

## Join Us for the Next Episode of Commonwealth Conversations

VACo sits down with state and local leaders to discuss issues that impact counties. [Visit the Commonwealth Conversations website.](#)



### Commonwealth Conversations

Season 1 | Episode 2

Delegate Terry Kilgore and VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch talk Southwest Virginia and the General Assembly on the next episode of Commonwealth Conversations.

[WATCH THE VIDEO SHORT](#)

### Commonwealth Conversations

Season 1 | Episode 3

Senator Barbara Favola and VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch talk behavioral health on the next episode of Commonwealth Conversations.

[WATCH THE VIDEO SHORT](#)



### Commonwealth Conversations

Season 1 | Episode 4

Delegate Emily Brewer and VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch talk legislative issues including local authority on the next episode of Commonwealth Conversations.

[WATCH THE VIDEO SHORT](#)



## Federal and Regional Economic Development Partnership to Invest in Virginia Localities



**Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed**  
Federal Co-Chair  
The Southeast Crescent Regional  
Commission (SCRC)

[Dr. Reed's Statement about the SCRC](#)

[The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission](#) (SCRC) is an economic development partnership of the Federal government and the seven state governments of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Florida. SCRC's mission is to build sustainable communities and increase economic growth, particularly in economically distressed areas. Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed serves as the Federal Co-Chair of the Commission and in an article to VACo, outlined the opportunities the Commission can provide for Virginia localities.

Per Dr. Reed, the Commission will invest \$20 million in the region through a flagship grant program scheduled to launch in late spring/early summer of 2023. SCRC's grant program will seek to achieve positive results in six strategic goals.

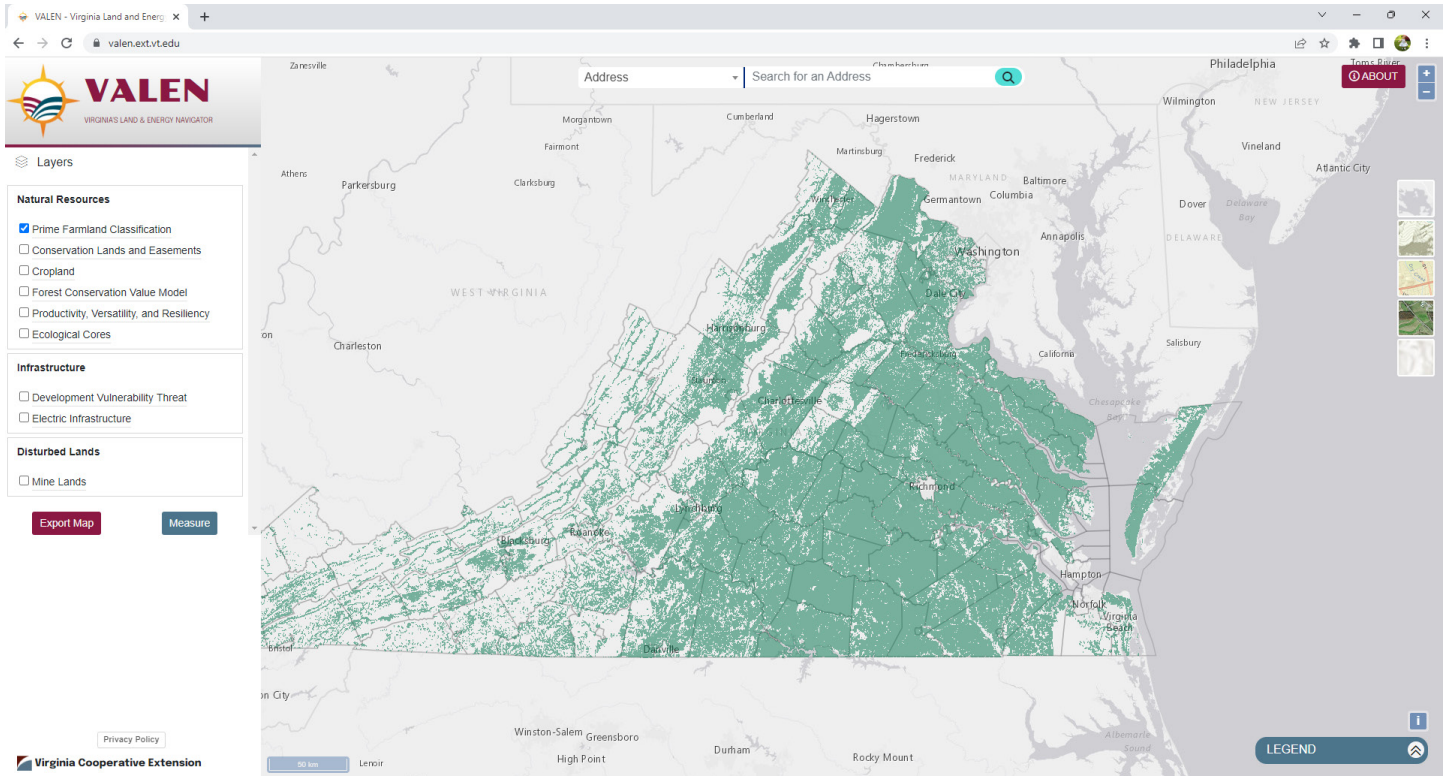
- 1) Critical Infrastructure
- 2) Health and Support Services Access and Outcomes
- 3) Strengthen Workforce Capacity.
- 4) Foster Entrepreneurial and Business Development Activities
- 5) Expand Affordable Housing Stock and Access.
- 6) Promote Environmental Conservation, Preservation, and Access.

