

## VACo Analysis of House and Senate Budget Proposals



On Thursday, February 22, the full House and Senate passed their respective budgets, marking another milestone in the process of adopting a new biennium budget and revisions to the FY 2024 budget. The House voted to approve its version of the budget 75-24, while the Senate's version cleared the chamber 38-2. By February 28, both budgets, as well as any bills affecting state revenues, must be placed in conference.

Both budgets largely reject the tax policy proposals embedded in the introduced budget, with one significant exception. Both the House and Senate budgets adopted the introduced budget's proposed expansion of the sales tax base to incorporate digital personal property and services, with both House Appropriations Committee Chair Luke Torian and Senate Finance and Appropriations Chair Louise Lucas characterizing this action as a matter of fairness and modernization of the state's sales tax structure to address shifting patterns of consumption. The Senate's budget modifies the sales tax base expansion to capture business-to-business transactions of digital property and services as well.

Both budgets invest heavily in K-12 education and employee compensation. Chairman Torian explained in his "Budget Sunday" remarks that the House budget focuses on six priorities outlined earlier in the session: employee compensation, college affordability, reaching the national average for teacher pay and advancing equity in school funding, addressing mental health and substance use disorder and the needs of the DD waiver population, environmental protection, and addressing the capital maintenance backlog and construction needs. In her remarks on Sunday, Chair Lucas underscored her commitment to K-12 education and public safety.

Following is an overview of key elements of the two budgets of importance to local governments. VACo appreciates members' advocacy for budget requests submitted by VACo and partner organizations and will continue to advocate for local government priorities as the budget process continues.

**K-12 Education: Restoration of Hold-Harmless for Elimination of State Portion of Grocery Tax**

- **Senate:** Provides \$121.3 million in FY 2025 and \$121.8 million in FY 2026 to restore the hold-harmless payments provided in lieu of the distribution to K-12 from the state portion of the sales and use tax on groceries. When the state portion of the “grocery tax” was eliminated in 2022, statutory language required these payments to be made to compensate school divisions for the lost revenue, but the Governor’s introduced budget failed to include this funding. ([Item 125 #3s](#))

**K-12 Education: Support Cap**

- **Senate:** Includes \$198.6 million in FY 2025 and \$202 million in FY 2026 to eliminate the cap on recognition of support positions in the Standards of Quality. ([Item 125 #1s](#))

**K-12 Education: Teacher Retirement**

- **House and Senate:** Eliminate proposed \$350 million deposit to the teacher retirement plan (\$115 million GF and \$235 million from the Literary Fund). House redirects the one-time VRS payment in FY 2025 to offset teacher retirement contributions by \$117.5 million GF each year. ([Item 125 #7h](#), [Item 125 #8h](#), [Item 125 #19s](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$150 million GF in each year to reverse the proposed use of the Literary Fund for teacher retirement. ([Item 125 #7s](#))

**K-12 Education: School Capital**

- **Senate:** Authorizes the Board of Education to make up to \$200 million per year in school construction loans from the Literary Fund. ([Item 125 #22s](#))

**K-12 Education: At-Risk Add-On**

- **House:** Provides \$196.4 million in FY 2025 and \$188.2 million in FY 2026 to consolidate the SOQ Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation and At-Risk Add-On incentive funding into a single SOQ At-Risk Add-On program; use federal Identified Student Percentage rates to estimate the number of at-risk students rather than free lunch rates; provide a base 6 percent add-on to basic aid funding per at-risk student; and provide an additional add-on ranging from 0 to 42.5 percent, based on the relative concentration of at-risk students in the school division. ([Item 125 #12h](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$88 million GF and \$25 million from Lottery proceeds in FY 2025 and \$112.6 million GF in FY 2026 to increase the maximum percentage for the At-Risk Add-On from 36 to 45.2 percent. ([Item 125 #5s](#))
- **Senate:** Makes additional state payments of \$67.5 million in FY 2025 and \$102.3 million in FY 2026 in additional support for at-risk students (to be disbursed to support the state share of \$232.47 in FY 2025 and \$353.46 in FY 2026, based on estimated unadjusted enrollment of the average of the Identified Student Percentage and the free lunch rate, plus the number of students enrolled in the Virginia Preschool Initiative). ([Item 125 #6s](#))

**K-12 Education: English Learners**

- **House:** Provides \$51.3 million in FY 2025 and \$43.7 million in FY 2026 for the state's share of positions to meet staffing ratios based on student proficiency level, in accordance with legislation under consideration this session. ([Item 125 #13h](#))
- **Senate:** Funds the state share of positions needed to increase the staffing ratio from 20 to 22 instructors per 1000 students (\$12.8 million in FY 2025 and \$13.9 million in FY 2026). ([Item 125 #4s](#))

**K-12 Education: School-Based Mental Health**

- **House:** Directs the Department of Education to work with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) on a plan for a new program to deliver flexible mental health funds to school divisions. ([Item 117 #1h](#))
- **House and Senate:** Eliminate proposed \$7.4 million per year in the introduced budget for a statewide contract for mental health services to be provided via telehealth for students in grades six to 12 and a proposed chief school mental health officer position. House budget directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to enter into a statewide contract with one or more telehealth providers for mental health services and authorizes school divisions to purchase services through this contract. ([Item 117 #5h](#), [Item 117 #1s](#), [Item 117 #2s](#))
- **House:** Specifies that the \$15 million per year in the introduced budget for technical assistance to school divisions for the implementation and expansion of school-based mental health services is to be used to provide grants to contract with federally qualified health centers or other health care organizations to establish school-based health clinics that would provide mental health services and primary medical care to students and their families, as well as school staff. ([Item 295 #7h](#))

**K-12: Additional Items**

- **House:** Provides an additional \$5.7 million in FY 2025 and \$3.7 million in FY 2026 for initiatives related to the Virginia Literacy Act (such as development of a literacy screening system, literacy coaching, technical assistance, and professional development). ([Item 117 #4h](#))
- **House:** Provides \$2.2 million per year for professional development for the provision of specially-designed instruction in inclusive settings, as well as the establishment of special education family support centers in eight distinct regions of the Commonwealth. ([Item 117 #9h](#))
- **House and Senate:** House provides \$5 million per year for the Community Schools Development and Implementation Planning Grant program; Senate provides \$1 million in FY 2025 for grants to school divisions to support community schools initiatives. ([Item 124 #2h](#) and [Item 124 #9s](#))
- **House and Senate:** Eliminate the proposed new funding for College Partnership Laboratory Schools (\$30 million per year). ([Item 125 #1h](#) and [Item 125 #20s](#)) In the caboose bill, the

House captures \$80 million from the College Partnership Laboratory School Fund, maintaining \$20 million in the Fund; the Senate transfers \$89 million in unobligated balances to the general fund. ([Item 137 #1h](#) and [Item 3-1.01 #1s](#))

- **House and Senate:** Capture approximately \$1.8 million per year by retaining the cap on supplemental basic aid payments. ([Item 125 #2h](#) and [Item 125 #14s](#))
- **House and Senate:** Eliminate proposed Diploma Plus program and capture \$20 million per year. ([Item 125 #6h](#) and [Item 125 #11s](#))
- **House:** Provides an additional \$950,000 per year in additional supplemental support for Accomack County and Northampton County. **Senate:** Eliminates proposed \$880,000 per year in supplemental support. ([Item 125 #11h](#) and [Item 125 #13s](#))
- **House:** Advances the deadline for school divisions to obligate ARPA-SLRF ventilation improvement grants from December 31, 2024, to July 1, 2024, and directs any remaining unobligated amounts to be used for the Child Care Subsidy Program. ([Item 472 #1h](#))
- **Senate:** Reflects \$62.2 million in FY 2025 and \$155.8 million in FY 2026 from the Senate's proposed expansion of the sales and use tax base to digital goods and services in business-to-business transactions. ([Item 125 #15s](#))

