

Capitol Contact

Virginia General Assembly

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Thursday, January 12, 2023

Governor Youngkin Outlines Priorities in State of the Commonwealth Address



Governor Youngkin outlined his priorities for the 2023 General Assembly session in his [State of the Commonwealth address to the General Assembly](#) on Wednesday afternoon, reiterating his pledge to accelerate efforts in economic competitiveness, education, public safety, and behavioral health, among other priorities. The Governor welcomed three new members of the legislature who were elected on Tuesday in special elections –

Delegate Ellen Campbell, Delegate Holly Seibold, and Senator Aaron Rouse – and cited a host of accomplishments from the past year, including investments in K-12, successes in finding placements for youth in foster care, clearing backlogs at the Virginia Employment Commission, and a commitment to addressing needs in the City of Petersburg.

The Governor cautioned that Virginia cannot rest on its accomplishments, as its competitor states are benefiting from population growth and have out-performed Virginia in securing economic development projects. In addition to workforce development and the buildout of business-ready sites, the Governor encouraged legislators to embrace additional tax reform, arguing, “we are going to have to systematically move to lower taxes to make Virginia more attractive to young people, families, veterans, and retirees, and more competitive for business.”

The Governor also highlighted his proposals to address the nursing shortage, provide retention and performance bonuses to teachers, and recruit and retain law enforcement officers. He underscored the importance of investments in behavioral health and outlined key elements of his proposed “Right Help, Right Now” plan, which includes funding for mobile crisis units, crisis receiving centers, psychiatric emergency centers, and behavioral health workforce development, as well as efforts to prevent fentanyl overdoses. He encouraged a continued commitment to meeting Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay goals, citing proposed investments in the Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund and wastewater nutrient removal projects.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Key Dates for the 2023 General Assembly

As part of its organizational work on the first day of the 2023 session, the General Assembly adopted a procedural resolution on January 11 that sets out important dates and deadlines for the [2023 legislative session](#).

January 11: General Assembly convened at noon. Bills that were “prefiled” were due to be submitted by 10 a.m. All bills and regulations affecting the Virginia Retirement System or creating or continuing a study were required to be filed before adjournment. Governor Youngkin delivered the State of the Commonwealth address at 4 p.m.

January 13: Deadline for submission of budget amendments

January 20: Deadline for all bills or joint resolutions to be filed by 3 p.m. (with some exceptions, such as legislation introduced at the request of the Governor or legislation allowed to be introduced after deadlines by unanimous consent)

February 5: Money committees report budgets by midnight

February 7: Money committee budget proposals available by noon; “crossover” deadline for each chamber to complete work on legislation originating in that chamber (except for the budget bill)

February 9: Houses of introduction must complete work on budget

February 15: Deadline for each chamber to complete work on other chamber’s budget proposal and revenue bills and appoint conferees

February 20: Deadline for committee action on legislation by midnight

February 25: Scheduled adjournment *sine die*

April 12: Reconvened session for consideration of Governor’s amendments and vetoes

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Meet Your VACo Legislative Team!



2023 General Assembly Convenes – Look for Capitol Contact on Tuesdays and Thursdays

The 2023 General Assembly session convened on January 11 setting the stage as legislators will deliberate on many issues of critical importance to local government, including the state budget, broadband, education funding, economic development, public safety, taxes, and other policy matters.

VACo will continually provide updates during the session through [Capitol Contact](#). Capitol Contact will be published every Tuesday and Thursday. In addition, VACo will email and text Capitol Contact Alerts to County Officials on important issues before they are heard by select committees.

Please check [VACo's website](#) and the [General Assembly webpage](#) often to get the latest information and bill updates. Also, be on the lookout for legislative videos with state lawmakers and VACo Staff. VACo will continue to release its newsletter, [County Connections](#), around the first and 15th of each month.

And be sure to attend [VACo's Local Government Day](#) on Thursday, January 19 at the Omni Richmond Hotel. Be a part of the legislative process at the 2023 General Assembly Session.

VACo Contact: [Dean Lynch](#)