

Local Government Day Brings Leaders Together in Advocacy



PICTURED: Three Presidents - **Dwayne Tuggle**, VAPDC First Vice President; **Ann Mallek**, VACo President; and **Chuckie Reid**, VML President.

More than 450 local elected officials and staff from all over the Commonwealth convened in Richmond on February 1 to advocate on behalf of their communities. Attendees received political analysis from Dr. Bob Holsworth, and VACo and VML legislative teams provided details on important bills and pressing issues. Local leaders then journeyed to the Capitol and met with their Delegates and Senators.

VACo President Ann Mallek urged those in attendance to make their presence known by sharing local government policy priorities with state legislators. Check out the [Legislative Day Bulletin](#).



2024 Virginia County Board Chairpersons' Institute

Thank you to all the County Chairs and Vice Chairs who participated in this year's [Chairpersons' Institute](#). We truly value your dedication to learning and sharing your experiences with fellow supervisors from all over the Commonwealth.

During the course of the educational event - more than 30 County Chairs and Vice Chairs engaged in sessions about the County Budget, Managing Meetings, Internal Work Relationships, Virginia County Government Structure, Risk Management, Media Relations, Leadership, and the Role of the Chair.

We look forward to seeing everyone again soon at the May 18 Supervisors' Forum. Also be on the lookout for the regional meetings schedule. We love to hear from our regional members about their legislative challenges and priorities.

Until next time - take care.

Capitol Contact

Virginia General Assembly

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FEBRUARY 2024

- February 8, 2024: [School Construction Financing Bills Head to House Floor – Contact Your Delegates Now!](#)
- February 7, 2024: **Capitol Contact ALERT!** [Oppose SB 697: Mandates Approval of Solar and Battery Storage](#)
- February 6, 2024: [School Construction Financing Bills Advance in House](#)
- February 1, 2024: [VACo Legislative Day Capitol Contact](#)

JANUARY 2024

- January 30, 2024: [Support Priority Budget Amendments](#)
- January 25, 2024: [VACo Opposes Bill to Make Residential a “By-Right” Use in Commercial and Industrial Districts](#)
- January 23, 2024: [School Construction Financing Bills Headed to the Senate Floor](#)
- January 22, 2024: **Capitol Contact ALERT!** [School Construction Financing Bill to be Heard Tomorrow – Call Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee Members to Support](#)
- January 18, 2024: [House Version of Line of Duty Act \(LODA\) Benefits for Campus and Private Police Bill Falters](#)
- January 16, 2024: [VACo Opposes Problematic FOIA Bill](#)
- January 11, 2024: [2024 General Assembly Convenes](#)
- January 10, 2024: [VACo Opposes Legislation Giving Local Land Use Authority to SCC for the Siting of Utility-Scale Solar, Wind, and Energy Storage Projects](#)

School Construction Financing Bills Head to House Floor – Contact Your Delegates Now!

On February 7, the House Finance Committee reported with a substitute [HB 805 \(Rasoul\)](#) on a bipartisan vote of 13-8. As previously [reported](#), this bill would permit any county or city to impose an additional local sales and use tax of up to 1 percent, if initiated by a resolution of the local governing body and approved by voters at a local referendum. The revenues of such a local tax would be used solely for capital projects for the construction or renovation of schools. Any tax imposed shall expire when the costs for capital projects are to be repaid and shall not be more than 20 years after the date of the resolution passed. Currently, this authority is limited to the qualifying localities of Charlotte, Gloucester, Halifax, Henry, Mecklenburg, Northampton, Patrick, and Pittsylvania Counties and the City of Danville.

HB 805 heads to the full [House of Delegates](#) where it could be heard as early as the afternoon of February 9.

ACTION REQUIRED – Contact your [Delegates](#) now to urge them to support HB 805.

HB 805 incorporates various “standalone” bills before the committee, including [HB 60 \(Wright\)](#) and [HB 193 \(Cole\)](#) for Prince Edward County and Stafford County respectively. The substitute also allows localities that choose to exercise this authority, if approved by voter referendum, to use the revenues from such authority for school capital debt payments.

The Senate version of the bill, [SB 14 \(McPike\)](#), passed the Senate on a bipartisan vote of 27-13 and now awaits assignment to committee in the House. Both versions of the bill will need to be conformed before passage.

VACo and numerous other local government and K-12 advocates have testified in favor of the bill. VACo thanks its members and those who advocated for the bill.

Please review this [video](#) and [one-pager](#) for information on the desperate need for more school construction financing options.

KEY POINTS

- Funding for school construction and renovation is one of the biggest concerns and responsibilities of local governments in the Commonwealth and has been almost solely a local responsibility for decades. The condition of the facilities in which children are educated has a direct impact on their ability to learn.
- Many localities face significant challenges in raising sufficient funds to undertake these projects. These challenges include over-reliance on real property taxes to generate revenue, which can have vastly different yields depending on the locality and disproportionately burden a subset of taxpayers within a jurisdiction. This raises concerns over equity and diversity of revenues.
- According to the [Commission on School Construction and Modernization](#), more than half of K-12 school buildings in Virginia are more than 50 years old. The amount of funding needed to replace these buildings is estimated to cost \$24.8 billion.
- This legislation was a unanimous recommendation by the Commission on School Construction and Modernization.
- This bill is about parity for local governments, giving all counties the same authority currently given to nine localities.
- This bill is **NOT** a tax increase. It would merely create a local option and another tool in the toolbox of local government, which would only be enacted by local referendum.

