COUNTY CONNECTIONS

Thursday, June 16, 2022



Governor Proposes Amendments to Caboose and Biennium Budget Bills



Governor Youngkin proposed three amendments to the FY 2022 "caboose" budget and 35 amendments to the 2022-2024 biennium budget on June 15, one day in advance of his June 16 deadline. The legislature is scheduled to return to Richmond on Friday, June 17 to consider the Governor's recommendations. VACo will report on the outcome of the June 17 reconvened session in a future *Capitol Contact*.

Two of the Governor's amendments to the caboose bill deal with specific economic development projects and the third is a technical adjustment to revenues. The Governor's amendments to the biennium budget bill include the following proposals:

• Provides \$2 million per year to expand the Early Reading Specialists initiative (which supports school divisions in funding one reading specialist per school in schools that rank lowest statewide on the third grade reading Standards of Learning assessment) to fund additional reading specialists or reading coaches or to support school personnel in attaining licensure requirements for endorsement as a reading specialist.

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- Expands the types of higher-education entities that may apply to form college partnership laboratory schools and stipulates that state per-pupil K-12 funding for students enrolled at college partnership laboratory schools would be distributed to the college partnership laboratory school an amount equal to the local funding that the school would receive, based upon its average daily membership. Language allows a local school board to enter into a memorandum of understanding with a college partnership laboratory school that would determine the formula by which local, state, and federal funding is distributed between the college partnership laboratory school authority to establish alternative schools from local school boards and divert public SOQ funds away from public schools.
- Adds language and funding to provide the \$1000 bonus that was included in the conference report for SOQ-recognized instructional and support personnel to instructional and support positions at Academic Year Governor's Schools and Regional Alternative Education Programs (these positions were inadvertently left out of the conference report).
- Provides \$4.4 million GF in FY 2023 and \$291,060 NGF in FY 2023 to support efforts to address the lack of placements for high-acuity children in foster care. This proposal would provide funding to support the development of partnerships between local departments of social services to increase capacity to approve kinship caregivers and recruit, train, and develop locally-approved foster parents; funding for an enhanced treatment foster care pilot program that would provide stipends for foster families caring for high-acuity children; funding for foster care agencies to support additional coordination, recruitment, and training; and support for the initiatives of the Safe and Sound Task Force, including community-based treatments, support for kinship, foster, and adoptive families, and trauma-informed care for children in foster care who are displaced, or at risk of becoming displaced.
- Suspends taxes by 100% on the wholesale distribution of gasoline and diesel fuel for three months (from July 1 through September 30, 2022) and caps future increases at 2% per year.
- Provides \$2 million in FY 2024 for a \$3000 salary increase for probation and parole officers.
- Provides \$2.2 million in FY 2024 for compensation actions for juvenile correctional center staff.
- Adds language allowing a medical cannabis facility to operate at both its former and new locations when it is changing locations.
- Provides \$2.4 million per year for additional security positions at state mental health hospitals.
- Makes changes to the eligibility requirements for the earned-sentence credit structure that was
 developed in legislation passed in the 2020 summer special session. According to <u>an article in
 the Richmond Times Dispatch</u>, this amendment is intended to prevent the sentence credits from
 applying to inmates serving sentences for certain violent crimes.
- Creates a rebuttable presumption against bail for certain criminal offenses.

VACo Contact: VACo Legislative Team

PRESS RELEASE



VACo Welcomes James Hutzler



RICHMOND (June 15, 2022)—The Virginia Association of Counties is pleased to announce that James Hutzler will join the team on July 1 as Government Relations Associate. Hutzler is currently serving as an adjunct professor at Rappahannock Community College teaching US Government & Politics and State & Local Politics. Hutzler is also pursuing his Master of Public Administration at Virginia Commonwealth University.

"I'm so excited to work for an organization I wholeheartedly believe in while also working with and for my fellow Virginians," Hutzler said.

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

"We have a talented and experienced team at VACo, and we feel James will fit right in and will be a great asset to the legislative team," VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said. "We're excited to welcome James, and cannot wait for our members to meet him."

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VACo members will soon experience Hutzler's passion for Virginia and her history. Growing up – Hutzler adored learning about history and social studies. This deep love for the state where he was raised makes him suited to serve counties.

"There is no better place to grow up learning about history and civic education than the Commonwealth of Virginia," Hutzler said. "When you think of the historical titans of this country, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Patrick Henry, they all are Virginians. The founding of Jamestown in 1607 tied in with the Surrender at Yorktown in 1781, exhibit a poetic start and finish to the long and arduous journey that was to create our nation. What left such an imprint on me is that these events happened only 10 miles from where I grew up in Gloucester County. I love how deeply entwined Virginia and Virginians are when discussing the history of our country. I also love how, today, the Commonwealth is so diverse. From urban pockets of fun and excitement to vast stretches of scenic and rural experiences, we really do have it all in Virginia."

Hutzler will join the VACo Legislative Team and focus and advocate on environment and agriculture as well as transportation issues. To say he's excited to start is an understatement.

"I want to be an advocate for good governance and support every one of Virginia's 95 counties," Hutzler said. "I want to work side-by-side with county leaders and help them in any way to deliver the necessary services to their constituents all the while promoting the values of good public service. Good local government can and will enhance the ability of counties to fulfill their unique mission to their constituents, and I am excited to play a part in this. I am ever more excited to learn about what makes each county so unique and special."

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

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For more information Gage Harter 804.343.2502 <u>gharter@vaco.org</u> Virginia Association of Counties 1207 East Main Street Richmond, Va. 23219 www.vaco.org

TOURISM



Visit Bedford County and the Bedford County Courthouse

Location: 123 East Main Street / Court Street Built: 1929 – 1930 Style: Classical Revival Architect: C H Hinnant Contractor: Fred O Fuqua

Description: The building faces south and is a two story red colored brick, stone and concrete Classical Revival style structure. The building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of Bedford. The south front has a large portico with six Corinthian columns rising to a pediment at the roof line. The massive triangular pediment has a unique design incorporating symbols of the local crops of corn and tobacco and the official crest of the fourth Duke of Bedford, John Russell. The center section of the building projects from the main building. On the roof is a high square clock tower with clock and open belfry at the top. The building houses the County Circuit Court, County General District Court and County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of the 24th Judicial Circuit. The building was renovated in 1997 to 1998. TAhe architect was Fauber Architects and the contractor was Blair Construction. The bell tower was renovated in 2014. The architect was Dominion 7 Architects and the contractor was Jamison-Lewis Construction.

SOURCE: <u>American Courthouses | Courthouses.co</u>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Let's meet in person at the VACo County Officials' Summit

AUGUST 18, 2022 | <u>REGISTRATION FORM</u> | <u>REGISTER ONLINE</u> <u>DRAFT AGENDA</u>

The 2022 VACo County Officials' Summit hits the road this summer as we travel to Roanoke County. We're excited to invite Governor Glenn Youngkin and Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears to speak about developing relationships with local governments and to share their vision for the future. We've also invited several cabinet members to talk about the issues and legislation for the 2023 General Assembly Session.

<u>Register today</u> to join your peers in Roanoke County on Thursday, August 18, 2022, for the VACo County Officials' Summit. Breakfast and lunch are provided with event registration.

Two time blocks of VACo Steering Committee Meetings will follow lunch on August 18. VACo's Board of Directors Meeting will take place at 9am on Friday, August 19.

Contact Valerie Russell at <u>vrussell@vaco.org</u> to book a hotel room. We looking forward to seeing you at the County Officials' Summit on August 18!

