

# VACo Releases Its 2025 Preliminary Legislative Program



VACo has released its [2025 Preliminary Legislative Program](#), which was drafted through VACo's steering committee process. The document includes a host of important and timely proposed policy statements including language pertaining to K-12 education funding, local taxing authority, stormwater regulations, land use planning, transportation, broadband, health and human resources and other local budget and legislative issues.

Click on the link to read the [2025 Preliminary Legislative Program](#).

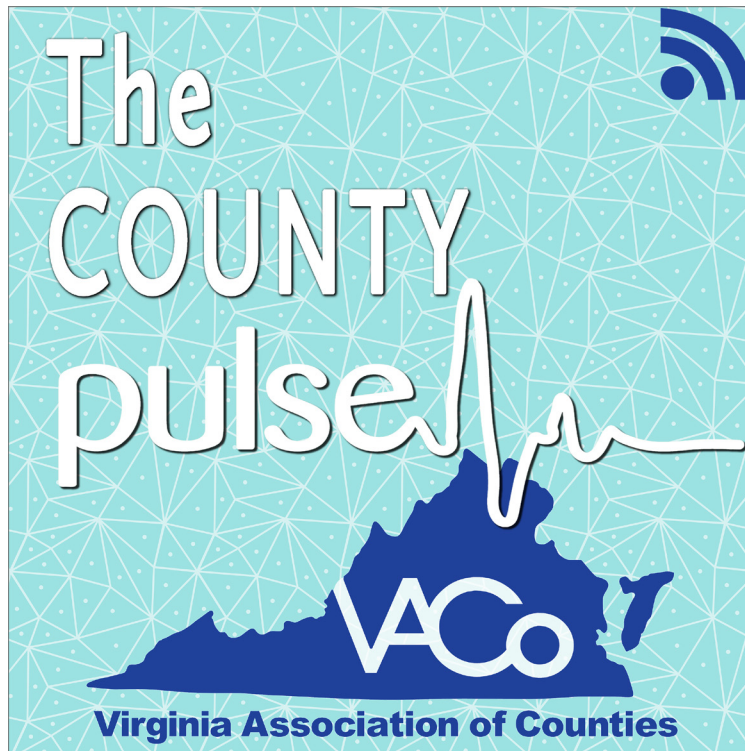
The 2025 Legislative Program will be adopted on November 12 during the Annual Business Meeting at the [VACo Annual Conference](#).

VACo's eight steering committees will finalize and adopt their policy sections on November 10. The Resolutions Committee will ratify the Legislative Program on November 11. VACo's membership will vote to adopt the Final Legislative Program on November 12.

VACo members are encouraged to continue to add their input to this document by working through their county's legislative process and the VACo steering committee process to put forward suggested changes to VACo's 2024 Legislative Program.

For questions regarding VACo's legislative process, contact Dean Lynch at [dlynch@vaco.org](mailto:dlynch@vaco.org) or 804.343.2511.

VACo Contact: [Dean Lynch, CAE](#)



## Season 4 | 2024 | Mecklenburg Experience Energy Landscape of Virginia Series with Joe Lerch

### Energy Landscape of Virginia Episode 3 | Data Centers and Utility-Scale Solar – Mecklenburg County | Part 1

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

#### Part 1. Mecklenburg Experience with County Administrator Alex Gottschalk

This 2-part episode was recorded on location in Mecklenburg County, which is located on the southern border with North Carolina. In Part 1, we sit down with County Administrator Alex Gottschalk to talk about the unique experience of a rural county that has seen significant growth in both data centers and utility-scale solar.

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### Energy Landscape of Virginia Episode 3 | Data Centers and Utility-Scale Solar – Mecklenburg County | Part 2

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

#### Part 2. Mecklenburg County Tour with Administrator Alex Gottschalk

Alex takes us on a windshield tour of examples of both land uses, and we discuss how Mecklenburg County has responded in terms of planning for how these fit within their community.



## Regulations Under Development to Allow Mobile Medication-Assisted Treatment Services



PHOTO CREDIT: [Project RIDE Facebook Page](#).

Mobile MAT Unit operated by the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine.

Regulations that would allow existing providers of medication for addiction treatment to add a mobile component to their services are under review and are expected to be posted for public comment soon. As defined in current regulations, medication assisted treatment (sometimes referred to as medication for opioid use disorder) is a treatment for opioid use disorder that combines outpatient treatment with the administration of certain medications, such as methadone or buprenorphine, which are approved by the Food and Drug Administration to replace the use of and reduce cravings for opioid substances.

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The proposed regulations (which are posted at [this link](#)) are intended to incorporate changes made to federal regulations by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which will now allow providers who are currently authorized to dispense methadone for opioid use disorder to add a mobile component to their existing services, with approval from the DEA. Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) staff have indicated that at least one provider is interested in offering this service in Virginia.

Under current law dealing with license applications for MAT provided at bricks-and-mortar locations, the Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, upon receiving notice of an initial license application by a prospective provider, must notify the local governing body and the local Community Services Board regarding the application and the facility's proposed location. The local governing body and the CSB must submit comments within 30 days, and must notify the Commissioner regarding the applicant's compliance with any applicable local ordinances.

The proposed regulations would allow currently-licensed bricks-and-mortar providers to add a mobile services component. The regulations add a definition of "mobile medication assisted treatment program" to existing regulations; stipulate that each mobile medication assisted treatment program would operate as a component of a licensed medication assisted treatment location and be listed on the provider's license addendum; and incorporate certain safety requirements regarding physical security and record keeping.

DBHDS has explained to VACo staff that it intends to implement the following requirements for providers who wish to offer mobile MAT services:

- DBHDS will require proof that providers have received approval from the Drug Enforcement Administration for additional site locations and that providers have informed the local governing body and the local Community Services Board of the locations where they intend to provide services.
- Providers must document the locality's response to the proposed service locations and communicate that response to DBHDS. Providers will be given a standard form for a locality to use to submit any concerns or complaints to DBHDS.
- Providers must report to DBHDS that the locations where services are intended to be provided are in compliance with all local laws and regulations, to include zoning ordinances.

Once the regulations are officially posted for public comment, the public comment period will last for 30 days. VACo would be interested in members' feedback on the proposed regulations.

**VACo Contact:** [Katie Boyle](#)





## Visit Orange County and the Orange County Historic Courthouse

**Location:** 105 West Main Street / North Madison Road

**Built:** 1858 – 1859

**Style:** Italian Villa

**Architect:** Haskins & Alexander of Washington, DC

**Contractor:** Spooner & Darrow

**Description:** The building faces south and is a one and a half story white colored brick and wood structure. The building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of Orange. The south front facade features a three-part arcade consisting of a semi-elliptical arch flanked by small semicircular arches. Above the arcade is a three stage tower consisting of the main entrance as the first stage; a clock, installed within existing round windows in 1949, as the second stage; and arched openings with louvers covered by a shallow hip roof and topped by a finial complete the tower. The building was remodeled in 1949 and again in 2003 when the arches were re-opened. Next to the building are the Old County Clerk's Office ( 1894 ) and the County Office Building. On the north side is the new courthouse.

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

REGIONS 10&12 - JULY 10 | FLOYD

REGION 3 - JULY 25 | HANOVER

## VIRTUAL MEETINGS

REGIONS 5&9&11 - AUGUST 19

REGIONS 6&7 - SEPTEMBER 23

REGION 8 - SEPTEMBER 26





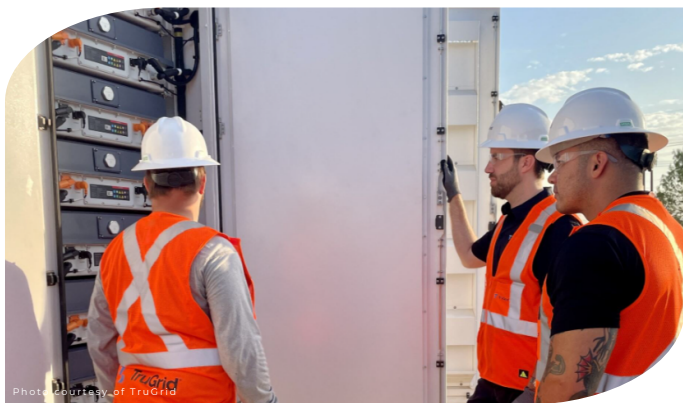
## ABOUT US

East Point Energy is a development firm focused on the origination, construction, and operation of energy storage projects. Our team is currently developing gigawatts of energy storage projects throughout the country, helping to transform the grid into a renewable, resilient, and affordable system for generations to come.