These proposed grants will be awarded to state, local and Native American governments as well as qualifying public and nonprofit organizations. VACo is pleased to share this information from the SCRC and will provide updates as they become available.

[Click here to view Dr. Reed's full statement.](#)

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

# Online mapping resource to assist in siting of utility-scale solar facilities now available



The [Virginia Land and Energy Navigator](#) (VaLEN) is now available for public use. VaLEN brings together GIS information related to prime farm and forestland, conserved lands, brownfields and mined lands, transmission lines, and other topics to support land use planning and decision-making at the local level for energy projects including solar, wind, hydroelectric, and small modular nuclear. VaLEN enables users to cross reference GIS layers with multiple themes and has a zoom feature that allows users to look at the highest resolution available, up to parcel scale.

Pursuant to legislation adopted in 2022, the Virginia Cooperative Extension developed the VaLEN map in consultation with VACo, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Virginia Department of Forestry, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Department of Energy, and other stakeholders.

**VACo Contact:** [Joe Lerch, AICP](#)



# Capitol Contact

## Virginia General Assembly

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

### **JANUARY 2023**

- January 10, 2023: [2023 General Assembly Convenes January 11 – Look for Capitol Contact on Tuesdays and Thursdays](#)
- January 12, 2023: [Governor Youngkin Outlines Priorities in State of Commonwealth Address](#)
- January 17, 2023: [Grocery Tax Legislation Returns](#)
- January 19, 2023: [2023 Local Government Day Bulletin](#)
- January 24, 2023: [Please Support VACo Priority Budget Amendment](#)
- January 26, 2023: **CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT** – [Call Now to Support Funding for School Construction](#)
- January 26, 2023: [Update on Finance Legislation, Including Grocery Tax Bills](#)
- January 31, 2023: [Virginia Department of Education Miscalcualtes Basic Aid Distribution by \\$200 Million](#)

### **FEBRUARY 2023**

- February 2, 2023: [Bill Creating a New Exemption from Stormwater Regulations for Harvesting of Trees Passes House Subcommittee](#)
- February 3, 2023: **CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT** – [Call Now to Oppose Bill Gutting Localities Ability to Regulate Solid Waste](#)
- February 3, 2023: **CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT** – [Call Now to Oppose Problematic Bill That May Result in Negative Impacts on Local Water Quality](#)
- February 7, 2023: [Bill to Prohibit Data Centers Within One Mile of a Park Fails](#)
- February 9, 2023: [Constitutional Amendments Advance in Senate, Stall in House](#)
- February 10, 2023: **CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT** – [Oppose Bill that Creates New Liability and Financial Remedy against Localities](#)