Registration Form | Register Online | Draft Agenda



Enter the VACo 2022 Achievement Awards



Dear VACo Members -

It's time for the 2022 Achievement Awards Program. Any county department is eligible to compete so ENTER NOW!

Achievement Awards Submission Form

All entries are required to be submitted in electronic form. No paper copy submissions are necessary. The electronic copy should be a PDF or WORD file. Email entries to Gage Harter at <u>gharter@vaco.org</u>. Submissions must be received by July 1, 2022.

Last year, <u>we processed 102 entries</u> and selected 30 winners from 19 Counties. VACo presented awards at 19 Board of Supervisors Meetings, recognized winners at the 87th Annual Conference, and issued a news release to statewide media.

The judges for the 2022 Achievement Awards will be announced soon.

VACo has received close to 1,000 entries over the past decade. Last year's Best Achievement winner was Henrico County for its "Equity Ambassadors" program.

VACo encourages all Counties, big and small, to enter the 2022 Achievement Awards Program. Please contact <u>gharter@vaco.org</u> with questions or for more information.

Achievement Awards Submission Form | Achievement Awards Website | 2021 Achievement Awards Press Release | Browse all of the 2021 Entries | Past Achievement Award Winners

Stafford Appoints New County Administrator



After a rigorous national search, the Stafford County Board of Supervisors announces the appointment of Randal E. Vosburg to the position of County Administrator. Randy Vosburg has been serving as County Administrator of Highlands County, Florida, since his appointment in 2017. He will take over as County Administrator replacing interim County Administrator Mike Smith on July 5, 2022.

"Hiring a County Administrator is one of the most important duties the Board has to ensure that government services and strategic direction for the community continue to head in the right direction," said Crystal Vanuch, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. "Randy holds a diverse repertoire of education, experience and accomplishments that aligned impeccably with the Board's vision. The Board looks forward to working with Randy on vital County and community initiatives to improve the organization and its services."

As County Administrator, Vosburg will oversee all County departments and be responsible for the day-today management of County government in accordance with the policies and directives of the Board.

"I am grateful to have this opportunity to be of service to Stafford County as its Administrator," said Vosburg. "I am passionate about public service and making Stafford County a premier place to live and work. More importantly, I am excited about working with the Board of Supervisors and staff to fulfill the County's Vision and meet the community's needs."

Before his time as County Administrator in Highlands County, Vosburg was hired in 2013 as the Assistant County Administrator for Highland County. He also served in the Polk County Sheriff's Office as the Director of Strategic Planning and was promoted to the Director of Professional Compliance. He began his career with Polk County in Growth Management as a Land Use Planner. Vosburg has a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of South Florida and bachelor's degrees in Political Science and History from Florida Southern College. Vosburg is also a Certified Public Manager (CPM) and a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

VLGMA recognizes Prince Edward County Assistant County Administrator



Prince Edward Assistant County Administrator Sarah Elam Puckett was honored Thursday at the Virginia Local Government Management Association (VLGMA) Summer Conference in Virginia Beach with the Marcia Mashaw Outstanding Assistant Award.

"On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I want to offer congratulations to Sarah on a much-deserved recognition as the Marcia Mashaw Outstanding Assistant Award," Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors Chair Dr. Odessa Pride commented. "Sarah, a valuable and dedicated employee for Prince Edward County for over 34 years, does her best to ensure that our county is there to meet the needs of all of its citizens. Whenever she is called upon to address an issue or concern, she responds in an expedient manner. That's truly commendable."

The statewide honor is presented yearly to recognize Virginia's top assistant local government manager. Named in memory of Marcia Mashaw, assistant town manager of Blacksburg in the 1980s, the award is presented to a deputy or assistant manager or administrator who has demonstrated outstanding performance, particularly with a special project or during a period of unique conditions and circumstances.

Puckett, assistant county administrator since 2018, also serves as Prince Edward's emergency management coordinator.

"Sarah has been a big part of our response to the COVID epidemic," Prince Edward County Administrator Doug Stanley said. "During the pandemic, she made sure that all segments of our population had access to such necessities as masks, gloves and hand sanitizer."

Included in Puckett's role as emergency management coordinator are response efforts to acts of nature, such as the ice storm this past winter.

"During that ice storm, many residents were without power for two weeks," Stanley continued. "Sarah was in charge of working with local fire departments to provide response efforts and meals to those without power and coordinated with the power companies to ensure power was restored."

Puckett has built a reputation across county government for having a take-charge response.

"Sarah has long been an advocate for equity and inclusion and makes sure that all voices have a seat at the table – a trait that makes her exceptional at her job. Even before I came to Prince Edward in 2020, I had heard about Sarah and what a great community advocate she was," Stanley concluded. "Working with her has only reinforced my appreciation of what she brings to the office every day."

Agriculture was the talk of the Regions 6 & 9 Meeting



VACo's Regional Meetings moved to Augusta County on June 9 as members from Regions 6 & 9 gathered at the spectacular Valley Pike Farm Market Depot. The location was an old and abandoned train depot that once served Fort Defiance, a few miles down the road. The owners of Valley Pike Farm worked with Shenandoah Valley Railroad to move the depot to the Weyers Cave location.

The start of the meeting provided attendees an opportunity to network and share stories and challenges – mostly about agriculture and farming. Conversations filled the depot and the meeting was off to a productive start.

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Joseph Guthrie was the keynote speaker. Commissioner Guthrie expressed his delight at the opportunity to speak about agriculture to an audience of local elected officials. Commissioner Guthrie is a sixth generation Virginia farmer and has served on the Pulaski County School Board (2011-2015) and Pulaski County Board of Supervisors (2015-2021). It was easy to see his love and passion for agriculture and local government as he spoke about both topics from the heart.

Here are some highlights from Commissioner Guthrie's presentation.

• Governor Youngkin recently issued Executive Order 17, which includes a directive to address "food waste," which is a large component of landfills. There is the potential for federal funds (USDA) to implement food waste reduction.

- Issues that VDACS is working on include:
 - 1. Monitoring HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) to ensure that it does not lead to breakout among commercial flocks of poultry (currently there has been only one case in Virginia infecting a small private flock).
 - 2. Hemp stay tuned for more information regarding a "budget amendment" pending final approval that institutes new rules regarding the sale of CBD products (containing .3% or less of THC), including a "21" or older requirement for retail purchase. The administration is also reviewing the impact of the budget amendment as it relates to "Delta 8" hemp products that are comparable in intoxicating effects to marijuana products.
 - 3. Solar per passage of HB 894, VDACS is working with VT Cooperative Extension to provide a new interactive mapping tool that overlays prime agricultural soils as it relates to potential utility-scale solar installations.
 - 4. Continuing to monitor and address the infestation of the invasion species "Spotted Lantern Fly" and its impacts on fruit crops. It has already been found in the northern Shenandoah (Frederick County).
 - 5. Dairy labor shortages and the overall reduction in milking cows in Virginia has VDACS and the administration concerned about the loss of valuable dairy lands.
 - 6. Mental Health There is now a 24/7 hour hotline available specifically for farmers.
 - 7. Farm transition youth programs (FFA, 4H) and the <u>Virginia Farm Link</u> program (in partnership with VA Farm Bureau) seek to increase the pipeline of willing farmers to take over when a farmer retires.
 - 8. Supply Chains VDACS is critical in providing the infrastructure (testing, labs, etc.) to get Virginia farm and forest products to the market.

