discover how easy the system is to use



Upcoming SurveyNavigator® webinars

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021
1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET

Connect with us today to explore SurveyNavigator® and RSVP to one of our webinars with a public sector talent management specialist!

Jama McClung
Senior Consultant, Public Sector Advisory
jama.mcclung@bakertilly.com or e-solutions@bakertilly.com

Baker Tilly US, LLP, is a VACo Premier Partner and one of the nation's leading advisory CPA firms. Our specialized public sector practice offers a wide variety of local government consulting services, including compensation and classification studies, executive search, performance optimization and other areas of human capital management. Contact **Steve Miner** or **Anne Lewis** to learn more about how our organizational specialists can help you recruit, reward, deploy and manage employees to achieve your goals.

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.



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.

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

A Tailored Cybersecurity Program for VACo members



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

01

Cyber Hygiene Assessment

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

02

Informative Training

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

03

Special Membership Pricing

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



Carlton Harris CTO of EEC

**View this VACo
Premier Partner
Spotlight Video**

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



www.eecomputing.com/events



www.eecomputing.com

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.bgllc.net

VIRGINIA COUNTY SUPERVISORS' MANUAL

EIGHTH EDITION, 2019



ORDER YOURS TODAY
\$75 EACH

(SHIPPING IS INCLUDED)



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

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).



CHIEF OF FIRE RESCUE |
Augusta County | Posted December 2



FAMILY SERVICES
SPECIALIST | Montgomery County
| Posted December 2



ELECTRIC METER
TECHNICIAN TRAINEE | Town of
Front Royal | Posted December 2



UTILITY PLANT
OPERATOR/SENIOR UTILITY PLANT
OPERATOR | Shenandoah County
| Posted December 1



UTILITY PLANT CHIEF
OPERATOR | Shenandoah County
| Posted December 1



COVID SCREENING
COORDINATOR (PT TEMPORARY) |
Montgomery County | Posted
December 1



RECREATION ASSISTANT
- PART TIME | Montgomery County
| Posted December 1



ACCOUNTANT | Hanover
County | Posted November 30



INSPECTOR I | Gloucester
County | Posted November 30



SENIOR LEGAL
ASSISTANT | Gloucester County
| Posted November 30



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST |
Campbell County | Posted November
30



TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT
SPECIALIST II-III | Montgomery
County | Posted November 29



WASH BAY ATTENDANT |
City of Harrisonburg | Posted
November 29



CUSTODIAN SENIOR -
MAINTENANCE DIVISION | City of
Harrisonburg | Posted November 29



HOUSING
COORDINATOR | City of
Harrisonburg | Posted November 29



SENIOR FINANCIAL
ANALYST | Spotsylvania County
| Posted November 24



STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR |
Fauquier County | Posted November
23



ADMINISTRATIVE
COORDINATOR | Montgomery County
| Posted November 23



Chesapeake FACILITY
MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR | City
of Chesapeake | Posted November 22



PUBLIC UTILITIES
DIRECTOR | Gates County NC | Posted
November 22



CUSTOMER SERVICE
REPRESENTATIVE | Gates County NC
| Posted November 22



**LEAD REFUSE SITE
ATTENDANT** | New Kent County
| Posted November 22



**COUNTY
ATTORNEY** | Albemarle County
| Posted November 22



SENIOR ACCOUNTANT |
Town of Culpeper | Posted November 22



**HELP DESK TECHNICAL
ADMINISTRATOR** | Town of Culpeper
| Posted November 22



CIVIL ENGINEER I |
Gloucester County | Posted November 19



**ENGAGEMENT
LIAISON** | Campbell County | Posted November 19



**DIRECTOR OF
FINANCE** | Thomas Jefferson PDC
| Posted November 19



**REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION PLANNER III-
IV** | Thomas Jefferson PDC | Posted November 19



**FULL CHARGE
BOOKKEEPER** | Thomas Jefferson
PDC | Posted November 19



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE |
Hanover County | Posted November 18



**ZONING
ADMINISTRATOR** | Northampton
County | Posted November 18



**FIELD TRIP
COORDINATOR (Program Support
Specialist)** | City of Harrisonburg
| Posted November 18



**WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR** |
King George County | Posted November 17



**COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER** | Town of Front Royal
| Posted November 17



RECREATION AIDE |
Montgomery County | Posted November 17



**PARALEGAL
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** |
Campbell County | Posted November 17



**INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST** | Town of
Front Royal | Posted November 17



PERMIT TECHNICIAN |
Town of Front Royal | Posted November 17



UTILITIES ENGINEER |
Chesterfield County | Posted November 17



**TRANSPORTATION
MANAGER** | Goochland County
| Posted November 17



**ASSISTANT PLANNING
DIRECTOR/CODE COMPLIANCE
OFFICER** | Richmond County | Posted November 11



UTILITIES ENGINEER |
Chesterfield County | Posted November 10



**PUBLIC INFORMATION
OFFICER** | Bedford County | Posted November 9



COUNTY MANAGER |
Camden County NC | Posted November 9

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
Meg Bohmke
Stafford County



President-Elect
Jason D. Bellows
Lancaster County



First Vice President
Ann H. Mallek
Albemarle County



Second Vice President
Ruth Larson
James City County



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



Immediate Past President
Jeffrey C. McKay
Fairfax 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.

