The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

Friday, June 6, 2025

Virginia Association of Counties

The Virginia Rural Center Launches "The Rural Virginia Opportunity Dashboard"

COUNTY

CONNECTIONS



WISE, VA — The Virginia Rural Center proudly announces the launch of the <u>Rural</u> <u>Virginia Opportunity Dashboard</u>, an innovative digital platform designed to empower rural communities across the Commonwealth. The dashboard was unveiled today during the Tenth Annual Southwest Virginia Economic Forum at the University of Virginia's College at Wise.

Developed by the Virginia Rural Center, the Opportunity Dashboard provides comprehensive, data-driven insights into critical sectors such as demographics, housing, education, business, and health. The platform features interactive asset maps that highlight essential infrastructure and community resources, helping local leaders visualize opportunities and challenges in their regions.

"Rural Virginia is rich in potential, and this dashboard will serve as a vital tool for stakeholders looking to drive positive change," said Senator Creigh Deeds, Chairman of the Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia. "By providing detailed insights and resources, we aim to help communities recognize their strengths and identify opportunities for growth."

DASHBOARD FROM PAGE 1

A key element of the dashboard is the Rural Resource Index, a searchable tool for identifying funding opportunities at the local, state, and federal levels. Designed to support governments, nonprofits, businesses, and individuals, the index makes it easier to secure resources for impactful community projects.

"This dashboard is a major step forward for rural Virginia," said Bryan David, Chair of the Council for Rural Virginia. "It reflects our commitment to providing practical tools that support data-informed decision-making, helping communities to be more strategic, competitive, and successful in pursuing opportunities."

The dashboard also includes downloadable reports and trend data to support grant applications, planning efforts, and long-term investment strategies. Its development was guided by a vision to bridge data gaps and enhance collaboration among rural stakeholders.

"The Rural Virginia Opportunity Dashboard was built with and for our communities," said Kristie Proctor, Executive Director of the Virginia Rural Center. "It brings together critical data and resources in one place, giving leaders the insights they need to plan for the future and make a real difference locally."

The Virginia Rural Center welcomes sponsors and partners to support the continued growth and impact of the Rural Virginia Opportunity Dashboard, which was developed in collaboration with the Virginia Tech Center for Geospatial Information Technology and Chandler Vaughan.

For more information about the **Rural Virginia Opportunity Dashboard** and to use the dashboard, visit: <u>www.cfrv.org/rvod</u>

Media Contact: Chandler Vaughan | Dashboard Development Consultant Email: <u>chandler.vaughan@cfrv.org</u> Website: <u>www.cfrv.org</u>

The Virginia Rural Center is a partnership of the Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia and the Council for Rural Virginia, working together with policymakers and local leaders to advance economic opportunity and quality of life across the Commonwealth.

PREMIER PARTNERS

County Connections | Page 3



INTRODUCING A NEW VACo PREMIER PARTNER

Chase Dominion Advisors

Trey Jamison, CPFA, AIF® Managing Partner | Retirement Plan Consultant <u>tjamison@chasedominion.com</u>

> Office: 804.325.1502 Mobile: 804.980.6750



Todd Wright, CPFA

Business Development and Retirement Plan Consultant twright@chasedominion.com Office: 804.325.1505 Mobile: 804.241.7073

Learn more at www.chasedominion.com

<u>Click Here to Watch the Video</u>



Energy Landscape of Virginia Series with Joe Lerch

Episode 17 | State Energy Policy – Comparison of Maryland and Virginia with MACo Conduit Street Podcast



Listen to the Podcast.

Energy Landscape of Virginia Episode 17 | State Energy Policy – Comparison of Maryland and Virginia with <u>MACo Conduit Street Podcast</u>

Joe Lerch talks with Dominic Butchko, Director of Intergovernmental Relations with the <u>Maryland Association of Counties (MACo</u>) to compare both the differences and similarities between Maryland and Virginia when it comes to energy and its intersection with county land use and local authority. With a focus on state legislative policy and action, we delve into issues of utility-scale generation, energy storage, transmission, and the growing demand for electricity from the data center industry.