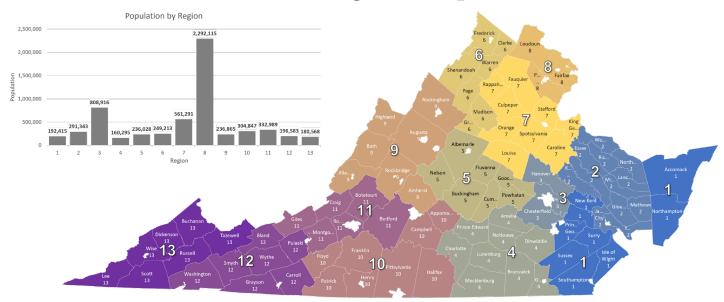
Commissioner Guthrie and Regions 6 & 9 members could have talked all night about farming and agriculture, but it was time to hear from counties in attendance.

Jail per diems was brought up a few times by counties. More specifically, counties said the state needs to keep to 60-day holding limit and reimburse local governments for the true cost of housing state-responsible inmates. Also, solar was discussed, especially the issue of smart land use and protecting arable farmland. Prisoner transport, broadband, staffing shortages, unfunded mandates, youth mental health was among other issues raised by regional counties.

VACo thanks Augusta County, Supervisor Jeff Slaven, the owners of Valley Pike Farm, the Virginia Cattlemen's Association and all our sponsors especially Pierce Group Benefits and The Berkley Group for making the Regions 6 & 9 Meeting a dynamic engagement.

VACo NEWS

New VACo Regional Map



Proposed Reapportionment and Bylaw Amendment

The VACo Bylaws provide for reapportionment every ten years beginning in 1991. The VACo President named a reapportionment committee in 2021 and the committee began the process when the census data was available. The committee presented its recommendations to the VACo Board of Directors at its meeting on June 4, 2022. The Board of Directors accepted the recommendation of the committee which would add three seats to the VACo Board of Directors consisting of one rural, one suburban and one urban area seat. The Board also endorsed a proposed Bylaw amendment which would allow the three seats to be added to the Board of Directors. The proposed reapportioned map of regions and the Bylaw proposal are as follows.

The Membership of the association will vote on the proposed Bylaw amendment at its Annual meeting on November 15, 2022.

Article IX entitled *Board of Directors,* shall be amended in Section 2 by adding the words **Regional Directors** and deleting the words **twenty four members** as indicated below.

ARTICLE IX

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Authority and Responsibility. The governing body of this Association shall be the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have supervision, control, and direction of the affairs of the Association, its committees, and its publications; shall determine its policies or changes therein; and shall actively prosecute its objectives.

Section 2. Composition and Election. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, The President-Elect, the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Immediate Past-President, the three next most recent Virginia

Association of Counties past-presidents who currently hold office as elected Virginia county supervisors who may serve only for 3 more years after their term as immediate past president, and **Regional Directors** twenty-four members elected on a "one person - one vote" basis from compact and contiguous Regions into which the State shall be divided for purposes of representation. Such regional directors shall be selected at the annual meeting by the member counties located within the region which the director will represent. The Board of Directors shall designate at least one member of the Board to represent the Association on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Counties. Any county supervisor who serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Counties shall also serve as an ex-officio member of the VACo Board of Directors.

Section 3. Qualification. Only elected county supervisors representing Virginia counties in good standing shall be eligible to stand for election to the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Term. Regional Directors shall be elected for two-year staggered terms with approximately fifty percent of its members elected and installed at each Annual Business Meeting. No Regional Directors shall serve more than four full consecutive terms. Any tenure as an officer of the Association shall not be included as any part of the tenure of the aforementioned four consecutive terms. The Regional Directors elected and installed at the Annual Business Meeting shall assume office immediately after the close of such meeting. Such Directors shall hold office until their successors are elected and installed. No Director shall continue to hold office after formally leaving office as an elected Virginia county supervisor. Past presidents may serve in that capacity for only three more years after their service as Immediate Past President.

Section 5. Reapportionment. Beginning in 1991, and every ten years thereafter, regional representation on the Board of Directors shall be reapportioned.

Section 6. Meetings. The Board of Directors shall hold quarterly regular meetings at such time and such place as the Board may prescribe. Notice of all such meetings shall be given to the members not less than thirty days before the meeting is held. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or at the request of any three Directors elected from separate Regions of the Association. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held by conference call or other electronic means and votes may be taken.

Section 7. Quorum. At any meeting of the Board of Directors, the members present, and voting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Association. Any such business thus transacted shall be valid providing it is affirmatively passed by upon by a majority of those members present and voting.

Section 8. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors between Annual Business Meetings shall be filled by the Board. A Director so elected to fill a vacancy shall serve the unexpired term of the predecessor.

Final Report on Orphan Drainage Outfalls Released



The Secretaries of Transportation and Natural Resources released the final report of the multi-year study on "orphan outfalls." The main conclusion of the report is that the law prescribes that the entity responsible for maintenance is the owner of the land, or holder of a drainage easement, at the site of the outfall. The report also identified several recommendations to address this issue going forward, which include: clear communication of maintenance responsibility; creation of a pilot process for the systematic identification of existing unmaintained outfalls; development of a statewide best practices guide; and adoption of dedicated and innovative funding sources.

As previously <u>reported</u>, "orphan outfalls" are the colloquial name for stormwater outfalls without an assigned entity to maintain them. This is most often an issue where eroding stormwater outfalls associated with Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) subdivision streets. Specifically, in certain older subdivisions generic drainage easements (not assigned to any party) that extend beyond the VDOT right-of-way are not being claimed and maintained by VDOT. Years of neglect and lack of maintenance has led to severe erosion problems for some private property owners directly impacted by these drainage systems. VACo worked to introduce <u>budget language</u> during the 2020 General Assembly session directing the relevant Secretaries to study the issue further and produce recommendations to the General Assembly. VACo further <u>assisted</u> the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in the collection of data from our members.

Based on information collected by both VDOT and VACo, the occurrence of unmaintained outfalls across the Commonwealth appear in varying degrees, as does the severity of the problem where it does occur.

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The report concluded that localities experiencing more significant impacts appear to have limited resources available to identify and address the problem on private property until prompted by a citizen complaint, by which time the damage from a lack of maintenance has magnified.

According to the report, the modified common law rule, which has been well settled in Virginia for more than a century, stands for the proposition that the owner of the land upon which the outfall is located bears sole responsibility and liability for the outfall, including the maintenance thereof (with limited exceptions). The obligation attaches to the fee owner of the property or, if transferred by easement, to the grantee holder of such easement. The rules apply equally to both private and public land owners, including political subdivisions and agencies of the Commonwealth.

With the creation of the state highway system in 1932, commonly referred to as the "Byrd Act," control, supervision, management and jurisdiction of county roads was transferred to the state highway system (with the exceptions of Arlington and Henrico Counties). As many of these roads were established by prescriptive easement, by law, the state's authority arising from a prescriptive easement is limited by a width of 30 feet, measured from the center of the road. The report speculates that it is possible that some of these outfalls serving to remove stormwater from VDOT-maintained roads obtained by prescriptive easement remain outside of the state-controlled rights of way. However, given that the majority of identified unmaintained outfalls were installed after 1960, it is far more likely that the development of land and the varying practices of deed recordation appears to have had the greatest effect. Without a properly granted and recorded easement, the responsibility to maintain the outfall remains with the fee owner of the land.

