

VACo Releases 2024 Legislative Summary

VACo LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



2024 Edition

www.vaco.org

The [Legislative Summary](#) details the actions of the 2024 General Assembly. It also includes information on legislation of interest to counties.

This edition contains links to bills through the General Assembly's Legislative Information System and includes studies and statistics of importance to counties.

[Read VACo's 2024 Legislative Summary](#)

VACo Contact: [Legislative Team](#)

See how **Blue Line Solutions** helped **Smyth County** become a safer community **VIDEO**



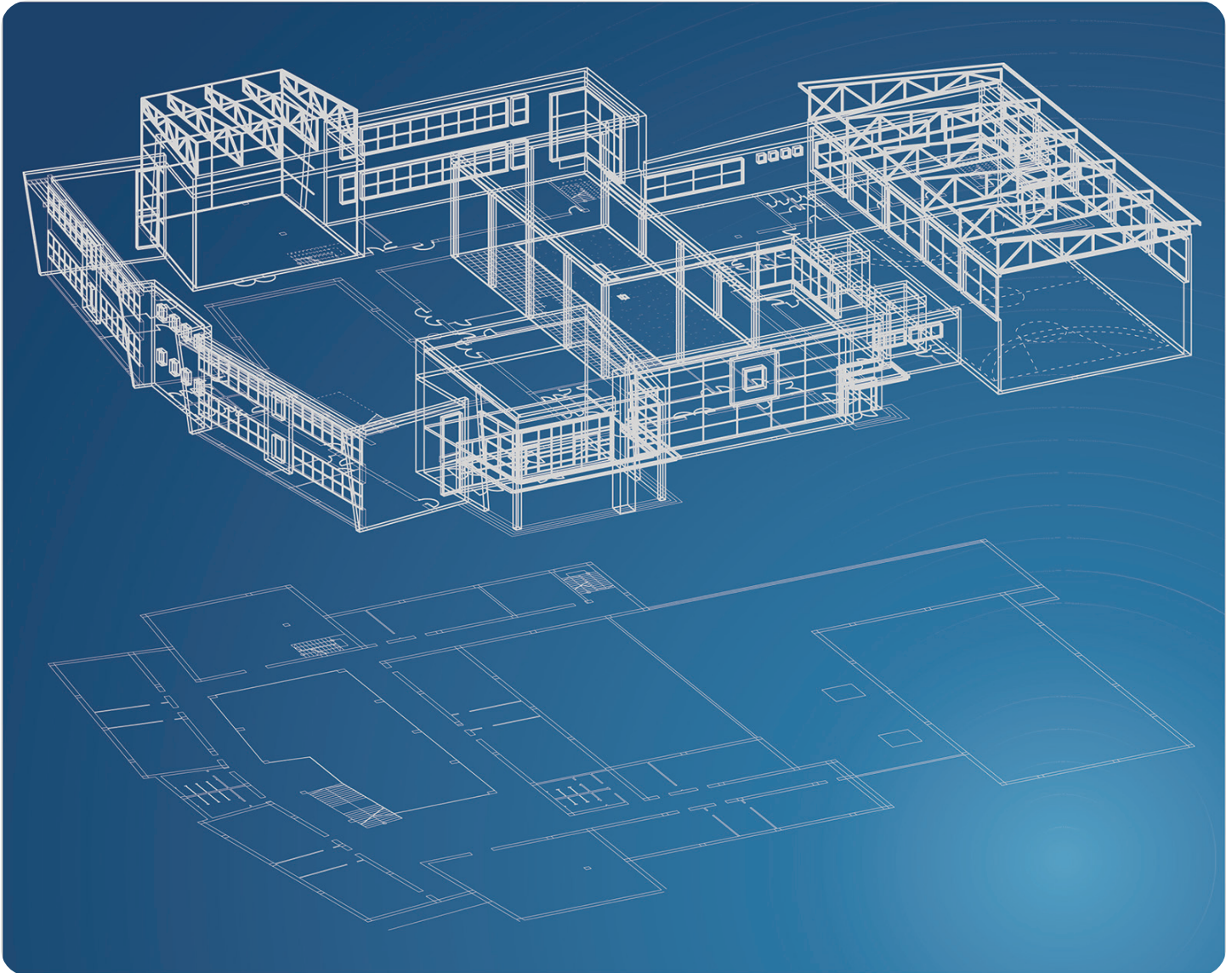
**Mark Hutchinson | CEO/Founder
Blue Line Solutions**



