

Governor Youngkin Proposes Amendments to 2022-2024 Biennium Budget



Governor Youngkin presented his proposed amendments to the biennium budget last week to a joint meeting of the House Appropriations, House Finance, and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees. In his remarks to the Committee members, the Governor summarized his proposals as “going faster and getting more done,” and stressed the need to accelerate work to improve the state’s economic competitiveness, protect public safety, meet the state’s Chesapeake Bay goals, and enhance efficiency in government. The Governor outlined three major components of his economic development proposals: tax reductions, a large investment in business site development, and additional funding for workforce development, paired with reorganization of the state’s workforce development agencies. Additional areas of focus include investments in K-12 education, public safety, behavioral health, and environmental initiatives to improve resiliency and water quality.

Secretary of Finance Stephen E. Cummings presented the Administration's revenue forecast, in addition to an overview of the state's economic outlook. State General Fund (GF) revenues have performed well in FY 2023, although the December forecast anticipates a recession beginning at the end of the third quarter of the fiscal year and lasting for two to three quarters. Due to the strength in revenue collections thus far this year, General Fund revenues are expected to exceed the forecast embedded in the budget that was adopted in June 2022 by \$2.2 billion. The December revenue forecast assumes \$1 billion in tax policy adjustments over the biennium. After factoring in these policy adjustments, total GF revenues and transfers are expected to be \$1.2 billion higher than amounts in the adopted budget. To mitigate uncertainty associated with a potential economic downturn in FY 2023, the Governor attached revenue contingency language to several of the larger tax policy or spending items in FY 2024 (reduction in the top individual income tax rate, \$250 million for business sites, \$100 million for the Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund, a performance bonus for state employees, and supplemental funding to address shortfalls for capital projects). Secretary Cummings's presentation may be found at [this link](#). An overview of major spending items in the Governor's proposed amendments presented by the Director of the Department of Planning and Budget, Michael Maul, may be found at [this link](#).

Following is VACo's analysis of key items in the Governor's budget proposals of interest to local governments. In addition, VACo members may wish to consult the Superintendent of Public Instruction's December 16 memorandum, which includes detailed information about the Governor's K-12 proposals (as well as links to spreadsheets that assist in calculating projected state payments to school divisions). That memorandum is available at [this link](#). An overview of Compensation Board-related funding proposals is available in a memorandum from the Executive Secretary of the Compensation Board, which may be found at [this link](#).

K-12 Education

- Updates sales tax estimates (approximately \$168 million GF over the biennium) and updates Average Daily Membership projections based on actual fall membership (\$71.2 million over the biennium).
- Provides \$10 million GF in FY 2024 for incentive payments for instructional positions in hard-to-fill positions or hard-to-staff schools.
- Provides \$16.9 million in FY 2024 for the state share of one reading specialist position for each 550 students in grades 4 and 5, beginning in school year 2023-2024.
- Provides \$7.2 million in FY 2024 for the state share of math instructional specialist positions at underperforming schools. The state share of one math specialist position will be provided to local school divisions with K-8 schools that rank in the lowest 10 percent statewide on the spring 2021 Standards of Learning assessment.
- Deposits an additional \$50 million in FY 2023 to the College Partnership Laboratory Schools Fund.

Compensation

- Provisions in the budget approved in June 2022 for a 5 percent salary increase for state employees, state-supported local employees, and SOQ-recognized instructional and support positions, effective July 1, 2023, remain unchanged.
- Includes \$13.9 million GF in FY 2024 to restore salary progression differentials for deputy sheriffs and regional jail officers.

- Provides \$100 million GF in FY 2024 for a one-time \$1500 bonus payment, to be provided December 1, 2023, for full-time state employees.
- Contingent on FY 2023 revenues meeting projections, provides \$100 million GF in FY 2024 for an additional bonus payment of up to 10 percent of base pay on December 1, 2023, for top-performing state employees.
- Provides \$45.2 million in FY 2024 for the state share of a one percent retention bonus for SOQ-recognized instructional and support positions on September 1, 2023.
- Provides \$50 million in FY 2024 for \$5000 teacher performance bonuses, to be awarded to top performing teachers identified by the Virginia Department of Education in conjunction with local school divisions.

Local Audits

- Language requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to notify the Governor, the Secretary of Finance, and the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees if a locality has not completed its audit and submitted its audited annual financial report within 18 months of the deadline. Once this notification has been made, if the locality has outstanding debt or payments owed to the Commonwealth, the Virginia Resources Authority, or any other Commonwealth entity or political subdivision, or received federal funds during the fiscal years for which it has not completed its audit, the Secretary of Finance is required to determine whether a plan for state technical assistance is necessary to help remediate the situation and address the factors contributing to the locality's delay. If a plan for technical assistance is determined to be necessary, the existing process for providing technical assistance to fiscally distressed localities would be triggered.

Judiciary/Public Safety

- Increases funding for specialty dockets for veterans, behavioral health, and drug treatment by \$3.5 million GF in FY 2024.
- Provides \$7.4 million GF in FY 2024 to address workloads and turnover in public defender offices.
- Removes language that requires a 50 percent local match for funds distributed through the Body Worn Camera Grant program.
- Provides \$30 million GF in FY 2024 for Operation Bold Blue Line. These funds would be distributed by the Director of the Department of Criminal Justice Services to state and local law enforcement agencies to bolster recruiting and training efforts. Uses may include sign-on or recruitment bonuses, relocation expense reimbursement, fast-tracked lateral training academies, and statewide centralized recruitment efforts. The Director of the Department of Criminal Justice Services is required to develop a plan in collaboration with the Office of the Governor and the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security; a progress report is due September 1, 2023, and an updated report detailing the allocation of funds is due by September 1, 2024.
- Provides an additional \$20 million GF in FY 2024 for the Operation Ceasefire Grant Fund. These funds are to be used for violent crime reduction strategies, training for law enforcement and prosecutors, equipment, and grants to organizations engaged in group violence intervention efforts.
- Creates the Mass Violence Care Fund to provide assistance to victims of mass violence in Virginia and directs the deposit of \$10 million GF in FY 2024 into this Fund.
- Provides \$2.9 million GF in FY 2024 for the Department of Juvenile Justice to enter into lease

agreements and operate three local juvenile detention centers to house juveniles who have been committed to the Department. Also provides \$764,839 GF in FY 2024 to increase capacity at the Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center.

Administration – Constitutional Officers

- Provides \$76,275 in FY24 to support all qualified and unfunded participation in Constitutional officers' career development programs
- No additional funding is included for staffing standards or the restoration of prior reductions to salaries.
- Salary compression actions for sheriffs' deputies and regional jail officers are discussed under "Compensation" above.
- Assistance with court-ordered transportation of individuals in the custody of sheriffs' offices and regional jails subject to temporary detention and emergency custody orders is discussed under "HHR – Behavioral Health" below.

Administration – Elections

- Provides \$5.8 million GF in FY 2024 to reimburse localities for presidential primary expenses.

Agriculture and Forestry

- Increases funding for the Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund by \$1.25 million GF per year; funding is directed to be used for agricultural technology grants or loans to advance the agricultural industry, assist the development of agricultural products, and improve infrastructure growth, productivity, or efficiency.
- Provides \$1 million GF in FY 2024 for competitive grant funding for agricultural technology research projects.
- Provides \$2.2 million GF in FY 2024 for the registration and inspection of facilities selling certain hemp products, such as Delta-8 consumable products, pursuant to legislation that will be considered during the 2023 Session.

Economic Development/Workforce

- Appropriates \$35.5 million GF to the Major Headquarters Workforce Grant Fund in accordance with contingency language included in the budget adopted in June 2022.
- Appropriates \$50 million to the Business Ready Sites Program Fund in accordance with contingency language included in the budget adopted in June 2022.
- Provides \$200 million GF in FY 2023 and \$250 million GF in FY 2024 for the new Site Acquisition Pilot Program to identify and fill gaps in the Commonwealth's current portfolio of industrial properties available for economic development projects, or to be deposited to the Business Ready Sites Program Fund. FY 2024 funding is contingent on FY 2023 revenues meeting estimates. Language sets out a process for prioritizing up to five sites for potential purchase or option by the Commonwealth.
- Increases the appropriation to the Virginia Main Street program by \$2 million GF in FY 2024, of which \$1.5 million is to be used for special initiatives in the Crater Planning District Commission.