In conclusion, the report recommends clear communication of the responsibility of assigned maintenance of all outfalls with either the landowner or easement holder occur at the time that property conveys. Furthermore, in order to address existing unmaintained outfalls, a systematic process to identify and categorize such legacy outfalls would be necessary. The most likely first step in this process would be the creation of a pilot study by VDOT with a willing county. Additionally, the report recommends the creation of a statewide best practices guide, which would arise from a study of proactive and successful local practices, and which might be developed in collaboration between VDOT, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, DEQ, and VACo. Lastly, in addition to utilizing existing funding options, the General Assembly may wish to consider establishing a program for outfall maintenance modeled after DEQ's Stormwater Local Assistance Fund, which provides matching grants to local governments for the planning, design, and implementation of stormwater best management practices.

VACo is thankful to the Secretaries of Transportation and Natural Resources and their agency staffs for the study of this topic and the completion of this report. VACo stands ready to assist them with any further analysis or action on this issue.

The executive summary of the report and the full final report may be found <u>here</u> and <u>here</u> respectively.

VACo Contact: Jeremy R. Bennett

Behavioral Health Commission Discusses Funding, Mental Illness and Criminal Justice, and the Role of Private Hospitals



The Behavioral Health Commission's June 14 meeting featured a series of briefings for members, including an overview of behavioral health-related items in the budget conference report recently passed by the General Assembly, an analysis of data regarding individuals with mental illness who are charged with assaults against law enforcement officers, and an update from the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association on the role of private hospitals in inpatient psychiatric care.

The Commission's Executive Director, Nathalie Molliet-Ribet, informed members of two adjustments to the Commission's work plan for the year. The conference report, as passed by the legislature, no longer includes Commission participation in the planned study of the Problem Gambling Treatment and Support Fund. However, the Commission will be participating in a workgroup established by stand-alone legislation this session that seeks to increase the use of alternative custody arrangements for individuals who are subject to an emergency custody or temporary detention order, in order to relieve stresses on law enforcement agencies (this workgroup will be meeting on June 16; VACo will be reporting on its discussions).

Mike Tweedy, Senior Legislative Fiscal Analyst for the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee, <u>presented the overview</u> of the conference report's provisions related to behavioral health. Major General Fund investments include:

- Funding for the remaining services in STEP-VA (\$50.5 million over the biennium)
- Funding to expand permanent supportive housing (\$34 million over the biennium)
- Support for mobile crisis teams and crisis receiving centers (\$51.5 million over the biennium)
- Funding to increase direct care staff compensation at state facilities to 50 percent of the market median (\$109.8 million over the biennium)
- Additional funding for the current alternative transportation contract (\$3.8 million over the biennium)
- Funding for alternative custody options for individuals subject to Temporary Detention Orders (TDOs) (\$5.4 million over the biennium)
- Language directing a workgroup to evaluate restructuring of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, to include an analysis of reimagining Catawba Hospital as a facility to provide a continuum of substance use disorder services

Senator Creigh Deeds, who chairs the Commission, noted that the state will need to monitor the implementation of STEP-VA to ensure that adequate resources are available to provide services in all communities. Members also discussed the importance of mental health services in schools in light of the funding provided for school-based mental health integration pilot projects (\$2.5 million in FY 2023).

Commission members received a briefing from Dr. Heather Zelle with the Institute of Law, Psychiatry, and Public Policy at the University of Virginia regarding the prevalence of individuals with mental illness being charged with assaults against law enforcement officers. This briefing resulted from two pieces of legislation that failed to pass in 2022 (HB 613 (Bourne) and SB 453 (Boysko)), and were referred to the Commission by letter. HB 613 would have barred arrest or prosecution for an assault or assault and battery against a law-enforcement officer if at the time of the offense the alleged assailant was experiencing a mental health emergency or met the criteria for issuance of an emergency custody order, and the law-enforcement officer was responding to a call for service requesting assistance for the individual. SB 453 would have provided that any person charged with a simple assault and battery offense, when the offense was related to the individual's diagnosed autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, or serious mental illness, would not be subject to mandatory minimum punishment. Commission staff had indicated in an earlier meeting that extensive data analysis would be needed to estimate the prevalence of these kinds of cases and had suggested that the Commission receive information on current academic research on this issue.

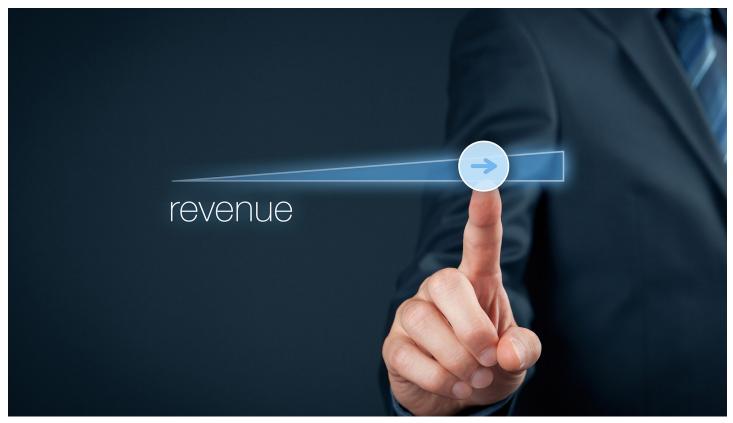
Dr. Zelle's data analysis indicated that a statewide average of 10 percent of charges of assault against a law enforcement officer involved a person with mental illness. However, she emphasized that these estimates do not account for individuals with mental illness who were charged with assaults against law enforcement officers but were not previously subject to an Emergency Custody Order (ECO) or a TDO. Her research found that defendants with a history of mental illness (as evidenced by a previous ECO or TDO) spent more time incarcerated, on average, than individuals without a history of mental illness. She pointed out that involvement with the criminal justice system may exacerbate mental health problems for these individuals.

Julie Dime made <u>a presentation on behalf of the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association</u> (VHHA) on inpatient psychiatric care in private hospitals in response to information requests made by Commission members at previous meetings. Similar to the situation in the state hospitals, workforce shortages limit private hospitals' capacity; according to a recent survey conducted by VHHA, 85 percent of licensed adult psychiatric beds are staffed; 82 percent of licensed child and adolescent beds are staffed. While private hospitals are admitting a smaller percentage of individuals under TDOs in recent years than were admitted in FY 2015, Ms. Dime pointed out that private hospitals are serving larger numbers of voluntary admissions, and are also experiencing increases in patients' average length of stay, with these factors combining to further stress hospitals. Challenges cited by the VHHA include behavioral health workforce shortages, patients presenting with higher-acuity needs, and patients experiencing longer wait times in emergency departments.

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for July 26.

VACo Contact: Katie Boyle

<u>State Revenues Continue Strength in May, Remain</u> on Track for Significant FY 2022 Surplus as Federal <u>Reserve Acts to Tame Inflation</u>



Governor Youngkin announced this week that state General Fund (GF) revenues continued to perform well in May, placing the state in a strong position to end FY 2022 with a significant surplus. However, despite a strong labor market, the state faces some economic uncertainty given high levels of inflation, a situation which prompted the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates by 0.75 percentage points on Wednesday, with the expectation of more rate increases to come.