VACo Contact: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)



Visit Lancaster County and the Lancaster County Historic Courthouse

Location: 8265 Mary Ball Road / Courthouse Road

Built: 1860 – 1861

Style: Greek Revival

Architect: Edwin O Robinson

Contractor: Edwin O Robinson

Description: The building faces south and is a two story red colored brick and wood structure. The building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of Lancaster. The south front has a large Roman Doric portico with four white colored columns rising to a pediment with fanlight at the roof line. The central entrance is framed with white colored wood. On the hipped roof is a high white colored belfry. A narrow vestibule leads to a large courtroom. A “U” shaped addition was constructed on the north side in 1937. On the Courthouse Green, the original clerk’s office (1797), and the old jail (1870) still stand. Mary Ball Washington Museum, Incorporated uses these two buildings.

SOURCE: courthouses.co

Supervisors - this event is made for you!

Learn and network with colleagues from all over the Commonwealth.



Registration form coming soon



You are VAcorp

You are not merely a customer of VAcorp; you **are** VAcorp! We are both owned and governed by you – our members! VAcorp is created under 15.2-2700 of the local government code where all assets and surplus belong to the members. In addition, VAcorp is controlled by a Supervisory Board that is elected from and by our members. The Board determines and approves all major risk pool decisions, and as a voting member, you have a voice in the decisions that matter most.

Know Who You Are

Because you are VAcorp itself, we think it is critical that you understand exactly what VAcorp is and why it exists. Many simply think of us as their “insurance carrier” – writing customized coverages and handling claims when they occur – but we are so much more!

Our History

The Birth of Risk Pools

VAcorp is not an insurance company, but rather a Risk Pool.

Unstable economic conditions in the mid-1980s led to a commercial insurance crisis with ballooning premiums and widespread policy cancellations. As a result, Risk Pools began to form as an alternative to volatile traditional carriers, allowing Pool members to exert more control over their coverages and costs. Today, almost all public sector entities throughout the country get their coverage from Risk Pools rather than from commercial insurance companies.

VAcorp’s Origin

VAcorp was founded by a handful of Virginia counties in 1993. The ultimate goals of the program were to provide **cost stability**, the most **comprehensive coverages** possible, and **custom services** tailored specifically to the unique needs of our members. While we are pleased by how well our prices compare against the competition, our goal was never to guarantee the lowest cost. Instead, we promised to avoid the wild price swings that we’ve seen in other providers and provide stable pricing year after year, and that is exactly what we have delivered. VAcorp rates are actually **lower today in 2024 than they were in 1993!**

VAcorp’s Growth

Today, VAcorp is the **largest self-insurance risk pool** for public sector entities in the Commonwealth with a membership retention rate of better than 98%. Over the years, we have expanded beyond counties to include municipalities, school divisions, authorities, volunteer fire & rescue companies, state agencies, and non-profits funded by taxpayer dollars. **Over 560 members** have joined VAcorp, including 8 of the 10 largest counties, 8 of the 10 largest cities, and 8 of the 10 largest school divisions. We believe that the extraordinary success of the program can be attributed to our unwavering commitment to our founding principles.

VAcorp Exists to Serve You

VAcorp was created solely to serve Virginia's public sector entities, and from day one until now, we have never lost sight of that purpose. Because we answer only to our members, every decision is designed to benefit the group over the long haul.

VAcorp advocates for local government through a myriad of partnerships with affiliated associations including: VACo, VSBA, VLGMA, VASS, VFGOA, VASBO, LGA, Regional Jail Association, PDC, etc. While there is a cost associated with these partnerships, they add value to the group by aiding in our ability to lobby the General Assembly on behalf of our members.

You may not always see the immediate payoff, but every VAcorp decision is made in alignment with our vision to serve our members and promote the health and longevity of your program.

Take a look at a few of VAcorp's milestones over the years:

- **1993** - VAcorp is established with 12 founding members and less than \$700,000 in annual contribution.
- **1998** - VAcorp terminates service contract with claims administration vendor and hires staff to promote more control and efficiency.
- **1999** - VAcorp offers coverage to K-12 Public Schools across the Commonwealth.
- **2001** - VAcorp begins offering Public Officials Liability coverage in response to VARisk offering limited coverage.
- **2004** - VAcorp begins providing Environmental Liability coverage to all members at no additional cost. Even in 2024, VAcorp is the only provider offering this coverage with a low \$25,000 deductible. Other providers offer this coverage with a \$250,000 deductible.
- **2008** - VAcorp responded to the great recession by freezing rates and providing financial relief with over \$8,000,000 in dividends to members.
- **2011** - VAcorp introduces Line of Duty Act (LODA) coverage, creates the only LODA trust in the state, and absorbs existing LODA losses in response to the state pushing this cost to the local level. VAcorp paid all of its members 2010 past liability for over \$1,000,000.
- **2013** - VAcorp merges with the VSBA Self-Insurance Group and assumes their liabilities to prevent School Boards from being assessed. This action saves Local Governments in excess of \$5,000,000.
- **2013** - VAcorp becomes the first to offer Cyber Risk coverage in Virginia offering the broadest coverage available to local governments anywhere in the US.
- **2016** - VAcorp offers Student Accident and Catastrophic Accident coverage in order to fill VHSL coverage gaps.
- **2020** - VAcorp provides over \$5,000,000 in rate credits during the COVID pandemic to assist members.
- **2023** - VAcorp includes security risk management coverage (active shooter) for all members (coverage has been included for Schools since 2013).





**MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
CHOOSE AMERICORPS.**



VACo is proud to introduce Serve Virginia and AmeriCorps as new Associate Members!

[Please click here](#) to discover more about these amazing organizations, and how they can make a difference in your community.

Christopher Quintyne is New Assistant Loudoun County Administrator



Christopher Quintyne has been appointed as an Assistant Loudoun County Administrator effective February 15, 2024, Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet announced today. Quintyne, who was selected for the position after a nationwide search, comes to Loudoun from the city of Baltimore, where he most recently served as chief of staff to the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success.

"We had a very competitive pool of applicants for this position and Chris stood out as an exceptional leader with a wide range of relevant experience not only in local government, but at the state and national level as well," Hemstreet said.

Prior to his position in the Baltimore Mayor's Office, Quintyne served as a budget/management analyst in the city's Bureau of the Budget and Management Research. Quintyne's prior experience also includes working in the U.S. Congress, where he served as legislative counsel in the office of U.S. Representative Hakeem Jeffries and, prior to that, as a clerk in the U.S. Senate Office of the Parliamentarian. He also served as associate director of legislative affairs in the Washington, D.C. Mayor's Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs and as assistant town manager in Chevy Chase and Capitol Heights, Maryland.

Quintyne has a Bachelor of Arts degree from American University's School of Public Affairs and a dual law degree and master's in public administration from the Southern University Law Center.

In his new position in Loudoun, Quintyne will join the other members of the Office of the County Administrator in directing and supervising the day-to-day operations, with a focus on supporting the Board of Supervisors' meeting process and strategic initiatives, special project management, and the county's Legislative Program.

The [Office of the County Administrator](#) is the highest-level management office of the Loudoun County government and also serves as the Board of Supervisors' official liaison to the constitutional officers, the judiciary, and state and regional agencies.

Prince George County Announces Kristen Pudlow As New Deputy County Administrator



Prince George County is excited to announce the appointment of Kristen Pudlow as the new Deputy County Administrator effective February 1, 2024. As Deputy County Administrator, Pudlow will be responsible for supervising and managing different County Departments, collaborating with the County Administrator and department directors, and handling special projects. Additionally, she will represent the County on local and regional boards and commissions, assist with the preparation of the annual budget, and coordinate strategic goals. With over 20 years of experience in public service, both at the state and federal level, Pudlow brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her new role.

Pudlow's impressive career includes 15 years of active-duty military service, where she retired as a Medical Detachment First Sergeant in the Idaho Army National Guard. As a First Sergeant, she took charge of approximately 60 soldiers of all ranks and provided support to other military units. She demonstrated exemplary leadership skills and underwent extensive training at the United States Army Sergeant Major Academy, graduating in February 2023. During her military tenure, Pudlow also served as a Senior Human Resources Sergeant, overseeing multiple organizations within the state of Idaho, and as the State Education and Incentives Officer.

Throughout her career, Pudlow has served in various positions at the local government level. Most recently, she acted as an Emergency Planning contractor for the City of Nampa, Idaho, where she played a crucial role in the development of the City's Emergency Operations Plan. She also worked in the City of Nampa Mayor's Office and Emergency Management Team where she handled communication with citizens, state representatives, and community leaders.

Pudlow holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California, with a Certificate in Public Policy. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from Excelsior College in New York.

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Roanoke County Names Information Technology Director

February 6, 2024 –Deputy County Administrator Rebecca Owens is delighted to announce the appointment of Uma Marques as Information Technology Director. Marques will assume her new position on February 21, 2024.

“We are fortunate to attract an experienced leader like Uma to lead our Information Technology department,” said Owens. “Navigating the ever-changing landscape of IT with its emerging technologies is challenging. Uma’s expertise in the IT sector will undoubtedly enhance our team.”

Marques is coming to Roanoke County from the Virginia Smart Community Testbed in Stafford County, VA, where she served as the Director. The Testbed is a partnership between Stafford County, VA and the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation to bring innovation and economic development to our Commonwealth. Marques brings over 30 years of technology experience that spans for-profit, not-for-profit, entrepreneurial ventures, and local government.

“I feel very fortunate to join a great team at Roanoke County and do my part to support the delivery of quality services to its citizens,” said Marques. “Roanoke County has the vision, momentum, and support by leadership, making it an exciting time to make this transition. I think the best is yet to come, and I can't wait to get to work.”

Marques holds a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering from Anna University, India. She holds a master’s degree in Computer Engineering from Clemson University, as well as a master’s degree in Technology Management from George Mason University.

Marques follows Bill Hunter who recently retired after serving Roanoke County for over 20 years.



Chesterfield's Dr. Worsley Credentialed By International Local Government Management Organization



Chesterfield Deputy County Administrator Dr. James Worsley recently received the Credentialed Manager designation from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) – becoming one of over 1,300 local government management professionals currently credentialed through the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program.

ICMA's mission is to advance professional local government through leadership, management, innovation, ethics and by increasing the proficiency of appointed chief administrative officers, assistant administrators, and other employees who serve local governments and regional entities around the world.

To receive the prestigious ICMA credential, a member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government; have earned a degree, preferably in public administration or a related field; and demonstrated a commitment to high standards of integrity and to lifelong learning and professional development.

Highlights of Worsley's ICMA membership include participating in the 2023 Economic Mobility Opportunity Cohort and presenting Local Government Leadership for Economic Mobility at the 2023 ICMA Annual Conference in Austin, Texas.