Visit Clarke County and the Clarke County Historic Courthouse

Location: 104 North Church Street / East Main Street

Built: 1837 – 1838

Style: Roman Revival

Architect: David Meade

Contractor: D H Allen, Magistrate and County Commissioners

Description: The building faces west and is a two story red colored Flemish-bond brick structure. The rectangular shaped building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of Berryville. The building is part of the Courthouse Complex which consists of the old courthouse, new courthouse, old clerk's one story red colored brick office built in 1880s and sheriff's office and jail built in 1900. The west front has a large portico with four white Tuscan colored columns rising to a wide pediment at the roof line. On the center of the roof is an octagonal cupola. The building has limestone rubble foundations. In the interior, the courtroom is located on the first story. The judge's bench is on the north wall with the large arched window above it. There is a rear gallery fronted by a Tuscan entablature. The winding south stairs have square balusters and rounded handrails. The building houses the County General District Court and County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of the 26th Judicial Circuit. The building was damaged by fire in 1850 and was remodeled in 1851 in the Neo-Classical style when the portico and cupola were added. An addition was added on the north side in the 1960's. On the south side is the new courthouse and on the southwest corner of the grounds is the two story brick Old Sheriff's Office and Jail built in 1900.

SOURCE: [American Courthouses](http://AmericanCourthouses.com) | Courthouses.co

SAVE THE DATES!

Rural Caucus Reception

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 | Richmond

VACo/VML/VAPDC

Local Government Day

Thursday, January 19, 2023 | Richmond

VACo/VML Legislative Reception

Thursday, January 19, 2023 | Richmond

VACo Chairpersons' Institute

Friday, January 20, 2023 and

Saturday, January 21, 2023

Join us for these important events.

Call VACo at 804.788.6652 for more information



Counties Eligible for \$1.5 Billion Through U.S. Department of Transportation RAISE Grants



IMPLEMENTING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS AT THE COUNTY LEVEL: THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (P.L. 117-58)

On November 30, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced the availability of \$1.5 billion in competitive funding through the Office of the Secretary's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. Counties can apply directly to the USDOT for these grants that seek to support surface transportation infrastructure project with significant local or regional impact. Examples include funding for highways, bridges, culverts, transit, port and airport surface transportation projects. Applications must be submitted by midnight February 28, 2023. The full Notice of Funding Opportunity for RAISE grants can be read [here](#).

To find information on current and future Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding opportunities please review NACo's [funding matrix](#) for counties.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN FOREST SUSTAINABILITY FUNDING AWARDED TO 68 LOCALITIES ACROSS VIRGINIA

Fund helps localities offset forgone revenue from keeping forests as forests

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) has announced the awardees for the 2022 Forest Sustainability Fund. One million dollars will be distributed proportionately to 68 Virginia localities to partially offset the reduced real estate tax revenue that results from forestland use taxation. The localities will be able to use these funds for public education, outdoor recreation, or forest conservation.

Passed by the 2022 General Assembly, the fund is intended to assist localities that offer land use taxation to forest landowners. Land use taxation enables landowners to pay real estate taxes based on the productivity of their land for crop or timber production rather than on its real estate market value. This results in lower taxes each year and enables many landowners to keep their land as farms or forests.

Most of the forestland in Virginia is privately owned, but these millions of acres of forests provide environmental and health benefits for the public at large, such as cleaner air, healthier streams, drinking water, and aesthetic beauty. Forestland use taxation helps forest landowners retain their forests and ensures that we continue to enjoy their natural resource and economic benefits. However, forestland use taxation does result in less tax revenue for localities.

“The first year of the Forest Sustainability Fund program has been a huge success,” said Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matthew Lohr. “I know how important land use taxation is for our farmers and forest landowners to help keep their land in production. The recent University of Virginia’s Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service study demonstrates just how important these working lands are to Virginia’s economy. We look forward to the program’s ongoing accomplishments and benefits to Virginians in the years to come.”

“By offsetting a portion of lost, or forgone, revenue, the Forest Sustainability Fund provides a win-win-win for localities, owners and citizens to preserve forestland and retain the wide-ranging benefits that we all enjoy,” said VDOF State Forester Rob Farrell. “Thanks to bill patrons Delegate Robert Bloxom Jr., and Senator Frank Ruff, Jr., and the General Assembly, the Forest Sustainability Fund will make it easier for local governments to provide this critical forestland conservation tool.”

In Virginia, 75 localities offer forestland use taxation, totaling approximately 70,000 individual parcels on more than 3 million acres. This year’s applicants reported forgone revenue of over \$72.5 million, with the average forgone revenue per locality equaling more than one million dollars. The proportional distribution from the amount available in the fund averaged approximately \$15,000 per locality.

The fund is administered by VDOF staff, who began by forming a steering committee made up of commissioners of revenue, local officials and interested association representatives (i.e.; Virginia Forestry Association, Virginia Farm Bureau, Virginia Association of Counties, Virginia Municipal League). Virginia Department of Taxation, Virginia Tech Agricultural Economics Department and VDOF staff rounded out the committee that was responsible for developing guidelines and a framework process.

For more information, please visit <https://dof.virginia.gov/forest-management-health/forest-sustainability-fund-for-local-government/>





Pursuing New Energy Funding for Virginia Localities

REGISTER

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

COMPLIMENTARY WEBINAR

3 - 4 p.m. (ET)

MWC is pleased to host “Pursuing New Energy Funding for Virginia’s Localities,” featuring staff from the Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy). Virginia Energy will provide information about a wide range of new funding sources for energy efficiency, solar, grid resilience, clean transport, and other energy technologies created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. Staff will cover information such as eligibility, timelines, and points of contact that will be helpful for localities preparing to maximize the benefits of these new opportunities for their residents and businesses.

This information will be supplemented by McGuireWoods Consulting with tips to enhance success and insight into how consultants can be used to navigate challenges associated with pursuing federal funding opportunities. [Register today!](#)

For more information | MJ Keatts | mjkeatts@mwcllc.com

- Provides \$10 million GF in FY 2024 to assist local governments in building capacity to review and issue building permits.
- Directs \$11.4 million NGF in FY 2024 from balances in the Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program Fund to provide relief to residents of Buchanan County and Tazewell County who suffered flood damage in summer 2022.
- Deposits \$10 million GF in FY 2024 into the new Virginia Power Innovation Fund, which will be used for research and development of innovative energy technologies, including nuclear, hydrogen, carbon capture and utilization, and energy storage. Included in this appropriation is \$5 million to support establishing a Virginia Nuclear Innovation Hub and \$5 million for energy innovation grants.
- Funds a study of the viability of expanding airline services in the Commonwealth (provides \$1.2 million GF in FY 2024, of which \$200,000 is to be used to study how to increase capacity at the Roanoke Airport.
- Provides \$24.5 million GF in FY 2024 for the talent pathways planning grant program established in the “caboose” budget passed in June 2022. \$4.5 million is to be used to support organizational and capacity-building activities, and \$20 million will support the talent pathways development collaborations developed by regional councils through the Go Virginia program.
- Provides \$1.3 million GF in FY 2024 through the Go Virginia program for regional councils to address workforce needs in agricultural technology industries.
- Provides \$10 million GF in FY 2024 through the Go Virginia program for workforce development initiatives for certain industries in specified regions.
- Increases the maximum reimbursement amount for eligible institutions participating in the New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Program from \$3000 to \$4000 per eligible student.
- Provides \$15 million GF in FY 2024 to establish five accelerator programs that partner community colleges with local school divisions to teach courses that lead to attainment of industry-recognized certifications or credentials that are in demand by regional employers.
- Provides \$3 million GF in FY 2024 to promote awareness of the G3 and Fast Forward programs at the Virginia Community College System.
- Provides an additional \$5 million GF in FY 2024 to the State Council for Higher Education of Virginia for workforce development training.