## COMPANY SNAPSHOT

- Founded in 2018
- 45 employees & growing
- Located in downtown Charlottesville, VA
- Projects under development in 15 states
- Active memberships in over 10 trade organizations

*Photo on right from annual Earth Day litter pick up*



## WHAT'S AHEAD

The electric power industry will change more in the next decade than it has in the last 100 years. East Point Energy is uniquely poised to facilitate this transformation by providing stable, grid-scale storage solutions for renewable energy from wind and solar generators.



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Developed by the  
Professional Development Academy

# NACo AI Leadership Academy

Empowering County Government Leaders for the Future

## About the Program

The NACo AI Leadership Academy is an innovative program designed to equip frontline county government leaders with the knowledge and tools to understand and utilize AI, enhancing operational efficiency, organizational effectiveness, and value for their constituents.

## Six Practical Modules

**Introduction to AI:** Explore AI's history, technologies, societal impact, and an AI playbook for leaders.

**The Promise & Peril of AI:** Understand AI's unique opportunities and challenges in the digital transformation era.

**Your AI Roadmap:** Navigate AI's potential and pitfalls, set expectations, and measure stakeholder impact.

**Leading People & AI:** Lead digital transformation by focusing on people, not just technology.

**AI Optimization, Meaning & Purpose:** Ground AI optimization in ethical awareness, regulatory compliance, customer safety, and workforce impact.

**What's Next - Three Horizons:** Plan, operationalize, and leverage projects, programs, and progress over three horizons.

## Program Features



**Expert Leadership Coaches:** Keeps participants on track.



**World-Class Faculty:** Includes prominent leaders from public, private, and academic sectors.



**Practical, Actionable Insights:** Immediate application to real-world challenges.

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November 4th - December 20th

Demystify AI with practical cases, frameworks, and tools. Increase your confidence to lead with AI for good governance.

This program offers lessons from highly effective government leaders, proven industry executives, researchers, professors from top universities, and subject matter experts. An online Leadership Coach will guide participants through pressing issues such as understanding the power of AI, mitigating its risks, and navigating the complexities of change brought by AI.

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- ✓ Fully Facilitated Online
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## York County Welcomes New Assistant County Administrator



Susan Goodwin has joined York County as Assistant County Administrator. She fills the position left vacant upon Brian Fuller's promotion to Deputy County Administrator.

In this role, Ms. Goodwin will oversee the Finance department and work closely with Finance Director Theresa Owens to support and enhance the County's sound fiscal policies. The Finance department includes the divisions of Budget, Fiscal Accounting Services, Central Purchasing, Accounting & Financial Reporting, and Payroll Administration.

"I'm pleased to welcome Susan to the York County staff," said County Administrator Mark Bellamy. "Susan's finance background is a welcome addition to York County and adds another layer of expertise to our exceptional Finance department. Upon the conclusion of the upcoming budget cycle, I anticipate Susan's role will expand to include additional responsibilities."

He continued, "Deputy County Administrator Brian Fuller, the County staff, and I look forward to working with her and welcome all ideas she can bring to the table."

Goodwin is a graduate of Christopher Newport University and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). She is an active member of the Virginia Government Finance Officers Association (VGFOA) and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

She is the former Director of Finance with the City of Newport News. Prior to her directorship in Newport News, she served Financial Services Administrator in the Department of Engineering and served as Assistant Director of Finance for the City of Suffolk. Her career also includes experience at Goodman & Company, LLP, a regional public accounting firm.

Ms. Goodwin was raised on the Peninsula and resides in York County.

Her first day as Assistant County Administrator was Monday, September 9, 2024.

## Chesterfield County Names Conley as New Community Engagement and Resources Director



Following a nationwide search, Chesterfield recently named Kimberly D. Conley as its new director of Community Engagement and Resources (CER).

The CER Department assists residents, businesses, and visitors through a variety of engagement-focused offices, including Aging and Disability Resources, Mobility Services, Multicultural Engagement, Volunteer Engagement, and Youth Engagement. CER also assists residents in connecting to the community and accessing needed resources throughout their lives.

Conley has been a full-time employee with Chesterfield County since 1991, working in a variety of roles throughout her long tenure.

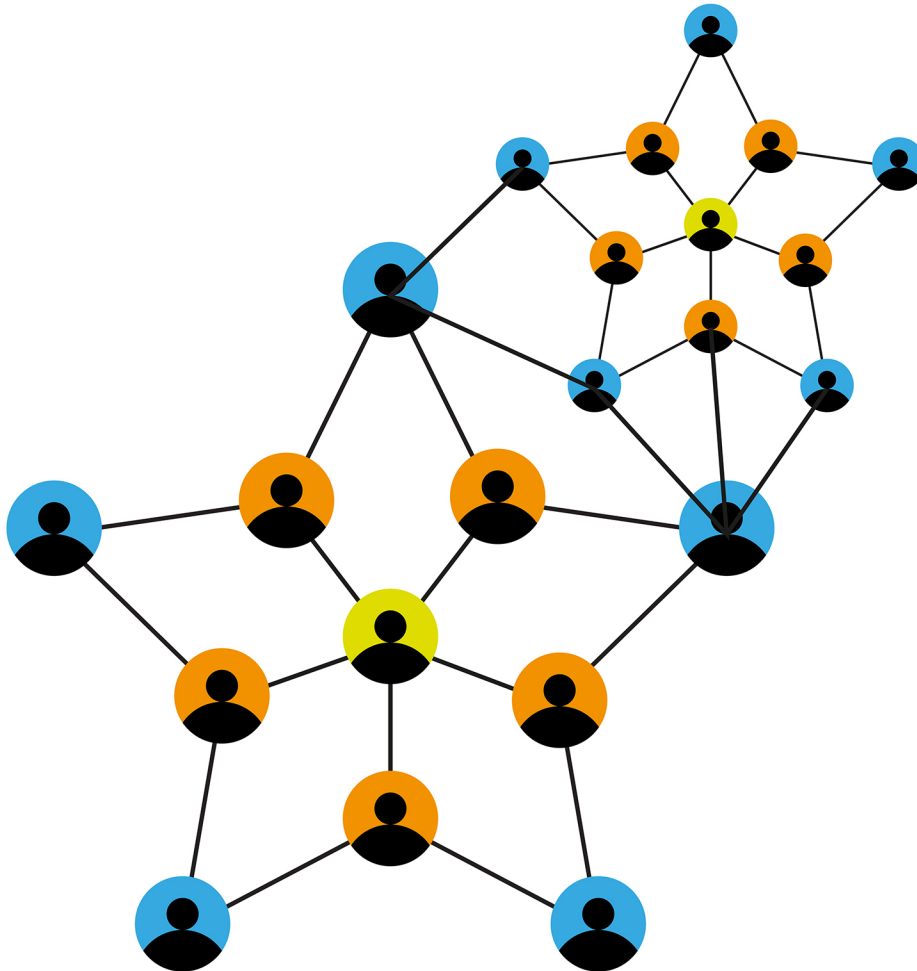
A graduate of Virginia State University who earned her master's from Central Michigan, Conley spent three years as a staff assistant to for the Board of Supervisors from 1996 until 1999. From then until May 2021, when she was named assistant director of CER, she worked as the special assistant for board and community affairs and executive director of the regional James River Advisory Council.

During her time with the county, Conley has also been a three-time County Administration Departmental Employee of the Year (1998, 2005, and 2012), is a 2011 graduate of the Emerging Senior Leader Program, and chair of the Chesterfield County Black History Month Celebration.