Where to find out more about topics covered in this episode

- UVA Weldon Cooper Solar Database
- Virginia (DEQ) Environmental Excellence Award Nevados Solar
- PJM Regional Transmission Organization (RTO)
- Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project
- <u>Commonwealth Fusion Systems Chesterfield County Project</u>

VACo Contact: Joe Lerch, AICP

TOURISM

County Connections | Page 5



Visit Smyth County and the Smyth County Historic Courthouse

Location: 109 West Main Street / North Church Street Built: 1904 – 1905 Style: Neo-Classical Architect: Frank Pierce Milburn of Washington, DC Contractor: Stephenson & Getaz of Knoxville, Tennessee

Description: The building faces southeast and is a two story gray colored brick, stone and concrete structure. The building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of Marion. The building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of Marion. The building is "T" shaped. The southeast front has a large porch with eight Ionic columns rising to a wide header at the roof line. There is a balcony on the second story. A wide cornice runs below the roof line. On the center of the hipped roof is a large flat octagonal dome. In the interior is the lobby rotunda with stained glass dome. The courtroom is behind the lobby. There is an iron and marble staircase. The interior originally featured an auditorium known as the "Court Square Theater" for public performances. The building houses the County Circuit Court, County General District Court and County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of the 28th Judicial Circuit. An addition was constructed on the north side in 1974. The architect was Echols-Sparger & Associates and the contractor was Lincoln Builders Supply, Company, Inc. Further additions were added in 1976 and 2012 when the architect was Moseley Architects. An addition was constructed in 2016. The architect was Moseley Associates and the contractor was Burnwell Construction Company.

History: The county was created in 1832 and Marion was selected as the county seat. The first courthouse was built by Thomas W Mercer and John Dameron in Marion in 1834. The courthouse was razed and the Francis Opera House on Main Street was used until the second and present courthouse was constructed in 1905 to 1906 at a cost of \$48,082.

SOURCE: <u>American Courthouses</u>

VACO 2025 REGIONAL MEETINGS

- **REGION 4** | April 28 | Brunswick County
- REGION 1 | May 7 | Sussex County
- **REGIONS 3&5** | May 12 | Henrico County
- **REGION 10** | June 12 | Pittsylvania County
- **REGION 7** | June 16 | King George County
- REGION 13 | July 21 | Dickenson County
- **REGIONS 11&12** | July 22 | Bland County
- REGION 8 | August 20 | Prince William County
- REGION 2 | August 27 | Gloucester County
- REGIONS 6&9 | September 18 | Shenandoah County

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

FLOTILLA 12-02 PAINTER

Virginia Tech

LOOF Fxte

erative E

irginia Sta

County Connections | Page 7

Virginia Cooperative Extension has served communities across the commonwealth for more than 100 years, sharing knowledge and supporting businesses and individuals in every corner of the state.

Contact your local Extension office today at <u>ext.vt.edu/offices</u>.



Virginia Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity employer.

IN MEMORIAM



Remembering Former Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins



- Catherine M. "Cathy" Hudgins passed away on May 24.
- Cathy served as VACo President in 2012.
- She served as the Hunter Mill District supervisor from 2000-2019.
- The Southgate Community Center is named in her honor, and she will be remembered for her contributions to equity, inclusion and public service.

Fairfax County is deeply saddened to announce the passing of Catherine M. "Cathy" Hudgins, a pioneering leader and dedicated public servant who made an indelible impact on the community.

Cathy Hudgins was the first African American to serve on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. She served as the Hunter Mill District supervisor from 2000 until her retirement in 2019. Throughout her tenure, she was a passionate advocate for diversity, affordable housing and inclusive community development. As chair of the board's Health and Human Services and Housing committees, she championed initiatives that improved quality of life across the county.

One of Hudgins' most enduring legacies is the creation of the Southgate Community Center in Reston. Opened in 2006, the center was the result of her vision and determination to establish a space for

More CATHY on Next Page

CATHY FROM PAGE 8

community engagement and vital services. In recognition of her leadership, the facility was renamed the Cathy Hudgins Community Center at Southgate in 2021.