## Visit Cumberland County and the Cumberland County Historic Courthouse

**Location:** 1 Court House Circle / Foster Road

**Built:** 1818 – 1821

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Architect:** William A Howard

**Contractor:** William A Howard

**Description:** The building faces south and is a one story red colored brick structure. The building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of Cumberland. The rectangular building is located on Courthouse Square with Clerk's Office (1821), Jail (1823) and Administration Building (1966). The south front has a large Tuscan portico with four white colored columns rising to a wide pediment at the roof line. The recessed paneled double doors are framed by molded white colored trim and topped by a pediment and pulvinated frieze. The roof is hipped. The building was renovated in 1960 and an addition was constructed on the east side. The architect was Moseley Architects, Inc.

**SOURCE:** [American Courthouses](#) | [Courthouses.co](#)

SUPERVISORS TRAINING FOR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



# VIRGINIA CERTIFIED COUNTY SUPERVISORS' PROGRAM

NOW ENROLLING  
THE CLASS OF 2023!

## MODULE 1 - BUDGETING

INSTRUCTOR - SUZETTE DENSLOW

OPENING SESSION - JANUARY 25 | HENRICO COUNTY

CLOSING SESSION - MARCH 22 | HENRICO COUNTY

## MODULE 2 - PLANNING AND LAND USE

INSTRUCTORS - VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION

OPENING SESSION - April 14 | VACo TRAINING CENTER

CLOSING SESSION - June 16 | VACo TRAINING CENTER

## MODULE 3 - LEADERSHIP

INSTRUCTOR - JANE DITTMAR

OPENING SESSION - August 11 | VACo TRAINING CENTER

CLOSING SESSION - October 6 | VACo TRAINING CENTER

**REGISTER TODAY!**

Please contact Karie Walker at  
[kwalker@vaco.org](mailto:kwalker@vaco.org) for more information.  
Or visit the [VACo website](https://www.vaco.org).





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Master Planning • Community Engagement • Programming



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703.903.9100

### Charlottesville

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2nd Floor  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
434.296.5353

Learn more:

[grimmandparker.com](http://grimmandparker.com)





## Stafford Names New Director of Information Technology



Stafford County is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Director of Information Technology (IT), Matt Harrison. Harrison came to Stafford to serve as Assistant Director of IT and was quickly tapped to become Interim Director. Harrison came to Stafford from GEICO, where he was Director of Engineering and responsible for customer and counselor-facing applications, including Sales and Claims. Harrison is a part of the Information Services functional area will continue reporting to the Chief Director of Information Services.

“Matt Harrison has extensive IT experience, with more than 26 years of IT experience in both the private and public sectors. He has distinguished himself during his time with Stafford,” said County Administrator Randal Vosburg. “We are happy with the expertise he brings to the job and the continuity he will provide for the department.”

Matt Harrison has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from St. Bonaventure University in New York state. He also holds a Master of Public Administration from The American University in Washington, D.C. Harrison has over 26 years of Information Technology experience, 18 years with GEICO, and eight years as a consultant for government, telecommunications, healthcare, and financial services customers. He started with Stafford County in 2022.

**Public Information Office**

5204 Bernard Drive  
Roanoke, Virginia 24018  
(540) 772-2010



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Amy Whittaker  
Public Information Officer  
Cell: (540) 589-3089  
[Awhittaker@roanokecountyva.gov](mailto:Awhittaker@roanokecountyva.gov)

### Roanoke County Names Economic Development Specialist

**February 10, 2023** –Roanoke County Administrator Richard L. Caywood, P.E. and Economic Development Director Megan Baker are thrilled to announce the newest addition to the Economic Development Department, Karli Foster. Foster will begin her role as Economic Development Specialist on February 27.