What makes **Blue Line Solutions** stand out? **VIDEO**



Virginia Board of Education Meets for Annual Retreat, Action on School Construction Related Items



From Tuesday April 23 to Thursday April 25, the Virginia Board of Education ([VBOE](#)) met for their annual [retreat](#) in Richmond. In addition to receiving briefings and taking action items such as the approval of new Laboratory Schools, VBOE took action on two items of particular interest to local governments; first and final review of recommended grant awards for applications submitted to the School Construction Assistance Program for FY 2024 (item X) and first review of VBOE recommendations on establishing standards for school facilities pursuant to [SB 1124](#). The former resulted in [awards](#) of approximately \$84 million to more than a dozen localities. The latter resulted in Board discussion of the [document](#) and acceptance of it on first review.

The School Construction Assistance Program ([SCAP](#)) was created at the 2022 Special Session I of the General Assembly, which provided appropriations for the program in fiscal year 2023 of \$400,000,000 from the general fund and \$50,000,000 from the Literary Fund to be transferred into the School

[More on Next Page](#)

Construction Fund for the Board of Education (“Board”) to award grants on a [competitive](#) basis to local school boards meet certain conditions of need. Most of this funding was previously awarded, but the remaining balance from FY 2023 was obligated to be carried over and reappropriated for expenditure the following fiscal year. The Board [considered](#) and voted to slightly tweak the awards process to diversify and spread grant funding to projects across multiple localities.

As previously [reported](#), VACo had been involved in the workgroup created following the enactment of SB 1124 to make recommendations to VBOE regarding potential Standards of Quality centered on school construction. The stakeholder workgroup established to inform development of the standards recommendations was guided by several principles, including:

- School facilities standards should promote cost effective, healthy, safe, and secure learning environments that support high quality instructional delivery and student services;
- Prioritize the most important elements as statewide standards;
- Are actionable by school divisions, not cost prohibitive, and consider local cost impact;
- Balance mandatory and “best practice” aspirational/optional standards;
- Are phased-in over time or have delayed effective dates when deemed necessary; and,
- Consider the existing VDOE school facilities guidelines as a baseline standard to help operationalize any new standards that may be adopted.

VACo representatives on the workgroup stressed the importance of preserving local flexibility and promoting best practices and guidelines over mandates. More background on this process can be found and the draft recommendations can be found [here](#) and [here](#) respectively.

The full agenda and items discussed by VBOE may be accessed [here](#).

VACo supports additional state resources and additional statewide funding options for localities for capital and school construction costs, including expanding dedicated local sales and use tax authority first given to select counties by the General Assembly in 2019 as well as continuing to fund the School Construction Grant Program and School Construction Assistance Program. Further work on these items awaits the reconvening of the General Assembly for the coming special legislative session on March 13.

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



Visit Mathews County and the Mathews County Historic Courthouse

Location: 27 Court Street / Church Street

Built: 1792 – 1795

Style: Federal

Architect: Richard Bilups

Contractor: Richard Bilups

Description: The building faces east and is a one story red colored brick structure. The “T” shaped building is located on the landscaped grounds at the northeast corner of the Courthouse Square with other county buildings in the center of Mathews. The east front has a central entrance with fanlight above. Above is a gabled roof with large fanlight. The west wing has dormers on the roof and the roof is hipped. The interior has woodwork and the former courtroom is located in the west wing. On the south side of the building is the Old Clerk’s Office designed and built by William H Brown in 1859. Along the south side of the square are the County Office Building constructed in the 1950’s and Old County Jail, on the west side is the Sheriff’s Office built in 1792 as the jail and on the north side is the Public Library constructed in 1930.