Secretary of Finance Stephen E. Cummings reported in his <u>monthly revenue memorandum</u> that total revenue collections have increased by 17.8 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, and staff expect total GF revenues to exceed the February revenue projections by more than \$1.2 billion. House Appropriations Chairman Barry Knight indicated in a *Richmond Times-Dispatch* article that he expects FY 2022 collections to be sufficient to address the spending items earmarked in the budget conference report to be funded from surplus revenues that are not obligated for the Revenue Stabilization Fund or the Water Quality Improvement Fund. These items, which include a \$250 million deposit to VRS to address unfunded liability, \$150 million for I-64 improvements, and \$50 million for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program Fund, are contingent on available surplus revenues.

May revenues reflected continued strength in individual income tax and sales tax collections. Individual income tax withholding increased by 12.9 percent in May (by 8 percent when adjusting for the extra deposit day in May), and have increased by 9.7 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, ahead of the forecasted 9 percent growth. Individual income tax nonwithholding collections have increased by 33.1

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percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, far outpacing the estimate of a 2.5 percent increase; however, nonwithholding collections have typically been a volatile revenue source. Sales tax collections have increased by 13.8 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, ahead of the forecast of 11.4 percent growth. Secretary Cummings noted in his memorandum that Virginia has seen improvement in job growth, with 2.7 percent growth in employment between April 2021 and April 2022. The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), citing the Bureau of Labor Statistics' March 2022 Job Openings and Labor Turnout Survey, recently reported that the number of unemployed workers per job opening reached a "record low." Secretary Cummings cited as a positive sign the improvement in Virginia's labor force participation rate, which grew by 0.9 percentage points since December, after falling from 66.3 percent in January 2020 to 63.2 percent in December 2020, according to the VEC. (However, the VEC pointed out that returning to pre-pandemic labor force participation levels will be hampered by Virginia's changing demographics, as the large "baby boomer" generation, which makes up an increasing share of the state and national population, retires.)

Despite these positive signs for the state's finances, Secretary Cummings struck a note of caution in his memorandum, writing, "Monitoring national and global issues that may impact our future revenue streams remains a top priority. Employment growth continues, and the unemployment rate remains low. However, volatility in the financial markets, rising interest rates and persistent high inflation have the potential to cause consumers to tighten spending. Wage growth is moving in a positive direction, but the effects of inflation will begin to squeeze consumers. The consumer price index has increased more than wages, and critical products like gasoline, other energy related expenditures and food at home have risen [by] double-digit percentages, significantly outpacing average wage growth." He reaffirmed the state's decision not to adjust FY 2023 and FY 2024 revenue projections in February, when the FY 2022 forecast was revised, and suggested that forecasts for the biennium will be revisited during the usual fall reforecasting process.

As noted by Secretary Cummings, last Friday the Bureau of Labor Statistics <u>released updated inflation</u> figures, disappointing forecasters who had hoped that inflation had peaked in April. The BLS reported an increase of 1 percent in May in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers; the CPI increased by 8.6 percent over the last 12 months, the largest increase since the 12 months ending in December 1981. On June 13, the S&P 500 officially crossed into bear market territory (reflecting a decline of at least 20 percent from the market's recent peak).

On June 15, the Federal Reserve increased interest rates by 0.75 percentage points in an effort to tame inflation, and signaled that additional rate increases are likely to follow. Economic projections released by the Federal Reserve indicate that the median member projection is for the target federal funds rate to reach 3.4 percent in 2022, increase to 3.8 percent in 2023, and then return to 3.4 percent in 2024 (with the June 15 action, this rate now ranges between 1.5 and 1.75 percent). At the follow-up press conference, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell explained the aggressive action as a matter of necessity, stating, "We at the Fed understand the hardship high inflation is causing. We are strongly committed to bringing inflation back down, and we are moving expeditiously to do so....Over [the] coming months, we will be looking for compelling evidence that inflation is moving down, consistent with inflation returning to 2 percent. We anticipate that ongoing rate increases will be appropriate; the pace of those changes will continue to depend on the incoming data and the evolving outlook for the economy."

VACo Contact: Katie Boyle

Virginia to expand quarantine of invasive spotted lantern fly to additional areas of the state



Per recently issued <u>notice</u>, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) will expand the spotted lanternfly quarantine in early July to the following cities and counties: Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Lynchburg, Manassas, Staunton, Waynesboro, Albemarle, Augusta, Carroll, Page, Prince William, Rockingham, Rockbridge, Shenandoah, and Wythe. The current quarantine rules only apply to City of Winchester and the counties of Clarke, Frederick, and Warren. This <u>map</u> shows both current and expanded areas under the quarantine.

The spotted lanternfly (SLF) (Lycorma delicatula) is an invasive insect pest that was discovered in Frederick County in January 2018 and at that time, it was just the second known detection of the spotted lanternfly in the U.S. The first occurrence of spotted lanternfly in the U.S. occurred in Pennsylvania in 2014. SLF is a native insect of Asia and prefers feeding on Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus altissima), but will also feed on grapes, peaches, apples, maples, walnuts, hops, cucumbers, and basil.

The quarantine requires a permit to ensure that businesses are taking steps to guarantee regulated articles are free from spotted lanternfly (see <u>Regulations for Enforcement of the Virginia Tree and Crop</u> <u>Pests Law - Spotted</u>). To obtain a spotted lanternfly permit,

completion of an online training course is required, and businesses must then apply for the permit with VDACS. Information on where to take the training, how to obtain a permit, and additional permitting steps can be found at this <u>webpage</u>.

VACo Contact: Joe Lerch, AICP



Volunteer Firefighters' & Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award Program

Dear VACo Members -

Just touching base regarding the Volunteer Firefighters' and Rescue Workers' Service Award Program (VOLSAP) (<u>§ 51.1-1200–51.1-1211 of the Code of Virginia</u>) to let you know that there are updated resources for the program.

VOLSAP is a service award program established to provide a financial incentive and monetary award to eligible volunteer firefighters and rescue squad workers who participate in the program. The program allows eligible volunteers to contribute money that is then invested alongside the VRS pension trust fund in a widely diversified portfolio. Local departments, squads and localities may, but are not required to, make matching contributions. The state may also make matching contributions, although no such match has been provided to date.

The following resources can inform and help recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and rescue squad workers in Virginia communities. Resources include:

- <u>VOLSAP Program Overview (Animated Presentation)</u>: This animated presentation can be shown at meetings or volunteer orientation or used by volunteer coordinators to recruit staff.
- Introduction to VOLSAP (PowerPoint Presentation/PDF): This can be shown at meetings or volunteer orientation.
- **Brochure:** Serving as a good overview, units can print these out to use as a handout at a recruitment event or included as a link in an email or newsletter.
- **Flyers:** These can be printed and posted on bulletin boards or included in emails and newsletters.
- <u>New promotional video</u>: This 60-second video gives a good overview of the VOLSAP program.
- **<u>Procedures Guide:</u>** Directed more toward local squads, the guide gives information about the program and required forms.

Please contact Jeanne Chenault at <u>jchenault@varetire.org</u> or visit <u>www.volsap.org</u> if you have any further questions.

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PDCs: Virginia's Regions



Visit the <u>Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions Website</u> for more information.

NACo NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHESTERFIELD COUNTY!