Early Childhood

- Language allows the Superintendent of Public Instruction to increase the staff-to-child ratios and group sizes for licensed child day centers and child day centers that participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program (child day centers must notify parents if implementing this flexibility).
- Provides \$20 million GF in FY 2024 for a pilot program for public-private delivery of preschool services for at-risk children in the Lenowisco and Crater Planning Districts.
- Language allows community-based providers receiving grants through Virginia Preschool Initiative add-on partnerships to be exempt from regulatory and statutory provisions regarding teacher licensure.

HHR- Health

- Provides \$943,856 GF and \$698,322 NGF in FY 2024 for rent increases for local health departments.

- Provides \$3.4 million GF in FY 2024 for the state match to draw down Drinking Water State Revolving Fund grant funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Establishes the Earn to Learn Nursing Education Acceleration Program with \$30 million GF in FY 2024. Grants are to be awarded for the formation of collaborative clinical training arrangements between high schools, higher education institutions, hospitals, and health providers, increasing the number of nursing students receiving necessary clinical training, and creating and ensuring employment opportunities for nursing students.
- Provides \$5 million in FY 2024 for loan repayments for psychiatric registered nurses and psychiatric nurse practitioners who work in Virginia for four years.
- Provides \$10 million GF in FY 2024 to increase awards for the Nursing Preceptor Incentive Program (from \$1000 to up to \$5000) and expand eligibility to include licensed practical nurses and registered nurses.
- Provides an additional \$1 million GF in FY 2024 for existing nursing scholarship and loan repayment programs.
- Provides \$250,000 GF in FY 2024 to the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources for the cost of a consultant to develop a statewide strategic plan on the Commonwealth's health care workforce needs.

HHR – Behavioral Health

- Provides \$750,000 GF in FY 2024 for the cost of a consultant to assist with implementing a plan to transform behavioral health.
- Provides \$250,000 GF in FY 2024 for the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, in collaboration with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to fund a consultant to study the Commonwealth's coordination of behavioral health and substance use disorder programs, with an emphasis on services for veterans.
- Provides an additional \$2.5 million GF in FY 2024 for the Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program and increases loan repayment amounts from an amount up to 25 percent of student loan debt, not to exceed \$30,000 per year to an amount up to 25 percent of student loan debt, not to exceed \$50,000 per year for child and adolescent psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, and psychiatrists.
- Funds an additional 20 psychiatric residency slots in FY 2024 through \$1 million GF and \$1 million NGF in matching federal Medicaid funds.
- Earmarks \$5 million in FY 2024 from the Commonwealth Opioid Abatement and Remediation Fund to conduct a public awareness campaign to reduce the number of incidents of fentanyl poisoning among youth.
- Earmarks \$7 million in FY 2024 from the Commonwealth Opioid Abatement and Remediation Fund to support costs associated with a statewide fentanyl response strategy.
- Earmarks \$1.4 million per year for naloxone from the Commonwealth Opioid Abatement and Remediation Fund.
- Provides \$58.3 million GF in FY 2024 to expand and modernize the comprehensive crisis services system, including investment in additional crisis receiving centers and crisis stabilization units and expansion of existing sites. This funding includes \$845,204 for administrative costs.
- Provides \$20 million GF in FY 2024 for comprehensive psychiatric emergency programs or similar models of psychiatric care in emergency departments. Projects may include public-private partnerships, to include contracts with private entities. Programs must collaborate with the region's community services board or behavioral health authority.

- Provides \$20 million GF in FY 2024 for the one-time costs of establishing additional mobile crisis services in underserved areas.
- Provides \$4 million (and \$110,000 for administrative costs) for a pilot program to assist sheriffs' offices and regional jails with the costs of maintaining custody and transportation of individuals in their custody who are subject to an ECO or TDO. This funding will allow for up to 71 deputy sheriff positions to be allocated, with the balance of funds to be allocated to reimburse offices on an hourly basis. Positions and funding would be allocated by the Compensation Board based on workload. Language provides that these funds are to supplement and not supplant existing local spending on these services.
- Consolidates funding for alternative transportation and funding for alternative custody for individuals subject to a temporary detention order and provides an additional \$1 million GF in FY 2024 for DBHDS to contract with local law enforcement agencies who have agreed to use off-duty officers to provide transportation services or to assume custody of an individual under a temporary detention order who is awaiting admission to a state facility.
- Provides \$8 million GF in FY 2024 for supervised residential care, with priority to be given to projects for individuals on the Extraordinary Barriers List.
- From the existing appropriation of \$7.5 million GF in FY 2024 to DBHDS to pursue alternative inpatient options to state hospitals or to increase capacity in the community for patients on the Extraordinary Barriers List, sets aside \$1.5 million GF in FY 2024 to support the discharge of private hospital patients at risk of transfer to state hospitals.
- Expands eligibility for the existing funding for pilot programs to serve individuals with dementia who might otherwise be admitted to state facilities to allow all older persons (defined in a cited statute as persons aged 60 and older) to qualify.
- Provides approximately \$9 million in FY 2024 for targeted salary increase for food and environmental services employees at state facilities.
- Provides \$15 million GF in FY 2024 to expand the school-based mental health pilot program. Retains language allowing these funds to be used by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and partners to provide technical assistance to school divisions seeking guidance on integrating mental health services; revises previous language regarding grants to school divisions to also allow the funds to be provided to public or private community-based providers to contract for the provision of school-based mental health services.
- Provides \$9 million GF in FY 2024 for student mental health services in K-12 and institutions of higher education.

HHR – Medicaid

- Adds 500 additional developmental disability waiver slots.
- Increases rates for agency-and consumer-directed personal care, respite and companion services by 5 percent, effective July 1, 2023. Provides \$42 million GF/\$47.2 million NGF in FY 2024 for the rate increase.
- Funds a 12.5 percent rate increase for Early Intervention services for all children under age three enrolled in Early Intervention via Medicaid; provides \$1.1 million GF/\$1.2 million NGF in FY 2024 for the rate increase.
- Language directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to seek federal approval to allow individuals working on their required hours of supervision to be approved as Medicaid providers for mental health and substance use disorder peer supported services; language also

authorizes DMAS to adjust caseload limits for peer recovery specialists to reflect the need to operate within a crisis or emergency room setting.

- Authorizes DMAS to reprocure the state's managed care service delivery system with an expected implementation date of July 1, 2024, and provides \$1.7 million GF and \$2.6 million NGF in FY 2023 for one-time costs associated with the reprocurement.
- Directs DMAS to seek federal authority to implement telehealth service delivery options for developmental disability waivers that are currently authorized through the Appropriation Act or the Code of Virginia.
- Directs DMAS to convene a workgroup to examine the impact of including psychiatric residential treatment services in the managed care program.

HHR – Social Services

- Increases the Auxiliary Grant rate to \$1682 per month, effective January 1, 2023.
- Provides \$8.3 million GF in FY 2024 to implement recommendations from the Office of the State Inspector General's audit of the state's Child Protective Services system, to include additional CPS worker and supervisor positions, which will initially be targeted toward the local departments with the highest need.
- Provides \$935,196 GF in FY 2024 to expand kinship navigator programs and directs the Department of Social Services to report on the effectiveness of these programs.
- Directs \$20 million in FY 2024 from State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to DMAS to procure a vendor to assist in the redetermination of Medicaid enrollees following the end of the federal Public Health Emergency. This funding would be in addition to the \$5 million in ARPA funding in FY 2023 previously provided. Directs \$10 million in FY 2024 in ARPA funding to the Department of Social Services to support overtime costs at local departments for Medicaid redetermination. Bars the transfer of the new funding until a report detailing the Commonwealth's final plan to perform all unwinding activities is provided to the Task Force on Eligibility Redetermination.

Labor

- Deposits \$100 million GF in FY 2023 to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

Natural and Historic Resources

- Deposits \$100 million GF per year in the Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund; funding in FY 2024 is contingent on FY 2023 revenue collections meeting estimates.
- Appropriates the required \$87 million deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund from FY 2022 excess general fund revenues.
- Deposits \$50 million GF in FY 2024 in the Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund; directs the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources to develop and submit a plan for the allocation of these funds by September 1, 2023.
- Provides a total of \$237 million in additional funding for the Enhanced Nutrient Removal Certainty Program over the biennium (\$43.9 million from FY 2022 excess general fund revenue collections; \$107.1 million GF in FY 2024; and \$86.1 million in reallocated ARPA funding in FY 2023).
- Provides \$3.5 million GF in FY 2023 to implement the Permit Evaluation and Enhancement Program.