"We are excited to continue to strengthen the department with Karli's experience in Public Administration and focus in economic development," said Baker. "We know she will bring a lot of knowledge and innovation to the department and will be a great asset in growing our economic development footprint."



Foster is coming from the Virginia State Police where she has been a Virginia Management Fellow, conducting research and analysis, evaluating the agency's website, and developing presentations. Foster has additional experience within local government including as an intern in, both, Franklin County Administrator's Office and Henry County Administrator's Office.

"I am truly looking forward to joining Roanoke County's Economic Development team," said Foster. "I am excited for the opportunity to work alongside some of the best to help Roanoke County reach new heights."

Foster earned a Bachelor of Science in Smart and Sustainable Cities from Virginia Tech and a Master of Public Administration from James Madison University. She has a number of affiliations, most notably in Virginia Economic Development Association and International Economic Development Council.



For Immediate Release

Contact: Cora Gnegy  
540-921-2079  
[cgnegy@gilescounty.org](mailto:cgnegy@gilescounty.org)

203 North Main Street  
Pearisburg, VA 24134  
Date: January 27, 2023

## Giles County's ACCE "All In" Program Focuses on Community Service and Volunteerism

*Giles County-* Giles County announced that 'ACCE All In' will be their new student community service portion of the Access to Community College Education program (ACCE). ACCE All In will take the place of the Muddy ACCE Race and will build on existing service projects to directly serve Giles County and its residents. This new ACCE initiative simply titled, "All In" allows students to give back to their community who so generously supports them. Students complete volunteer hours while also learning life skills and the importance of giving back to the community. Giles County Administrator, Chris McKlarney stated, "The Muddy ACCE Race was a tremendous success for the program and helped to build a brand around the ACCE program, but it required 3,000-5,000 volunteer man hours to construct the course every year. While it brought a lot of notoriety to the program and was a tremendous fund-raising tool, the only people really benefiting from all of that volunteer labor, were those running the race. We began to consider all the good we could do if we pour that much effort into our community every year. We also see an opportunity to connect kids with their community, to develop a sense of place and pride, to teach them some life skills, and to help them understand how important it is to volunteer in your community."

Projects currently planned or underway include handicapped ramp construction, homeless shelter improvements, senior citizen events and supply delivery, events to support foster parents, landscaping and maintenance projects on community facilities, and community cleanup efforts including ReNew the New. New project ideas are being accepted and vetted continuously. The New River Valley Agency on Aging and Habitat For Humanity are partnering with the ACCE All In program to construct much needed handicapped access ramps for individuals. Chris McKlarney added, "We also want to partner with other businesses, local governments, and community organizations to assist with their community improvement projects. Celanese's Global Impact program has provided thousands of volunteer hours to assist with the Muddy ACCE Race, and we hope to continue to partner with them as they do tremendous work throughout the community. The most important thing these kids can learn is what it means to be part of a community and how to contribute to it."

The ACCE program has provided tuition free education to more than 400 Giles County students since its' inception in 2016. Students are required to provide 100 hours of community service annually, maintain a 2.5 GPA, pass every class, and complete their area of study. Those not meeting the requirements are required to repay their scholarships in full. Just as the needs of our youth have evolved, the ACCE program is evolving to be a better version of itself while supporting the education of our young people and now having a farther-reaching impact on our community. More information can be found at [GilesACCEAllIn.com](http://GilesACCEAllIn.com) or on Facebook and Instagram @ACCEAllIn.

### About Giles County

Giles County, Virginia is located in [Southwest Virginia](#) approximately 40 minutes south of Roanoke and just west of Blacksburg and Virginia Tech. With easy access to the [New River](#), world class dining and lodging properties, and historical attractions for the entire family, Giles offers adventure in Virginia's Mountain Playground™. Come find your playground at our Visitors Center located at 203 N Main Street, Pearisburg, VA 24134 or find us online at [gilescounty.org](http://gilescounty.org) or by calling 540-921-2079.