Campaign

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2022 NACO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

BEST IN CATEGORY

Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation *Catawba County, N.C.*

Hmong Keeb Kwm: The Hmong Heritage Project

Children and Youth Boulder County, Colo. The Young Leaders Academy (YLA)

Civic Education and Public Information Chesterfield County, Va. 'Mental Health Is A Puzzle, But We Have The Missing Piece' Youth-Centric Social Media

Community and Economic Development Harford County, Md. The Grove at Harford

County Administration and Management Clark County, Nev. Online Mineral Processing Tool for Air Quality Permitting

County Resiliency Santa Barbara County, Calif. Santa Barbara County ReSource Center Criminal Justice and Public Safety Saline County, Kan. Community Corrections UPTrust

Financial Management Palm Beach County, Fla. Palm Beach County Community Services Prevention of Improper Client Assistance Payments

Health Summit County, Ohio Utilizing collaboration and innovation to abate the opioid epidemic

Human Services Lassen County, Calif. Fatherhood Initiative Outreach "The Brandon Story"

Information Technology Miami-Dade County, Fla. Surfside Building Collapse Support

Libraries Yuma County, Ariz. Smart Start Kits



Parks and Recreation Charlotte County, Fla. Sam and Charlotte's Super Safari

Personnel Management, Employment and Training San Diego County, Calif. Investing Learn to Earn Virtual Event

Planning Union County, N.C. Union County 2050 Comprehensive Plan

Risk and Emergency Management Larimer County, Colo. COVID-19 Recovery Outreach Dashboard

Transportation Outagamie County, Wis. Outagamie County Highway "CA" / West College Avenue Reconstruction

Volunteers Salt Lake County, Utah Hounds Around Town (HAT)

www.naco.org/achievementawards

NACo is pleased to announce the winners for the 2022 Achievement Awards. Explore the Best in Category winners above by <u>clicking this</u> <u>link</u>.

All winners are available in our <u>searchable awards database</u>, where winning programs are searchable by year, category and state dating back to 2009.



WOODSTOCK, VA – Governor Glenn Youngkin officially dedicated Seven Bends State Park today in Shenandoah County. The park consists of 1,066 acres situated in the geographically unique Seven Bends area of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River.

"Seven Bends State Park is a wonderful addition to the Virginia State Parks system, and it provides much needed additional public access to the North Fork of the Shenandoah River," said Governor Glenn Youngkin. "With 41 state parks across the Commonwealth, our dedication to preserving our unique geological, natural and historical resources endures, and state parks continue to provide a much-needed place to exercise, relax and gather with family and friends."

The park had a soft opening in early 2020. Located near the town of Woodstock, it features two handcarry boat launches, picnic areas, a single family-sized picnic shelter, restrooms and more than 8 miles of hiking and biking trails. The trails include access to the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests trail system along the Massanutten mountain range.

"The purpose of Seven Bends State Park is to provide water- and land-based outdoor recreational and educational opportunities, while protecting and interpreting the spectacular scenic viewshed," said Acting Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources Travis Voyles. "The diversity of habitats provides outstanding opportunities for nature study, outdoor classrooms and programming."

The majority of the park was amassed through several land donations. The town of Woodstock donated 85 acres of what was once the site of the town reservoir. Dr. James R. Myers donated the largest parcel adjacent to the reservoir, with approximately 674 acres.

The last parcel of land, at more than 306 acres and known as Camp Lupton, was purchased by the state from Massanutten Military Academy.

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"As a long-time area resident, I am pleased to see the local community as well as visitors afar experiencing the natural beauty and participating in the outdoor recreation opportunities here at Seven Bends State Park," said Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates Todd Gilbert. "I am committed to our Virginia State Parks and understand the importance of working together to support and further the mission of these critical assets of the Commonwealth."

"Virginians desire greater access to the Commonwealth's rivers and public lands and Seven Bends State Parks, with its breathtaking viewshed, delivers," said Senator Mark Obenshain. "The addition of this park to the tourist assets that already exist in this part of the Shenandoah Valley solidifies this area as a premiere travel destination on the East Coast."

"There is a large demand for nearby public access to open spaces and recreational water resources, and Seven Bends State Park is ideally positioned to help meet those demands," said Matt Wells, Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, which manages Virginia State Parks. "Developing a park is a partnership, requiring many players at the table – from concerned and interested citizens to our partners in other state agencies. Virginia's master planning process allows everyone to have a seat at the table. The plan adopted for Seven Bends will protect these valuable natural and cultural resources for the generations that follow."

"The park's western boundary is the North Fork of the Shenandoah River where a 4-mile long shoreline provides exceptional water-based recreation opportunities," said Dr. Melissa Baker, Director of Virginia State Parks. "The park's eastern border is shared with the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, provided highly desirable connectivity between public lands and expanding the area's recreational opportunities."

"Partnerships with the community will continue to play such a vital role in the development of Seven Bends State Park and will build on the work already completed here," Baker added.

"We are proud of the close partnership with the Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River and are thankful for the organization's continued volunteer support of the park," said Tom Stevens, Assistant Manager of Seven Bends State Park. "Community support and local partnerships are the difference between existing and thriving. With the Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, we created the North Fork Conservation Corps, which is a summer program for teens that blends community service with outdoor exploration and education. Local partnerships have brought in over \$100,000 in grantfunded projects, including River's Way Natural Play Space and Outdoor Classroom, and the Dupont Waynesboro Grant, which helped fund the opening and maintenance of Gokotta and Bass Bright Trails."

Outdoor exploration has continued to be very popular, with nearly 84,000 visitors to the park in 2021. Seven Bends State Park is distinctly positioned geographically and offers a variety of activities for all to enjoy.

To learn more about Virginia State Parks, visit <u>www.virginiastateparks.gov</u>.

FEDERAL NEWS











Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act:

Opportunities to Invest in Water Infrastructure using State Revolving Funds Webinar

Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 Time: 9:30 am - 11:30 am Webinar Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vx4z1REDTqGIXVb4R6TIIQ

Overview:

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) includes billions of dollars in competitive funding available to cities, towns, and municipalities across dozens of new and existing programs. As local governments begin to rebuild and reinvest in their communities, there are federal resources to support local leaders as they combine funding streams, organize around their priorities, and build local support for long overdue infrastructure projects. States are coordinating funds through their Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds programs. This workshop will provide an overview of the IIJA as it can support water, share current jurisdiction plans for the resource and offer local government examples for funding. The goal is to address questions, learn of jurisdiction plans and consider funding projects that address long standing water infrastructure needs.

Welcome	Jasmine Gore, LGAC Chair, Hopewell, VA City Councilmember
Introduction	Adam Ortiz, Director, EPA Region 3 (invited)
Overview of IIJA	Maggy Cunningham, Regional CWSRF Coordinator, EPA
	Carolyn Berndt, Legislative Director, Sustainability National League of Cities
	Sarah Gimont, Assoc. Legislative Director, National Assoc. of Counties
Clean Water & Drinking Water SRFs	Jeff Fretwell, Director, Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration
	Brent Sailhamer, Legislative Affairs Specialist, PENNVEST
	Lauren Linville, Program Coordinator, Virginia CWSRF
Q&A	Attendees
Wrap-Up	Jasmine Gore, LGAC Chair

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STATE NEWS



Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management Information Sessions

The Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management will be holding 7 information sessions this summer! Please register via the zoom link below and share with your staff and/or members.

DATES | TIME

June 22, 2022 | 12 PM June 29, 2022 | 12 PM July 6, 2022 | 12 PM July 13, 2022 | 12 PM July 20, 2022 | 12 PM July 27, 2022 | 12 PM

Register in advance for this meeting

<u>https://virginiatech.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvceGvqD8sHdzgfxggFW-</u> <u>cpcyYq4dYgxaMv</u>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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PREMIER PARTNERS

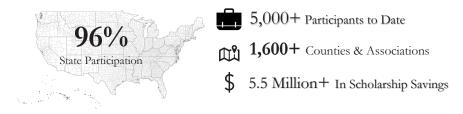


Take Your Leadership Skills to the Next Level Through the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy

The <u>NACo High Performance Leadership Academy</u> is an online 12-week program that empowers frontline county government professionals with the most fundamental leadership skills to deliver results for counties and communities.