- Provides \$100 million GF in FY 2023 for the combined sewer overflow control project in the City of Richmond and \$5.5 million GF in FY 2023 for grants to the City of Petersburg for water and wastewater upgrades at Poor Creek Pump Station.
- Provides an additional \$5 million GF in FY 2023 for the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Preservation Fund and expands eligibility to historic sites (rather than archaeological sites).

Transportation

- Appropriates \$150 million in FY 2023 for improvements to Interstate 64 from excess FY 2022 revenues in accordance with contingency language included in the budget adopted in June 2022.
- Directs \$500,000 GF in FY 2024 to study the use of a public-private partnership to accelerate the completion of improvements to the Interstate 81 corridor.
- Redirects \$100 million in uncommitted balances in the Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank to the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund and directs the Commonwealth Transportation Board to transfer \$200 million from revenue increases identified in the December 2022 Commonwealth Transportation Fund forecast to the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund.

Veterans and Defense Affairs

- Adds \$900,000 GF in FY 2024 for the Virginia Values Veterans program and increases the amount of the grant for qualifying businesses from \$1000 to \$5000 per business for each veteran who has been hired, up to a maximum grant of \$50,000 per business in the fiscal year (an increase from the previous maximum of \$10,000 per qualifying business).

Tax Policy Changes

- Allows a qualified business income deduction of up to 50 percent of the deduction allowed under the Internal Revenue Code (excluding qualified Real Estate Investment Trust dividends) for taxable years beginning January 1, 2023.
- Reduces the top individual income tax rate to 5.5 percent from 5.75 percent for taxable years beginning January 1, 2024, contingent on FY 2023 revenues meeting the official General Fund revenue forecast.
- Increases the standard deduction to \$9,000 for individuals and \$18,000 for married persons for taxable years beginning January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2026.
- Increases the amount of business interest that is disallowed as a deduction under the Internal Revenue Code but deductible from Virginia Adjusted Gross Income from 30 percent to 50 percent of the disallowed business interest (for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2024).
- Eliminates the age restriction on the income tax subtraction for military retirement income that was enacted during Special Session I of the 2022 General Assembly, beginning January 1, 2023.
- Reduces the corporate income tax rate from 6 percent to 5 percent for taxable years beginning January 1, 2023.
- Creates a sales and use tax exemption for certain equipment used in controlled environment agricultural facilities.



**Happy New Year VACo
Members!**

Thank you for a great 2022.

**Here's to a happy and healthy
2023!**



National Association of Counties Leadership Development: Learn from the best!

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the September NACo Leadership Academy graduates from Virginia. They join over 5,000 graduates and current participants from across the country benefitting from the 12-week online program enabling existing and emerging county leaders to achieve their highest potential.

Amanda Spittle, Construction Services Branch Manager, Prince William County
Ashley Rushing, Therapist 4/Supervisor, Prince William County
Belinda Astrop, Vice Chair, Greensville County
Bryon Counsell, Director of Capital Projects, Stafford County
Carl Rush, Chief Equity Officer, Loudoun County
James Gray, Captain, Northampton County
Mandi Spina, Deputy Director of Development Services, Prince William County
Meg Bohmke, Supervisor, Stafford County, and VACo Immediate Past President
Michelle Kaston, IT Program Manager, Prince William County
Mina Habibi, Sr. Communication Analyst - Graphic Designer, Prince William County
Paul Holt, Community Development Director, James City County
Ryan Kellam, Battalion Chief, Accomack County
Tabitha Riley, Programs & Facilities Supervisor, Culpeper County
Timi Myers, Housing Choice Voucher Program Manager, Loudoun County

Start the new year off with Leadership Development!

Our January cohort is just around the corner. Prioritize leadership development for your team today and deliver results for your team and County. **Scholarships are available.**

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AND ENROLL](#)

Developed by General Colin Powell, the Professional Development Academy and NACo, the High Performance Leadership Academy is an online 12-week program that helps your workforce develop fundamental, practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties/boroughs and our residents.


January 2023 HIGH PERFORMANCE LEADERSHIP

This is a 12-week online program with content provided by industry leading executives. The curriculum provides best practices in leadership, organizational development and change management, negotiation and collaboration, effective business communication, and how to deliver increased value from high performance county management.

Course 1: Leadership Mindset & Positive Engagement

This course provides insights from members of the program's National Leadership Board on the ways leaders shift their mindset from being excellent individual contributors to becoming highly effective leaders. The course also focuses on increasing empowerment and engagement to achieve individual, team and enterprise success. The second half of this course demonstrates how leaders enable "positively deviant" performance and engender positive culture and communication.

Course 2: Leading Effective Change

The emphasis of this course is to prepare participants to engage in change initiated by others and to drive effective change as an active change agent. This course illustrates three facets of organizational change, including planning, executing and sustaining successful change. A balance of theoretical and pragmatic insights allows participants to understand the strategic, financial or market-based reasons for change and drive toward breakthrough results.

Course 3: Communication and Collaboration

Participants learn and practice the skills needed to improve the quality of interpersonal communication in a variety of contexts. Participants will learn how to effectively speak the language of business and convey information across diverse stakeholder groups, as well as break down silos between business divisions to drive better decision making. Each participant will understand effective communication as it relates to leading others, managing conflict, providing and receiving feedback, and negotiating with the Mutual Gains Approach.

Course 4: Leading High Performance Teams

This closing course focuses on measures, metrics, and practices used across the enterprise to achieve high performance. Participants learn that business results – values and benefits – may differ from one company to the next and even from department to department within a single company, but the consistent variable is It's All About People.

COURSE 1: Jan. 9th – Feb. 3rd

Module 1: Your Leadership Mindset
 Module 2: Your Potential as a Positive Leader
 Module 3: Positive Leadership and Your Team:
 Empowerment & Engagement
 Module 4: Leadership Rules and Your Oath
 Break Week: Feb. 6th – Feb. 10th

COURSE 2: Feb. 13th – March 10th

Module 1: The Process of Change: Planning
 Module 2: The Process of Change: Executing
 Module 3: The Process of Change: Sustaining
 Module 4: Leadership Rules and Your Oath
 Break Week: March 13th – March 17th

COURSE 3: March 20th – April 7th

Module 1: Speaking the Language of Business
 Module 2: Positive Communications
 Module 3: Mutual Gains Approach

COURSE 4: April 10th – April 14th

Module 1: It's All About People
 Graduation: April 14th



"Many frontline managers are exactly the people we cannot afford to lose. The NACo High Performance County Leadership Academy helps to retain these vital employees and helps enable them to be better leaders."

Matt Chase, Executive Director, NACo





WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN SOON

Thank you for participating in the 88th Annual Conference. Below is a link to the VACo Annual Conference recap webpage.

[VACo 88th Annual Conference Recap Webpage](#)

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

[VACo 88th 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 2023 schedule planned so be on the look out for more info.

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



Understanding the Time Commitment

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[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

It's that time of the year when we display County Christmas Ornaments!



We look forward to every Christmas when VACo's Valerie Russell decorates our offices!



2023 Winter Series

Friday, January 6, 2023 12-1 PM
Legislation

Friday, February 3, 2023 12-1 PM
Equity

Friday, March 3, 2023 12-1 PM
Cybersecurity



Meeting Schedule

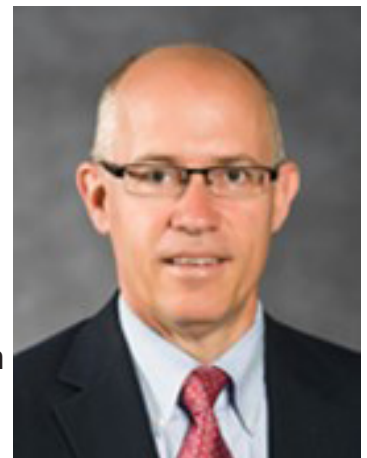
Session 1—Friday, January 6, 2023, 12 - 1 PM ***Gearing up for the Virginia General Assembly***

With the 2023 General Assembly convening soon, this session will explore the legislature's logistics and timelines, highlight anticipated legislative issues and the Governor's budget proposal, while providing a glimpse at the politics of it all.