SOURCE: courthouses.co

VACo 2024 REGIONAL MEETINGS

IN-PERSON MEETINGS

REGIONS 1&4 - MAY 1 | PRINCE GEORGE

REGION 2 - MAY 22 | JAMES CITY

REGION 13 - JUNE 11 | SCOTT

REGION 3 - JUNE | HANOVER

REGIONS 10&12 - JULY | FLOYD

VIRTUAL MEETINGS

REGIONS 6&7 - JULY

REGION 8 - AUGUST

REGIONS 5&9&11 - AUGUST



VRA VIRGINIA RESOURCES AUTHORITY

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Since its inception, VRA has financed over 3,500 infrastructure projects, supporting \$12 billion of Virginia local government investment.

Financing solutions draw on VRA's creativity and unique ability to provide revolving fund loans to localities at below-market interest rates and to issue bonds backed by the moral obligation of the Commonwealth.

The VRA team offers extensive experience and expertise in various financings and provides ongoing assistance to localities in connection with their public projects.

Infrastructure projects eligible for VRA financing include water, wastewater, public safety, transportation, broadband, parks & recreation, local government buildings, energy, among others.

VISIT VIRGINIARESOURCES.GOV

Montgomery County appoints Scott Woodrum Assistant County Administrator



Scott Woodrum was named Assistant County Administrator for Montgomery County, effective April 16, 2024.

“The County is fortunate to have excellent staff members who daily demonstrate extraordinary skills and abilities,” said Angie Hill, County Administrator. “This is evidenced by Scott’s leadership and ability to navigate many significant projects and changes since joining the County.”

As Assistant County Administrator, Scott is responsible for oversight of the Animal Care and Adoption Center, General Services, Human Services, and Information Technology.

Scott began his career with Montgomery County in December 2016 as County Engineer. In October 2019, he was selected to serve as the Director of General Services.

Prior to joining Montgomery County, Scott was employed by the Virginia Department of Transportation as Land Use Director for the Salem District. Scott earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering Technology from Bluefield State College in 1996 and is a licensed professional engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Scott and his wife, Teresa, reside in the Town of Christiansburg.



**COUNTY OF FAUQUIER
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

10 Hotel Street, Suite 204
Warrenton, Virginia 20186
PHONE 540-422-8001
FAX 540-422-8022

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 2024

Fauquier County Announces New Director of Finance



Warrenton, Virginia – Fauquier County Administrator, Janelle Downes, is pleased to announce that Karl Kuszaj will be the new Fauquier County Director of Finance, effective May 6, 2024. As Director, Mr. Kuszaj will lead the consolidated Finance Department, which serves County Government and Public Schools. The Department provides quality financial and administrative support services to all users in a professional, proactive, and effective manner; and in conformance with the highest standards set for county government finance activities and officials. The Finance Department consists of the Accounting, Accounts Payable and EMS Billing divisions.

Mr. Kuszaj comes to his new role with more than 22 years of experience as a Finance professional in the public and private sector. Since September of last year, he has served as the Budget Services Manager in the Fauquier County Office of Management and Budget. Prior to moving to Fauquier, he worked for three years in the private banking industry. The first 18 years of his career were in service to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, where he rose through the ranks to Supervisor of Finance and Compliance in the Employer Services Office, and Finance Process Manager in the Governance Office. Mr. Kuszaj holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Franklin University, and a Master of Financial Economics from Ohio University.

Mr. Kuszaj stated, “I am grateful for the opportunity to assume the role of Director of Finance at Fauquier County. I am eager to apply my years of experience in public service toward leading the Finance Department and becoming a part of the county’s leadership team. In addition, I am looking forward to continuing to build on the relationships I’ve developed within the county, the public schools, and ultimately serving the citizens of Fauquier County.” We look forward to Mr. Kuszaj being a key member of our leadership team as we continue to work to provide the highest quality government services to Fauquier County and Fauquier County Public Schools.