NACo and the Professional Development Academy created the interactive program in collaboration with the late General Colin Powell, Dr. Marshall Goldsmith, private sector executives, and local government officials—all to enable your existing and emerging county leaders to achieve their highest potentials.

More than 5,000 participants have enrolled from counties across the country since the launch of the program, with incredible feedback and results. In fact, the positive feedback and demand for this NACo program has been truly unprecedented: to the point that NACo now has four scheduled opportunities to attend each year.



The Academy has proven relevant and non-disruptive for self-paced and collaborative learning. Participants have the opportunity to engage with peers from other counties and receive expert guidance from program facilitators throughout the 12 weeks of course materials, all with a flexible 4-5 hour per week time commitment.

The cost per enrollee begins at \$1,645. Additional discounts may apply. Contact us for more details for your state.

To enroll, visit the <u>NACo High Performance Leadership Academy</u> webpage at NACo.org/Skills.

For questions and assistance in enrolling, please contact Treina Smith-Slatt at treinas@pdaleadership.com



"This is a transformational leadership program that has proven to be the most scalable, cost effective, and efficient way to make your leaders better."

- General Colin Powell

Top 10 Participating Counties & Associations:

Hennepin County, MN Fairfield County, OH Texas Association of Counties Montgomery County, MD Douglas County, NE Riverside County, CA Tulare County, CA Maricopa County, AZ Sutter County, CA Hamilton County, OH



Premier Partner Spotlight

Blue Line Solutions



Blue Line Solutions

VACo Premier Partner Blue Line Solutions offers a TrueBlue Highway Safety Program that can be implemented in School Zones and Construction Zones, where data has shown that drivers are unaware that their driving behavior is not in alignment with public safety. A key element of this program - drivers are first educated through several media outlets, that their driving patterns through these zones need to change to keep their communities safe. The education has had a profound and positive effect on driving behavior.

Please contact Greg Hogston for more information: <u>ghogston@bluelinesolutions.org</u> or 276.759.8064 or visit <u>https://bluelinesolutions.org</u>.

Watch the <u>Blue Line Solutions Video Part 1</u> Watch the <u>Blue Line Solutions Video Part 2</u> Watch the <u>Blue Line Solutions Video Part 3</u> Watch the <u>Blue Line Solutions Video Part 4</u>

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STATE NEWS



Schar School of Policy and Government Regional Elected Leaders Initiative

REGIONAL ELECTED LEADERS INITIATIVE

Celebrating 5 Years of Leadership in Northern Virginia

Peer-to-Peer Brown Bag Lunch Cohorts | Register today!

The Schar School of Public Policy's Regional Elected Leaders Initiative (RELI) is pleased to again offer a Peer-to-Peer Brown Bag Lunch Cohort Program.

The pressure on local elected officials is great. This is a unique opportunity for local elected leaders to talk with your peers from other jurisdictions about a range of governance issues, and some current local policy issues, such as:

- How can I be more effective as a local elected official?
- How do others manage their communication with constituents?
- What is the most effective way to engage staff?
- How can I best engage my colleagues on the council or the school board?
- What policy best practices of others might I pursue or collaborate on?
- How can I effectively address equity in public policy?

The program consists of 4, virtual, one-hour sessions facilitated by senior, former local elected officials. Participation is limited to 12 local elected officials in each group, and no more than two members of any council/board. We ask that participants commit to all four sessions in their respective peer groups.

There is no fee. Give it a try!

For more information, please contact <u>SchaRELI@gmu.edu</u>.







11th Annual Commonwealth of Virginia CSA Conference Connections Matter

When: November 1 - 2, 2022 Where: The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center in Roanoke, VA

FREE Pre-Conference Events on the afternoon of October 31, 2022:

Adaptive Leadership - CSA Coordinators Strategic Planning - CPMT Members (Registration required for all pre-conference sessions.)

Register Today

11th Annual Commonwealth of Virginia CSA Conference

We are excited to welcome everyone back to an in-person event of the 11th Commonwealth of Virginia's Annual Children's Services Act Conference, where "Connections Matter." Please join us for two days of impactful training, vendor visits, and activities focused on the resiliency of Virginia's CSA community, the changes in child welfare arising from various initiatives and national trends, and the evidence-based practices that inspire positive outcomes in engaging the youth and families in our work.

Register Today!

When: November 1-2, 2022 Where: The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center

IT'S TIME TO HIT THE ROAD FOR THE... VACO 2022 REGIONAL MEETINGS

IN-PERSON MEETING

REGIONS 2&3 - MAY 23 | HENRICO REGIONS 6&9 - JUNE 9 | AUGUSTA REGIONS 5&7 - JULY 12 | FLUVANNA REGIONS 12&13 - AUGUST 23 | RUSSELL REGIONS 1&4 - TBA | DINWIDDIE REGIONS 10&11 - TBA | FRANKLIN

VIRTUAL MEETING

REGIONS 6&7&8 - TBA

Meet the Candidates: Phyllis Randall

Loudoun County, Va. Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall is running to be NACo's second vice president

Why are you interested in serving as a NACo officer?

As the COVID-19 pandemic becomes an ongoing endemic, my background makes me uniquely qualified to address the issues we will confront as a nation for many years in the wake of this historic challenge. A mental health/substance dependence crisis, or what I am referring to as the second pandemic, is likely to sweep our nation with immeasurable, long-term health impacts in the coming years. As a mental health/substance abuse therapist for over two decades, I have seen firsthand the lasting harm untreated mental health issues can have on individuals and families. National policy will be significantly shaped by this "invisible" health crisis over the next three to five years, and NACo will need to engage on this issue during that timeframe.

Secondly, as the Chair At-Large of a County with Urban, Suburban and Rural Policy Areas, I have in-depth, practical working knowledge of the diverse needs and challenges facing almost every county in the nation. For example, supply



chain disruptions have clarified for us the importance of supporting the farming and agriculture economies in our rural counties. At the same time, as local elected governing bodies have worked to sustain service delivery, enduring, equitable distribution of services to communities of color and poor communities has become a major issue for our Urban/Suburban counties.

What do you consider to have been your most important contribution to the National Association of Counties to date? What do you consider to have been your most important contribution to your state association of counties?

In just seven years as an elected official, I have become very involved in the National Association of Counties. To date, I would count my most important involvement as being a founding member of the NACo Economic Mobility Leadership Network (EMLN). In fact, the new Sister City relationship between Loudoun County, Virginia and Holmes County, Mississippi, and supported by NACo, has been key and very important as NACo has contended with economic and health equity throughout the nation.

In 2019, NACo asked me to testify before a Congressional Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives regarding how counties should conduct their 2020 census and how the Federal Government could support the efforts of the nation's Urban, Suburban, Rural and Frontier counties in completing the most accurate census counts possible.

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Finally, I have tried to incorporate my passion regarding the importance of treating mental health as we do every other health condition: de-stigmatizing the diseases of mental health and substance abuse. I have participated as an expert panelist or facilitator at numerous VACo and NACo conferences on the subject. In addition, in my state (commonwealth) organizations, I have been actively involved in writing legislation, serving and having leadership roles on various committee assignments.