### **Compensation: Instructional and Support Positions**

- **House:** Eliminates proposed 1 percent bonus in FY 2025 and instead proposes the state's share of a 3.375 percent salary increase in each year. The state share is pro-rated for divisions providing smaller increases; however, to draw down the funds in FY 2025, a school division must provide at least an average 2 percent salary increase, and to draw down the funds in FY 2026, a school division must have provided at least an average 2 percent increase in FY 2025, as well as an additional average 2 percent increase in FY 2026. (The Governor had proposed the state's share of a 1 percent bonus payment, effective July 1, 2024, and the state's share of a 2 percent salary increase, effective July 1, 2025.) ([Item 125 #3h](#) and [Item 125 #10h](#))
- **Senate:** Eliminates proposed bonus and instead provides the state share of a 3 percent increase, effective October 1, 2024, as well as the state share of an additional 3 percent increase, effective July 1, 2025. The state share will be pro-rated for school divisions providing smaller increases; however, a school division must provide at least an average salary increase of 1.5 percent in order to access the funds. (\$142.7 million in FY 2025 and \$259.2 million in FY 2026) ([Item 125 #2s](#) and [Item 125 #21s](#))
- **Senate:** Modifies proposed language in introduced budget regarding workgroup on teacher compensation to direct a review of a 2023 report and the development of implementation options that include best practices of teacher compensation models, strategies used in other states, and funding methods to improve teacher compensation ([Item 116 #1s](#))





## Visit Lee County and the Lee County Historic Courthouse

**Location:** 5 Main Street / Church Street

**Built:** 1933 – 1934

**Style:** Neo-Classical

**Architect:** D R Beeson

**Contractor:** V L Nicholson & Company of Tennessee

**Description:** The building faces north and is a two story buff colored brick and concrete structure. The building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of Jonesville. The north front has a portico with four columns rising to a wide header at the roof line. There is a small portico on the east side. A wide belt runs below the roof line with a cornice. The roof line is flat. The building houses the County Circuit Court, Count General District Court and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of the 30th Judicial Circuit. An addition was constructed on the west side in 1978. The addition descends the slope to the west. The architect was Beeson, Lusk & Jones and the contractor was Bob Smith Construction Company.

**History:** The county was created in 1792 and Jonesville was selected as the county seat. The first courthouse was erected on the lands of Frederick Jones in Jonesville in 1794. The courthouse was burned in 1863 during the Civil War. The second courthouse was a two story structure built in 1865. The courthouse was destroyed by fire on February 13, 1933. The third and present courthouse was constructed in 1933 to 1934.

**SOURCE:** [courthouses.co](http://courthouses.co)

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## 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).







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### **Questions?**

Contact Steve Mulroy  
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News Release 2024-11



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### **York County Board of Supervisors Appoints Mark Bellamy as County Administrator**

February 23, 2024

At the Board of Supervisors' meeting on Tuesday, February 20, the Board members appointed Mark Bellamy as County Administrator to manage and oversee the day-to-day operations of the County.

"Mark has worked for York County for over 20 years—first as a division manager, then a department director, and most recently, as Deputy County Administrator," said Board Chairman Stephen Roane. "His knowledge of our community and organization will benefit our citizens by improving services and maintaining our strong and sound financial position. The Board and I are delighted to have Mark at the helm."

"I appreciate the faith the Board of Supervisors has in me," stated Bellamy. "I look forward to continuing to work with the Board and our excellent staff in furthering the community and the Board's goals."

Bellamy holds a Master's of Business Administration from Averett University and a Bachelor's degree in Business from Virginia Wesleyan University. In 2016, he graduated from the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service Senior Executive Institute, and is a past-president of the Grafton Kiwanis Club.

Originally from Missouri, Mark and his wife, Robin, a lifelong Hampton Roads resident, have lived on the Peninsula for the last 40 years, the last 13 of which have been in York County. They have two children and three grandchildren.



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### FEBRUARY 2024

- February 22, 2024: [School Construction Financing Bills Advance Through Committees, Headed Back to Senate and House Floors!](#)
- February 20, 2024: [“Money Committees” Report Budgets](#)
- February 15, 2024: [JLARC Recommendation Legislation Consolidated and Clears Crossover](#)
- February 13, 2024: [School Construction Financing Bill Passes House of Delegates](#)
- 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 Falter](#)
- 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 Advance Through Committees, Headed Back to Senate and House Floors!

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On Wednesday, February 21, the House Finance Committee reported with a substitute [SB 14 \(McPike\)](#) 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.

The substitute incorporates [SB 146 \(Mulchi\)](#), which was a “standalone” bill for Prince Edward County. 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 and clarifies eligible uses for capital projects. Lastly, the substitute clarifies a revenue sharing process for the two towns in Virginia that operate their own school divisions, West Point and Colonial Beach. If any county that contains a qualifying town (King William County and Westmoreland County) approves this authority by voter referendum, the county shall pay into the qualifying town’s treasury the proper proportionate revenues received by such county from levying the tax authorized by this section in the ratio that the school age population of such town bears to the school age population of the entire county. Such payments to a qualifying town shall be made as soon as practicable after receipt of funds by the county each month pursuant to subdivision 1. A qualifying town receiving revenues pursuant to this subdivision shall use such revenues solely for school capital projects as provided in this section for counties and cities.

The bill now heads to the full [House of Delegates](#) where it could be heard on first reading as early as tomorrow.

[HB 805 \(Rasoul\)](#) was conformed to SB 14 in the version that left the Senate and reported by Senate Finance and Appropriations on a bipartisan vote of 11-3. It will be heard on second reading by the full [Senate](#) today. In his testimony to the House Finance Committee, Senator McPike signaled his intention to conform HB 805 to SB 14 in its current form, thus negating the need for the bills to go to a committee of conference.

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 contact your delegates and senators to reaffirm your positive support for this legislation. If this legislation passes, it will make its way to Governor Youngkin.

**ACTION REQUIRED** – Call your [Delegates](#) and [Senators](#) now to urge them to support HB 805.

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](#)



## JLARC Recommendation Legislation Consolidated and Clears Crossover

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Following the eye-opening report on Virginia's K-12 Funding Formula released in July 2023 by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission ([JLARC](#)), several pieces of legislation were introduced by legislators seeking to codify many of the report's recommendations. From the Senate, most of the bills originating in that chamber related to the JLARC report have been incorporated into one "omnibus" legislative vehicle, [SB 105 \(Lucas\)](#), which passed the Senate unanimously. In the House, several standalone bills have crossed over to the Senate. **VACo supports and has testified** on any legislative effort that provides additional state support for K-12 education and requires the state to fund their share of the true cost of education.

SB 105 incorporates [SB 127 \(VanValkenburg\)](#), [SB 128 \(VanValkenburg\)](#), [SB 187 \(Subramanyam\)](#), [SB 227 \(Hashmi\)](#), [SB 228 \(Hashmi\)](#), and [SB 609 \(Aird\)](#). The bill in its current form codifies the At-Risk Add-On Program that provides additional state funding for high-poverty schools with a maximum of up to 36% more funding per student based on the concentration of poverty in an eligible school. The bill provides changes to the teacher incentive reward programs and eligibility.

