

# Capitol Contact

## Virginia General Assembly

Virginia Association of Counties • 1207 E. Main Street, Suite 300 • Richmond, VA 23219  
www.vaco.org • 804.788.6652

Thursday, January 13, 2022

# 2022 General Assembly Convenes



The 2022 General Assembly convened on January 12, with both chambers meeting in person for the first time since spring 2020. The day was marked by beginnings and

endings, as the House elected a new Speaker, Delegate C. Todd Gilbert of Shenandoah County, and welcomed 18 newly-elected members, concluding the day by hosting Governor Northam's final State of the Commonwealth address, as the Governor prepares for the inauguration of his successor this weekend.

Speaker Gilbert pledged a focus on education, economic prosperity and innovation, promising to be "the Speaker for all of Virginia and all of this chamber." He paid tribute to the last Speaker to hail from Shenandoah County, who was represented in the chamber by his great-grandson. After the conclusion of the ceremonial portion of the floor session, and after some debate, the House adopted revised rules of procedure. In a last organizational item for the House, the Speaker's appointments of new chairs and members of House standing committees were announced. An important task for the day was the adoption of a procedural resolution by the House and the Senate setting out key dates and deadlines for completing consideration of legislation and the state budget this session. An outline of these key dates as adopted in the procedural resolution is included in a separate article in this edition of Capitol Contact.

Governor Northam's address struck a valedictory tone, reflecting on a series of accomplishments in an eventful term – in the Governor's words, "a more tumultuous four years than I think any of us expected." He expressed appreciation to the state workforce, his Cabinet members, and staff for their service to Virginians during challenging times, and touted "generational investments" in broadband access and transportation initiatives, as well as progress in economic development, protecting water quality, enhancing access to community college, and expanding early childhood programs. The Governor thanked legislators for their partnership and encouraged them to continue to build on the state's progress in the coming years.

More than 1,600 bills had been filed as of Thursday morning, and Senate committees have already begun hearing bills. VACo will be providing regular updates to members in future editions of Capitol Contact.

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

## **VACo supports increasing eligibility for local use of state broadband funds**

[HB 249 \(Davis\)](#) expands the eligibility criteria for counties applying for Virginia Telecommunications Initiative grant ([VATI](#)) funds. Specifically, the bill directs the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to align the eligibility criteria with the same found in the U.S. Treasury's Final Rule regarding the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. VACo supports this change as it will significantly increase the availability of state funds, that can

be matched with federal and local dollars, to build broadband infrastructure at bandwidths and speeds capable of supporting reliable use.

## Key Points

- Eligibility for use of VATI funds is limited and not flexible enough to address situations where private providers are not available to meet demand. Specifically, local governments are limited to using VATI for the building of private-sector infrastructure. Federal recovery funds not only allow localities to use them for publicly owned facilities, but they also encourage applicants to construct and install robust infrastructure at speeds and capacities to meet the needs of their community.
- Localities can also use funds under federal eligibility criteria to provide affordable access to service. Such use is critical in terms of providing opportunities to expand access to education, telework, telemedicine and economic development.

VACo will continue to provide updates on the progress of the bill, including opportunities to express support once it has been assigned to a committee and scheduled for a vote.

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

## Key Dates for the 2022 General Assembly

As part of its organizational work on the first day of the 2022 session, the General Assembly adopted a procedural resolution on January 12 that sets out important dates and deadlines for the 2022 legislative session.

### Key dates for the 2022 Session

- **January 12:** General Assembly convened at noon. Bills that were “prefiled” were due to be submitted by 10 a.m. All bills and regulations affecting the Virginia Retirement System or creating or continuing a study were required to be filed before adjournment. Governor Northam delivered the State of the Commonwealth address at 7 p.m.
- **January 14:** Deadline for submission of budget amendments

- **January 15:** Joint Assembly for inaugural ceremonies
- **January 17:** Joint Assembly for address by Governor Youngkin
- **January 21:** Deadline for all bills or joint resolutions to be filed by 3 p.m. (with some exceptions, such as legislation introduced at the request of the Governor or legislation allowed to be introduced after deadlines by unanimous consent)
- **February 15:** “Crossover” deadline for each chamber to complete work on legislation originating in that chamber (except for the budget bill)
- **February 20:** Money committees report budgets by midnight
- **February 22:** Money committee budget proposals available by noon
- **February 24:** Houses of introduction must complete work on budget
- **March 2:** Deadline for each chamber to complete work on other chamber’s budget proposal and revenue bills and appoint conferees
- **March 7:** Deadline for committee action on legislation by midnight
- **March 12:** Scheduled adjournment *sine die*
- **April 27:** Reconvened session for consideration of Governor’s amendments and vetoes

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

## 2022 Senate Standing Committees

### **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

[Petersen \(Chair\)](#), [Hanger](#), [Ruff](#), [Obenshain](#), [Stuart](#), [Marsden](#), [Stanley](#), [Lewis](#), [Sutterlein](#), [Mason](#), [McClellan](#), [Favola](#), [Morrissey](#), [Pillion](#), [Hashmi](#)