###

For interviews or onsite visits, please contact Cora Gnegy, Tourism Director & Economic Development Coordinator. We can arrange and assist with any media needs. For more information about planning your visit to Giles County or about activities and events, please visit [www.gilescounty.org](http://www.gilescounty.org) or contact us at [tourism@gilescounty.org](mailto:tourism@gilescounty.org).

Giles County Tourism & Economic Development  
[tourism@gilescounty.org](mailto:tourism@gilescounty.org)  
540-921-2079  
203 N. Main Street, Pearisburg, VA 24134







## Photos of Giles County's Access to Community College Education program (ACCE) "All In" Program







# SAVE the DATE

## VMCA 2023 Annual Conference

HARRISONBURG, VA

APRIL 19-21, 2023

TOGETHER TOWARD TOMORROW:

*FACING THE CHALLENGES*

(540) 564-0200 or [reservations@hotelmadison.com](mailto:reservations@hotelmadison.com) code: VMCA23



HOSTED BY REGION III

The City of Harrisonburg and Region III are pleased to host the 2023 Annual Conference of the Virginia Municipal Clerks Association on **April 19-21, 2023** in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The conference will be held at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Conference Center, in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. Contact the hotel directly using code VMCA23 for a rate of \$96 plus tax per night.

Contact Harrisonburg City Clerk Pam Ulmer ([Pamela.Ulmer@harrisonburgva.gov](mailto:Pamela.Ulmer@harrisonburgva.gov) (540) 432-7701) with questions.

Harrisonburg is a vibrant, modern, and diverse small metro community nestled in the heart of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. We have a serious passion for local food, as evidenced by Virginia's first culinary district in downtown Harrisonburg. We hope you will stroll downtown and check out our retailers, museums, breweries, and Cidery. Consider making plans to arrive before the conference and/or stay afterwards and delight in any number of artisan centers, historical sites, and of course shopping!



Building  
Capacity &  
Community

Agritourism  
Main Streets  
Trails

March  
28-29,  
2023

## All Aboard: Building Capacity and Community with Agritourism, Trails and Main Streets

Join Virginia's Agritourism Producers, Virginia Main Streets, and Virginia Trails for an educational conference on each area concentration and explore ways of partnership and working together.

**REGISTER TODAY!**





## Virginia Rural Leadership Institute

PRESENTED BY THE



Rural Center

Partnership of the Center for Rural Virginia and the Council for Rural Virginia

## Virginia Rural Leadership Institute Applications due in One Month!

The [Virginia Rural Leadership Institute \(VRLI\)](#) is an initiative put forward by the Virginia Rural Center. It is the first and only program in the Commonwealth that focuses entirely on retaining and attracting rural Virginians, by developing leaders who are innovative, responsible, civic minded and build strong regional communities. **Applications are due in one month - on March 2<sup>nd</sup>!**

VRLI not only invests in rural leadership - the program also has a proven return on investment for rural communities. A key component of the curriculum is the design of a Community Impact Project to be implemented after Graduation. The Community Impact Projects designed by the 2022 VRLI Cohort are already making an impact in their communities - [Learn more about the 2022 VRLI Alumni and their Community Impact Projects on our website!](#)

[APPLY HERE](#) | [LEARN MORE](#)  
[REFER/NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR VRLI](#)

Over the course of four sessions, Cohort Members will receive professional leadership and economic development training that equips community leaders with the skills they need to lead long-term economic advancement in their community and region. The program also seeks to increase cooperation, collaboration, and coordination across a broad array of organizations and sectors. The sessions for the 2023 VRLI Cohort are:

### Session 1 - Southside Virginia

Bee Hotel - Danville | May 18, 19 & 20

### Session 2 - Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck

St. Margaret's School - Tappahannock | June 28, 29 & 30 (Note Wednesday - Friday)