[SB 272 \(Hashmi\)](#), which passed the Senate on a unanimous vote, would require the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to develop and implement a data collection process related to English language learner expenditures and student English proficiency levels and identify other options to support English language learners. The Department shall provide a status report to the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding on its implementation and data collection efforts by September 1, 2024.

Regarding bills from the House, [HB 624 \(Rasoul\)](#) passed on a vote of 85-14 and codifies the At-Risk Add-On Program in manner similar to SB 105, as well as requires state funding, pursuant

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to the general appropriation act to support ratios of instructional positions to English language learner students, based on each student's English proficiency level, as established in the general appropriation act, among other provisions. [HB 825 \(Cousins\)](#), which passed the House on a vote of 55-44, also codifies the At-Risk Add-On Program in manner similar to HB 624, among other provisions. [HB 1247 \(Maldonado\)](#) passed the House on a vote of 58-41 and would implement the instructional positions for English language learners in a manner identical to HB 624.

[HB 360 \(Simonds\)](#) passed the House on a unanimous vote and would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to biennially calculate, compare, and report to the Board of Education and the General Assembly the differences between the fixed staffing ratios in the Standards of Quality funding formula and the actual staffing ratios in local school divisions in the Commonwealth so that such fixed staffing ratios can be regularly adjusted as needed to more closely approximate such actual staffing ratios.

[HJ 67 \(Simonds\)](#) passed the House on a unanimous block vote. The bill would establish a joint committee consisting of members of the House Education Committee and members of the Senate Education and Health Committee to study fair school funding reform by, among other things, identifying and commissioning an independent firm with certain qualifications to produce an adequacy cost study on Virginia's K-12 public schools and utilizing the findings from such study, the recommendations from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission in its July 2023 report, "Virginia's K-12 Funding Formula," and any stakeholder input and feedback received by the joint committee to produce and submit to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations by November 1, 2025, a set of recommendations on transitioning Virginia's K-12 funding system to one that is student need-based.

As previously [reported](#), JLARC's [findings](#) confirm what many in local government already know to be true:

- The State Standards of Quality (SOQ) formula yields substantially less funding than actual local school division spending and benchmarks.
- Total statewide staffing needs calculated by SOQ formula are less than actual employment levels.
- The SOQ formula systematically underestimates division compensation costs.
- The formula still uses Great Recession-era cost reduction measures.
- The formula does not adequately account for higher needs students.
- The formula does not adequately account for local labor costs, among other findings.

VACo will continue to engage and report on this legislation as it progresses through the General Assembly. Many of the provisions contained in the legislation will be dependent upon budget language.

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

## Photo Speed Enforcement Bill Amended

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**[SB 336 \(Roem\)](#)** as introduced, 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.

SB 336 reported out of the Senate by a vote of **[22-18](#)**. During the bills hearing in the House Transportation Committee’s Innovations Subcommittee, the bill was amended. The **[amended version](#)** contains much of the same language as the introduced but makes the bill narrower in its application. The current version of SB 336 defines a “high-risk intersection segment,” as, “... any highway or portion thereof located not more than 1,000 feet from the limits of the property of a school...,” and a traffic fatality must have occurred since January 1, 2014. The amended version adds language stating that any civil penalties collected in the high-risk intersection segment shall be paid to the Commonwealth Transportation Board and used for the Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program.

This new language DOES NOT interfere with the current code language and process for operating and enforcing photo speed cameras in school and work zones. SB 336 passed out of the Innovations Subcommittee by a vote of **[5-3](#)** and will be heard in the full House Transportation Committee shortly. VACo will continue to provide updates on SB 336 as the bill progresses through the legislative process.

VACo Contact: **[James Hutzler](#)**

## Local Speed Limits Authority Bill Gets Green Light

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**HB 1071 (Carr)** seeks to achieve a **long sought-after transportation safety policy goal** of Virginia localities. This bill would allow the governing body of any locality to reduce to less than 25 miles per hour, but not less than 15 miles per hour, the speed limit of highways that are part of the state highway system. The bill further states that these roads must be in a business district or residence district within the locality's boundaries and the reduced speed limit must be designated with lawfully placed signs.

**VACo supports HB 1071** and has testified during its hearings in the House and Senate. VACo is happy to write that HB 1071 reported out of the Senate, **23-17, passing the House** before crossover. The bill will now head to the Governor's desk where we await his decision.

HB 1071 would improve the ability of Boards of Supervisors to respond to constituent concerns regarding transportation safety and clarify that this authority applies to roads within the state highway system. VACo thanks Delegate Carr for putting the bill forward. VACo also thanks all the stakeholders who supported this bill and for urging legislators to vote for the bill. VACo will be sure to provide updates when they become available.

**VACo Contact: James Hutzler**



## VACo Seeks Input for Water Withdrawal Permitting Prioritization Bill

# Capitol Contact

## Virginia General Assembly

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**SB 673 (Stuart)** directs the Department of Environmental Quality and the State Water Control Board to prioritize the preservation of water for human consumption and food production in all permitting and regulatory processes related to groundwater and surface water resources. VACo seeks member input on how, if adopted, SB 673 would impact your locality.

**VACo has relayed concerns** to the patron about the potential impacts regarding language in the bill, which could have adverse economic development impacts.

Water withdrawal permits are used by a variety of customers outside of human consumption (the priority before this bill) and food production (an equal priority with human consumption under this bill). Examples include any water uses – fire protection and other government operations, various manufacturing and commercial businesses, vehicle washing, aquatics centers, amusement parks, and other entities that depend on water throughout the course of a day. VACo seeks local guidance on how, “... [prioritizing] the preservation of water for human consumption and food production,” could impact these other uses of water.

There was a similar bill that Delegate Carr brought forth in the 2018 General Assembly Session. **HB 1186 (Carr)** sought to make human consumption the priority use as it relates to water withdrawal permits. The workgroup in 2018 determined that prioritizing human consumption was not necessary for a **variety of reasons**, including that **human consumption is already the priority**, which can also be found in VA Code [§ 62.1-10](#), [§ 62.1-11](#) and [§ 62.1-44.36](#).

Please share how, if adopted, SB 673 would impact your locality. Contact [jhutzler@vaco.org](mailto:jhutzler@vaco.org).

**VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)**



**Compensation: State and State-Supported Local Employees**

- **House:** Provides salary increases of 3 percent per year for state employees and state-supported local employees, effective July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025. (The Governor had proposed a 1 percent bonus payment on December 1, 2024, a 1 percent salary increase on July 1, 2025, and another 1 percent bonus payment on December 1, 2025.) ([Item 469 #2h](#))
- **Senate:** Provides a 2.5 percent salary increase in each year of the biennium, effective October 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025, instead of the compensation actions proposed in the introduced budget, subject to revenue contingency language that allows the funding to be used if a revenue re-forecast is not required after the close of FY 2024. ([Item 469 #1s](#) and [Item 469 #2s](#))

**Judiciary/Public Safety: Compensation for Court-Appointed Counsel**

- **House:** Provides \$8.5 million in FY 2025 and \$17 million in FY 2026 to increase statutory caps on court-appointed attorney compensation in accordance with House legislation. ([Item 33 #2h](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$3 million in FY 2025 and \$2.9 million in FY 2026 to increase statutory caps on court-appointed attorney compensation in accordance with Senate legislation. ([Item 33 #1s](#))

**Judiciary/Public Safety: Aid to Localities with Police Departments**

- **Senate:** Provides \$10 million per year to localities with police departments if the locality meets certain criteria for rates of violent crime. ([Item 396 #1s](#))