"Cathy's impact touched every corner of Fairfax County," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay. "We shared a vision for a more equitable community, and I was proud to work alongside her in developing the One Fairfax policy. Her leadership, both locally and regionally, brought an equity lens to everything from housing to transportation. Her influence lives on in the values that continue to guide our work."

To honor her retirement in 2019, Fairfax County produced a tribute video highlighting her contributions and connection to the community:



"Cathy left an enduring legacy in Hunter Mill and across Fairfax County," said Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn. "She helped co-create the One Fairfax policy, launched the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team, and led the effort to build the Southgate Community Center. Cathy changed Fairfax County government for the better and helped ensure that all voices are heard and all needs are addressed."

Fairfax County Executive Bryan Hill reflected on Hudgins' influence:

"Cathy was a force. She led with grace, conviction and belief in the power of community. She was one of the first board members I worked closely with, and I was immediately struck by her collaborative spirit and deep commitment to affordable housing, homelessness prevention and the principles that now shape our One Fairfax policy. Her legacy continues to inspire us."

Hudgins and her husband, Willie L. Hudgins Jr., moved to Reston in 1969, becoming some of the community's earliest residents. Before entering public office, she worked as a programmer and analyst at AT&T. Beyond her elected service, Hudgins was deeply involved in civic and political life, including her role as a Virginia national committeewoman on the Democratic National Committee. In Reston, she was PTA president at Forest Edge Elementary, a dedicated soccer mom and an early advocate for inclusive neighborhoods.

Hudgins contributions to equity, inclusion and public service opened doors and created opportunities that will benefit residents for generations to come.

READ MORE IN HER OBITUARY

SOURCE: Fairfax County NewsCenter

COUNTY NEWS



Henrico's Taylor Farm Park wins national award for innovative design

The National Recreation and Park Association has named **Taylor Farm Park** the recipient of its 2025 Innovation in Park Design Award, marking the first time a Henrico County park has received a national award.

The annual **NRPA Innovation Award** recognizes park and recreation agencies that have improved their communities through innovative practices in park design, health and well-being, environmental resilience and equity. The association has more than 60,000 member agencies nationwide. Taylor Farm Park was chosen from 225 applicants.

Henrico Recreation & Parks Director John T. Zannino noted that the recognition is a "monumental moment" for the agency.

"It's our first national award," he said. "We all knew locally that Taylor Farm Park was something special. We wanted to see how it measured up among other parks across the country."

Zannino said embracing a mentality of conservation and stewardship was part of the design process. Of the 99 acres of the site, about 18 acres are developed. The park's master plan was created with extensive community input.

"We used **nature as the theme** of this development," he said. "The play equipment, the play stream, the preservation of most of the site, the native plantings and all of the trees reflect input received from Henrico residents."

More HENRICO on Next Page

HENRICO FROM PAGE 10



Taylor Farm Park cost \$26 million and was funded through Henrico's voter-approved 2016 bond referendum. When it opened in July 2024, 70,000 visitors came to the park in its first week. The park has seen more than 400,000 visitors since its opening. Unique features of Taylor Farm Park include:

- Custom-built playgrounds with treehouses, rope net climbers, slides and ziplines;
- An accessible spray park plus a mile-long trail for all ages and abilities;
- Mini waterfalls, shallow pools and an interactive play stream with stepping stones;
- "All-wheel" offerings including a 17,000-square-foot skate park, a 12,000-square-foot pump track/flow bowl and a BMX dirt course;
- An event lawn for live music and outdoor movies; and
- A memorial for veterans and first responders.

Varina District Supervisor Tyrone E. Nelson, whose district is home to the park, noted the national recognition is a result of the work of staff and community involvement.