Meet David Blount, Our Session 1 Speaker

David C. Blount | Executive Director, Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions; Deputy Director and Director of Legislative Services, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

David Blount is the first Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions. He has served in that position since 2018 through a partnership with the Thomas Jefferson Planning District, where he has served for 23 years and presently is Deputy Director and Director of Legislative Services. He previously held positions as a policy associate with the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute at VCU, and as a legislative consultant for both the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League. He is a graduate of James Madison University.



Session 2—Friday, February 5, 2023, 12 - 1 PM | *Equity in the Workplace*

Session 3—Friday, March 5, 2023, 12 - 1 PM | **Cybersecurity**

Cost: \$25 per Session | Once registered, participants will receive login information to be able to join the day of the event.

REGISTER TODAY!

VACo Launches New Website



The Virginia Association of Counties is proud to announce the launch of the new www.vaco.org.

VACo used data and analytics to improve navigation and functionality. The pages people often visit are prominent and easily accessible such as an interactive map with county demographics and information.

Thank you [Whittington Consulting](#) for their outstanding work in the design and development of the new www.vaco.org! This is the second website Whittington Consulting has developed for VACo.

We look forward to unleashing the power of the new website as a tool that helps VACo provide high-level communications and services to our members.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

VACo 2023 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

For the 2023 General Assembly Session



ADOPTED BY VACo
MEMBERSHIP ON
NOVEMBER 15, 2022



VACo Membership Adopts Legislative Program

Thank you for your participation in the development and adoption of the [VACo 2023 Legislative Program](#).

Please take a moment to review the adopted program.

[VACo 2023 Legislative Program](#)

VACo/VML/VAPDC Virginia Rural Center Local Government Day

Thursday, January 19, 2023 | [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

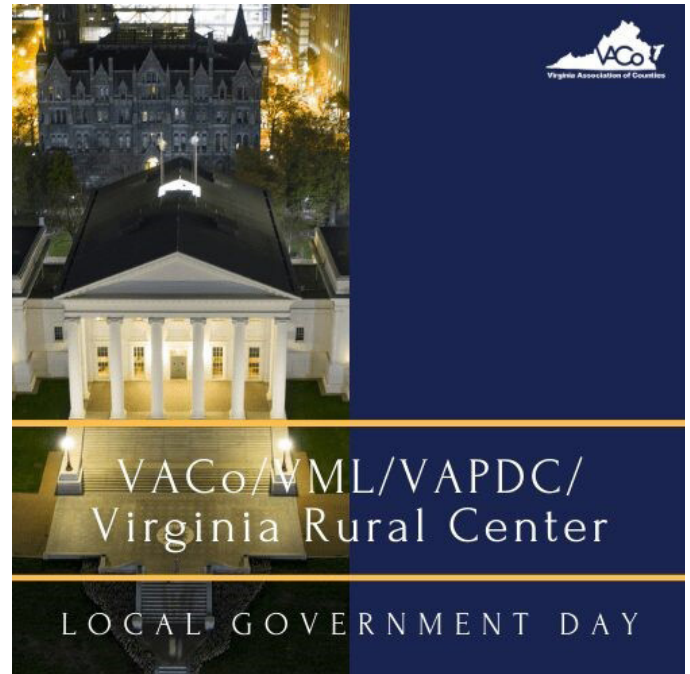
\$100 Day Briefing only (Noon – 2pm)
\$100 Reception only (530pm)
\$150 for both | \$175 late registration

Agenda

9 am – VACo Board of Directors Meeting
11 am – Registration/Check In
11:30am – Lunch
Noon – Local Government Day
Afternoon – Visit the Capitol to speak with legislators
5:30pm – Reception

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 \$165 (single room occupancy). To reserve a hotel room, call 804.344.7000 by January 3, 2023, with this code: Government Legislative Day 2023 Group or reserve a room at this [Omni Richmond Hotel link](#).

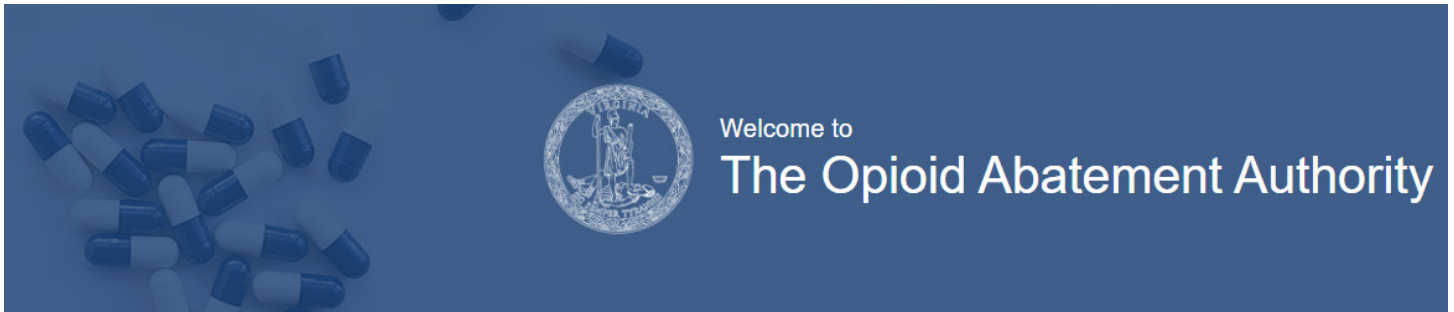


[REGISTRATION FORM](#) | [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Register for the Opioid Settlement Funding and Best Practices Workshop

Thursday, January 19, 2023 | [Omni Richmond Hotel](#)

[REGISTRATION FOR THE WORKSHOP](#) | [AGENDA](#)



[REGISTER FOR THE WORKSHOP](#)

VACo, VML, and VAPDC are pleased to partner with the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority to offer the Opioid Settlement Funding and Best Practices Workshop on January 19 and 20 at the [Omni Richmond Hotel](#) (100 S. 12th Street, Richmond, VA 23219).

This event will follow the Local Government Day lunch briefing and will begin at 1:30 p.m. on January 19. The objective of this workshop is to provide information on funding opportunities available through the Authority and how the application process will be administered, as well as information on best practices for prevention, treatment, and recovery.

An agenda for the workshop **is linked**. There is no cost to attend the workshop, but an RSVP is required by Friday, January 6. Please contact Valerie Russell at vrussell@vaco.org with questions.

RURAL CAUCUS RECEPTION

January 18, 2023 | 530pm – 8pm
Omni Richmond Hotel

[REGISTRATION FORM](#) | [REGISTER ONLINE](#)
[OMNI HOTEL ROOM FORM](#)



Join us on Wednesday, January 18 for the Rural Reception hosted by VACo and the Virginia Rural Center. Discuss issues that impact rural Virginia with colleagues and legislators while making personal connections with folks from across the Commonwealth. Register today [online](#) or fax the [Registration Form](#) to 804.788.0083.

Cost – \$150 per person

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 \$165 (single room occupancy). To reserve a hotel room, call 804.344.7000 by January 3, 2023, with this code: **Government Legislative Day 2023 Group** or reserve a room at this [Omni Richmond Hotel link](#).

We look forward to seeing you at these two exciting events during the 2023 General Assembly Session.

VACo Contact: [Valerie Russell](#)

CHAIRPERSONS' INSTITUTE

Friday, January 20, 2023 | Saturday, January 21, 2023

Omni Richmond Hotel

[REGISTRATION FORM](#) | [REGISTER ONLINE](#)
[OMNI HOTEL ROOM FORM](#)



Virginia Association of Counties offers the County Board Chairpersons' Institute to Board Chairs to focus on the specific roles of that position, including meeting management, communications, work relationships, leadership, and goal setting. An overview of county government and the work of county supervisors are also covered.