**Judiciary/Public Safety – Fire and EMS Funding**

- **House:** Includes \$250,000 in FY 2025 for the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to assess the sufficiency of fire and emergency medical services funding in the Commonwealth. ([Item 377 #1h](#))

**Judiciary/Public Safety – Other Items**

- **House and Senate:** Removes proposed \$500,000 per year in payments to Sussex County to offset the costs of providing emergency medical transports for state-responsible inmates at the state prison. ([Item 390 #2h](#) and [Item 390 #9s](#))
- **House:** Reduces funding for School Resource Officer Incentive Grants by \$4.1 million in FY 2025 and \$6.8 million in FY 2026 to align with FY 2024 spending levels. ([Item 394 #9h](#))
- **House and Senate:** Eliminate or reduce proposed law enforcement recruitment and wellness initiative. The House redirects the entire \$18 million. The Senate redirects \$8 million and includes language directing prioritization of grants to localities with high crime rates and limiting state administrative costs. ([Item 396 #1h](#); [Item 396 #2s](#))
- **House and Senate:** House reduces support for capital funding for state correctional facilities by \$5 million, leaving \$10 million for this purpose, and directs a report detailing the intended

disposition or alternate use of facilities slated for closure. The Senate directs the Department of Corrections to provide an assessment of its use of staffing posts and facility space in light of lower inmate populations. ([Item C-32 #1h](#) and [Item 390 #8s](#))

- **Senate:** Removes a proposed increase of \$750,000 in FY 2026 for specialty dockets, maintaining an increase of \$750,000 per year. Includes language directing the Office of the Executive Secretary to direct funding to specialty dockets that do not currently receive state funding and that have demonstrated high demand. ([Item 31 #3s](#))
- **Senate:** Directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to evaluate establishing authority for local civilian-led units to handle calls for services related to minor traffic accidents and other duties as assigned. ([Item 377 #1s](#))
- **Senate:** Directs the Department of Criminal Justice Services to convene a workgroup to make recommendations on requiring a local court-appointed special advocate program to be available in every judicial district. ([Item 394 #11s](#))
- **Senate:** Directs the Department of Juvenile Justice to evaluate its rehabilitative programs for youth in direct care to ensure they align with national evidence-based practices, in accordance with JLARC's 2021 study. ([Item 414 #1s](#))

#### **Administration: Compensation Board - Constitutional Officers**

- **Senate:** Directs the Compensation Board to report on the allocation and effectiveness of funds from 2022 to increase compensation for sworn officers in sheriffs' offices, as well as on retention for deputies with law enforcement duties compared to deputies without law enforcement duties, including information on local salary supplements. ([Item 60 #3s](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$2.2 million in FY 2025 and \$2.4 million in FY 2026 for additional assistant Commonwealth's Attorney and paralegal positions in Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices. ([Item 64 #1s](#))
- **Senate:** Directs a study of staffing standards for Circuit Court Clerks and provides \$400,000 in FY 2025 for a contract with the National Center for State Courts for a time study as to Clerks' duties. ([Item 67 #1s](#))

#### **Administration: Compensation Board - Jails**

- **House and Senate:** Transfer proposed \$500,000 in FY 2025 from opioid settlement funding for jail-based substance use treatment from the Compensation Board into the Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Transition Fund, which is administered by the Department of Criminal Justice Services. The House increases the funding level to \$2 million; the Senate increases to \$1.5 million. VACo supported the creation of this Fund in 2023 and supports the provision of resources for this purpose. ([Item 60 #2h](#) and [Item 394 #4h](#); [Item 60 #2s](#) and [Item 394 #6s](#))
- **Senate:** While neither budget included the request of VACo and partner organizations for the

state to pursue a Medicaid waiver to cover certain substance use disorder and behavioral health services in jails, the Senate proposes to direct DMAS to establish a stakeholder workgroup to study the use of Medicaid for health care services provided in jails. ([Item 292 #11s](#))

### **Administration: Elections**

- **House:** Provides three additional days for local electoral boards to certify election results after the November 2024 election and provides that a risk-limiting audit for the Presidential election will not be conducted. ([Item 77 #2h](#))
- **House:** Provides \$200,000 in FY 2025 to support Virginia rejoining the Electronic Registration Information Center. ([Item 77 #3h](#))
- **Senate:** Reallocates unspent ARPA funding for Medicaid eligibility redeterminations to the Department of Elections to distribute to localities to replace paper pollbooks with electronic pollbooks and to implement ballot-on-demand systems. ([Item 486 #2s in the caboose](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$130,000 per year and one position to implement legislation from the 2024 session. ([Item 77 #2s](#))

### **Agriculture and Forestry**

- **House and Senate:** Transfer the Office of Farmland Preservation to the Department of Forestry from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. ([Item 86 #1h](#), [Item 96 #4h](#) and [Item 86 #1s](#) and [Item 96 #4s](#))
- **House and Senate:** House provides \$250,000 in FY 2025 and \$500,000 in FY 2026 for the Blue Catfish Processing, Flash Freezing, and Infrastructure Grant Program. Senate provides \$250,000 in FY 2026 and includes language directing VDACS to take into consideration geographic distribution for the awards from the Fund. ([Item 87 #1h](#) and [Item 87 #3s](#))
- **House:** Reduces proposed increase to the Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund by \$1 million in FY 2025 (leaving an increase of \$1 million). ([Item 87 #2h](#))
- **House and Senate:** Eliminate the \$2 million proposed in the introduced budget for agricultural technology projects. ([Item 87 #3h](#) and [Item 87 #1s](#))
- **House:** Includes a series of amendments providing funding for invasive species management, including \$485,000 per year for VDACS; \$940,000 per year for the Department of Forestry; \$250,000 per year for the Department of Conservation and Recreation; and \$775,000 per year for the Department of Wildlife Resources. ([Item 88 #1h](#), [Item 96 #2h](#), [Item 360 #1h](#), [Item 367 #1h](#))
- **House:** Provides \$292,525 per year for the Wildlife Damage Cooperative Program to help landowners with wildlife depredation from coyotes, black vultures and other wildlife. ([Item 88 #2h](#))

- **Senate:** Provides \$5 million in FY 2025 for the Forest Sustainability Fund. ([Item 96 #1s](#))

### **Economic Development: Business Sites**

- **House:** Reduces funding for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program by \$130 million in FY 2025 and \$30 million in FY 2026, leaving funding levels of \$20 million per year; adjusts language to allow sites of at least 50 acres to qualify, in alignment with legislation passed by the House; allows sites bisected by a roadway or utility infrastructure to qualify for the Program. ([Item 101 #1h](#), [Item 101 #2h](#), [Item 101 #10h](#))
- **Senate:** Reduces funding for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program by \$95.5 million in FY 2025, leaving a \$50 million base budget in each year; reduces proposed administrative funding by \$250,000 per year; allows a site bisected by a roadway to qualify for the Program. ([Item 101 #1s](#), [Item 101 #3s](#), [Item 113 #3s](#))
- **Senate:** Captures \$24 million in FY 2025 proposed for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Acquisition Fund (leaving \$1 million). ([Item 101 #2s](#))

### **Economic Development: Inland Port**

- **House:** Eliminates proposed \$10 million increase in FY 2025 for the development of an inland port in Southwest Virginia ([Item 101 #3h](#)).
- **Senate:** Retains funding level in introduced budget.