"I am so excited to move into this new role and to lead this great team of people in CER," Conley said. "It's been extremely rewarding to spend my career in Chesterfield County and I am thankful that I get to continue to do that now and lead this fantastic department doing such important work engaging our community."



# VACo Regions 5, 9 and 11 Meeting Recap



VACo held its sixth of eight regional meetings for 2024 virtually on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Counties from VACo Regions 5, 9 and 11 attended the meeting.

The meeting began with a welcome from VACo President and Albemarle County Supervisor, Ann Mallek. VACo was pleased to have Chandler Vaughan and Caroline Luxhoj from the Department of Housing and Community Development come and speak to those in attendance on [broadband deployment and funding updates/information](#) that is of interest to county members and leaders.

Next, legislators and staff that represent counties in VACo Regions 5, 9 and 11 outlined their priorities for the 2025 Session as well as other things they're interested in or working on. Delegate Tony Wilt would begin by discussing that energy is one of his top priorities. Delegate Wilt would explain that energy proliferation and security for his constituents is one of his top priorities for the upcoming Session. Elaina Corfield from Delegate Sam Rasoul's office discussed that the Delegate is focused on education policy and specifically mentioned the Delegate's support for the often mentioned 1% optional sales tax for localities that would go toward school capital. VACo was also pleased to have representation from Virginia's federal delegation at the meeting. Elda Stanco and

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Laura Blevins from Senator Tim Kaine's office outlined many pieces of legislation the Senator is working on. Staff from Senator Kaine's office further mentioned the Senate Appropriations Committee has marked up FY25 spending bills and it looks like there will be federal funding that will benefit localities with a number of projects including affordable housing, water and wastewater infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, health care services, workforce development and emergency services. Natalie Stewart from Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger's office touched on multiple items, from combating fentanyl and other harmful drugs through legislation supported by the Congresswoman and pushing the Social Security Fairness Act, to monitoring and getting answers from the United States Postal Service regarding Virginia's recent post office issues. Cody Mumpower from Congressman Morgan Griffith's office emphasized the need for broadband in his district, especially around the coalfields area as reliable high-speed internet is a must in today's world. Terrance Durkin from Delegate Jason Ballard's office and Michael Zessin from Senator David Suetterlein's office said they appreciate the forum that these regional meetings provide and that they will take this information under consideration as the Delegate and Senator develop their legislative agendas. We would like to thank Jonathan Hartsock from Congressman Ben Cline's office for attending the meeting as well.

County Talk, the part of the regional meeting where counties outline their top legislative priorities for the 2025 Session, featured a robust discussion among attendees. Several issues emerged as common areas of concern, such as local land use authority, transportation improvements, education funding and emergency services support. Counties in Region 5, 9 and 11 stressed that local land use authority should be retained at the local level as development pressures are focused on this area of the Commonwealth. VACo is steadfast in its support for localities to retain this authority and opposes legislation that tries to curtail the ability of a local government to determine how county land should be used. Transportation was often discussed, specifically improvements being made to I-81. I-81 is an important economic engine in this part of the Commonwealth and counties support more available funding that can be made toward accelerating or improving the planned I-81 Corridor Improvement Program. Counties highlighted their continued support for additional education funding and the 1% local option sales tax for school capital bill that VACo supported during the 2024 Session. Emergency services support was a common area of concern as well. Counties mentioned support for the removal of barriers to volunteerism and state support as ways to increase staffing for volunteer fire and EMS services. Temporary Detention Order support was mentioned often as well.

VACo would like to thank all of those who took the time out of their day to attend the regional meeting. VACo would like to give a special thanks to Delegate Wilt, and legislative staff for attending the meeting, as well as VACo's partners for their support.

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

## Several Children's Services Act Policies Under Review; Public Comment Sought



At its September 12 meeting, the State Executive Council for Children's Services approved seeking public comment for 45 days on two notices of intent to develop policy. This is the first step in the policy development process.

- **SEC Policy 4.4.2 - Medicaid Funded Services:** Comments are being sought on a proposed repeal of SEC Policy 4.4.2, dealing with Medicaid-funded services. As explained in the SEC's summary, this policy restates language in the state budget that stipulates that Community Policy and Management Teams must use Medicaid-funded services when they are available for the appropriate treatment of children and youth, and that CSA pool funds cannot be used for a service that can be funded through Medicaid, except when Medicaid-funded services are unavailable or inappropriate. Repealing the policy is intended to eliminate this duplicative language. An explanation of the proposed change may be found at [this link](#), and the full text of the language proposed to be removed may be found at [this link](#).

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- **SEC Policy 4.5.3 – Administrative Funds:** Comments are also being sought on proposed revisions to SEC Policy 4.5.3, which deals with administrative funds provided to local CSA offices. The proposed changes are intended to align with a new, streamlined process for distribution of funds to localities. An explanation of the proposed change may be found at [this link](#), and the full text of the proposed policy revisions may be found at [this link](#).

Comments on these policies may be submitted through the SEC’s Policy Public Comments Form (available at [this link](#)), via email to [csa.office@csa.virginia.gov](mailto:csa.office@csa.virginia.gov) or via US mail or other forms of delivery to the Office of Children’s Services, 1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 137, Richmond, VA 23229. Comments are due by 5 p.m. on November 1, 2024.

The State Executive Council also approved a final 60-day public comment period on a proposed repeal of SEC Policy 4.3, which sets out a process for two or more localities to set aside a portion of their state and local pool fund allocations (up to \$100,000 per jurisdiction, or 5 percent of the local allocation, whichever is smaller) to cover start-up costs for new or expanded CSA services, with an aggregate statewide cap of \$2 million. The Office of Children’s Services is proposing to repeal this policy, as its implementation is contingent on a state appropriation of \$2 million, which has never been funded. A summary may be found at [this link](#), and the full text of the language that is proposed to be repealed may be found at [this link](#). This policy was previously circulated for an initial 45-day public comment period, which closed on August 1.

Comments on this proposed repeal are due by November 15 and may be submitted through the SEC’s Policy Public Comments Form (available at [this link](#)), via email to [csa.office@csa.virginia.gov](mailto:csa.office@csa.virginia.gov) or via US mail or other forms of delivery to the Office of Children’s Services, 1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 137, Richmond, VA 23229.

Member feedback will inform VACo’s public comments and may be sent to Katie Boyle ([kboyle@vaco.org](mailto:kboyle@vaco.org)). If members submit comments directly to the Office of Children’s Services, VACo staff would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your comments.

**VACo Contact:** [Katie Boyle](#)

## VACo Submits Comments to Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding after Inaugural Meeting



The [Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding](#) met for the first time on Monday, September 16 to organize and review recommendations from the 2023 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) report on K-12 education funding. The work of this subcommittee is critical to moving forward with much needed funding reforms to the way in which the Commonwealth funds public schools. As such, following the meeting, VACo submitted formal public [comments](#) to the subcommittee urging that the General Assembly fund the state's share of the true costs of education and begin with prioritizing the restoration of pre-recession levels of funding by fully eliminating the support cap. Any actions taken should not further reduce funding levels to localities as the vast majority are already funding their school divisions well above the required local effort. Counties interested in submitting their own comments can do so [here](#).

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The subcommittee is tasked with providing on-going direction and oversight of the Standards of Quality funding cost policies and making recommendations to their respective committees. As part of its oversight, the Joint Subcommittee shall: (i) review the recommendations and policy options offered in the JLARC's July 2023 report, "Virginia's K-12 Funding Formula"; (ii) determine the appropriateness of implementing each recommendation or policy option, (iii) propose appropriate amendments to each recommendation or policy option and (iv) develop a long-range plan for the phased implementation of its recommendations. In its deliberations, the Joint Subcommittee shall consider the long-term fiscal implications of each recommendation.