Dates: Friday, January 20, 2023 and Saturday, January 21, 2023

Location: [Omni Richmond Hotel](#)

Who should attend: New and incumbent County Board Chairs and Vice Chairs will come away with information they need to guide their Board through their leadership cycle. But ALL County Supervisors are encouraged to register and attend.

Registration Fee: \$350

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 \$165 (single room occupancy). To reserve a hotel room, call 804.344.7000 by January 3, 2023, with this code: **Government Legislative Day 2023 Group** or reserve a room at this [Omni Richmond Hotel link](#).

[REGISTRATION FORM](#)

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)



Annual Virginia Water and Wastewater Rate Report Released

How do you compare? That's a common question many public utilities face when considering how to set rates and fees for water and wastewater services. Virginia boasts more than 250 public providers of water and wastewater across every size and type of community, which can make benchmarking a challenge. Understanding water and wastewater trends across the Commonwealth is crucial for public utilities and municipalities, especially when they consider rate changes and evaluate capital recovery charges. This information is a primary reason the annual Virginia Water and Wastewater Rate Report is so highly anticipated.

Draper Aden Associates produced the report for more than three decades as it has become an essential resource for public utilities. That's why the team remained

[More on Next Page](#)

committed to delivering this crucial information when Draper Aden was acquired by [TRC Companies](#), a global professional services firm providing environmentally focused and digitally powered solutions that address local needs, in May. The [2022 edition](#) of the report was released publicly by TRC Companies in October 2022.

Even as public utilities continue to face a challenging and uncertain environment, these results provide valuable intel for planning and strategy.

The two most significant findings from the 2022 survey are related to rate changes. First, the average water rate across the Commonwealth increased by 2.1 percent in 2022 and the average sewer rate increased by 2.5 percent. Both the water rate and wastewater rate increases were slightly lower than the previous year. Since 2012, the average water rate increased by 3.4 percent per year and the average wastewater rate increased by 3.8 percent per year. These increases occurred across a control group of representative utilities that allows the report to extrapolate trends across the state.

Second, 43 percent of respondents reported a water rate increase in 2022 and 53 percent of respondents increased wastewater rates in 2022. Thus, slightly more than half of all providers that participated in the survey raised rates.

In addition to water and wastewater rates, the 2022 report also shares data for connection fees and capital recovery charges.

Looking ahead, water and wastewater providers continue to face a number of challenges. Yet, a significant opportunity for increased resources and funding will come from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#). This federal funding will provide billions for fiscal years 2022 through 2026, including for water infrastructure.

The [34th Annual Virginia Water and Wastewater Rate Report](#) was produced by TRC Companies. The 2022 Virginia Water and Wastewater Report and previous reports are [available for download](#) online. For questions about the Water and Wastewater Report, please contact water@trccompanies.com.



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2023 EXCELLENCE IN VIRGINIA GOVERNMENT AWARDS

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

Excellence in Virginia Government Awards Nominations Open

The L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University is pleased to announce the 16th annual Excellence in Virginia Government Awards (EVGA) on **April 11, 2023** at Noon. EVGA celebrates people and organizations in the public and private sectors who have made significant contributions to the practice of government and the well-being of our communities and citizens.

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

Nominations for the 2023 Awards will be accepted through November 1, 2022. Nominations are being accepted in seven categories: Community Enhancement, Grace E. Harris Leadership Award, Hill-Robinson Expansion of Freedom, Innovation in Government, Lifetime Achievement, Public-Private Partnerships, and Unsung Hero.

To make a nomination, learn more details about the Excellence in Virginia Government Awards, including criteria and past winners, go to <https://bit.ly/evgavcu> or contact Paula Otto, piotto@vcu.edu.



New Approaches to Building Resilience in Counties

A variety of expert panelists describe new tools and approaches that counties can use to increase their resilience to flooding impacts.

Dr. Molly Mitchell from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) will discuss tools that can help localities determine the predicted level of flooding in their area, and VIMS' recent work to map predicted flooding of wells, septic systems and transportation networks.

Lewie Lawrence, Executive Director of the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, will describe the PDC's innovative Fight the Flood Program and how it connects residents to potential funding and contractors to assist them with resilience efforts.

And Delegate **David Bulova** will provide an overview of legislative efforts to address resilience, including the new Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund.

Moderator **Elizabeth Andrews**, Director of the Coastal Policy Center at William & Mary Law School, will also provide a summary of some other resilience tools and initiatives in the Commonwealth.

Watch the Video – <https://youtu.be/B6SdTCbbzXY>

Dr. Molly Mitchell Presentation – https://www.vaco.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SeaLevelRiseFlooding_VACo.pdf

Elizabeth Andrews Presentation – <https://www.vaco.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/VACoNewApproachesBuildingResilienceCounties.pdf>

Inflation Reduction Act: Clean Energy Investment Tax Credits

Until Dec 31, 2024	Highlights	Deadlines to Consider	Additional Details
Extension of Energy Investment Tax Credit (Section 48)	Extends the existing energy investment tax credit for applicable energy projects. This tech-specific ITC ends in 2024 for most technologies and is replaced by the new tech-neutral Clean Electricity ITC (48D), which begins in 2025.	Extends date of construction in most cases to 2024 and maintains a 10% or 30% credit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintains 30% credit for solar energy property, geothermal property, fiber-optic solar property, fuel cell property, microturbine property, small wind property, offshore wind property, combined heat and power property, and waste energy recovery property constructed before January 1, 2025. Creates 30% credit for energy storage technology biogas property, microgrid controllers, dynamic glass, and linear generators constructed before January 1, 2025. This credit can be up to 40% if in Opportunity Zones and designated rural areas. <i>More later in this presentation</i> Extends 10% credit for microturbine projects constructed before January 1, 2025. 30% credit for geothermal heat pump projects constructed before January 1, 2033. Credit reduces to 26% in 2033 and 22% in 2034.

ICG BILTgroup
GreeneHurlocker Bryan International Law & Tax

Next slide

Inflation Reduction Act: Clean Energy Investment Tax Credits

Greg Bryant

No Notes.

18:21 / 59:23 Slide 6 of 22

Opportunities in Energy Investment under Inflation Reduction Act

A significant component of the recently passed IRA seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. It does so by making significant investments in climate and environment programs and providing tax incentives to boost the development and deployment of clean energy. These investments include multiple direct funding opportunities for counties to save money while reducing emissions.

This webinar provides VACo members with a summary and explanation of how Virginia counties can take advantage of these investments. The panel of experts walk through the basics of the IRA regarding eligible funding opportunities in regard to deployment of technology, and how federal energy tax credits have been significantly modified and increased so that counties can utilize them to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