Finance Update: Problematic Assessment Bill Continued to 2025, Meals Tax Bill Amended, and More

Assessments of affordable housing: [HB 1446 \(Coyner\)](#) proposed a significant policy change to the assessment of affordable housing properties. Although the bill was amended in subcommittee to limit its applicability to properties in certain federal programs, VACo continued to voice serious concerns about the breadth of the changes proposed and strongly encouraged this bill to be referred to the Housing Commission or other venue for a more thorough discussion. On Wednesday, the full House Finance Committee continued the bill to 2025 with a letter to the Housing Commission.

VACo and partner organizations had expressed a series of concerns with the bill.

- Under current law, assessors are required to use an income approach to value affordable housing in accordance with provisions of statute, which require the assessor to consider the contract rent and the impact of applicable rent restrictions; restrictions on the transfer of title or other restraints on alienation of the real property; and the actual operating expenses and expenditures and the impact of any such additional expenses or expenditures.
- The bill would require assessors to use ONLY the income approach for property operated as affordable housing as part of certain federal affordable housing programs. Strictly prescribing the use of one methodology does not comport with generally accepted appraisal practices, which allow some flexibility to address circumstances where the income approach is not appropriate (for example, when property is under construction).
- The bill did not provide solutions for situations in which the property owner fails to provide income and expense information to the assessor.
- The bill included extensive provisions prescribing the assessor's "understanding" of aspects of the affordable housing industry, which appeared to single out this type of property and elevate it over other types of property in the locality.
- The bill required the assessor to provide property owners prompt (within 10 days) access to materials used in arriving at the owner's assessment. Concerns were raised about the potential conflict with statutes mandating taxpayer confidentiality, as assessments may be prepared in part by referencing the confidential income and expense information provided by the owners of other like properties.
- The bill provided that if the assessor failed or refused to make appropriate efforts in accordance with generally accepted appraisal practices to obtain materials necessary

to arrive at the assessment of affordable rental housing, and the owner prevailed in its appeal to a board of review, board of equalization, or circuit court, the locality would be required to reimburse the owner for attorney fees and costs. VACo expressed concern that this provision would encourage frivolous tax challenges by requiring localities to pay attorney fees and costs for an owner's successful tax appeal without also requiring owners to pay the locality's attorney fees and costs for an unsuccessful challenge.

Meals taxes: Legislation introduced as a result of problems with meals tax collections in the City of Richmond has been substantially amended to limit its applicability and scope. [HB 1483 \(McQuinn\)](#) and [SB 294 \(DeSteph\)](#), as amended, apply only to cities with directors of finance. The bills require that any voluntary meals tax payment that is accompanied by a tax return or written instructions as to its application will be applied in accordance with the return or written instructions. In order to ensure that delinquent taxes do not "age out" under the statute of limitations, the legislation provides that in this situation, the applicable statute of limitations would be extended by a period of 12 months. The bills also make clear that the director of finance has the discretion to waive any penalties and interest when he or she determines that the best interest of the locality will be served by such waiver. VACo now has no position on the legislation since it no longer applies to counties. SB 294 was passed by indefinitely in Senate Finance and Appropriations this week; HB 1483 has been reported by the House Finance Committee with the addition of an emergency clause.

[HB 1535 \(Jones\)](#) was introduced at the request of the City of Richmond and permits any county, city, or town that requires local businesses to collect meals taxes to allow such businesses a commission for such service in the form of a deduction from the tax remitted (this commission is intended to compensate businesses for credit card processing fees and other administrative costs associated with collecting the taxes), without requiring that the business be up-to-date on its taxes to collect the commission. The commission would be capped at 5 percent. The bill was reported from House Finance and is headed to the House floor.

Transient occupancy taxes and accommodations intermediaries: [HB 1328 \(McNamara\)](#) and [HB 695 \(Ware\)](#) take different approaches to the collection of transient occupancy taxes from accommodations intermediaries. HB 1328 would centralize collections of transient occupancy taxes from accommodations intermediaries with the Department of Taxation, which would be tasked with contracting with a third-party provider to develop an electronic interface for accommodations intermediaries to make a single filing and payment for all localities. The electronic interface would allow for monthly distributions of taxes to the locality in which the taxes were collected. VACo opposes the bill and spoke against it in subcommittee, where it was recommended to be tabled. VACo has historically advocated for retaining local authority to administer local taxes.

[HB 695 \(Ware\)](#) would improve enforcement of compliance with tax collections and other

local regulations for short-term rentals. The bill requires accommodations providers and accommodations intermediaries to register with the Department of Taxation and provide information regarding the addresses of individual properties offered for short-term rental and amounts collected for room charges, fees, and taxes. The Department would provide access to this information to the Commissioners of the Revenue or other assessing officials, who would be able to share certain information with local zoning officials. VACo spoke in support of the measure in subcommittee; the bill has been reported and referred to the House Appropriations Committee. In order to remove the bill's fiscal impact in the upcoming biennium, its effective date was delayed until July 1, 2026.

Car tax: [HB 1308 \(Green\)](#), which would have functionally eliminated the car tax by removing the \$950 million cap on state reimbursement and requiring localities that receive reimbursement payments to reduce their tax rates to a fraction of a cent, was tabled in a subcommittee of House Finance last week. [SB 126 \(New Craig\)](#), which would have dedicated a portion of state General Fund surplus revenues in excess of \$250 million to car tax relief and increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000 the base value for a vehicle to qualify for personal property tax relief, was continued to 2025 in Senate Finance and Appropriations.