As previously [reported](#), the JLARC report confirmed what many in county government knew to be true; that many school division administrators characterized the state's staffing standards as unrealistic, often citing the difference between SOQ staffing calculations and the number of staff they actually needed to employ. This is further demonstrated by the fact that the state only recognizes 2/3 of actual staff employed by school divisions, with the single largest unrecognized staff category being teacher aides. Additionally, Virginia continues to provide less per-pupil funding than neighboring states, including Maryland, Kentucky, and West Virginia. This disparity places our school divisions at a disadvantage in recruiting and retaining high-quality educators and in delivering the instructional support that students require

During the Joint Subcommittee meeting, Senator Mamie E. Locke was elected to be chair of the subcommittee and Delegate Sam Rasoul was elected to be vice chair. The subcommittee received staff briefings giving an overview of the JLARC report findings and recommendations, subsequent actions taken by the Governor and General Assembly during the 2024 legislative session, and an overview of how other states fund their K-12 systems and how some have transitioned from staffing-based funding model similar to Virginia to a student-based funding model used in the majority of other states. The full meeting agenda, recording, and briefing materials can be accessed [here](#).

VACo will continue to engage and provide updates as needed on the progress of the Joint Subcommittee as it plans to meet again on October 31, and if any recommendations are turned into legislation or budget language for the 2025 General Assembly session.

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



## Joint Subcommittee Reviewing Tax Preferences Considers Tobacco Taxes, Film Incentives

The Joint Subcommittee to Evaluate Tax Preferences met on September 17. This body, which consists of legislators from the House Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, as well as members of the Senate appointed upon the recommendation of the Chair of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee, has a broad mandate to “oversee the evaluation of Virginia’s tax preferences, including but not limited to tax credits, deductions, subtractions, exemptions, and exclusions.” House Finance Chair Vivian Watts was elected as chair of the Joint Subcommittee and outlined several principles by which she plans to evaluate tax preferences, including administrative soundness, fairness, legal precedents, the degree to which a tax preference reflects the modern economy, and the rationale for a tax preference.

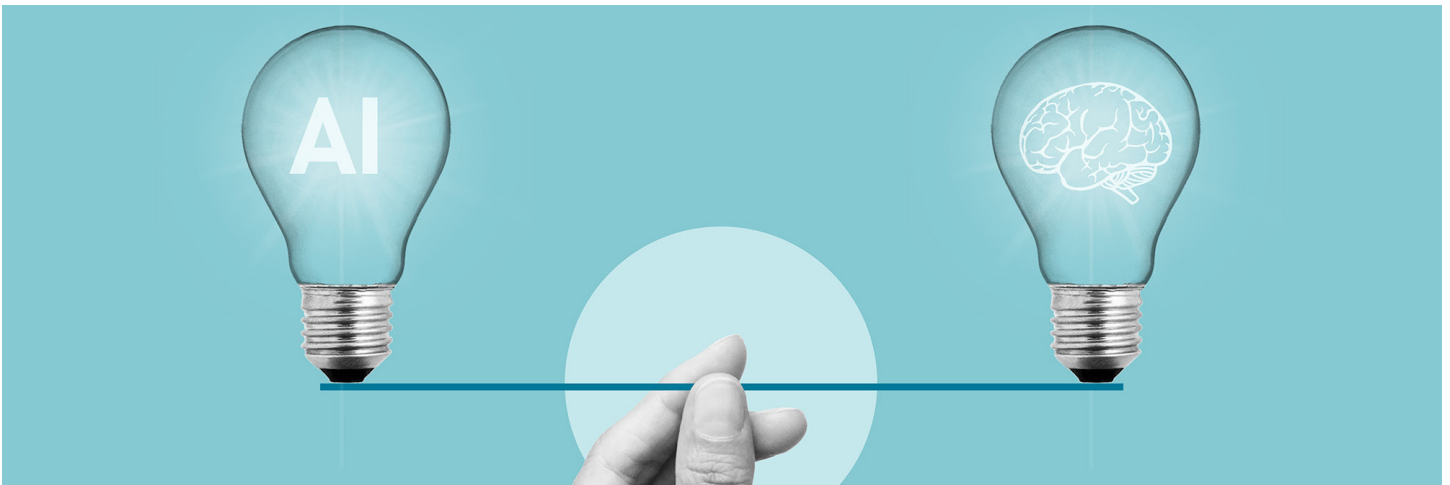
The September 17 meeting focused on two study areas assigned to the Joint Subcommittee: cigarette and tobacco taxes and the state’s tax credits for motion picture production. For several years, language in the state budget has directed the Joint Subcommittee to study options to modernize the state’s tax on cigarettes, to include the tax treatment of vaping products. Staff from the Division of Legislative Services and the Department of Taxation provided an overview of recent legislative and budgetary actions that changed the taxation of certain tobacco products, as well as an explanation of discrepancies between language set out in the Code and provisions in the state budget (which supersede Code language). For example, legislation in 2024 created a two-tier system of taxation of vaping products, depending on whether the product was a “closed” or “open” (refillable) system (one of the patrons of the legislation indicated that this difference was intended to reflect varying levels of nicotine in the two types of products) – but the superseding budget language retains an across-the-board cents per milliliter tax (which was increased in the 2024 Appropriation Act). Staff presentations are available at [this link](#) and [this link](#), respectively.

The Joint Subcommittee also received a referral from the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee earlier this year requesting a review of legislation that was considered in 2024 that would have expanded the state’s Motion Picture Opportunity Tax Credit, which is a refundable individual and corporate income tax credit for motion picture production companies spending a certain amount of money on production costs in Virginia. Staff explained how the credit is administered, briefed members on a 2017 evaluation of the program conducted by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, and provided several policy options for members’ consideration, including an option to eliminate the credit program in favor of a tailored incentive program. Slides from the Division of Legislative Services are available at [this link](#).

Members indicated that they will continue to discuss these topics at the Joint Subcommittee’s next meeting. Two additional meetings are planned prior to the next General Assembly session.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

# VACo Testifies and Submits Comments to Joint Commission on Technology and Science on Artificial Intelligence



The [Joint Commission on Technology and Science \(JCOTS\) Artificial Intelligence Subcommittee](#) met on Monday, September 16 to review proposed legislation concerning the use of high-risk artificial intelligence (AI) in both the private and public sectors. VACo staff presented testimony and then formal [comments](#) to the subcommittee with concerns of centralization of AI policy, impacts to local autonomy, increased compliance costs, as well as on the need for local government representation on state workgroups concerning the use of AI, State Incentives and Training Opportunities for Local Governments, and Local Discretion in Using Non-High-Risk AI Systems.

The work of the JCOTS subcommittee on this issue stems from legislation referred to the subcommittee from the 2024 legislative session. This [legislation](#) in its original form had fairly broad prescriptions pertaining to the use of AI by public bodies across the Commonwealth. The bill was then modified to direct the JCOTS, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to conduct an analysis of the use of artificial intelligence by public bodies in the Commonwealth and the creation of a Commission on Artificial Intelligence. JCOTS must submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committees on Appropriations and Communications, Technology and Innovation and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and General Laws and Technology no later than December 1, 2024.

During a previous meeting of the full JCOTS [committee](#), VACo was asked by committee members to provide testimony and formal comments on proposed legislation for the 2025 legislative session. VACo appreciates being a part of the discussions being held by JCOTS on this issue and looks forward to future opportunities for collaboration. This issue will likely be further discussed by VACo's General Government Steering [Committee](#) when it meets again at VACo's Annual Conference in November.

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

## Joint Commission on Health Care Receives Briefings on Health Care Workforce and Hiram Davis Medical Center Closure



The Joint Commission on Health Care met on September 18 and received a briefing on the results of Commission staff's study of the state's health care workforce programs and a presentation from Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Commissioner Nelson Smith about the Department's plans to address significant capital needs at Hiram Davis Medical Center, which provides acute medical care, skilled nursing, long-term care, and outpatient services and serves patients with dementia, developmental disabilities, and mental health needs.