- First Term in Office January 2016 December 2019
- 2016-2019 National Association of Counties Health and Human Services, member
- Loudoun County joins NACo Heath County initiative
- Loudoun County joins NACo Stepping Up initiative
- Loudoun County joins NACo Women in Government
- Loudoun County joins NACo Women in Leadership
- 2018 Founding member NACo Economic Mobility Leadership Network
- 2016 Virginia Association of Counties Board of Directors
- 2016 Virginia Association of Counties Health and Human Services Committee, member
- 2017 Virginia Association of Counties Health and Human Services Committee, member
- 2019 Virginia Association of Counties Health and Human Services Committee, Vice Chair
- Second Term in Office January 2020 Present
- 2020 Virginia Association of Counties Board of Directors
- 2020 Virginia Association of Counties Health and Human Services Committee, Chair
- 2021 National Association of Counties Healthy Counties Committee, Chair
- 2021 Behavioral Health Subcommittee of the National Association of Counties Health Steering Committee, Chair
- 2021 National Association of Counties Health Steering Committee, member
- NACo appointee to the Bipartisan Policy Center Public Heath Forward Task Force

What do you consider to be the two or three most important challenges facing NACo in the near future on which the Officers/Executive Committee/Board of Directors should focus? Why?

A. Counties are being inundated with unfunded mandates. Although I agree with some of these — increased funding for education, for example — federal and state governments need to ensure they can fully fund their own priorities without requiring counties to "match" federal/state program mandates. Many counties, especially smaller or rural counties with limited budgets, have neither the population nor the inclination to incur the added expenses of such programs and often simply cannot afford these federal/state budget mandates.

B. Across the nation, many state legislatures are introducing legislation to usurp power from local governing bodies. These initiatives include critical curtailments in areas such as taxing authority, zoning/land use issues, election management and the voting process. Many state legislatures are now aggressively attempting to legislate items that have historically been the purview of local governments. I believe local elected bodies, comprising elected officials closest to those they represent, should retain control of local issues without interference from state bodies.

C. Over the past two years, local elected officials have been required to not only perform our many "regular duties," but also to manage a 100-year pandemic and all its related community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

trauma. I never imagined a time when I would know the running count of my constituents who were hospitalized or died as a result of COVID-19. This, of course, touches on another aspect of our growing mental health crisis. Just as we have cared for our constituents, we must increasingly recognize the mental health toll these past two years have exacted on our local elected officials. Local elected officials cannot care for our constituents if we do not have the appropriate coping mechanisms, tools and resources to respond to our own mental health needs.

What measures would you recommend to increase and retain NACo membership and to encourage broad participation in NACo by elected officials and employees of NACo member counties? What specific role would you be willing to assume to help build and sustain membership in NACo?

Although Loudoun County has always been a member of NACo, our elected officials have largely not attended NACo conferences or been significantly involved in NACo activities. Shortly after taking office, I realized how beneficial NACo and the Virginia Association of Counties are in accomplishing many of our collective goals. NACo not only offers networking opportunities and support from other local elected officials, it provides invaluable materials, information and resources to foster better governance. I believe if county staff and elected officials more fully understood the obvious benefits of NACo and their state associations, they would be much more likely not only to become financial members, but also actively engaged participants in all NACo programs. Some ideas to increase membership are:

a. Offer a one-time membership discount to smaller counties that are not members.

b. Hold a NACo cohort meeting in an underrepresented area.

c. Offer to send a NACo representative or expert to an inactive county for consultations with the local elected bodies.

d. Have NACo officers and board members dedicate themselves to reach out and visit inactive/nonmember counties.



2022 VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S **VOLUNTEERSM** & COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT VIRGINIASERVICE.VIRGINIA.GOV



Virginia Ser Vice

Do you know an incredible kid who is already making the world a better place? How about a local business always involved in the community? The Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards annually recognize the significant contributions of these amazing volunteers. Honorees will be celebrated at a special event in September 2022.

Award Categories: Senior, Adult, Young Adult, Youth, Independent Group, Community Organization, Faith-Based Organization, Educational Organization, Corporation, and Small Businesss.



We wanted to send along a reminder to please take the 2022 Chesapeake Bay Program partnership survey. As you probably know, the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) is collecting data on the demographics of those who are involved in the program using a survey approach. It's vitally important that we get as many responses as we can.

At this time, we've heard from 15% of the potential respondents, but our goal is to hear from everyone!

The survey can be found here: Take the Survey

Or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser: <u>https://erg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6fHA6pA0ZQdklka?Q_DL=UuI2pIcFb8fdSgy_6fHA6pA0ZQdklka_CGC_TBgOj4L1BRIqppC&Q_CHL=email</u>

The survey should take no more 3-5 minutes to complete and your response will be extremely helpful in providing important information to shape our work in the next two years.

If you have questions on the content of the survey, please contact Allison Ng (<u>ng.allison@epa.gov</u>).

If you have technical questions on the survey, please contact Lou Nadeau (Lou.Nadeau@erg.com).

<u>Please take the Survey</u>

PREMIER PARTNERS





Nationwide

Nationwide Retirement Solutions (Nationwide) partners with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to provide counties and their employees with a competitive deferred compensation program. As part of this partnership, Nationwide pays a fee to NACo in exchange for NACo's exclusive endorsement, marketing support and program oversight of Nationwide products made available under the program. For more information, including fees paid, Nationwide encourages you to visit NRSForu.com. Nationwide and the Nationwide N and Eagle are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. © 2022 Nationwide NRM-318IAO-NX.16 (03/22)

Nationwide and NACo College Scholarship

The application period for the Nationwide and NACo College Scholarship is open through May 31. Are you the parent, grandparent or legal guardian of a high school senior? If you actively contribute to a 457(b) plan offered through the NACo Deferred Compensation Program, your student is eligible to apply for one of four \$2,500 college scholarships. Scholarships will be awarded in the fall of 2020.

In its 16th year of existence, the NACo/Nationwide scholarship essay contest is an educational opportunity for high school students transitioning into a new stage of their lives. Engaging young people in civic life and responsibilities is a great way to show high school students the valuable roles that counties play in the lives of their residents. The 2020 scholarship program's goal is to help ensure that young people get involved and stay involved in local government -- and understand the importance of being good stewards of their future finances.

To help students consider the importance of saving early and consistently, students are asked to write an essay that answers the following questions: Most high school students dream of the day when they will be on their own and no longer depend on their parents, but that kind of freedom requires financial independence. What does financial freedom mean to you? What is your plan to achieve financial freedom for yourself and how are you going to ensure that your financial freedom will continue through your retirement years?

Application process

Parents, grandparents or legal guardians should talk to their eligible high school seniors about applying right away. Applications can be completed online at <u>nrsforu.com/scholarship</u> beginning April 1. <u>Click here for more information</u>.

PLAN 2022-2023

As you plan your budget and build your Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2022-2023, the Berkley Group offers localities the following services:

ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT

- Executive Recruitment
- Pay & Classification Studies
- Job Description & Employee Handbook Updates

STRATEGY & ENGAGEMENT

- Board & Staff Retreats
- Strategic Planning
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

- Organizational Strategic Assessments
- Capital Improvement Planning
- Community & Stakeholder Engagement
- Public Meeting Facilitation

PLANNING

- Comprehensive Plans
- Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance Updates
- Historic Preservation Planning

- Mapping & GIS
- Project Planning, Development & Management

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

- Resilience Plans
- Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Envision Assessments

• Renewable Energy Diagnostics & Policy Updates

Solar & Wind Third-Party Application Reviews

DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS

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