(ENDS)

Virginia Municipal Clerks Association elects new President and officers



**Katherine
Glass was
elected
VMCA
President**

Hampton's Clerk of Council, Katherine K. Glass, was recently elected as President of the Virginia Municipal Clerks Association (VMCA). VMCA's mission is to promote professional development through continuing education and networking opportunities. The objectives are to promote education and certification of Municipal Clerks, promote better municipal government, increase the efficiency of municipal clerk operations, be alert and responsive to federal, state, and local legislation that impacts the clerk's office, and educate the public and colleagues regarding the role of the Municipal Clerk.

Glass was appointed Clerk of the Hampton City Council in March 2005 and has attained both the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) and Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) certifications. Before becoming Hampton's Clerk, she served as a citizen appointee to Hampton's Solid Waste Advisory Commission and also as a Planning Commissioner from 1996 through 2004, completing the Virginia Certified Planning Commissioner's Program in 1996.

Glass spent the first half of her career as a Certified Professional Legal Secretary and Certified Legal Assistant at the Hampton law firm of Joseph Smith, Ltd. and was active in the National Association of Legal Secretaries, the Virginia Legal Secretaries Association, as well as serving in several offices in the Peninsula Legal Secretaries Association.

An active community leader, Glass has served in non-profit and fraternal organizations including the Virginia Peninsula Council on Domestic Violence, the Fox Hill Neighborhood Center and Athletic Association, and the Hampton Exchange Club. She is a life member of Girl Scouts and was recognized as a Famous Former by the Girl Scout Council of the Colonial Coast in 2017.

Glass' term as VMCA President began on April 18, 2024, at the 47th VMCA Annual Conference hosted by Culpeper and held in Charlottesville. She will represent the VMCA at the International Association of Municipal Clerks at their Annual Conference in Calgary, Alberta, Canada in May 2024.

The following individuals were elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the VMCA for 2024-2025:

Kimberly Ellis, MMC - First Vice President
 Culpeper - Deputy Clerk to Board of Supervisors
 Camisha Brown, CMC - Second Vice President
 Dinwiddie - Executive Assistant to the County Administrator / Clerk to the Board of Supervisors
 Kaylyn McCluster, CMC – Secretary
 Pittsylvania – County Administration, Deputy Clerk
 Jenn Green – Treasurer
 Newport News – Deputy City Clerk
 Travis O. Morris, MMC – Parliamentarian
 Charlottesville – Senior Deputy Clerk
 Mina D. Barberis, MMC – Historian
 Norfolk – Deputy City Clerk
 Teresa J. Saeed, MMC – Immediate Past President
 James City County – Deputy Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

For more information on VMCA, visit www.vmca.com

Dominion Engages Stakeholders to Develop Long Range Energy Plan: VACo Participating



Dominion Energy[®]

On March 28, Dominion Virginia Energy held an initial meeting of stakeholders who will provide input in their next Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to be filed with the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) later this year. The IRP is a long-range planning document that looks at providing energy reliability over a 15-year timeframe.

The stakeholder review process is a new requirement enacted by the Virginia General Assembly in 2023 that investor-owned utilities (IOUs) must now follow when submitting IRPs. VACo was in attendance and will be participating throughout the spring and summer in smaller facilitated workgroup discussions. Topics identified by stakeholders at the initial meeting that the workgroups will tackle include the following: energy demand forecasts, data center growth, transmission planning, renewable energy, energy efficiency, reliability and impacts on rural communities.

[This set of slides](#) provided to VACo from Dominion provides a helpful overview and explanation of the IRP process for engaging stakeholders. For additional information regarding the stakeholder process see [Integrated Resource Plans | Dominion Energy](#). For questions and comments email DEVIRP@DominionEnergy.com.