Commission members directed a study of the state's workforce programs in fall 2023. The study directed staff to develop a framework to measure the performance of health workforce programs, to include obtaining relevant data to measure program outcomes, and consider policy options to improve program performance. Staff found that the state supports 34 programs, with most state funding concentrated in 24 recruitment programs, and that programs are typically focused on shortages in a specific profession rather than on broader criteria such as practice settings. While limited reviews are generally conducted to ensure that program requirements are met, only a small number of programs incorporate monitoring for long-term outcomes and data collection overall is limited. Staff presented two policy options for Commission consideration: (1) requesting state agencies to review existing program eligibility, screening criteria, and service requirements, and



identify opportunities to align programs with the state's workforce needs, and (2) requiring the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority, in collaboration with Virginia Works, to develop a plan for improved data collection and reporting on health care workforce programs.

Staff's presentation is available at [this link](#); the full report is not yet posted online but should be available soon at [this link](#). Public comments are due by close of business on Friday, October 4, and may be submitted by email to [jchcpubliccomments@jhc.virginia.gov](mailto:jchcpubliccomments@jhc.virginia.gov) or via mail to the Joint Commission on Health Care at 411 E. Franklin Street, Suite 505, Richmond, VA 23219.

Commissioner Smith briefed members on [plans under development at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services \(DBHDS\) to address capital needs at Hiram W. Davis Medical Center](#). The facility has not undergone any substantial renovations in 50 years, and the HVAC system, electrical system, and elevators are at the end of their useful lives; the facility has also struggled to resolve plumbing issues, including the presence of Legionella bacteria. Commissioner Smith provided an overview of the Department's plan for closure of the facility, including potential placement options for patients, some of whom are permanent residents of the hospital. Provisions in state Code dictate the composition of a state and community consensus and planning team that is required when any restructuring of the state's mental health system involves an existing state hospital, as well as stipulating the components of a transition plan. State law also requires that any plan be submitted to the Joint Commission on Health Care and the Governor at least nine months prior to any proposed state hospital closure. The Department's initial proposed timeline would envision this plan being submitted in March 2026, with closure planned for December 2027.

Commission members also [discussed the work of the Virginia Task Force on Primary Care](#), which is an initiative of the Virginia Center for Health Innovation and is working to improve payment models and infrastructure to support primary care – a key concern in light of Task Force data showing a declining number of primary care physicians in Virginia in the last several years. The Task Force has implemented several pilot projects on improving clinician well-being and integrating behavioral health care into primary care, among others, and is working on several initiatives for 2025, including legislative proposals to raise Medicaid payments to primary care providers to parity with Medicare rates, expand the integrated behavioral health pilot, and increase research and evaluation on primary care.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

## Money Committees Receive Updates on State Revenues, ARPA Spending



Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings briefed members of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees on September 17 on state revenues and the economic outlook. He characterized August as a “quiet” month for state revenues, as the bulk of August revenues consist of income tax withholding and sales tax collections; September collections, which include estimated nonwithholding payments, are often viewed as a more significant indicator of revenue trends.

Revenues performed well in August, increasing by 2 percent for the month relative to last year. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, general fund revenues increased by 8 percent, outpacing the forecast by \$205.7 million. However, as the Secretary pointed out in his presentations, the forecast was adopted as part of the May 2024 budget and largely reflects the economic assumptions of the fall 2023 forecasting process, which included an expected mild recession.

Virginia’s economy has outperformed the forecast’s expectations, and continues to experience low unemployment at 2.7 percent, substantially below the national rate of 4.2 percent. At the national level, inflation has moderated and the Federal Reserve’s Federal Open Market Committee cut the target federal funds rate by 50 basis points on September 18; while an interest rate cut was widely expected, some observers had predicted a smaller reduction. In the Committee’s [September 18 statement](#), members explained that they have “gained greater confidence that inflation is moving sustainably toward 2 percent, and [the Committee] judges that the risks to achieving its employment and inflation goals are roughly in balance.” Speaking at the press conference after the rate reduction was announced, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell characterized the national economy as “in

good shape,” adding, “It’s growing at a solid pace, inflation is coming down, the labor market is in a strong place, we want to keep it there.”

The state budget process is well underway, with state agency budget requests due by September 20. The Joint Advisory Board of Economists will meet on October 8, and the Governor’s Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates will meet on November 25 to revise the revenue forecast in advance of the Governor’s December 18 presentation of his proposed budget amendments to the money committees.

In addition to the [revenue report](#), the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee received briefings from [the state Department of Accounts](#) and [the Department of Education](#) on the status of American Rescue Plan Act dollars provided to Virginia. Virginia received approximately \$4.3 billion in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars, of which approximately \$3.9 billion has been obligated and \$2.6 billion has been spent. Approximately \$441 million remains unobligated as of June 30. Language in the 2024 Appropriation Act sets out a process for reallocation of dollars that would otherwise be unobligated prior to the December 31 federal deadline, with the first \$3 million directed to the Virginia Tourism Authority, the next \$170 million directed to the Child Care Subsidy Program, and any remaining funds used to support the Enhanced Nutrient Removal Certainty Program. Virginia ranks 15<sup>th</sup> among states in budgeting its allocation, 18<sup>th</sup> in obligating its funds, and 19<sup>th</sup> in expending funds.

Virginia also received three rounds of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds to support school divisions, with a set-aside allowed for the state; the first two rounds of funding have been closed, and school divisions’ deadline to obligate funds from the third round (ESSER III) is September 30. The Department of Education’s deadline to draw down grant funds from the United States Department of Education to reimburse school divisions for expenditures associated with these obligations is January 28, 2025; however, states may request approval for a delay in liquidating funds, and VDOE is submitting such a request.

The House Appropriations Committee also received an update on early childhood care and education from the Department of Education and a report on the Disability Law Center’s investigation into the tragic death of Irvo Otieno. These presentations will be posted at [this link](#).

Following the Committees’ morning meetings, a joint workgroup on historic horse racing, which is composed of members from both House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations, held its first meeting. This workgroup was created by language in the budget and directed to address trends in pari-mutuel pools generated by historic horse racing and the distribution of this revenue to localities. The staff presentation on the current distribution of historic horse racing revenues may be found at [this link](#), and a presentation by New Kent County Administrator Rodney Hathaway on the County’s support for live horse racing may be found at [this link](#).

**VACo Contact:** [Katie Boyle](#)



## Celebrate World Rivers Day: Discover Ways to Keep Your Waterways Healthy!



# PROTECT LOCAL WATERWAYS

World Rivers Day is a reminder of the vital role waterways play in our communities. To celebrate and learn more, take a dive into the [How Your Watershed Works](#) Learning Module from [Protect Local Waterways](#). This interactive resource helps you explore how community activities on land impact local water quality, understand how precipitation and water flow affect our neighborhoods, and discover the benefits of maintaining healthy waterways. Equip yourself with the knowledge to protect and enhance your local rivers, because when our waterways thrive, so do our communities!