Grocery tax: [HB 540 \(McNamara\)](#) would eliminate the local portion of the grocery tax and replace the lost revenue with a supplemental school payment that would initially be based on each city's and county's estimated average share of sales tax distributions attributable to sales of food and essential personal hygiene products between February 2022 and December 2023, and then based on a pro rata share of sales tax collections (after July 1, 2026). VACo remains opposed to eliminating this local revenue source; while the bill would provide for replacement revenue, localities would be relying on the state to honor this commitment in the future. This bill was continued to 2025 in House Finance; a companion measure was passed by indefinitely in Senate Finance and Appropriations earlier in the session.

Tax bills and assessment notices: [HB 1004 \(Lovejoy\)](#), as introduced, would have required each local governing body to include with all real estate tax bills that are required to be sent by mail a document summarizing the major components of the locality's budget for the last two fiscal years. (Current Code language allows a local governing body to include information with real estate or personal property tax bills about how revenue is apportioned.) VACo expressed concerns to the patron about the administrative costs involved in such a requirement, pointing out that many homeowners' tax bills are sent to mortgage servicers, and that sending a separate notice to the homeowner would likely be necessary in order to accomplish the bill's purpose. The patron amended the bill to allow localities to provide such information on the assessment notice, at local option, and to permit the inclusion of a link to an online copy of the information. However, House Finance subcommittee members were still concerned about the benefits of such notice relative to the administrative costs involved and tabled the bill.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Bills Take Differing Approaches to Statutes Regarding Removal of Officers

[HB 1149 \(Cordoza\)](#) would make a significant change to the process of removing an elected officer or officer who has been appointed to fill an elective office. Under current law, the removal process for most elected officials begins with a petition to a circuit court signed by registered voters within the jurisdiction equating to ten percent of the total number of votes cast at the last election for the office that the officer holds. HB 1149 would create an alternative process that would allow the Governor, instead of the voters, to petition the court. **VACo opposes the measure**, as it would substitute one person's judgment for the will of a subset of the voters in a jurisdiction in initiating the removal process.

[HB 265 \(Simon\)](#) makes a set of narrower amendments to the removal statutes. The bill, which has been reported from House Privileges and Elections and is headed to the House floor, contains the following provisions:

- Requires that all signatures for the petition of registered voters to the circuit court that starts the removal process to be collected within 90 days.
- Provides that a petition for removal is not sufficient if the grounds or reasons stated for removal have been the basis for a previously-filed petition that was dismissed, or did not result in the officer's removal at trial.
- Stipulates that if the local Commonwealth's Attorney has a conflict of interest or is otherwise unavailable, the Chief Justice of the Commonwealth would appoint an alternate attorney to receive a copy of the petition and to represent the Commonwealth in proceedings.
- Prohibits discovery for removal proceedings.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Speed Camera Roundup

[SB 336 \(Roem\)](#) and [HB 521 \(Laufer\)](#) focus on the ability for localities to expand the use of photo speed monitoring within their jurisdiction but take different approaches in enabling the use of this public safety tool. [As previously reported](#), SB 336 would permit a state or local law enforcement agency to place and operate a photo speed monitoring device at a “high-risk intersection,” as defined in the bill, located within the locality. Before operation of the photo speed camera, the state or local law enforcement agency must certify that a traffic fatality occurred in the “high risk intersection” since January 1, 2014.

HB 521 would allow any locality to authorize, by ordinance, its local law enforcement agency to place and operate photo speed monitoring devices on “locality-designated highway segments.” The bill defines a “locality-designated highway segment,” as any highway or portion thereof designated in a local ordinance where photo speed monitoring devices may be placed and operated.

SB 336 and HB 521 would meet different fates as they made their way through the respective chambers.

VACo is pleased to report that SB 336 reported out of the Senate favorable by a vote of [22-18](#). SB 336 will appear in the House post crossover, and VACo is excited to testify in support of the bill. Unfortunately, while VACo testified in support of HB 521 during its subcommittee hearing, the bill was incorporated into [similar legislation](#) and subsequently carried over to the 2025 Session.

While SB 336 is not the only bill alive regarding photo speed monitoring devices, VACo believes it is the best available approach towards affording localities the ability to expand the use of these public safety tools. **VACo supports SB 336** as the legislation is well tailored to localities and increases the ability for local governments to respond to constituent concerns regarding safety on local roadways. VACo thanks Delegate Laufer for bringing HB 521 forward, and we look forward to reviewing the bill as it is heard during the 2025 Session. VACo thanks Senator Roem for sponsoring SB 336 and championing the issue. Crossover is set for February 14, and VACo will continue to provide updates surrounding SB 336 as they become available.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

Information on Opioid Settlement Bankruptcy Settlements: Mallinckrodt and Endo

I am writing on behalf of the Office of the Attorney General of Virginia to provide an update and reminder regarding two multistate opioid settlements that Virginia has joined. Specifically, this communication concerns: (1) the upcoming deadline for reporting to the National Opioid Abatement Trust II (“NOAT II”) on your opioid abatement uses of funds from the settlement with Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals; and (2) the ongoing bankruptcy proceedings and the process for voting on the bankruptcy reorganization plan for Endo Pharmaceuticals.