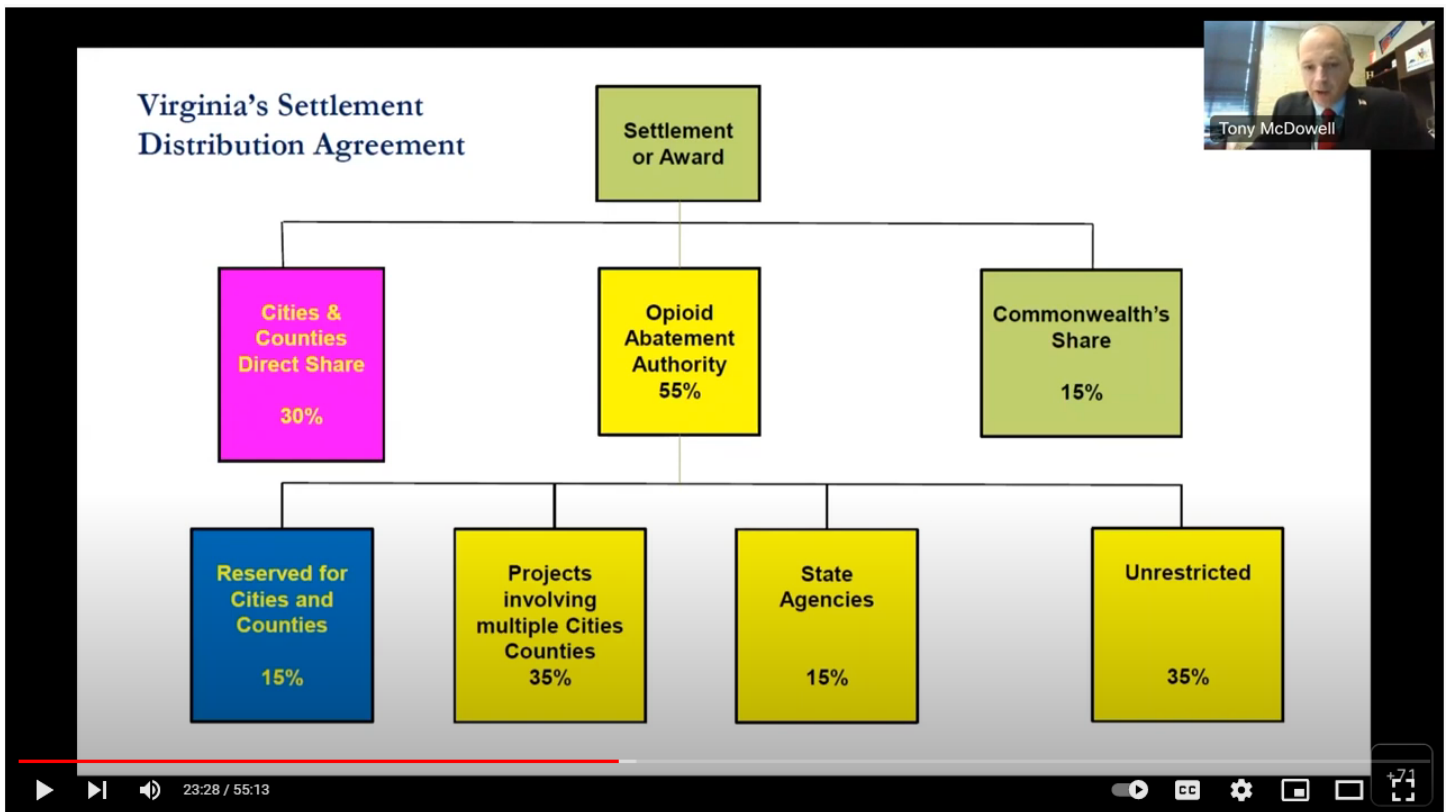
Attorney Eric Hurlocker, co-founder of GreeneHurlocker, PLC, which provides a broad range of administrative law, business and corporate law, commercial real estate law, employment law, energy law, mergers and acquisition counsel, regulatory law, and litigation legal services throughout the Mid-Atlantic.

CPA and Attorney Gregory Bryant, founder and managing partner of the BILTgroup, which provides clients expertise on understanding the nuances of federal tax and accounting law including the IRA.

Larry Cummings is a Regional Comprehensive Energy Leader for Trane and manages 5 states for them. Larry has been the Chair of VT's Sustainability Institute and President of VCU's College of Engineering Foundation, as well as being on various Boards for industry groups.

Watch the Video – <https://youtu.be/rS8socSfWC8>

Gregory Bryant (BILTgroup) and Erick Hurlocker (GreeneHurlocker, PLC) PRESENTATION – <https://www.vaco.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/EnergyInvestmentsIRAWebinarSlides22.pdf>



Briefing on Opioid Abatement Authority

Tony McDowell, Executive Director of the Opioid Abatement Authority, provided a briefing for VACo members on the Authority's plans for the distribution of funding being provided to the state from recent settlements of opioid-related litigation. A portion of these funds will be provided to localities, in addition to the direct distributions localities are receiving from the settlements.

Link to Video

<https://youtu.be/LhAy0UGqgsI>

PowerPoint Presentation

<https://www.vaco.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/OAA-presentation-to-VACo-10.12.22.pdf>

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



Premier Partner Spotlight The Berkley Group



The Berkley Group | Part 1

Join Dean Lynch and Drew Williams, CEO, as they discuss the history of the Berkley Group and where they are today. The Berkley Group is the go-to consultant for Virginia counties and their communities. For more information, please visit www.bgllic.net.

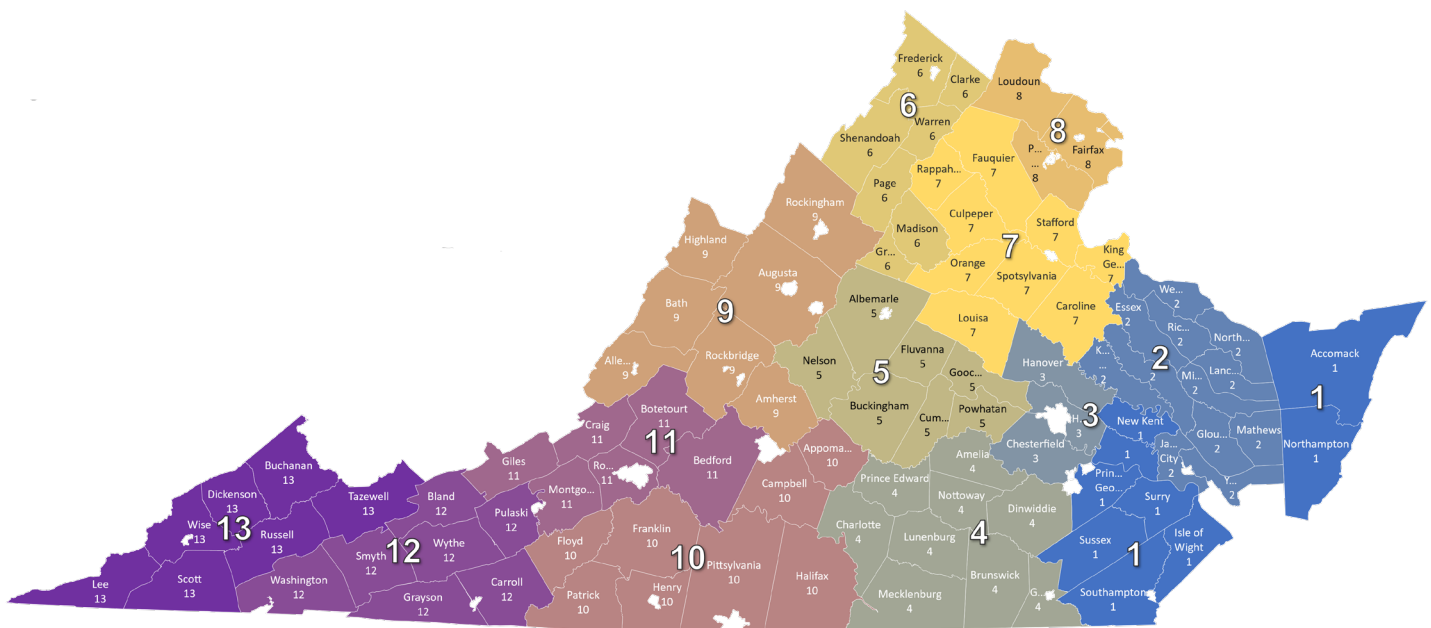
What doors can we open for you?

Watch the [Premier Partner Video](#)

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 specific changes to the existing VACo regions are as follows. New Kent County and Charles City County would be moved from Region 3 to Region 1. Montgomery County would be moved from Region 10 to Region 11. Region 11 would receive an additional seat. Region 8 would gain an additional seat based on population increases. The Board also endorsed a proposed Bylaw amendment, which would remove the 24-seat cap on Regional Director positions and would allow the additional seats to be added to the VACo Board of Directors.

The Membership of the association passed the Bylaw amendment at its Annual meeting on November 15, 2022. The reapportioned map of regions and the Bylaw are below.



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.



Happy 20th Anniversary VACo Achievement Awards!

Great to see so many friends in this video. The VACo Achievement Awards truly does bring us together in pursuit of improving our communities.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the VACo Achievement Awards during the past 20 years.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

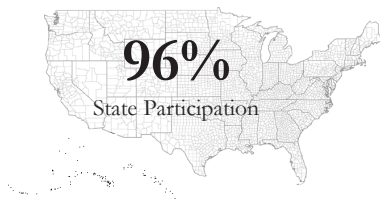


Take Your Leadership Skills to the Next Level Through the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy

The [NACo High Performance Leadership Academy](#) 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.