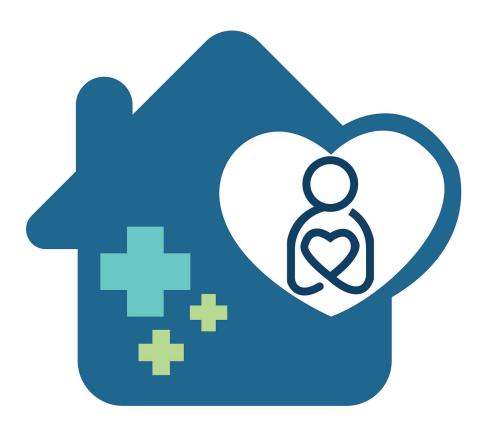
"It's a humbling experience, not just for our staff and our team, but to know just how the community has embraced it," Nelson said. "We want to make Henrico a place where people want to live, work and play, and the play part of it is important. We want to make it the best. This park will be something for us to brag on for generations to come."

Due to the strong popularity and feedback from visitors, the park is adding more parking, including dedicated bus, daycare, and food truck spaces; additional shade and seating in the playground; and an enhanced filtration system for the play stream.

The National Recreation and Park Association's formal recognition of Taylor Farm Park will occur in September at the NRPA Annual Conference.

STATE NEWS

Workgroup on Regulation of Recovery Residences Holds First Meeting



A workgroup tasked with making recommendations to enhance oversight of recovery residences held its first meeting on May 29; several local government representatives are participating on behalf of VACo and the Virginia Municipal League. Legislation that passed in the 2025 session required the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to convene the workgroup as the next step in a process of establishing credentialing guidelines for recovery residences, which provide alcohol- and drug-free housing to individuals with substance use disorders. VACo supported this bill, which was introduced at the request of Henrico County.

Under current law, recovery residences must be certified by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) in accordance with regulations, which now require an Oxford House Charter or a credential from the Virginia Association of Recovery Residences; failure to comply could result in a civil penalty of \$200-\$1,000. Beginning July 1, all facilities providing recovery housing must be certified, with noncompliance a Class 1 misdemeanor; conditional certification will be permitted for up to nine months while the facility achieves full certification. The workgroup's recommendations are intended to guide the development of a new certification process, which would include a uniform set of certification criteria for all

RECOVERY FROM PAGE 12

recovery residences, with credentialing guidelines to be implemented by the Department, to include elements such as training and standards for recovery residence operators and house managers; a Residents' Bill of Rights; a process for investigation of complaints; protocols for sanctions on recovery residences, including decertification; and methods for localities to conduct fire, building, safety, and health inspections.

As part of the workgroup's introductory meeting, the following questions were posed for discussion. Two subcommittees will be formed to discuss these issues in more depth:

- 1. What criteria should be included in the uniform certification process for all recovery residences to ensure fairness and consistency, considering the diversity of recovery models?
- 2. How can DBHDS ensure transparency regarding the certification of recovery residences, including clear communication about the certification status, results, and inspection processes to residents and the public?
- 3. What specific information should be included on the DBHDS website for each recovery residence to foster trust and informed decision-making among residents and their families?
- 4. How can the workgroup ensure that the credentialing process is not overly burdensome to recovery residence operators, while still maintaining high standards for safety, timeliness in its credentialing process, and effectiveness?

The subcommittees will be meeting during the summer, with several additional meetings of the full workgroup also planned to finalize recommendations in advance of the report's November 1 due date.

VACo Contacts: Katie Boyle and Joe Lerch, AICP

STATE NEWS

Changes to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) for FY 2026



Which New Laws Affect VRS?

See the **2025 Legislative Summary** to view new laws that affect VRS-administered benefits, plans and programs, including:

- Disability benefits for emergency dispatchers.
- Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System membership for conservation officers.
- Retirement allowance changes for judges effective in 2026.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments Take Effect July 1

The following cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) take effect July 1 for eligible retirees in Plan 1, Plan 2 and the Hybrid Retirement Plan (defined benefit component).

- 2.95% for Plan 1
- 2.48% for Plan 2 and the Hybrid Retirement Plan

Eligible retirees will see the COLA amount in their August 1 benefit payment.

Virginia Sickness and Disability Program (VSDP)

Members receiving long-term disability benefits under VSDP for at least one calendar year will see a:

- **4.00%** increase in their creditable compensation.
- **2.95%** (Plan 1) or **2.48%** (Plan 2 and Hybrid Retirement Plan) cost-of-living adjustments to their benefit payments.