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

US EPA Mid-Atlantic Summit on May 16



On Thursday, May 16, 2024, starting at 10 AM EDT, EPA Mid-Atlantic Region will host their virtual summit, “**Empowering Communities for Environmental Equity.**” The summit is an opportunity for everyone to gather and exchange ideas about equitable access to healthy and sustainable communities. It features an opening plenary with state environmental state secretaries and concurrent sessions focused on various topics, including equity, environmental justice, sustainability, grant opportunities, and more.

This year’s event, themed “**Empowering Communities for Environmental Equity,**” is an opportunity for everyone across the Mid-Atlantic Region to gather and exchange ideas about equitable access to healthy and sustainable communities.

[The event website](#) has more information on the summit, including the agenda and the list of partners.

Registration is now open – the event is free and there is no obligation to stay for the whole event as any registered attendee can come and go as they like.

TO REGISTER, visit the link [here](#)! Detailed registration instructions for the event can be found [here](#) and in the attached document.

The summit will be hosted using Zoom Events, a virtual meeting platform that builds on the functions of Zoom Meetings & Webinars. Once registered, you will have access to the Zoom Event portal, a central hub for meeting activities and your route to the myriad sessions supporting this summit.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)



EPA MID-ATLANTIC REGION
2024 VIRTUAL SUMMIT

REGISTER NOW

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024 • 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. ET | VIA ZOOM

The EPA Mid-Atlantic Summit is an opportunity for everyone to participate in conversations and information-sharing about equitable access to healthy and sustainable communities.

Opening plenary and multiple sessions featuring:

- Senior officials from the White House and U.S. E.P.A.
- State environmental secretaries' panel
- Climate change from regional meteorologists
- Environmental justice
- PFAS
- Agriculture
- And much more!

All are welcome to join the FREE summit, but you must register.

REGISTER ON THE SUMMIT WEBSITE:
[HTTPS://CVENT.ME/2WAZ8Q](https://cvent.me/2waz8q)



Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program Applications Open



The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program with \$5 billion in appropriated funds over 5 years. The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.

Funds for the fiscal year (FY) 2024 SS4A grant program are to be awarded on a competitive basis to support planning and demonstration activities, as well as projects and strategies to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users, including pedestrians; bicyclists; public transportation, personal conveyance, and micromobility users; motorists; and commercial vehicle operators. The SS4A program supports USDOT's [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#) and the Department's goal of significantly reducing serious injuries and deaths on our Nation's roadways.

The [FY 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for SS4A grants is currently live and is open for applications. Planning and Demonstration Grant applicants have three deadlines:

- Thursday, April 4, 2024, 5PM
- Thursday, May 16, 2024, 5PM
- Thursday, August 29, 2024, 5PM

Implementation Grant applications must be submitted by 5PM on Thursday, May 16, 2024.

Combining the [FY22](#) and [FY23](#) awards, SS4A has provided \$1.7 billion in Federal funding to over 1,000 communities in all 50 States and Puerto Rico. SS4A funding awarded to date will improve roadway safety planning for about 70 percent of the nation's population.

Check out [All Years' SS4A Grant Awards](#) to find out where SS4A has funded awards to date.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)



Your high school senior could win \$2,500 for college!



Nationwide/NACo 2024 College Scholarship

To enter and for full details, go to nrsforu.com/scholarship

Submission period: April 1 - May 31, 2024



For more information, contact:

LYNN ROBINETTE

434-534-5673

LYNN.ROBINETTE@NATIONWIDE.COM



Nationwide Retirement Solutions (Nationwide) partners with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to provide counties and their employees with a competitive deferred compensation program. As part of this partnership, Nationwide pays a fee to NACo in exchange for NACo's exclusive endorsement, marketing support and program oversight of Nationwide products made available under the program. For more information, including fees paid, Nationwide encourages you to visit [NRSforu.com](https://nrsforu.com).