Mallinckrodt/NOAT II

By now, all Virginia localities should have received their distributions of funds from the Mallinckrodt settlement. These distributions were paid out in two separate disbursements from NOAT II, which is the trust that administers settlement distributions to state and local government subdivisions for the Mallinckrodt settlement, through its disbursement agent Wilmington Trust. The first disbursements were issued in early (January-February) 2023, and the second disbursements were issued in late (October-December) 2023.

You also should have received, at some time over the last few months, one or more communications from NOAT II reminding you that: (a) all Mallinckrodt settlement funds must be used for approved abatement purposes, and (b) **all recipients of Mallinckrodt settlement funds must report on their abatement uses of those funds, using the online reporting form that NOAT II has established.**

If you have not done so already, please access, complete, and submit the online reporting form as soon as possible. The form can be found at <https://reporting.noatii.com/>. If you do not yet have log-in credentials to access the form, there is a box on the webpage you can click to request credentials from NOAT II so you can access the form.

The form is relatively short and it appears to be rather user-friendly, so completing and submitting it should not take a long time. It does not require you to provide extensive or detailed descriptions of your abatement uses of Mallinckrodt settlement funds—rather, it simply asks you to answer a handful of questions and identify (using drop-down menus) the categories of approved strategies and uses on which you have spent Mallinckrodt settlement funds, and the amounts you have spent on those uses.

Please note that you must submit a reporting form **even if you have not yet spent any of the Mallinckrodt settlement funds you received.** You will see that question 6 on the form asks whether you have disbursed any NOAT II funds (i.e., Mallinckrodt settlement funds) during the reporting period (i.e., calendar year 2023), and question 7 asks for the dollar amount of NOAT II funds that were disbursed during the reporting period. If you did not spend any Mallinckrodt settlement funds in 2023, simply click “No” in response to question 6 and indicate “\$0.00” in response to question 7.

The deadline for local subdivisions to complete and submit this form is **February 16, 2024**. We want to stay in compliance with the terms of the settlement, so if you have not yet completed and submitted the form, please do so as soon as possible. If you have further questions or require assistance, you can contact NOAT II directly by e-mailing them at reporting@NOATII.com or calling 877-586-8188.

Endo

As you may recall, Endo Pharmaceuticals is currently in bankruptcy. The bankruptcy court has put Endo on track for a confirmation hearing on a bankruptcy reorganization plan, which will include the multistate opioid settlement with Endo. Endo and its noticing agent (Kroll, LLC) are now in the process of sending out ballots and solicitation packages for voting on the plan. The Commonwealth of Virginia intends to vote in favor of the plan, which will enable the Commonwealth to receive distributions pursuant to the settlement.

Some of you might have already received your ballot and solicitation package. However, we have been advised that Kroll had some problems sending out the ballots and solicitations, so it’s possible you might not have received your package yet. The current deadline to return your ballot and vote on the plan is **February 22, 2024**, so if you have not received your package and it does not arrive soon, please let me know.

Each locality will need to decide for itself whether to vote on the plan, and if so, how to vote. Please note, however, that the reorganization plan will discharge your claims (or potential claims) against Endo, regardless of whether or how you vote.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on these matters.

Thank you,

Tom Beshere

Thomas M. Beshere | Assistant Attorney General | Office of the Attorney General
(804) 823-6335 Office | TBeshere@oag.state.va.us | <http://www.ag.virginia.gov>



Virginia Rural Leadership Institute

PRESENTED BY THE



Rural Center

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

**Don't miss out on the opportunity
to join the movement in
Rural Virginia!**

**Apply to be a part of the
2024 Virginia Rural
Leadership Institute Cohort!**

APPLY BY MARCH 1!

**LEARN MORE &
APPLY TODAY AT:
[cfrv.org/vrli](https://www.cfrv.org/vrli)**



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 March 1.

For more information please visit <https://www.cfrv.org/vrli>



Join the Regional Elected Leaders Initiative Policy and Governance Orientation Program

Want to deepen your understanding of existing region-wide policies shaping NOVA's future? Enhance your governance skills? Effectively communicate with and serve your constituents?

This course is designed especially for YOU - one of NOVA's elected leaders. RELI wants you and our region to thrive!

[REGISTER NOW](#)

When: Seven consecutive Mondays **IN-PERSON**, 6-9pm, April 8 – May 20, 2024. Dinner and parking provided

Where: Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) Office, 3040 Williams Dr., Suite 200, Fairfax, VA

Registration Deadline: April 1, 2024

Tuition/Fees: \$100 per single session or \$475 for all seven sessions

Attendees should check with their locality or caucus to explore access to tuition funding

The 7-week Agenda:

April 8: NOVA Demographics; Roles & Authorities; Campaigning vs Governing

April 15: Policy: Environment; Energy; Water; Parks; Land Use

April 22: Policy: Transportation; Economic Development

April 29: Community Engagement; Constituent Communication; Public Comment; Working with Colleagues/ Staff

May 6: Policy: Housing; Education

May 13: Policy: Public Safety; Emergency Preparedness; Public Health; Human Services

May 20: Legislative Process; Executive Evaluation



Aetna® Statewide Wellness Campaign Brings Comprehensive Master Planning and Wellness Programming to Your County

Accessible world-class outdoor wellness infrastructure for communities and schools across Virginia is now being made possible thanks to the new sponsorship [announced last month](#) between [National Fitness Campaign](#) and [Aetna®](#). Here's what this means for your County:

- Ability to work with experts on comprehensive wellness master-planning services in alignment with County goals;
- Support with community consensus, to engage people to spend more time outdoors to improve physical and mental well-being;
- Invitation to qualify for grants from a pool of \$350,000 in funding that is now available for municipalities and schools across Virginia to build a wellness culture as part of the Aetna® campaign.