### Session 3 - Southwest Virginia

Western Front Hotel - St. Paul | September 7, 8 & 9

### Session 4 - Shenandoah Valley

Hotel 24 South - Staunton | November 2, 3 & 4

For more information about VRLI, please email: **Chandler Vaughan** | Policy and Leadership Adviser | Virginia Rural Center | Virginia Rural Leadership Institute | [VaRuralLeadership@cfvr.org](mailto:VaRuralLeadership@cfvr.org)



Hey folks,

Big news: there's \$1.7 billion on the table across two federal grants to buy or modernize buses, improve bus facilities, and support workforce development. Let's bring some dollars home to Virginia.

**The DOT is hosting two webinars this month to give you more information about how to submit a successful application.** On Feb. 16 at 1 pm, they're hosting a [general session](#) for all applicants. On Feb. 28 at 2 pm, the [webinar](#) will be specifically tailored to rural and Tribal applicants, with an open Q&A portion. If you need any type of accommodation for these webinars, you can email [ftalownobusnofo@dot.gov](mailto:ftalownobusnofo@dot.gov).

**If you are looking for a letter of support for your application, my office is eager and willing to help. Simply fill out our easy-to-use online request form [here](#).**

These funds could be tremendously impactful around Virginia. Funding can go towards buying or improving buses or bus stations, and it can also be used to train transportation workers. One of the grants also contains a special emphasis on low- or no-emission buses, so you can update your fleet with greener options. States, local and Tribal governments, and fixed-route bus operators are all able to apply.

The applications for this year's grants are **due on April 13, 2023**. If you can't make either webinar but are interested in learning more, I encourage you to [read more here](#) or review the [FAQ section](#). You can get started on your application for funding [here for the Bus Facilities grant](#) or [here for the Low- or No-Emissions grant](#).

I'm proud that this grant program has been massively increased thanks to the [bipartisan infrastructure law](#) that I negotiated. I look forward to continuing to pass laws that fund grants like these and then bringing that grant money home to Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark R. Warner'.



SCAN ME

# SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY

## PHOTO SPEED ENFORCEMENT

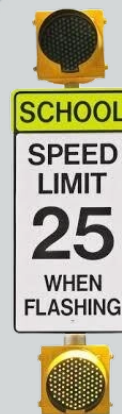


## LAW ENFORCEMENT BENEFITS

- \* Reduction in dangerous traffic stops
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- \* Reduction of high speed police pursuits
- \* No cost to agency or local government

## COMMUNITY SCHOOL BENEFITS

- \* Traffic Calming
- \* Additional tool for SRO's
- \* Increased safety for children
- \* Changes driver behavior



## PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Every effort is made to inform and educate the public through social media and press releases as well as a 30-day warning period.

## CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Single lane LIDAR leaves no questions with photo speed enforcement, and is 100% accurate in identifying the correct vehicle.

## SLOWER VEHICLES = SAFER SCHOOLS

With our proactive combination of technology and public information and education, most communities have a 92% reduction in speeding, making their schools a safer place to walk play and learn.



**TRUEBLUE**<sup>TM</sup>  
SPEED ENFORCEMENT | SCHOOL ZONE





## Claim your Scholarship to the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy

In these unprecedented times, there is one critical component to ensure the success of your county: leadership. The need for strong leadership skills is more important than ever as we adjust to shifting challenges in labor and economy.

In support of your county, you have access to the [NACo High Performance Leadership Academy](#), the **12-week, online leadership program** designed by the late General Colin Powell. It has been described by one graduate this way:

*"I can say hands-down it was the best leadership training I've ever experienced. Want to know Gen. Colin Powell's 13 keys to leadership? He tells you. Want to know how to communicate and negotiate? He offers his secrets. Want to know how to best-manage people? He drops stories that will give you confidence. And it's not just him. Executives from across the country are invited in as coaches, too. It's an incredible cast of experts."*

**Because of the pandemic and economic crisis we are facing, NACo is offering a \$1995 scholarship for the first enrollee from your county.** That means, when you or another leader at the county enrolls, the cost is not \$2,995; it is now \$1000.