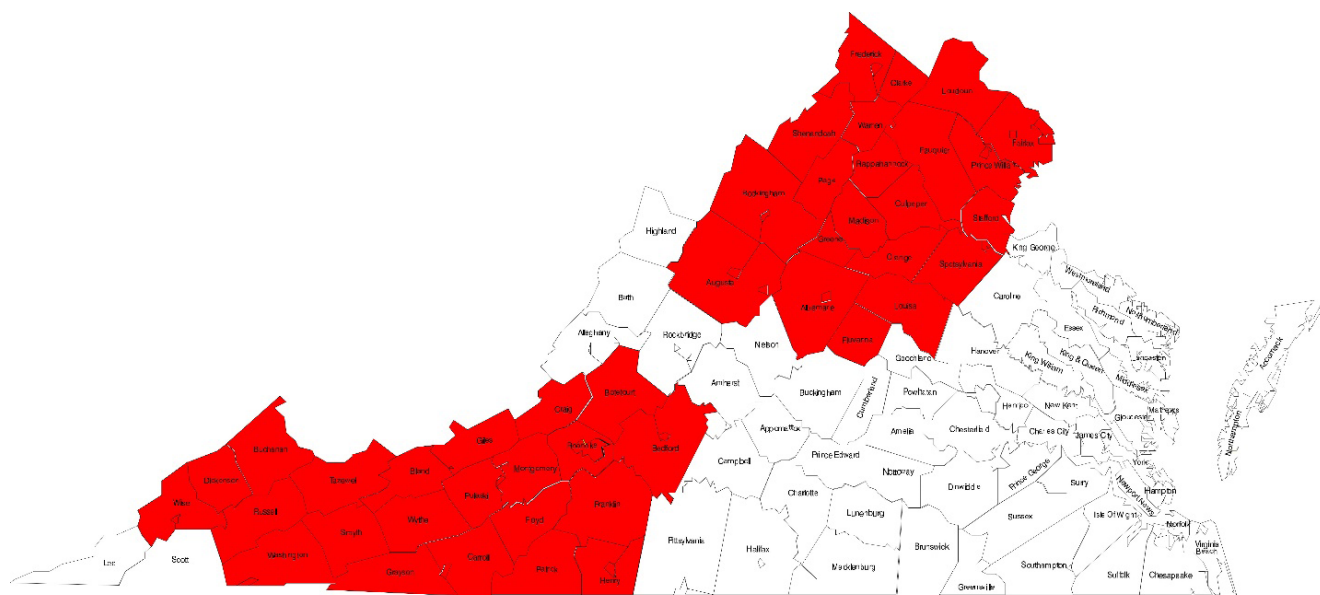
Take action today to secure fishable, swimmable, and drinkable water for your locality! Visit the great website <https://www.protectlocalwaterways.org/> to learn more.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

## County Feeding Ban Update as Formal Deer Hunting Season Begins

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) would like to remind all counties of the current prohibitions on the feeding of deer and elk. Feeding is unnecessary, can harm the digestive system of deer in some cases, often leads to increased conflict with people, and can create an overabundance of deer in an area. The concentration of wildlife at feeding sites can also increase the transmission and spread of diseases, such as chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer. CWD is 100% fatal to deer and was first detected in Virginia in 2009 in Frederick County, and has since been confirmed in Carroll, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Floyd, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, Tazewell, and Warren counties. To help curtail the spread of CWD, DWR implements a year-round feeding ban of deer and elk in any county within 25 miles of a known CWD-positive animal.

As of May 2024, it is currently illegal to feed deer (including mineral licks) year-round in the following counties and all cities and towns within: Albemarle, Arlington, Augusta, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Carroll, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Fairfax, Fauquier, Floyd, Fluvanna, Franklin, Frederick, Giles, Grayson, Greene, Henry, Loudoun, Louisa, Madison, Montgomery, Orange, Page, Patrick, Prince William, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Roanoke, Rockingham, Russell, Shenandoah, Smyth, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Warren, Washington, Wise, and Wythe.



Counties with a current year-round deer/elk feeding ban as of May 2024

Additionally, it is unlawful to feed deer from September 1 through the first Saturday in January statewide and during any open deer or elk season. We ask that you please share this information with your constituents to help us slow the spread of this dreadful disease. For more information on CWD and Virginia's efforts to combat the disease, visit [www.dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/cwd/](http://www.dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/cwd/).

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

# Virginia Counties Recognized for Model Programs



**RICHMOND (August 29, 2024)**—The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is pleased to announce the 45 recipients of the 2024 Achievement Awards, which recognize excellence in local government programs. VACo received 145 submissions.

Winning entries focused on addressing issues of housing, recreation, and communications, as well as finding solutions to other challenges that counties face daily.

[Winning Achievement Award Submissions](#)

[Winning Program Descriptions](#)

[2024 Achievement Awards Entries](#)

“Thank you to all who participated in the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the Achievement Awards,” VACo Executive Director **Dean Lynch** said. “Last year we received 135 submissions, which was then our highest total ever. **[This year 145 entries were submitted.](#)** The program continues to grow because our member counties continue to do innovative work and find solutions to problems. The VACo Achievement Awards is a celebration of the hard work, good decision making, and problem-solving skills of county staffs and leadership.”

[More on Next Page](#)

This year's judges were **Charles Hartgrove, ICMA-CM**, Managing Director of the Virginia Institute of Government; **Dr. Sheryl Bailey**, Visiting Professor of Practice at Virginia Tech, and former Chesterfield County Deputy County Administrator; and **Canova Peterson**, former Hanover County Supervisor.

**Smyth County** and its **Smyth Grow** program won this year's **Best Achievement Award**.

"Housing is currently a big issue in counties, and Smyth County has found a way to build 100 new homes for its workforce," Dr. Bailey said. "Beyond the revenues and social impact of 100 new homes, the program promises to stimulate economic growth by attracting new residents, bolstering local tax revenues, and supporting long-term community stability. The program also hopes to create a ripple effect of positive socioeconomic impacts, including enhanced educational opportunities, increased business retention, and improved quality of life for residents."

The judges also selected a Best Small County Achievement Award (50,000 or less population) and a Best Large County Achievement Award. **Floyd County** and its **Floyd County Scattered Site Housing Rehab** program captured the **Best Small County Achievement Award** while **Montgomery County** and its **Sensory Museum** program earned the **Best Large County Achievement Award**.

Hartgrove said Floyd County's winning program reflects an important criterion for the VACo Achievement Awards – collaboration. "Floyd County also tackled its housing challenge with an innovative program to rehab houses through broad collaboration," Hartgrove said. "What started as volunteers doing urgent repairs on the weekend for neighbors has grown into 10 organizations coordinating and contributing to home improvements around Floyd County. This is a replicable path in any rural county that is dedicated to improving housing."

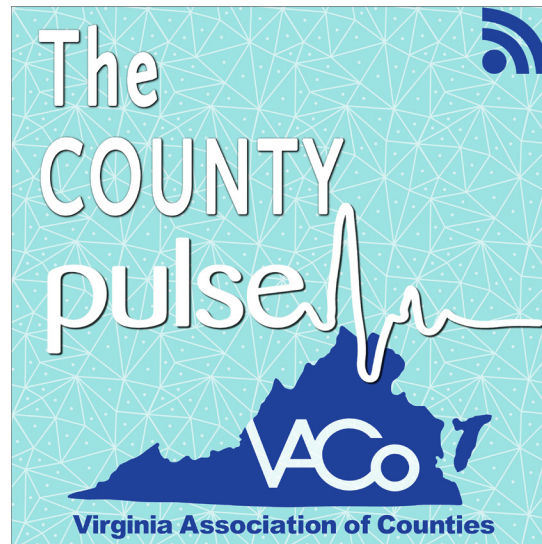
Peterson praised Montgomery County for its unique program to help teens and adults with disabilities. "One positive takeaway from this program is that parents and caregivers often inquire about the materials used in the museum so they can replicate some of the tools in their homes after learning about the benefits of sensory play," Peterson said. "Montgomery County was able to make a direct and positive impact on an often-overlooked group of people."

**Chesterfield County** tops the all-time Achievement Awards list with 54. Chesterfield County has won an award in each year of the 22-year history of the program. **Henrico County** is second on the list with 46 Achievement Awards while **Loudoun County** is third with 31.

The VACo Achievement Awards is a competitive program open to local government members of the association.

[Winning Achievement Award Submissions](#) | [Winning Program Descriptions](#)  
[Achievement Awards Website](#) | [2024 Achievement Awards Entries](#)  
[Past Winners](#) | [Past Judges](#)





## Season 4 | 2024 | Utility-Scale Solar Energy Landscape of Virginia Series with Joe Lerch

### Energy Landscape of Virginia Episode 2 | Utility-Scale Solar | Part 1 [Listen to the Podcast](#)

#### Part 1. Utility-Scale Solar – Legislative Outlook with Dean Lynch

In the first of a 2-part episode, Joe Lerch sits down with VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch to discuss the big picture on state energy policy related to solar and recent attempts to preempt local authority on siting of facilities. Central to this discussion is the passage in 2020 of the [Virginia Clean Economy Act](#), which sets certain targets for deployment of utility-scale solar facilities.