Most recently, the Town of Dumfries and Mayor Derrick Wood [celebrated the first Fitness Court® Studio in the state this past fall](#) after responding to community voices who were asking for enhanced outdoor recreation options in their community. Residents can now walk, jog or cycle to their free Fitness Court® Studio at Ginn Memorial Park. Dumfries joins Loudoun County, Pulaski County and a number of other municipalities as the campaign continues to grow across Virginia.

Grant funding and comprehensive planning services will be allocated to support municipalities, schools, and organizations across the state in joining the growing NFC wellness campaign, an award-winning initiative now celebrating its 500th Healthy Community in America.

VACo is pleased to share this opportunity with our members who may be interested in qualifying for funding and sponsorship. If you would like to learn more about the Aetna® wellness campaign in Virginia and how to qualify, please fill out the short contact form at nationalfitnesscampaign.com/virginia.

Briefings with NFC require attendance from the Park Director, Public Health Director and/or County Manager/Administrator to qualify for funding and participation in Virginia.

Let's build a healthier Virginia, together.

[Learn More About the Campaign in Virginia](#)



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

Counties affect the lives of residents every day. When our frontline staff are empowered as leaders, we deliver services more effectively. **The NACo Leadership Academy is a resource that connects your staff with practical leadership training.** The Academy uses an innovative, interactive online learning platform that combines real-time webinars, recorded sessions and small group discussions to deliver effective training without traveling away from the county – saving money and maximizing time.

Empowering county government professionals with fundamental, practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties and residents.

With a curriculum developed by the late General Colin Powell and public and private sector leaders, the NACo Leadership Academy gives students the opportunity to learn from world-class faculty. All content is guided by an expert facilitator.

NACo now offers several comprehensive leadership programs, providing a diverse range of fundamental skills and insights for aspiring leaders:

- NACo High Performance Leadership | 12-week online course
- NACo Cybersecurity Leadership | 12-week online course
- NACo Leading On Purpose Leadership | 8-week online course
- NACo Leading In Analytics Leadership | 8-week online course

Find out more at [NACo.org/Skills](https://www.naco.org/Skills) or reach out to Kelly Shearer to register today!



Kelly Shearer
kshearer@pdaleadership.com
D: 971-353-4428

Kelly joined the Professional Development Academy in 2022 as a Director of Enrollment. She collaborates closely with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to support leadership training resources for local government teams as they work to better serve their communities. Her background is specifically in organizational leadership, and as a Virginia native, she's familiar with the unique challenges and opportunities faced by the region's leaders today. In her free time, Kelly loves spending time with her husband and three boys in their Fredericksburg home, traveling when possible--especially to Virginia's beautiful wineries, and winding down with a good book.

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 10,000 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.

Angel Mateo, Security Analyst, Spotsylvania County
Art Johnne, Data Developer, Chesterfield County
Benjamin Goo, Security Administrator, Chesterfield County
Brea Hopkins, Director of Planning & GIS Services, Montgomery County
Brian Hamilton, Economic Development Director, Montgomery County
Jill Parker, Sr. Clinical Services CM/Therapist III, Prince William County
Kristin Alexander, Building Code Enforcement Branch Chief/Manager, Prince William County
Laura Fallon, Assistant Real Estate Assessments Manager, Prince William County
Maureen Anderson, Probation/Pretrial Manager, Prince William County
Nathan Zilke, First Lieutenant, Loudoun County
Renee Wentworth, Security Engineer, Chesterfield County
Thomas Gilligan, Captain, Loudoun County
Travis Wolfe, IT Manager, King William County

Start the new year off with Leadership Development!

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the High Performance Leadership Academy with us - each county can enroll 10 leaders for \$15,000 in 2024. Our next cohorts start is April 22nd.

[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 and residents.

Challenges We Help Finance Officers Solve



Does your finance office have all the support it needs to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of your taxpayers? – The answer to that is probably ‘no’.

And at three+one we’re aware that this is not a unique situation to you and your colleagues. But what if I told you that three+one is much more than a liquidity management solution?; that we are, in fact, a true partner invested in you as much as you are your cash.

<https://threeplusone.us/2024/01/02/challenges-we-help-finance-officers-solve/>



Get to know one of VACo's Premier Partners – Aetna

VACo Premier Partner Aetna believes healthier happens together. Aetna is a leading health care company that takes a holistic approach in partnering with public sector employees and their families to achieve their best health.

Dean Lynch, VACo Executive Director, and Marcus Duckworth, VP, Client Management of Aetna, explore key health benefits in areas important to the public sector.

Part 1 | [Retiree Savings Through Medicare Advantage](#)

Part 2 | [Mental Health Support](#)

Part 3 | [Custom Benefits Solutions for Government Employers](#)

Part 4 | [Community Health](#)

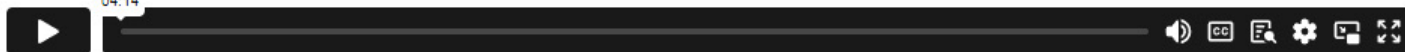
TRUEBLUE PHOTO SPEED ENFORCEMENT

5 THINGS

YOU SHOULD KNOW



04:14



True Blue Photo Speed Enforcement – 5 Things You Should Know

Answers to Frequent Questions About Blue Line Solutions' Photo Speed Enforcement Program

<https://vimeo.com/860454886>

For more information, contact Greg Hogston | Sales Manager – Virginia
ghogston@bluelinesolutions.org | 276-759-8064



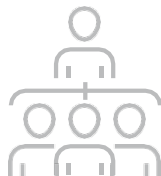
Counties affect the lives of residents every day. When our frontline staff are empowered as leaders, we deliver services more effectively. **The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is a resource that connects your staff with practical leadership training.** HPLA uses an innovative, interactive online learning platform that combines real-time webinars, recorded sessions and small group discussions to deliver effective training without traveling away from the county – saving money and maximizing time.