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

VACo Premier Partner Aetna believes healthier happens together. That's why Aetna has teamed up with [National Fitness Campaign](#) to address health disparities by increasing access to health and wellness solutions for Virginia Counties.

In Part 1 of this video series, you'll hear from **Dean Lynch**, VACo Executive Director, **Trent Matthias**, National Fitness Campaign Director, **Bill Deal**, Head of Sales, Public Sector and Labor, Keystone and Capital Markets of Aetna on the exciting new statewide sponsorship and what it can deliver for your county.

In Part 2, learn more about the feasibility study process available for your county and hear from leaders in Virginia like [Pulaski County](#) and the [Town of Dumfries](#) who have successfully launched and integrated the comprehensive wellness campaign in their communities.

Additional Resources

- [Virginia Campaign](#) – Funding Outdoor Fitness Courts across the state
- [Campaign Video](#) – How the fitness court campaign got started, how it works, and how it involves and impacts communities.
- [Outdoor Fitness Court in Pulaski County](#)
- [Outdoor Fitness Court in the Town of Dumfries](#)
- Please click [here](#) to learn more about getting started!

Aetna Contact

Marcus Duckworth, VP, Client Management | DuckworthM@aetna.com



Part 1

[Discover how Aetna's exciting new statewide wellness program can help your county](#)



Part 2

[Hear from Pulaski County and the Town of Dumfries, which have successfully launched and integrated Aetna's comprehensive wellness campaign](#)



PHOTO SPEED ENFORCEMENT

What it means for your community

Photo Speed Enforcement in school zones means safer streets and a safer community.

We are Blue Line Solutions, standing out from other traffic safety firms. Founded by former law enforcement, we combine over 300 years of experience with a commitment to saving lives. Our mission is clear – to enhance safety, reduce vehicle speed, and empower law enforcement agencies with advanced tools to prevent and combat dangerous speed efficiently.



We combine public information and education with photo speed enforcement and advanced technology to effectively decrease speeding by an average of 94% and simplify ticketing and collections. Our seamless, comprehensive services cover everything from equipment and surveillance to citations and collections, providing a hassle-free experience. By enhancing police resources, our solutions enable officers to focus on other priorities. Aligned with the principles of Vision Zero, our ultimate goal is to achieve zero injuries, zero crashes, and zero lives at risk.

Western Virginia RSM Greg Hogston
 276-759-8064
 ghogston@bluelinesolutions.org

Eastern Virginia RSM Randy Campbell
 434-485-4683
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- Streamlined process – we handle the details for you.

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Questions?

Contact Steve Mulroy
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- ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT
- PUBLIC EDUCATION
- PUBLIC OUTREACH & FACILITATION
- PUBLIC SAFETY
- PUBLIC WORKS
- STRATEGIC PLANNING
- VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON CONTRACT STAFF

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Contact us today at 540-208-5188 or info@bgllc.net for any of your community's needs.

Enter the 2024 VACo Achievement Awards

Deadline is July 1, 2024



Dear VACo Members –

It's time for the 2024 Achievement Awards Program. Any county department is eligible to compete so ENTER NOW!

[2024 Achievement Awards Submission Form](#)

All entries are required to be submitted in electronic form. No paper copy submissions are necessary. The electronic submissions should be a PDF or WORD file. Email entries to Gage Harter at gcharter@vaco.org. **Electronic submissions must be received by July 1, 2024.**

Last year, [we processed 135 entries](#) and selected 33 winners from 21 Counties. VACo presented awards at Board of Supervisors Meetings, recognized winners at the 89th Annual Conference, and issued a news release to statewide media.

The judges for the 2024 Achievement Awards will be announced soon.

VACo has received more than 1,000 entries over the past decade. Last year's Best Achievement winner was **Alleghany County** for its "**Alleghany/Covington School Consolidation**" program.

VACo encourages all Counties, big and small, to enter the 2024 Achievement Awards Program. Please contact gcharter@vaco.org with questions or for more information.