If you have more than one person to enroll, we will extend significant discounts to them, too. We believe in you, your leadership and the leadership of your county employees. This High Performance Leadership Academy will make existing leaders better and your emerging (next generation) leaders ready to address the growing complexity of county business.

We are inviting you to enroll at least one leader into the course that begins in April 2023. Please help us invest in county frontline leaders who are making great sacrifices to serve our communities.

If you have any questions or to enroll someone in the program, please contact Treina Smith-Slatt at 503-878-7184 or [treinas@pdaleadership.com](mailto:treinas@pdaleadership.com).

# 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](#)



# *Save the Date* BROADBAND TOGETHER

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER  
TO CONNECT VIRGINIA

## *Save the Date* 2023

REGISTRATION AND RESERVATIONS OPEN FEBRUARY 1

Join us May 17-18 at the Hilton Short Pump in Richmond, Virginia for Broadband Together 2023. Once again we will explore topics that help us expand broadband throughout the Commonwealth.



**MAY**  
17-18

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



## BROADBAND TOGETHER

**SAVE THE DATE MAY 17-18**

**HILTON SHORT PUMP | RICHMOND, VA**  
12042 West Broad Street  
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Contact Kimberly Voxland for more information and for sponsorship opportunities | [kvoxland@vcta.com](mailto:kvoxland@vcta.com)





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## VIRGINIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CONFERENCE March 29 - March 31, 2023

Attending The 2023 VOSH Conference



## Attending The 2023 VOSH Conference

The VOSH conference will be held from March 29–31 at the Newport News Marriott at City Center. Those who previously registered will receive an email with the option to receive a refund or carry their registration over to the new date. Those interested in attending and who have not registered will have the opportunity to register soon.

Connect with the industry's latest ideas, products, and services to help you move another step closer to your occupational safety and health goals.

Interested in the OSHA 10? This year we are offering the OSHA 10 Hour in General Industry and Construction. These classes begin on Tuesday, November 29 and conclude Wednesday morning on November 30 with plenty of time to attend the 3-day VOSH conference. Interested in attending the conference only? You can attend 1 day only or the entire 3-day conference. Take your pick!

Registration is done completely online and will be available soon [at this link](#).

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



## Virginia Promise Partnership Poll Shows Overwhelming Support for Early Childhood Education



**Richmond** – Gaps in access to quality, affordable child care remains a top concern for Virginia voters leading up to the 2023 General Assembly session. In a newly released poll from the Virginia Promise Partnership, 79 percent of Virginia voters – including 72 percent of Republicans and 91 percent of Democrats – say it is extremely or very important for state and local elected officials to take action to ensure child care is more affordable and accessible to Virginia families.

Widespread lack of access to child care is hurting Virginia's workforce and economy. In responding to the survey, nearly half (48%) of parents said their job is *currently* being negatively impacted by a lack of access to child care, resulting in having to take time off of work (23%), reduce or change hours (18%), or quit their job (11%).

These results align with an August 2022 employer survey conducted by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, and the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. Seventy-six percent of employers surveyed stated that childcare availability impacted employee recruitment and retention, and 78 percent reported that employees frequently or occasionally miss work due to childcare issues.

The December 2022 poll found that 79 percent of those parents whose job (or family member's job) was impacted say they would fully rejoin the workforce if their household had access to quality, affordable child care. Moreover, 82 percent of respondents agreed that access to high-quality, affordable childcare enables more parents to join the workforce and support their families.

"Without access to quality, affordable child care, parents are forced to reduce or change their hours or drop out of the workforce altogether. As a result of child care challenges faced by their workforce, employers across the state are suffering from lost earnings, productivity, and revenue. To support our businesses – and get Virginians back to work – we need robust investments in our child care sector," said **Delegate Carrie Coyner (R-Chesterfield County)**.