THE ACADEMY FOCUSES ON FIVE ESSENTIAL SKILLS:



LEAD:

Engage teams and stakeholders to foster positive climates and exceed common expectations



ORGANIZE:

Plan, lead and execute organizational change more effectively and consistently



COLLABORATE:

Establish alignment and strong partnerships through building stronger relationships



DELIVER:

Measure projects and processes to deliver results aligned with county and community priorities



COMMUNICATE:

Create clarity, confidence, and community

The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy empowers frontline county government professionals with fundamental, practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties and residents.

NACo Member County cost per enrollee begins at \$1,995.

Additional discounts may apply. Contact us for more details.

With a curriculum developed by the late *General Colin Powell* and public and private sector leaders, NACo High Performance Leadership Academy gives students the opportunity to learn from world-class faculty. All content is guided by an expert facilitator.

Find out more at NACo.org/Skills





OneDigital is thrilled to be one of VACo's newest Premier Partners.

What truly distinguishes OneDigital as a leading **insurance, financial services, and HR consulting advisory firm** is our holistic approach to creating environments that enable people to do their best work and live their best lives. OneDigital understands that counties face rising insurance costs while still struggling to attract/retain talent. This is why we use proprietary software to provide accurate and predictable insurance consulting projections for those core benefits that impact your bottom line and incorporate solutions to improve retention. While voluntary benefits may be the focus of other providers, OneDigital has the expertise in alternative funding strategies, best-in-class analytics, and an in-house actuarial team.

OneDigital has a track record of providing cost-saving solutions to counties. This has been achieved through creative funding strategies, rate holds, and exclusive partnerships with various carriers. One of these exclusive partnerships is through VACORP and Anthem Life. OneDigital is responsible for the inception of the Virginia Local Disability Program (VLDP) which is through the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). Our team of fierce advocates negotiated a 5-year locked rate, including short-term and long-term disability benefits. Your division may already work with us in this capacity, as we currently serve over 270 public sector entities in the VLDP program.



OUR SOLUTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS

MANAGE

- Talent Planning
- Recruiting
- Development & Training

SUPPORT

- Benefits & Compensation
- Total Wellbeing
- Productivity
- Retirement Readiness

ENGAGE

- Culture
- Education & Fiduciary
- Literacy
- Communications

PROTECT

- Compliance
- Workplace Safety
- Operational Continuity
- Cyber Security



Sarah Anne Struckmann
Business Development Executive
 sarah.struckmann@onedigital.com
 434-987-2240



At OneDigital, we harness the power of one to solve complex challenges for businesses and people. Scan the code to the left to watch the video and learn more.



SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY PHOTO SPEED ENFORCEMENT

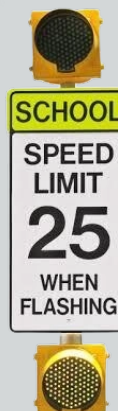


LAW ENFORCEMENT BENEFITS

- * Reduction in dangerous traffic stops
- * Reassignment of Officers to needed areas
- * 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.



VIRGINIA COUNTY
SUPERVISORS' MANUAL
EIGHTH EDITION

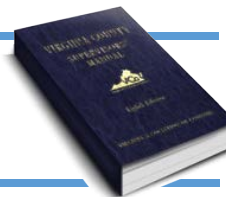


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\$75 EACH

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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

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 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](mailto:Valerie.Russell).

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[PERMIT TECHNICIAN \(I OR II\)](#) | City of Alexandria | Posted February 7

[PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE INSPECTOR \(I, II, OR III\)](#) | City of Alexandria | Posted February 7

[DEPUTY REGISTRAR](#) | Montgomery County | Posted February 7

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[PARK GROUND MAINTENANCE LABORER](#) | City of Harrisonburg | Posted February 6

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[RESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR \(NORTH ARCH\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted February 6

[LEAD RESIDENTIAL AIDE \(GALLOWAY\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted February 6

[RESIDENTIAL AIDE \(PRESTONWOOD GROUP HOME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted February 6

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[FIRE PROTECTION FIELD SUPERVISOR](#) | Loudoun County | Posted February 6

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[REAL ESTATE APPRAISER I/II/III](#) | James City County | Posted February 2

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[RECREATION LEADER I/II \(SUMMER CAMP – TEENS\)](#) | James City County | Posted February 2

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[FAMILY SERVICES ASSISTANT I/II/III](#) | James City County | Posted February 2

[HOUSING SPECIALIST I/II/III](#) | James City County | Posted February 2

[LEAD LIFEGUARD](#) | James City County | Posted February 2

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[PURCHASING AGENT](#) | Isle of Wight County | Posted February 2

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[MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY](#)[SERVICES SUPERVISOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted February 2[SENIOR CLINICIAN](#) |

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Montgomery County | Posted January 18

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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.

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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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Richmond, VA 23219-3627
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County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