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### Energy Landscape of Virginia Episode 2 | Utility-Scale Solar | Part 2 [Listen to the Podcast](#)

#### Part 2. Utility-Scale Solar – Erosion Control and Stormwater with Mike Rolband

In Part 2 of our episode on Utility-Scale Solar, Joe Lerch sits down with Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director Mike Rolband to focus on issues related to erosion control and stormwater management. We learn about widespread and significant impacts due to developers not adhering to minimum requirements to prevent soil loss and runoff pollution. Director Rolband explains what DEQ has been doing to correct the situation through enforcement, education, and incentives. Counties are part of solving this problem and we'll learn the role they can play in avoiding and mitigating impacts to soils and waterways.

## Additional Resources

- [Mike Rolband Slides](#) (specifically for the podcast).
- [Virginia Tech White Paper – Soil-Site Management Protocols & Best Management Practices \(BMPs\) for Utility Scale Solar Site \(USS\) Development and Management in Virginia](#)

# VRS Schedules Voya Information Sessions for Employers



## VRS and Voya Stakeholder Transition Meeting

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** These introductory sessions are kick-off presentations that provide a high-level overview for county elected officials and administrators. More detailed sessions will follow targeting those administering the plans within the county and employees participating in the plans.

VRS is [transitioning record-keeping services](#) from MissionSquare Retirement to Voya Financial (Voya) on January 1, 2025. The change will affect the following plans:

- Hybrid Retirement Plan (defined contribution component).
- Commonwealth of Virginia 457 Deferred Compensation Plan.
- Virginia Cash Match Plan.
- Optional Retirement Plan for Higher Education.
- Optional Retirement Plan for Political Appointees.
- Optional Retirement Plan for School Superintendents.

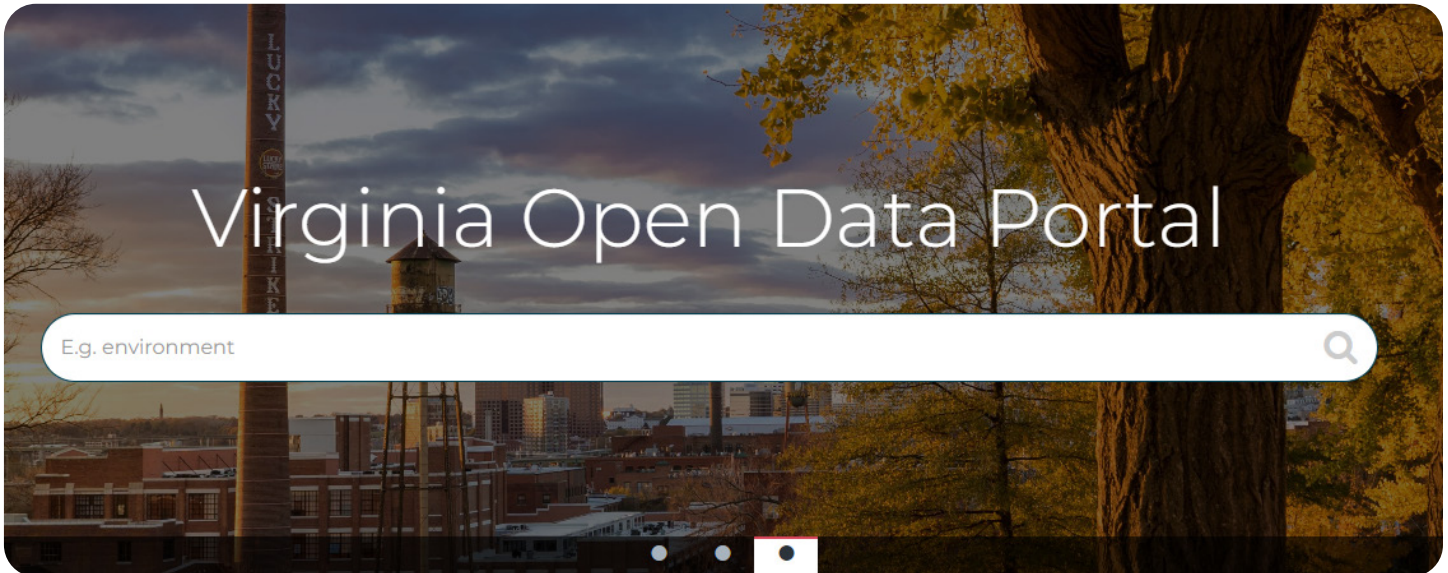
VRS will kick off its communications with employers later this month with an overview presentation targeting agency leaders. The presentation will provide additional information regarding the record-keeper transition, including an introduction to Voya, along with communications planned for employers and participants as well as the logistical steps VRS is taking to prepare for January 2025.

Feel free to join one of these virtual sessions, using these links.

- [Wednesday, September 25 at 2 p.m.](#)
- [Monday, September 30 at 11 a.m.](#)
- [Tuesday, October 1 at 2 p.m.](#)

Voya will bring best-in-class services, state-of-the-art retirement readiness tools, access to professional investment advice and robust financial wellness support to all plan participants. VRS anticipates an enhanced experience to help members save and plan for the future.

Additional employer informational sessions will be scheduled beginning in October, followed by participant information sessions thereafter.



# DISCOVER THE VIRGINIA OPEN DATA PORTAL



**VACo Members** - Check out the [Virginia Open Data Portal](#), which is managed by the Virginia Office of Data Governance and Analytics.

The Open Data Portal serves to provide access to Commonwealth of Virginia State datasets to constituents of Virginia. Capabilities of the portal include viewing and exporting data, viewing APIs, and exploring visualizations.

Overall, the portal promotes government transparency by working to provide access to data in one centralized location. The portal now hosts over 2,000 state datasets, and the ODGA team works to add new datasets from state agencies daily.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [odga@odga.virginia.gov](mailto:odga@odga.virginia.gov)

**[VISIT THE VIRGINIA OPEN DATA PORTAL](#)**



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August 2024 HIGH PERFORMANCE LEADERSHIP

This is a 12-week online program with content provided by industry leading executives. The curriculum provides best practices in leadership, organizational development and change management, negotiation and collaboration, effective business communication, and how to deliver increased value from high performance county management.

### Course 1: Leadership Mindset & Positive Engagement

This course provides insights from members of the program's National Leadership Board on the ways leaders shift their mindset from being excellent individual contributors to becoming highly effective leaders. The course also focuses on increasing empowerment and engagement to achieve individual, team and enterprise success. The second half of this course demonstrates how leaders enable "positively deviant" performance and engender positive culture and communication.

### Course 2: Leading Effective Change

The emphasis of this course is to prepare participants to engage in change initiated by others and to drive effective change as an active change agent. This course illustrates three facets of organizational change, including planning, executing and sustaining successful change. A balance of theoretical and pragmatic insights allows participants to understand the strategic, financial or market-based reasons for change and drive toward breakthrough results.

### Course 3: Communication and Collaboration

Participants learn and practice the skills needed to improve the quality of interpersonal communication in a variety of contexts. Participants will learn how to effectively speak the language of business and convey information across diverse stakeholder groups, as well as break down silos between business divisions to drive better decision making. Each participant will understand effective communication as it relates to leading others, managing conflict, providing and receiving feedback, and negotiating with the Mutual Gains Approach.

### Course 4: Leading High Performance Teams

This closing course focuses on measures, metrics, and practices used across the enterprise to achieve high performance. Participants learn that business results – values and benefits – may differ from one company to the next and even from department to department within a single company, but the consistent variable is It's All About People.