### **Broadband**

- **House:** Includes \$30,000 per year and directs the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to add layers to the state's broadband map to reflect broadband availability on Virginia prime farmland and in rural areas. ([Item 103 #3h](#))
- **House:** Includes language requiring DHCD to provide a reason for a project's delay when reporting on Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) projects at risk for incompleteness or underperformance. ([Item 103 #5h](#))
- **House:** Specifies use of Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding as follows: DHCD must first ensure that funds are allocated to ensure deployment to all unserved and underserved locations. Of the remaining funding, DHCD is to allocate: (i) up to twenty percent to workforce development efforts in addition to those funded with deployment related resources, (ii) up to twenty percent to broadband resiliency effort to include utility pole replacements, mid-span pole installations, and undergrounding, (iii) up to fifteen percent to digital equity programs, and (iv) up to fifteen percent for broadband sign-up assistance programs. Prior to making awards for broadband resiliency projects, DHCD must receive a letter from the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) validating its eligibility under the BEAD program. ([Item 103 #6h](#))

- **House:** Reduces VATI funding by \$10 million in FY 2025 and provides \$10 million in FY 2026 to provide a \$10 million per year base appropriation. ([Item 103 #8h](#))
- **House:** Provides \$30 million in FY 2025 for the Virginia Make Ready Initiative to supplement certain deployment projects by increasing the proportion of underground construction and/or investing in more utility pole replacement than contemplated in the initial fiscal year 2022 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative award. ([Item 103 #9h](#))
- **Senate:** Specifies use of BEAD funding as follows: DHCD must first ensure that funds are allocated to ensure deployment to all unserved and underserved locations. Of the remaining funding, DHCD is to allocate: no less than 40 percent to broadband resiliency efforts to include utility pole replacements, mid-span pole installations, and undergrounding, and up to 60 percent to other non-deployment uses, including remote learning or telehealth services and facilities, digital divide affordability and adoption programs, and programs that provide technology support, digital literacy, job skills, and other digital equity programs. ([Item 103 #9s](#))
- **Senate:** Provides an additional \$10 million GF the first year and \$19.7 million GF the second year to VATI and directs DHCD to develop and implement guidance for the use of VATI funding for “make ready” costs, including pole replacements, in areas served by not-for-profit public utilities. Funding is restricted to units of government that previously received VATI funding with a private sector internet provider as co-awardee. ([Item 103 #1s](#))

## Housing

- **House:** Provides an additional \$12.5 million in FY 2025 and \$25 million in FY 2026 for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund. ([Item 102 #1h](#))
- **House:** Directs \$5 million in Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) balances to a pilot DHCD program to assist residents of manufactured home parks or nonprofits to acquire the manufactured home parks. ([Item 102 #2h](#))
- **House:** Directs \$5 million from RGGI balances for a pilot program providing grants to localities to adopt changes to zoning policies to allow for by-right development that is expected to further the goal of creating and maintaining mixed-income communities, affordable housing, and moderately priced housing. ([Item 102 #3h](#))
- **House:** Directs \$5 million from RGGI balances for a pilot program to provide down payment assistance. ([Item 102 #4h](#))
- **House:** Provides \$700,000 per year for the Virginia Eviction Reduction Program, which provides funding to local and regional eviction prevention programs through a competitive grant process. ([Item 102 #5h](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$2.7 million per year to Continuum of Care lead agencies to expand their organizational capacity to serve Virginians at risk of or experiencing homelessness. ([Item 102 #1s](#))



### Community Development

- **House:** Provides \$40 million in FY 2025 for the state's share of an infrastructure investment by the United States Navy to build housing for sailors residing in Newport News when a ship is in dock. ([Item 101 #8h](#))
- **House:** Provides \$1.6 million per year to increase funding for each Planning District Commission by \$75,000 per year. ([Item 103 #11h](#))
- **House:** Directs DHCD to prioritize Enterprise Zone grants for real property improvements that include either rooftop solar or solar canopies for parking lots. ([Item 104 #1h](#))
- **House:** Capitalizes the Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Fund with \$2 million in FY 2025. ([Item 109 #1h](#))
- **House and Senate:** Remove proposed \$6 million in additional funding for the Virginia Power Innovation Fund in FY 2025. ([Item 110 #1h](#) and [Item 110 #1s](#))
- **Senate:** Restores \$1 million per year for Enterprise Zones of the \$1.5 million proposed to be reduced in the introduced budget. ([Item 104 #1s](#))
- **Senate:** Deposits \$4 million in FY 2025 in the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund. ([Item 103 #3s](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$125,000 per year for the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority for telehealth and telemedicine needs throughout Southwest Virginia. ([Item 103 #4s](#))
- **Senate:** Increases funding for the Center for Rural Virginia by \$50,000 per year. ([Item 103 #5s](#))

### Child Care/Early Childhood

- **House:** Reduces proposed child care capital program by \$15 million in FY 2025; directs prioritization of applications that utilize space available on community college campuses; include a public funded provider; target areas of high need; limit grant costs to repurposing and/or retrofitting space; include a financing plan for sustaining center operations; and offer early child education training opportunities to Virginia higher education students. ([Item 103 #7h](#))
- **House and Senate:** Eliminate proposed \$1 million in FY 2025 for an early childhood digital wallet initiative. ([Item 117 #6h](#) and [Item 117 #7s](#))
- **House:** Consolidates early childhood programs into the new Early Childhood Care and Education Fund and provides an additional \$8.9 million in FY 2025 and \$40.9 million in FY 2026 in general funds and \$25 million from unobligated ARPA school ventilation grants to fund additional child care subsidy slots, reverse action in the introduced budget to eliminate the cap on the Local Composite Index for the Virginia Preschool Initiative, maintain current co-pay rates, and fund the Employee Child Care Assistance Pilot Program in accordance with legislation passed by the House. ([Item 125.10 #1h](#))

- **Senate:** Eliminates \$25 million for proposed early learning capital incentives grant program. ([Item 103 #6s](#))
- **Senate:** Reduces child care subsidy funding by \$17.2 million in FY 2026 to maintain child care slots at FY 2024 levels. Caps copayments at 7 percent of family income. ([Item 117 #8s](#))
- **Senate:** Strikes language in the introduced budget directing that the required report on the efficacy of the Mixed-Delivery program must propose a conclusion to the Mixed-Delivery program and a mechanism to transition children sustainably into other child care offerings, as well as proposing policy recommendations to the Virginia Preschool Initiative and the Child Care Subsidy Program. ([Item 124 #12s](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$42.9 million GF in FY 2025 and \$43.7 million in FY 2026 to restore the LCI cap placed on VPI for localities above the 0.5000 local composite index, restore VPI expansion funding and the 20 percent nonparticipation rate, and maintain the unused portion of funds to support VPI-related activities. ([Item 125 #8s](#))

#### **Aid to Local Public Libraries**

- **House and Senate:** Provide \$2.5 million per year for state aid to local public libraries. ([Item 227 #1h](#) and [Item 227 #1s](#))

#### **Finance – Bank Franchise Tax Electronic Filing System**

- **House and Senate:** Provide \$546,530 in FY 2024, \$488,494 in FY 2025 and \$76,348 in FY 2026 for administrative costs to implement electronic filing for bank franchise tax returns as required by 2023 legislation. ([Item 274 #1h](#) and [Item 274 #1s](#) (caboose) and [Item 258 #1h](#) and [Item 257 #1s](#) (biennium))

#### **Finance: Local Audits**

- **House and Senate:** Direct annual audits of local expenditures to include a review of the use of any opioid settlement funds. ([Item 2 #1h](#) and [Item 2 #1s](#) in the caboose; [Item 2 #2h](#), [Item 2 #1s](#))
- **House:** Removes the requirement that localities establishing a utility or enacting a system of service charges to support a local stormwater management program provide a report to the Auditor of Public Accounts as to each program funded by these fees and the expected nutrient and sediment reductions for each of these programs. ([Item 2 #3h](#))