Calls for action come as Virginia parents continue to struggle finding child care. More than half (52%) of parents polled say they or someone in their household has struggled to access quality, affordable child care, with 83 percent citing high costs as the primary reason for their struggle. Virginia parents paid an average price of \$15,000 per year for center-based infant care in 2021 according to Child Care Aware of Virginia, exceeding the average cost of in-state college tuition.

"Virginia parents are struggling to find and afford child care that meets their needs and preferences. Without access to quality early education, young children across the state aren't gaining the academic and social-emotional skills they need to thrive," said **Senator George Barker (D-Fairfax County)**. "With 44 percent of Virginia's kindergarteners having ended the 2021-2022 school year without these foundational skills, more must be done to ensure our families have access to high-quality early education."

The statewide survey of 600 Virginia voters, plus an additional oversample of 200 parents of young children, was conducted December 6 to 13, 2022 by The Tarrance Group on behalf of the Virginia Promise Partnership. The margin of error associated with a sample of this size is +/- 4.1%, and among all parents of children under 13 (base and oversample) is +/- 5.3%.

Learn more about the poll results [here](#).

*The [Virginia Promise Partnership](#) is a coalition of 30 leading organizations working together with a growing network of child care advocates to achieve our bold goal of ensuring all Virginia families have access to affordable, quality child care by 2030.*

## 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](mailto:piotto@vcu.edu).



## Understanding the Time Commitment

Armed with YOUR data, not opinions, cashVest allows you to see more, so you can do more with your cash.

Your time is valuable, your work is important, and because our team at three+one is composed of public officials too, we have perfected how to onboard your public entity to cashVest without further stretching your finite resources.

In fact, we utilize data files your internal teams are already producing. With an easy onboarding protocol that relies on non-intrusive, view-only banking data, cashVest is able to provide immediate and actionable strategies.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)





## 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](http://www.bgllic.net).

What doors can we open for you?

Watch the [Premier Partner Video](#)



# 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](#)

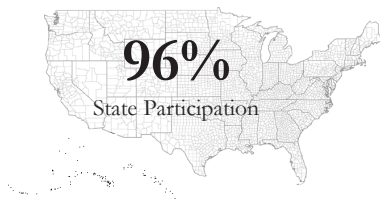


## Take Your Leadership Skills to the Next Level Through the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy

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](http://NACo.org/Skills).

For questions and assistance in enrolling, please contact Treina Smith-Slatt at [treinas@pdaleadership.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](#)

# VIRGINIA COUNTY SUPERVISORS' MANUAL

## EIGHTH EDITION



ORDER YOURS TODAY  
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## Virginia County Supervisors' Manual 8th Edition



The Eighth Edition of VACo's ***Virginia County Supervisors' Manual*** is in stock. The Supervisors' Manual is the number one resource on the framework of county government and the responsibilities of the county board.

**ORDER YOUR ALL-NEW VOLUME NOW**

### ORDER FORM

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Manuals are \$75 per copy. Number of Copies \_\_\_\_\_.

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Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email for credit card receipt: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed form to:**

Virginia Association of Counties  
1207 East Main Street, Suite 300  
Richmond, VA 23219-3627

**Or FAX credit card purchases to 804.788.0083**

Questions? Call 804.788.6652.





The Virginia Association of Counties accepts employment ads in a PDF file or a link to a job site. Please include information for applying, and a link to other important information. Please do not fax your employment ad. VACo members are not charged for placing an employment ad. **The cost is \$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](#).

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## VALUE OF VACo



### ADVOCACY

VACo's lobbying efforts have helped stem the tide of unfunded mandates and have saved Counties millions of dollars every year.



### EDUCATION

Our educational programs offer County leaders and staff opportunities to become more effective in their communities.



### MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Some of VACo's best moments are when members convene and work to improve communities all over the Commonwealth.



### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Our business development opportunities offer savings and innovative approaches to delivering services at the County level.

## VACo LEADERSHIP



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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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