[Achievement Awards Submission Form](#) | [Achievement Awards Website](#)
[2023 Achievement Awards Press Release](#) | [Past Achievement Award Winners](#)

**[ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
SUBMISSION FORM](#)**

VACo Seeks to Create Mentorship Program for Supervisors



Dear Members/County Administrators...

VACo is blessed to have many smart and experienced Supervisors. This year we welcomed a slew of newly elected Supervisors, some of whom have expressed interest in being mentored. VACo thrives when Supervisors connect and share experiences and challenges. Therefore, we would like to establish an informal, voluntary mentoring program to offer opportunities for personalized connections among Supervisors.

If you are interested in being a mentor or being connected with a mentor, please contact Karie Walker, kwalker@vaco.org or 804-343-2504.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Karie Walker
Director of Programs and Development
Virginia Association of Counties

Learn more about advocacy at the VACo Supervisors' Forum



May 18, 2024

VACo Headquarters and Virtual AGENDA

Through the Supervisors' Forum, VACo offers county leaders and other officials the chance to examine common issues.

Participants are given an overview of local government and the duties of a County Supervisor by local officials who relish in sharing their knowledge and experience.

Contact [Valerie Russell](#) to register today!

REGISTER NOW



INNOVATE, EMPOWER & CONNECT

MAY 16-17

Join us again at the Hilton Short Pump. Connect with industry experts, learn from communities who are leading the way and work together to bridge the digital divide and leverage broadband opportunities for all of Virginia.



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2024 Virginia EMS Symposium Update



As the Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) continues to face financial challenges and works towards a more sound fiscal strategy, it has been determined there will be no statewide EMS Symposium held in 2024. OEMS understands the importance of in-person training and has collaborated with Virginia's Regional EMS Councils and other EMS partners to continue offering additional educational opportunities and resources.

Check out these upcoming EMS training events that include a variety of hands-on and lecture style classes to help fulfill your CE requirements.

In-person EMS Training Opportunities:

Inova Health System and Northern Virginia EMS Council EMS Symposium

April 29, 2024, 7:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. | Falls Church, Va.

Learn more and register online: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024_EMS_SYMPOSIUM_APRIL

Tidewater EMS Expo

May 14-19, 2024 | Chesapeake, Va.

Learn more and register online: <https://tidewaterems.org/expo/>

Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads (VAVRS) 2024 Rescue College

June 7-16, 2024 | Blacksburg, Va.

Learn more and register online: https://www.vavrs.com/site_page.cfm?pk_association_webpage_menu=10100&pk_association_webpage=22468

First Responder Virginia 5 Conference/Expo

September 18-22, 2024 | Virginia Beach, Va.

Learn more: <https://www.vsfa.org/2024-conference-expo/>

EMS Training Course Locator

Find in-person EMS training in your region. Search by region, county, level and/or course title. Learn more: <https://vdhems.vdh.virginia.gov/emsapps/f?p=200:4>

Virtual EMS Training Opportunities:

- [Online CE training](#)
- [Vector Solutions](#)

For additional questions about continuing education course offerings, please contact the OEMS Accreditation, Certification and Education Division at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/meet-our-staff/>.

[Click here for more information.](#)



2024 Investing in Rural America Conference

May 21 - 22, 2024 | \$50 registration fee

The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center | Roanoke, Virginia

[Learn More & Register](#)

Registration is now open for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's [2024 Investing in Rural America Conference](#), themed *Building and Sustaining Momentum*, a two-day event featuring national experts and local leaders on the forefront of rural development initiatives. This year's conference features **keynote speaker Liz Weaver**, co-CEO of the [Tamarack Institute for Community Engagement](#).

Join us in Roanoke on May 21-22 to hear from speakers on topics including:

- Community Development Financing
- Turning Challenges into Community Assets
- Developing the Next Generation of Rural Leaders
- Measuring the Success of Community Colleges in Developing Our Workforce
- Innovative Strategies to Increase Housing Availability
- Storytelling for Economic Growth
- Collaborative Leadership Tools

The [conference registration site](#) will be updated regularly with the full conference agenda, speaker list, and information on hotel accommodations. A [discounted room block](#) at the Hotel Roanoke is available through April 24 or until the block fills. Can't attend both days of the conference? Simply indicate the sessions you'll be able to attend at registration and join us as you're able.