#### **HHR: Health**

- **House and Senate:** House provides \$1.3 million per year to the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority for health workforce responsibilities of the agency and as state match for federal funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration to support the Area Health Education Center Programs. Senate provides \$500,000 per year for this purpose. ([Item 276 #1h](#) and [Item 276 #1s](#))

- **House and Senate:** House provides \$3.2 million per year for Community Health Worker positions at local health districts and directs the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to prioritize positions serving localities with the highest rates of maternal mortality. Senate provides \$125,000 GF and matching NGF in FY 2025 for DMAS to convene a workgroup to design a community health worker services benefit for Medicaid- and CHIP-enrolled beneficiaries. ([Item 278 #1h](#) and [Item 292 #3s](#))
- **House and Senate:** House provides \$648,000 per year for the Prescription Drug Affordability Board; Senate provides \$303,650 in FY 2025 and \$745,300 in FY 2026 to fund the Board. ([Item 283.10 #1h](#); [Item 283 #1s](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$171,120 per year for rent cost increases for local health departments. ([Item 278 #1s](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$500,000 in FY 2025 for VDH to conduct a cost analysis of implementing pending federal Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) regulations for Virginia local water systems and to implement pending federal Environmental Protection Agency Copper Rules for water system lead service lines. ([Item 280 #2s](#))
- **Senate:** Directs VDH to review the financial and operational status of each program area within the agency, which must include an assessment of budget, fiscal, procurement, human resources, and grant management functions and identify all measures that have been put in place to ensure adequate central oversight and internal controls. Also directs VDH to inventory all fees collected by the agency and report on whether the fee is sufficient to cover the costs of the activity for which it is collected and to include a recommendation on the fee amount that is appropriate. ([Item 283 #2s](#) and [Item 283 #3s](#))

### **HHR: Behavioral Health – CSB Oversight and Compensation**

- **House:** Directs DBHDS to report annually on CSBs' performance in improving consumers' functioning levels. Directs DBHDS to identify documentation/reporting requirements and eliminate duplicative/conflicting ones. Directs DBHDS to review performance measures in performance contracts with CSBs and ensure they are designed to measure outcomes for each service. Stipulates that performance contracts shall also require that any funding appropriated by the General Assembly to CSBs for staff compensation shall only be used for staff compensation, and that CSBs report annually to DBHDS on any staff compensation actions taken during the prior fiscal year. Directs DMAS to review the extent to which CSBs are billing for Medicaid-eligible services and determine if technical assistance is needed. Directs DBHDS to report annually on salaries and vacancy rates across CSBs. ([Item 295 #6h](#))
- **Senate:** Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to report on plans to implement the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model in the Commonwealth. ([Item 267 #3s](#))
- **Senate:** Directs DMAS to work with the managed care organizations on standardizing policies, procedures, and requirements that CSBs must follow for Medicaid billing. ([Item 292 #1s](#))

- **Senate:** Directs DBHDS to report on alternative placements for youth who would otherwise be placed at the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents. ([Item 295 #1s](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$7.5 million per year for CSB workforce initiatives, including paid internships, clinical supervision hours, loan repayment, and scholarships. ([Item 295 #3s](#))
- **Senate:** Directs DBHDS to report annually on salaries and vacancy rates across CSBs. ([Item 295 #6s](#))
- **Senate:** Directs DBHDS to report to the Behavioral Health Commission by December 1, 2024, on the changes to STEP-VA performance measures and benchmarks that are anticipated to be included in CSB performance contracts. ([Item 295 #7s](#))
- **Senate:** Directs DBHDS to review the performance contracts with community services boards and revise all performance measures in the base performance contract and addendums to ensure that: (i) performance measures are designed to measure outcomes for each service; (ii) performance measures include a relevant benchmark for each measure; and (iii) DBHDS has given clear direction on how it will monitor performance and enforce compliance with performance requirements. ([Item 295 #8s](#))

#### **HHR – Behavioral Health - Crisis Services, Temporary Detention Orders, and State Hospitals**

- **House:** Reallocates proposed \$10 million in FY 2025 for comprehensive psychiatric emergency programs. ([Item 295 #1h](#))
- **House:** Reallocates \$8 million in FY 2025 proposed for additional crisis services (retains an additional investment of \$25 million). ([Item 296 #1h](#))
- **House:** Provides \$6 million per year in discharge assistance planning funding to increase community capacity to serve individuals on the Extraordinary Barriers List. ([Item 296 #2h](#))
- **Senate:** Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to report on how funds appropriated during the 2023 and 2024 Sessions of the General Assembly will be expended to expand and modernize the comprehensive crisis services system, to include how funding for new crisis stabilization units and crisis receiving centers is being strategically deployed. ([Item 267 #2s](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$2.5 million per year for CSBs to hire staff for crisis stabilization units whose bed capacity is not fully utilized due to lack of staff. ([Item 297 #3s](#))

#### **HHR - Additional Behavioral Health Items**

- **Senate:** Directs DBHDS to conduct a needs assessment to determine the unmet need for each component of STEP-VA and develop an estimate of the cost of satisfying the unmet needs. ([Item 295 #9s](#))

- **House and Senate:** House provides \$4.5 million per year as an inflation adjustment for STEP-VA services. Senate provides \$3.3 million per year. ([Item 297 #3h](#) and [Item 297 #4s](#))
- **House:** Provides \$5 million per year for permanent supportive housing. ([Item 297 #1h](#))
- **House and Senate:** House provides an additional \$2.4 million per year for children’s mental health services and includes language allowing more flexibility in the use of these funds. Senate includes language allowing flexible use of funds. ([Item 297 #4h](#), [Item 297 #1s](#))
- **Senate:** Includes \$50,000 in FY 2025 for the Office of the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with DBHDS, to examine existing jail diversion programs for individuals with a serious mental illness and the feasibility of implementing an expedited diversion to court-ordered treatment process. ([Item 31 #1s](#))

### HHR – Medicaid

- **House and Senate:** House sets aside \$100 million in FY 2025 for a reserve for unexpected GF costs for Medicaid. Senate sets aside \$125 million in FY 2025 and \$25 million in FY 2026 as contingency funding for higher than expected Medicaid enrollment. ([Item 288 #4h](#) and [Item 471 #6s](#))
- **House and Senate:** Both House and Senate phase in additional DD waiver slots on a quarterly basis. House also provides a 3 percent rate increase each year for DD waiver services (\$3.3 million GF in FY 2025 and \$38 million GF in FY 2026). ([Item 288 #5h](#) and [Item 288 #1s](#))
- **House:** Provides \$3.7 million per year to allow five local government-owned nursing facilities to receive supplemental payments to cover unreimbursed Medicaid costs. ([Item 288 #8h](#))
- **House and Senate:** House directs DMAS to revise procedures to provide inflation adjustments for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility rates each year. Senate language is similar but directs the adjustments to begin July 1, 2026. ([Item 288 #9h](#) and [Item 288 #14s](#))
- **House:** Provides \$206,889 GF in FY 2025 and \$3.1 million GF in FY 2026 for DMAS to contract with a vendor to assist in Medicaid eligibility determinations and redeterminations. ([Item 292 #2h](#))
- **House:** Provides \$2.1 million GF in FY 2025 and \$4.1 million GF in FY 2026 for DMAS to contract with a vendor to handle all incoming mail currently directed to local Departments of Social Services, including Medicaid benefit applications and renewal notices. ([Item 292 #3h](#))
- **Senate:** Stipulates that the state’s managed care contract, which is in the process of reprocurement, will not take effect before July 1, 2025; bars DMAS from adding any new services to managed care without explicit authorization by the General Assembly; and provides that dental services, DD waiver services, and other services currently excluded from managed care remain excluded. ([Item 304 #1s \(caboose\)](#) and [Item 288 #11s](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$12.4 million in FY 2026 to fund legislation that would create a state-funded



comprehensive health care coverage program for individuals in Virginia who are under 19 years of age, are not covered under a group health plan or health insurance coverage, and, but for their immigration status, would be eligible for Virginia's Medicaid or FAMIS program. ([Item 289 #1s](#))