5,000+ Participants to Date



1,600+ Counties & Associations



5.5 Million+ In Scholarship Savings

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 [NACo High Performance Leadership Academy](#) 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: ghogston@bluelinesolutions.org or 276.759.8064 or visit <https://bluelinesolutions.org>.

Watch the [Blue Line Solutions Video Part 1](#)

Watch the [Blue Line Solutions Video Part 2](#)

Watch the [Blue Line Solutions Video Part 3](#)

Watch the [Blue Line Solutions Video Part 4](#)

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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 \$100 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](#).

[**SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER**](#) | Town of Leesburg | Posted December 28

[**HUMAN RESOURCES GENERALIST**](#) | Hanover County | Posted December 28

[**BUILDING OFFICIAL/PROPERTY MAINTENANCE OFFICIAL**](#) | Craig County | Posted December 28

[**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted December 28

[**IT MANAGER**](#) | Prince Edward County | Posted December 22

[**MECHANIC**](#) | Prince George County | Posted December 21

[**ASSISTANT COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY**](#) | Prince George County | Posted December 21

[**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT- PLANNING & GIS SERVICES**](#) | Montgomery County | Posted December 20

[**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**](#) | Stafford County | Posted December 20

[**PURCHASING AGENT**](#) | Gloucester County | Posted December 19

[**REAL ESTATE ANALYST I**](#) | Gloucester County | Posted December 19

[**PARK AIDE - WORK AS REQUIRED**](#) | Gloucester County | Posted December 19

[**RECREATION AIDE**](#) | Gloucester County | Posted December 19

[**LIBRARY CLERK - WORK AS REQUIRED**](#) | Gloucester County | Posted December 19

[**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**](#) | Williamsburg Area Transit Authority | Posted December 19

[**GROUNDSCOOPER**](#) | Montgomery County | Posted December 19

[**PRINCIPAL PLANNER-ZONING TEAM**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted December 19

[**CUSTODIAN \(FT\)**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted December 19

[**CUSTODIAN \(PT\)**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted December 19

[**SENIOR ACCOUNTANT**](#) | Amherst County | Posted December 19

[**FINANCIAL REPORTING ANALYST III**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted December 19

[**DEPUTY REGISTRAR**](#) | Rappahannock County | Posted December 19

[**PROCUREMENT ANALYST, SENIOR**](#) | City of Richmond | Posted December 16

[**TOURISM MARKETING & SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST**](#) | City of Harrisonburg | Posted December 14

[**911 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATOR**](#) | City of Harrisonburg | Posted December 14

[**SITE SUPERVISOR**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted December 13

[**WATERWORKS OPERATOR**](#) | Prince George County | Posted December 12

[**UTILITY WORKER**](#) | Prince George County | Posted December 12

[**LIBRARY ASSOCIATE TEEN**](#) | Culpeper County | Posted December 12

[**LIBRARY ASSOCIATE CHILDRENS SERVICES**](#) | Culpeper County | Posted December 12

[**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted December 12

[**ATHLECTIC PROGRAM COORDINATOR**](#) | City of Harrisonburg | Posted December 12

[**ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER**](#) | Gates County NC | Posted December 12

[**LIBRARY ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER**](#) | Montgomery County | Posted December 8

[**COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER & EVENTS COORDINATOR**](#) | Town of West Point | Posted December 8

[**INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICER**](#) | City of Fredericksburg | Posted December 7

[**BRANCH CHIEF \(PUBLIC WORKS- ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER\)**](#) | Fairfax County | Posted December 7

[**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD**](#) | Madison County | Posted December 7

[**PLANNER OR SENIOR PLANNER**](#) | The Berkley Group | Posted December 6

[**SENIOR CAPITAL PROJECTS FIELD COORDINATOR**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted December 6

[**SENIOR BUILDING INSPECTOR**](#) | Prince George County | Posted December 6

[**POLICE OFFICER \(CERTIFIED\)**](#) | Prince George County | Posted December 6

[**ASSISTANT COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY**](#) | Louisa County | Posted December 6

[**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**](#) | Amelia County | Posted December 5

[**BUSINESS ANALYST**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted December 5

[**COOK – JUVENILE DETENTION HOME**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted December 5

[**SENIOR ENGINEER PT**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted December 5

[**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**](#) | Cumberland County | Posted December 5

[**BUSINESS AUDITOR PT**](#) | Culpeper County | Posted December 5

[**BUSINESS AUDITOR**](#) | Culpeper County | Posted December 5

[**ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II – TAX SUPPORT PT**](#) | Culpeper County | Posted December 5

[**ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II – TAX SUPPORT**](#) | Culpeper County | Posted December 5

[**CUSTODIAN SENIOR**](#) | City of Harrisonburg | Posted December 5

[**LIEUTENANT/SHIFT SUPERVISOR**](#) | Carroll County | Posted December 1

[**TOURISM MANAGER**](#) | Carroll County | Posted December 1

[**UTILITIES ENGINEER**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted December 1

[**EMPLOYMENT SERVICES WORKER**](#) | Montgomery County | Posted November 30

[**CLINICIAN \(CD\) SCHOOL BASE CSB CLINICIAN**](#) | Hanover County | Posted November 30

[**CLINICIAN \(CD\) CHILDREN'S TEAM \(MH/SUD\)**](#) | Hanover County | Posted November 30

[**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**](#) | Bland County | Posted November 30

[**SENIOR ENGINEER**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted November 30

[**SENIOR AUDITOR**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted November 30

[**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING**](#) | Powhatan County | Posted November 29

[**CHIEF OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**](#) | Essex County | Posted November 29

[**SENIOR SQL SERVER DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted November 29

[**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted November 29

[**DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE**](#) | Grayson County | Posted November 28

[**RECREATION ASSISTANT \(PT\)**](#) | Montgomery County | Posted November 28

[**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted November 28

[**GROUNDSKEEPER**](#) | Montgomery County | Posted November 28

[**DEPUTY EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR**](#) | Wythe County | Posted November 28

[**DSS DIRECTOR**](#) | Durham County, NC | Posted November 28

[**FABRICATION & PRODUCTION SPECIALIST/SIGN INSTALLER**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted November 23

[**FRONT LINE TRANSIT SUPERVISOR \(NIGHT SHIFT\)**](#) | City of Harrisonburg | Posted November 23

[**INSPECTOR I or II or COMBINATION INSPECTOR – FT**](#) | Gloucester County | Posted November 23

[**FINANCE DIRECTOR**](#) | Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission | Posted November 21

[**LIBRARY DIRECTOR**](#) | Amelia County | Posted November 21

[**CIRCULATION MANAGER**](#) | Amelia County | Posted November 21

[**ENTERPRISE ARCHITECT**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted November 21

[**INTERN/PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE \(SPRING SEMESTER\)**](#) | Montgomery County | Posted November 17

[**PERMIT TECHNICIAN \(I OR II\)**](#) | City of Alexandria | Posted November 17

[**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE \(CODE INSPECTOR I, II, OR III\)**](#) | City of Alexandria | Posted November 17

[**CHIEF OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**](#) | Northumberland County | Posted November 17

[**PRINCIPAL ENGINEER**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted November 17

[**UTILITY WORKER**](#) | Prince George County | Posted November 17

[**PLANNING & ZONING TECHNICIAN**](#) | Prince George County | Posted November 17

[**FIRE MEDIC**](#) | Prince George County | Posted November 17

[**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM SPECIALIST**](#) | Prince George County | Posted November 17

[**DEPUTY COURT CLERK I**](#) | Prince George County | Posted November 17

[**COMMUNICATION'S OFFICER**](#) | Prince George County | Posted November 17

[**BUSINESS MANAGER – PARKS & RECREATION**](#) | Hanover County | Posted November 17

[**ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER/TOWN CLERK**](#) | Town of Vinton | Posted November 17

[**SEASONAL MAINTENANCE WORKER**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted November 17

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.

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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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