[Visit the Conference Site](#)



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).





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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Let's build a healthier Virginia, together.

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

Applauding Your Commitment to Growth: Leadership Development with the National Association of Counties

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the January 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.

Angela Tribble, 911 Coordinator, Charlotte County
Brent Emerson, Lieutenant - Special Operations, Loudoun County
Chase Wajick, IT Tech, Dinwiddie County (CLA)
Chris Russell, Director, Charlotte County
CJ Joyner, Programmer Analyst Systems Administrator, James City County (CLA)
Elizabeth DiBene, CISO, Loudoun County (CLA)
Greg Rogers, Captain, Loudoun County
Jim Frashure, Systems Administrator, Dinwiddie County (CLA)
Lynn Otto, Therapist IV, Prince William County
Maria Taylor, Fire-Rescue Planner, Loudoun County
Matthew Frenger, IT Specialist, Augusta County (CLA)
Michelle Attreed, Finance Director, Prince William County
Raymond Gessner, Sergeant, Loudoun County
Richard Archambault, CISO, Arlington County (CLA)
Sangeetha Puligella, Deputy CISO, Arlington County (CLA)
Shannon Schlegel, Senior IT Manager, Prince William County
Stephen Curtis, Project Manager | Programmer Analyst, James City County (CLA)
Tonia Winn, Director of Human Resources, Montgomery County
(Note: CLA = Cybersecurity Leadership Academy graduate)

Invest in your team with Leadership Training!

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 August 5th and September 16th.

[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.



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

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

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



OUR SOLUTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS

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- Recruiting
- Development & Training

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- Total Wellbeing
- Productivity
- Retirement Readiness

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- Education & Fiduciary
- Literacy
- Communications

PROTECT

- Compliance
- Workplace Safety
- Operational Continuity
- Cyber Security



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

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The Virginia Association of Counties accepts employment ads in a PDF file or a link to a job site. Please include information for applying, and a link to other important information. Please do not fax your employment ad. VACo members are not charged for placing an employment ad. **The cost is \$100 per ad for non-VACo members.** VACo publishes the ad on its website and mobile app as well as the upcoming County Connections issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [Valerie Russell](mailto:Valerie.Russell@vacounty.org).

[TAX TECHNICIAN I](#) | Montgomery County | Posted May 2

[PLANNER I – ZONING PERMITS](#) | Loudoun County | Posted May 2

[EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT – SHERIFF'S OFFICE](#) | Shenandoah County | Posted May 2

[DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE](#) | Shenandoah County | Posted April 30

[ON-CALL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SPECIALIST II/III](#) | Prince George County | Posted April 30

[FIRE MEDIC RECRUIT](#) | Prince George County | Posted April 30

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[GROUNDS ATTENDANT/CASHIER \(PART TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 29

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

[SECTION CHIEF \(INSPECTION\)](#) | James City County | Posted April 29

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[SHELVER CLERK \(SEASONAL\)](#) | James City County | Posted April 29

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[DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM](#) | Warren County | Posted April 26

[DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR](#) | Warren County | Posted April 26

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[BUILDING INSPECTOR](#) | Westmoreland County | Posted April 16

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[DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC UTILITIES](#) | City of Portsmouth | Posted April 16

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[VAN DRIVER \(PART-TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 12

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[WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR](#) | Greene County | Posted April 10

[LIBRARY DIRECTOR](#) | Prince William County | Posted April 10

[FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALIST](#) | Montgomery County | Posted April 9

[POLICE OFFICE \(CERTIFIED\)](#) | Prince George County | Posted April 9

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VALUE OF VACo



ADVOCACY

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



EDUCATION

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



MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

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



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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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