- **Senate:** Provides \$500,000 GF in FY 2025 for DMAS to hire a consultant to review the eligibility determination process. ([Item 292 #5s](#))

### **HHR – Social Services**

- **House and Senate:** Ensures that local administrative costs for the Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP) are funded by the PIPP Fund and not by localities. This amendment was requested by VACo in partnership with VML and the Virginia League of Social Services Executives. ([Item 340 #1h](#) (caboose) and [Item 324 #5h](#) (biennium); [Item 340 #1s \(caboose\)](#) and [Item 324 #1s \(biennium\)](#))
- **House and Senate:** House provides \$844,524 in FY 2025 and \$5 million in FY 2026 from the General Fund for a centralized training academy model for local departments of social services. Senate provides \$844,524 per year from the General Fund for this purpose. ([Item 324 #2h](#) and [Item 324 #3s](#))
- **House and Senate:** House provides \$4.4 million in FY 2025 and \$12.5 million in FY 2026 for the development of an integrated benefits system to replace CommonHelp and VaCMS, the state's benefits eligibility IT system. Senate directs the Department of Social Services to develop a plan for improving the CommonHelp portal and to determine whether it is most cost-effective to upgrade or replace the CommonHelp portal and bars the Department of Social Services from proceeding with replacement of VACMS until improvements to the CommonHelp portal have been fully implemented and the General Assembly has specifically authorized a VaCMS replacement. ([Item 334 #2h](#) and [Item 334 #2s](#))
- **House:** Provides \$1 million per year for additional relative maintenance payments; allows payments to be made upon passage of the accompanying legislation and before completion of the regulatory process. ([Item 329 #1h](#))
- **House:** Provides \$310,000 per year to support foster youth in securing drivers' licenses. ([Item 329 #2h](#))

### **Labor – Virginia Employment Commission (VEC)**

- **House and Senate:** Revise language in the introduced budget directing the VEC to promulgate regulations to establish an administrative fee to instead set an administrative fee of .05 percent of taxable wages and reduce employer tax rates accordingly. ([Item 356 #3h](#) and [Item 356 #3s](#))
- **House:** Directs the VEC to update its study of paid family and medical leave to include the budgetary impacts of the program for state employees, state-supported local employees, and local school divisions. ([Item 356 #4h](#))

- **Senate:** Authorizes a Treasury loan for the VEC for the start-up costs associated with the implementation of a paid family and medical leave program as contemplated in legislation that has passed the Senate. ([Item 356 #2s](#))

### **Labor – Workers Compensation**

- **House:** Directs the Department of Human Resource Management to gather data from localities concerning Workers Compensation claims regarding post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, or depressive disorder incurred by law-enforcement officers and firefighters. ([Item 74 #1h](#))

### **Natural and Historic Resources – Water Quality**

- **House and Senate:** Remove language from the introduced budget that would have eliminated the requirement for 15 percent of mandatory Water Quality Improvement Fund deposits be directed to the WQIF Reserve, if the Reserve exceeded \$100 million. House language would require the deposit to be made unless otherwise specified. ([Item 358 #1h](#) and [Item 358 #1s](#))
- **House and Senate:** Restore the \$1 million per year from taxes on watercraft fuels sales that would be deposited to the WQIF reserve, but was reduced in the introduced budget. ([Item 359 #11h](#) and [Item 359 #1s](#))
- **House:** Removes additional \$25 million proposed for the Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund in FY 2025. ([Item 359 #12h](#))
- **House:** Provides \$20 million in FY 2025 for the establishment of a pay-for-outcomes pilot program in the Chesapeake Bay watershed for nonpoint source pollution reduction. ([Item 365 #1h](#))
- **House:** Provides \$200 million in FY 2025 in bond proceeds and \$200 million GF in FY 2026 for expenses related to wastewater projects for Chesapeake Bay nutrient reduction. ([Item C-53.50#1h](#))
- **House and Senate:** Allow flexibility in the use of ARPA funding for wastewater projects so that funds provided to individual facilities listed in the Enhanced Nutrient Removal Certainty Program may be used to reimburse such facilities for costs incurred for nutrient removal and other wastewater treatment facility improvements approved by the Department of Environmental Quality as within the allowed scope of wastewater infrastructure projects. ([Item 486 #2h](#) (caboose) and [Item 486 #1s](#) (caboose))

### **Natural and Historic Resources – Other Items**

- **House:** Requires participation in RGGI as a condition on all appropriations in the budget. ([Item 4-5.12 #1h](#) (caboose) and [Item 4-5.12 #1h](#) (biennium))
- **Senate:** Reduces funding for the Coastal Storm Risk Management Project in the City of Norfolk by

\$48.8 million (leaving a balance of \$25 million to support the project). Captures \$17 million in FY 2025 from the proposed Bristol landfill remediation project (leaving \$18 million). ([Item 359 #2s](#) and [Item 365 #4s](#))

- **Senate:** Eliminates proposed \$35 million in FY 2025 for a competitive grant program to support improvements at historic sites in advance of the Semiquincentennial. ([Item 371 #1s](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$20 million GF in FY 2025 to create and fund the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank to help finance climate initiatives. ([Item 471 #3s](#))

### **Transportation – Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)**

- **House:** Establishes a joint subcommittee to study long-term, sustainable, dedicated funding and cost-containment controls and strategies for WMATA and other Northern Virginia transit systems. Provides \$65 million in FY 2025 and \$84.5 million in FY 2026 for WMATA; suspends the statutory cap on growth in the annual Virginia operating assistance for WMATA; directs WMATA to complete a comparison of its total costs and overhead costs against the cost of similar transit systems. ([Item 1 #6h](#), [Item 433 #1h](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$525,000 in FY 2025 and \$25,000 in FY 2026 for the associated costs of a joint subcommittee to study long-term, sustainable, dedicated funding and cost-containment controls and strategies for WMATA and other Northern Virginia transit systems. Includes language suspending the statutory cap on growth in the annual Virginia operating assistance for WMATA, provided that planning and reporting requirements are met. Directs the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to require WMATA to prepare and submit a corrective action plan with certain cost controls. ([Item 1 #2s](#), [Item 433 #1s](#))

### **Transportation – I-81**

- **House:** Modifies language in the introduced budget related to the \$70 million GF proposed for the I-81 Corridor Improvement program to allow for the widening of both the south bound lanes to happen concurrently. Allows projects in the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program to move forward even if all of the funding is not included for the completion of the project in the six-year improvement plan. ([Item 438 #2h](#) and [Item 438 #6h](#))
- **Senate:** Modifies language in the introduced budget to provide the proposed \$70 million GF to projects in the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program in accordance with the program plan as approved by the I-81 Advisory Committee. ([Item 438 #3s](#))

### **Transportation – Other Items**

- **House:** Provides \$1 million in FY 2025 to support the development of an Advanced Air Aviation Test Site. ([Item 422 #1h](#))
- **House:** Eliminates the proposed \$20 million GF deposit to the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund (TPOF) in FY 2025 and requires any proposed direction of funds by the