#### COURSE 1: August 5<sup>th</sup> – August 30<sup>th</sup>

Module 1: Your Leadership Mindset  
 Module 2: Your Potential as a Positive Leader  
 Module 3: Positive Leadership and Your Team:  
 Empowerment & Engagement  
 Module 4: Leadership Rules and Your Oath  
 Break Week: September 2<sup>nd</sup> – September 6<sup>th</sup>

#### COURSE 2: September 9<sup>th</sup> – October 3<sup>rd</sup>

Module 1: The Process of Change: Planning  
 Module 2: The Process of Change: Executing  
 Module 3: The Process of Change: Sustaining  
 Module 4: Leadership Rules and Your Oath

#### COURSE 3: October 7<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>

Module 1: Speaking the Language of Business  
 Break Week: October 14<sup>th</sup> – October 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Module 2: Positive Communications  
 Module 3: Mutual Gains Approach

#### COURSE 4: November 4<sup>th</sup> - November 8<sup>th</sup>

Module 1: It's All About People  
 Graduation: November 8<sup>th</sup>



"Many frontline managers are exactly the people we cannot afford to lose. The NACo High Performance County Leadership Academy helps to retain these vital employees and helps enable them to be better leaders."

Matt Chase, Executive Director, NACo





Thank you Wythe County Chief Deputy [Anthony Cline](#) for sharing your experience with Blue Line Solutions!



Thank you Sussex County Sheriff [Ernest Giles](#) for sharing your experience with Blue Line Solutions!

## Premier Partner Spotlight

# Blue Line Solutions Testimonials

**Blue Line Solutions** is making a positive impact on communities all over Virginia. In Smyth County - **Blue Line Solutions** recorded during a five-day period that there were 3,530 vehicles traveling through school speed zones at 10mph or higher above the speed limit. That's over 12,000 speeding vehicles a month during school days.

**Blue Line Solutions** uses information and communications rather than focus on enforcement to reduce speeds in school zones.

During **Blue Line Solutions** Public Information Phase of its program in Smyth County - the number dropped to 213 over a five-day period. That's without writing one ticket. The community heard the problem and reacted to it. During the warning phase - the number dropped to 175. Then during the enforcement phase - it dropped to 72. That's a 98 percent reduction of speeders compared to before the **Blue Line Solutions** program.

"That's absolutely fantastic that we can make a difference in a community," Blue Line Solutions CEO/Founder Mark Hutchinson said.



# VACo 90th Annual Conference

November 10 – 12, 2024

The Omni Homestead | Bath County



This year's Annual Conference theme - **“Energizing County Governments”** - was selected because of VACo's collective energy and momentum that has jolted counties to many successes. We are proud of our accomplishments and service to our communities.

Join county and state leaders from all over the Commonwealth on November 10-12 at the Omni Homestead for [VACo's 90th Annual Conference](#).

# 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](mailto: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](#)



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# 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](mailto: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



## 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).





## 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.



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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).

[TAX TECHNICIAN I](#) | Montgomery County | Posted September 19

[SENIOR PLANNER](#) | Town of Culpeper | Posted September 19

[UTILITY SUPERVISOR](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 17

[EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MIDDLESEX WATER AUTHORITY AND COUNTY ENGINEER](#) | Middlesex County | Posted September 17

[PLANNER II \(TRANSPORTATION/DEVELOPMENT\)](#) | Montgomery County | Posted September 17

[SENIOR PLANNER II](#) | Albemarle County | Posted September 17

[ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT ANALYST](#) | Albemarle County | Posted September 17

[ZONING ADMINISTRATOR](#) | New Kent County | Posted September 17

[MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR](#) | New Kent County | Posted September 17

[DEPUTY CLERK PT -CC](#) | New Kent County | Posted September 17

[LT OPERATIONS](#) | New Kent County | Posted September 17

[ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM SPECIALIST](#) | New Kent County | Posted September 17

[P&R RECREATION SPECIALIST I or II](#) | New Kent County | Posted September 17

[ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MANAGER](#) | Mecklenburg County | Posted September 17

[ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[SENIOR BUILDING INSPECTOR](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[POLICE OFFICER \(CERTIFIED\)](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[POLICE OFFICER](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[PLANNING & ZONING TECHNICIAN](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[METER TECHNICIAN](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[MANAGER VI, BUDGET](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[KENNEL ATTENDANT](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[FIRE & EMS CHIEF](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[PLANT MANAGER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 16

[MHSS SERVICES SUPERVISOR-CHESTER HOUSE](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 16

[PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST-OUTREACH](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 16

[PLUMBING/MECHANICAL INSPECTOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 16

[STAFF AUDITOR-100% TELEWORK ELIGIBLE \(RICHMOND REGION\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 16

[RADIO INSTALLATION TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 16

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted September 16

[TOWN MANAGER](#) | Town of Beaufort, NC | Posted September 16

[ZONING ADMINISTRATOR](#) | Stafford County | Posted September 13

[SCHOOL BUS TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 13

[SENIOR SCHOOL BUS TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 13

[EMERGENCY VEHICLE TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 13

[CLINICIAN \(OUTPATIENT/PART-TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 13

[NATURAL RESOURCES TEAM LEADER](#) | Loudoun County | Posted September 13

[NATURAL RESOURCES ENGINEER III](#) | Loudoun County | Posted September 13

[HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR](#) | Cleveland County, NC | Posted September 12

[PRESIDENT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER](#) | Dulles Area Transportation Association | Posted September 12

[BUILDING INSPECTOR](#) | Montgomery County | Posted September 12

[QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 10

[SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 10

[PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST-CHESTER HOUSE](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 10

[SENIOR CLINICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 10

[CHILD ADOLESCENT SERVICIES SENIOR CLINICIAN BFOQ/BILINGUAL \(SPANISH/ENGLISH\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 10

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted September 9

[BENEFIT PROGRAM SPECIALIST I](#) | Montgomery County | Posted September 9

[BUDGET ANALYST/SENIOR BUDGET ANALYST](#) | City of Fredericksburg | Posted September 9

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted September 9

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | King George County | Posted September 9

[DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES](#) | Orange County | Posted September 9

[CHIEF OF FIRE AND EMS](#) | Patrick County | Posted September 9

[PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR](#) | Patrick County | Posted September 9

[LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE \(PART-TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 9

[CONSTITUENT SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR](#) | Roanoke County | Posted September 6

[DEPUTY CITY ENGINEER](#) | City of Staunton | Posted September 6

[TRANSPORTATION PLANNER](#) | City of Staunton | Posted September 6

[ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY \(CD\) - II OR SENIOR](#) | Hanover County | Posted September 6

[DAY SUPPORT COUNSELOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 5

[AUTOMATION COORDINATOR \(LIBRARY\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 5

[LIBRARY ASSISTANT \(PT\) - ENON](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 5

[RESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR - PRESTONWOOD](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 5

[RESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR - HARROWGATE](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 5

[MAIL CLERK](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 5

[ACCESS & EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAM CUSTOMER SERVICE REP](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 5

[QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 5

[PRINCIPAL ENGINEER \(ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 5

[GIS AND DATA ANALYST](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 5  
[CAPITAL PROJECTS MANAGER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 3

[SENIOR ENGINEER \(PART-TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 3

[CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTOR](#) | Campbell County | Posted August 29

[TOWN MANAGER](#) | Town of Grottoes, VA | Posted August 28

[ANIMAL SHELTER OPERATIONS MANAGER](#) | Culpeper County | Posted August 28

[COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR](#) | King William County | Posted August 28

[REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER DIRECTOR](#) | King William County | Posted August 28

[SUPERVISOR OF FINANCE](#) | Allegheny Highlands Public Schools | Posted August 27

[DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS](#) | Allegheny Highlands Public Schools | Posted August 27

[PRINCIPAL ENGINEER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted August 27

[LIBRARY BRANCH MANAGER-ETTRICK/MATOACA LIBRARY](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted August 27

[ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST \(LIBRARY\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted August 27

[PLANNER](#) | Town of Culpeper | Posted August 26

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted August 26

[TRANSPORTATION PLANNER](#) | Roanoke County | Posted August 23

[HUMAN RESOURCES BENEFITS MANAGER](#) | Bedford County | Posted August 23

[COUNTY MANAGER](#) | Allegheny County, NC | Posted August 22

[DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES](#) | City of Fredericksburg | Posted August 20

[ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER](#) | Town of Christiansburg | Posted September 4



## 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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- Director of Programs and Development** | Karie Walker

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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