### **COMMERCE AND LABOR**

[Saslaw \(Chair\)](#), [Norment](#), [Newman](#), [Obenshain](#), [Lucas](#), [Spruill](#), [Edwards](#), [Deeds](#), [Barker](#), [Marsden](#), [Ebbin](#), [Lewis](#), [Surovell](#), [Mason](#), [Bell](#)

## **EDUCATION AND HEALTH**

Lucas (Chair), Saslaw, Howell, Newman, Locke, Barker, Petersen, Cosgrove, Lewis, Dunnivant, Suetterlein, Peake, Edwards, Hashmi, Pillion

## **FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS**

Howell(Chair), Saslaw, Norment, Hanger, Lucas, Newman, Ruff, Vogel, Barker, Edwards, Deeds, Locke, Petersen, Marsden, Ebbin, McClellan

## **GENERAL LAWS AND TECHNOLOGY**

Barker (Chair), Ruff, Locke, Vogel, Ebbin, Reeves, McPike, Dunnivant, Mason, Boysko, Stuart, Pillion, Bell, Hashmi, Kiggans

## **JUDICIARY**

Edwards (Chair), Saslaw, Norment, Lucas, Obenshain, McDougale, Stuart, Stanley, Deeds, Petersen, Surovell, McClellan, Boysko, Morrissey, Peake

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Lewis (Chair), Hanger, Stanley, Favola, DeSteph, Dunnivant, McPike, Howell, Spruill, Morrissey, Pillion, Bell, Hashmi, Kiggans, Reeves

## **PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS**

Deeds (Chair), Howell, Vogel, Reeves, Ebbin, Ruff, Spruill, Peake, McDougale, Surovell, Mason, McClellan, Boysko, Bell, Dunnivant

## **REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

Favola (Chair), Hanger, Locke, McDougale, Reeves, Cosgrove, Surovell, DeSteph, McPike, Spruill, Mason, Boysko, Morrissey, Kiggans, Stuart

## **RULES**

Locke (Chair), Saslaw, Howell, Lucas, Edwards, Deeds, Marsden, Petersen, Barker, Favola, Lewis, Norment, McDougale, Vogel, McPike

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Marsden (Chair), Newman, Favola, Cosgrove, DeSteph, Suetterlein, McClellan, Peake, Boysko, Obenshain, Ebbin, Surovell, McPike, Spruill, Stanley

# **2022 House Standing Committees**

## **AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Ware (Chair), Marshall (Vice Chair), Wright, Orrock, Edmunds, Wilt, Webert,



Ransone, Fariss, Bloxom, Fowler, Runion, Plum, Bulova, Lopez, Gooditis, Tran, Helmer, Simonds, Willett, Williams Graves, Filler-Corn

## **APPROPRIATIONS**

Knight (Chair), Austin (Vice Chair), Morefield, Fariss, Davis, Bloxom, Brewer, Marshall, Hodges, Coyner, Wyatt, Wampler, Torian, Sickles, Plum, Bulova, Carr, McQuinn, Krizek, Hayes, Reid, Rasoul

## **COMMERCE AND ENERGY**

Byron (Chair), Kilgore, Ware, Marshall, O'Quinn, Ransone, Webert, Wilt, Head, Adams, L.R., McNamara, Batten, Ward, Keam, Kory, Bagby, Mullin, Lopez, Sullivan, Guzman, Gooditis, Scott, D.L.

## **COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

Brewer (Chair), Edmunds (Vice Chair), Byron, Campbell, J.L., McNamara, Hodges, Davis, Cordoza, Anderson, Greenhalgh, March, Tata, Lopez, Simon, Convirs-Fowler, Roem, Ward, Helmer, Sewell, Maldonado, Shin, Clark

## **COUNTIES, CITIES AND TOWNS**

Hodges (Chair), Morefield (Vice Chair), McNamara, LaRock, Coyner, Avoli, Ballard, Cherry, Scott, P.A., Cordoza, March, Wachsmann, Mullin, Roem, Gooditis, Kory, Subramanyam, Jenkins, Williams Graves, Sewell, Bennett-Parker, Shin

## **COURTS OF JUSTICE**

Bell (Chair), Adams, L.R. (Vice Chair), Kilgore, Leftwich, Campbell, J.L., Ransone, Campbell, R.R., Wyatt, Ballard, Williams, Anderson, Watts, Herring, Hope, Bourne, Simon, Keam, Sullivan, Delaney, Scott, D.L.