Governor for transportation projects under TPOF in excess of \$20 million for any one project, and any cumulative direction of funds in excess of \$50 million during a biennium, to be subject to approval by the MEI Project Approval Commission. ([Item 438 #3h](#) and [Item 438 #4h](#))

- **Senate:** Eliminates the proposed \$20 million GF deposit to TPOF in FY 2025, and eliminates proposed language requiring the Commonwealth Transportation Board to provide at least \$200 million to the fund annually from Commonwealth Transportation Fund revenue. ([Item 438 #2s](#))
- **Senate:** Provides \$77 million in FY 2025 and \$15 million in FY 2026 from the general fund for additional toll relief to eligible drivers in certain localities who earn less than \$50,000 per year. ([Item 441 #1s](#))

### Arena

- **House:** Redirects \$500,000 GF provided in FY 2025 for the Secretary of Finance to study economic development incentives to recruit sports teams and their facilities. Authorizes the Governor to use up to \$500,000 from the Commonwealth Development Opportunity Fund for this purpose. Embeds the House version of legislation creating the Virginia Sports and Entertainment Authority. ([Item 471 #5h](#) (biennium) and [Item 4-14 #1h](#) (caboose))
- **Senate:** Captures the proposed \$500,000 in FY 2025 for the Secretary of Finance to study economic development incentives to recruit sports teams and their facilities. Removes language from the introduced version creating the Virginia Sports and Entertainment Authority. ([Item 471 #4s](#) and [Item 4-14 #1s](#) (caboose))

### Tax policy

- **House and Senate:** Eliminate proposal to double the dealer discount for merchants collecting and remitting sales and use taxes. ([Item 3-5.06 #1h](#) and [Item 3-5.06 #1s](#))
- **House:** Increases the individual taxpayer cap for the Historic Preservation Tax Credit program from \$5 million to \$10 million and imposes an aggregate cap of \$75 million on the program. ([Item 3-5.17 #1h](#))
- **House and Senate:** Restore individual taxpayer cap on the Land Preservation Tax Credit. ([Item 3-5.22 #1h](#) and [Item 3-5.22 #1s](#))
- **House and Senate:** Eliminate proposals in the introduced budget to (i) increase the cap on Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits from \$25 to \$30 million for FY 2025 and beyond; (ii) reduce income tax rates in each bracket; (iii) increase the state sales tax rate from 4.3 to 5.2 percent; and (iv) increase the Earned Income Tax Credit to 25 percent of the federal amount. The House revises the proposal to extend provisions of 2019 legislation increasing Education Improvement Scholarship amounts for certain students and broadening the definition of disability from 2028 (as in the introduced budget) to 2030; the Senate retains the language in the introduced budget for this item. ([Item 4-14 #1h](#); [Item 4-14 #1s](#))

- **House:** Retains proposal in introduced budget to impose sales and use taxes on digital personal property and certain taxable services, but strikes language earmarking the additional sales tax revenue that would be generated for transportation purposes from this base-broadening action for the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund and the I-81 Corridor Improvement Fund. ([Item 4-14 #1h](#))
- **Senate:** Expands proposal to impose sales and use taxes on digital personal property and certain taxable services to include business-to-business transactions as well. ([Item 4-14 #1s](#))
- **Senate:** Increases the tax on liquid nicotine from \$0.066 per milliliter to \$0.15 per milliliter, effective July 1, 2024. ([Item 3-5.19 #1s](#))

### **Reserves**

- **Senate:** Directs the transfer of \$314.4 million the first year and \$408.5 million the second year from the Revenue Reserve Fund to the general fund and increases the combined balance limit from 15 percent (as currently established in the Code of Virginia) to 16.5 percent in FY 2025 and 15.5 percent in FY 2026. The introduced budget proposes to transfer \$712.2 million in FY 2025 and \$92.8 million in FY 2026. ([Item 3-1.01 #4s](#))



**VAPDC Winter Series 2024**

- JANUARY 5, 2024, 12-1 PM**  
*Ready, Set, Go: It's Time for the 2024 General Assembly*  
 Presenter: David Blount
- FEBRUARY 9, 2024, 12-1 PM**  
*Housing as an Economic Development Strategy*  
 Presenter: Fabrizio Fasulo
- MARCH 1, 2024, 12-1 PM**  
*Localities and Planning Districts Succeeding Together*  
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Presenter: Chris Price  
City Manager  
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Presenter: Chris McKlarney  
County Administrator  
Giles County, VA

Presenter:

Presenter:

**Presenter**

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**MARCH 1, 2024, 12-1PM**

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## 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](https://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.

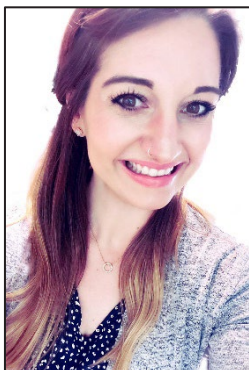
**Empowering county government professionals with fundamental, practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties and residents.**

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

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**Kelly Shearer**  
[kshearer@pdaleadership.com](mailto: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.*



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

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04:14

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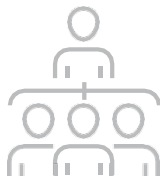
Counties affect the lives of residents every day. When our frontline staff are empowered as leaders, we deliver services more effectively. **The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is a resource that connects your staff with practical leadership training.** HPLA uses an innovative, interactive online 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.

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**ORGANIZE:**

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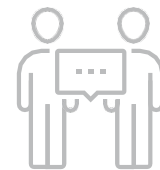
**COLLABORATE:**

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.**

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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](https://www.naco.org/Skills)**







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

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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.



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# SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY

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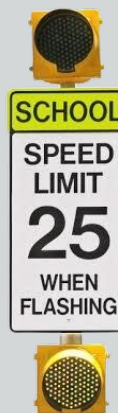


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[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted February 12

[CODE INSPECTOR I, II OR III \(PLUMBING\)](#) | City of Alexandria | Posted February 9

[LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE PT \(RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted February 9

[CENTRAL PROCESSING DESK COORDINATOR](#) | Fauquier County | Posted February 9

[RISK & SAFETY MANAGER](#) | Culpeper County | Posted February 9

[TRANSPORTATION MANAGER](#) | Powhatan County | Posted February 7

[COMMUNITY RESOURCE PARAMEDIC – FLYER](#) | City of Winchester | Posted February 7

[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

[FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALIST](#) | Montgomery County | Posted February 6

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

[PLANNER I/II](#) | Powhatan County | Posted February 6

[VAN DRIVER \(CHESTER HOME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted February 6

[RESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR \(IN-HOME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted February 6

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

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

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[SENIOR RESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR \(PINE FOREST\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted February 6

[COOK/HOUSEKEEPER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted February 6

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

[RADIO INSTALLATION TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted February 6

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[ASSISTANT DIRECTOR](#) | Loudoun County | Posted February 6

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

[DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS](#) | Frederick County | Posted February 3

[LEAD PARK ATTENDANT \(JAMESTOWN BEACH EVENT PARK\)](#) | James City County | Posted February 2

[NURSE PRACTITIONER](#) | James City County | Posted February 2

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

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

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

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

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

[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

[ASSISTANT RECREATION SUPERVISOR \(SUMMER CAMP\)](#) | James City County | Posted February 2

[CUSTODIAN I/II \(PT\)](#) | James City County | Posted February 2

[FACILITIES TECHNICIAN I/II/II – ELECTRICAL](#) | James City County | Posted February 2

## 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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