## **EDUCATION**

Davis (Chair), Avoli (Vice Chair), LaRock, McGuire, Batten, Wampler, Freitas, Coyner, Cherry, Durant, Greenhalgh, Tata, Bourne, VanValkenburg, Rasoul, McQuinn, Subramanyam, Guzman, Filler-Corn, Simonds, Sewell, Maldonado

## **FINANCE**

Robinson (Chair), Fowler (Vice Chair), Orrock, Ware, Byron, Freitas, McNamara, Wright, Campbell, R.R., Runion, Wiley, Durant, Watts, Keam, Sullivan, Murphy, Hudson, Willett, Scott, D.L., Mundon King, Simon, Bennett-Parker

## **GENERAL LAWS**

Leftwich (Chair), Wright (Vice Chair), Knight, Robinson, Morefield, Fowler, Brewer, Wampler, Campbell, J.L., Freitas, Walker, Runion, Bulova, Carr, Torian,

Murphy, Price, Krizek, Adams, D.M., VanValkenburg, Convirs-Fowler, Roem

### **HEALTH, WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS**

Orrock (Chair), Head (Vice Chair), Bell, Hodges, Edmunds, Robinson, Walker, Avoli, Cherry, Taylor, Scott, P.A., Wachsmann, Sickles, Hope, Price, Hayes, Delaney, Adams, D.M., Guzman, Tran, Willett, Hudson

### **PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS**

Ransone (Chair), O'Quinn (Vice Chair), Adams, L.R., Leftwich, Head, McGuire, Bloxom, Williams, Taylor, Scott, P.A., Greenhalgh, Wachsmann, Sickles, Price, VanValkenburg, Convirs-Fowler, Krizek, Adams, D.M., Reid, Simonds, Mundon King, Maldonado

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Wilt (Chair), Fariss (Vice Chair), Webert, Freitas, Campbell, R.R., Davis, Batten, Wiley, Ballard, Williams, Cordoza, March, Hope, Kory, Simon, Rasoul, Plum, Bourne, Jenkins, Williams Graves, Mundon King, Clark

### **RULES**

Gilbert (Chair), Kilgore, Orrock, Knight, Austin, Byron, Bell, Wilt, Webert, Ransone, O'Quinn, Head, Batten, Bagby, Filler-Corn, Watts, Sickles, Herring

### **TRANSPORTATION**

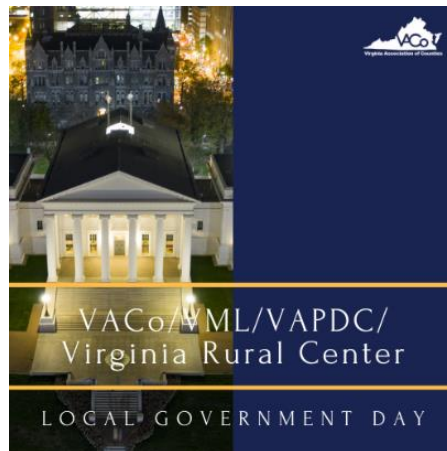
Austin (Chair), LaRock (Vice Chair), Walker, Wyatt, Avoli, McGuire, Runion, Wiley, Taylor, Durant, Anderson, Tata, Ward, McQuinn, Carr, Bagby, Murphy, Delaney, Reid, Watts, Herring, Subramanyam

## **Governor-Elect Glenn Youngkin's Cabinet**

- **Chief of Staff** – [Jeff Goettman](#)
- **Secretary of the Commonwealth** – [Kay Cole James](#)
- **Secretary of Administration** – [Margaret “Lyn” McDermid](#)
- **Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry** – [Matt Lohr](#)
- **Secretary of Commerce and Trade** – [Caren Merrick](#)

- **Secretary of Education** – [Aimee Rogstad Guidera](#)
- **Secretary of Finance** – [Stephen Emery Cummings](#)
- **Secretary of Health and Human Resources** – [John Littel](#)
- **Secretary of Labor** – [George “Bryan” Slater](#)
- **Secretary of Natural Resources** – [Andrew Wheeler](#)
- **Secretary of Public Safety** – [Bob Mosier](#)
- **Secretary of Transportation** – [Sheppard “Shep” Miller III](#)
- **Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs** – [Craig Crenshaw](#)

**Advocate for your locality at the  
VACo Local Government Day**  
In Partnership with VML, VAPDC and the Virginia Rural Center



**Thursday, February 3, 2022 | [Omni Richmond Hotel](#) | [REGISTRATION FORM](#) | [REGISTER ONLINE](#)**



## **Local Government Day**

It's a day for all of us. Counties. Cities. Towns. Planning Districts. It's a day for us to learn how the decisions being made by the General Assembly might affect us. And it's a day to make our voices heard. Attend Local Government Day. Then visit the Capitol to meet with your legislators and observe committee meetings. Later join us for a reception.

## **Registration Fee**

\$100 Day Briefing only (Noon – 2pm)

\$100 Reception only (530pm)

\$150 for both | \$175 late registration

## **Agenda**

- Welcome, Introductions, and Lunch
- Governor-Elect Glenn Youngkin (Invited)
- Team Legislative Reports
- Visit Capitol to speak with Legislators
- Legislative Reception

For information on how to reach your representatives, see the [Virginia House of Delegates](#) and the [Senate of Virginia](#) member websites. Find information about VACo's positions in the [2022 Legislative Program](#). We will distribute the Local Government Day Bulletin before the event.

Be a part of the legislative process at the 2022 General Assembly Session.

Register for the event at [VACo Local Government Day Online](#) or fax the [Registration Form](#) to 804.788.0083.

## **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](#).

**VACo Contact:** [Valerie Russell](#)