Virginia Local Disability Program (VLDP)

Members receiving long-term disability benefits under VLDP for at least one calendar year will see a:

• **4.00%** increase in their creditable compensation if they retire directly from long-term disability.

Life Insurance

\$9,768 is the new minimum beginning July 1 (an increase of 2.48% over the previous year for retirees with at least 30 years of service credit).

Hazardous Duty Supplement

\$17,856 beginning July 1 and paid monthly beginning August 1 (\$1,488 per month).

Updates to Handbooks and Websites

VRS will make updates to member handbooks and websites, as is typical for July 1. If you have printed handbooks and guides on hand, they will soon be out of date (except for the VRS Member Guide). Refer to the **Publications** section of the VRS website for up-to-date editions. You may **order printed copies** of the VRS Member Guide, which is designed for new hires. Other handbooks and guides are available on the VRS website for employees to view or download.

Secure Act Requirements Affect Certain Catch-Up Contributions

Beginning January 1, 2026, employers participating in the Commonwealth of Virginia 457 Deferred Compensation Plan will need to manage age-based catch-up contributions differently for high-earning employees.

The federal SECURE 2.0 Act (Section 603) requires that age-based contributions for employees who made at least \$145,000 in the prior year be made as after-tax contributions (Roth). Section 603 does not apply to contributions made under the standard catch-up provision.

Participating employers will need to monitor wages paid to participants in the Commonwealth of Virginia 457 Plan. If their pay exceeds the \$145,000 threshold, then only after-tax contributions will be allowed as age-based catch-up contributions.

Voya is developing a process to help ensure age-based contributions are submitted in compliance with Section 603. Look for more communication around the change later in the year.

VACo Contact: Jeremy R. Bennett

VACo NEWS

VACo Releases 2025 Annual Conference Theme and Logo



JOIN US for the VACo 91st Annual Conference

November 8 – 11, 2025 The Omni Homestead | Bath County https://www.vaco.org/education-and-events/annual-conference/ **STATE NEWS**

<u>JLARC Discusses Juvenile Justice Realignment,</u> <u>Local Audits, Workforce Incentives</u>



At the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission's June 4 meeting, members received presentations from Commission staff on the <u>merits and drawbacks of moving the Department</u>. of Juvenile Justice to the Health and Human Resources Secretariat and the <u>economic benefits</u>. of certain workforce and industry incentives. Staci A. Henshaw, the Auditor of Public Accounts, reported on her office's work over the previous year, including the compilation of the annual *Comparative Report of Local Government Revenues and Expenditures* and monitoring localities for signs of fiscal distress.

Transfer of Department of Juvenile Justice: JLARC staff did not recommend transferring the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) out of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Secretariat, finding that such a restructuring would be unlikely to improve access to services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system, and could hamper the agency's ability to ensure public safety. Staff pointed out that relocating DJJ could inhibit the Department's ability to coordinate with other public safety agencies, and its unique mission and specially-designed services could be overshadowed by the large and complex agencies already housed within the Health and Human Resources Secretariat. Staff also found that youth involved in the juvenile justice system benefit from the timely provision of services through DJJ's contractor-coordinated service delivery model, which provides services such as individual and family therapy, anger management, and mentoring, as well as residential placements and services. Many of these youth are also being served by Health and Human Resources agencies, and staff did not find that such coordination across secretariats posed difficulties. To improve understanding of the effectiveness of specific services provided to individual youth, staff recommended that DJJ document the services provided through the regional service

coordinator system and use the data to evaluate access to services and whether services are aligned with treatment needs.

Staff also offered several suggestions for alternative approaches toward the goals of improving access to services for court-involved youth and enhancing coordination among agencies:

- Codifying the Children's Cabinet, which was previously established by Executive Orders to advise former Governors on policies related to children and youth.
- Creating a cabinet-level coordinator position.
- Increasing funding for the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act, which can be used for early intervention services.
- Increasing funding to provide embedded Community Services Board mental health staff at all Court Services Units; these staff can expedite referrals to CSBs or provide some services themselves.
- Revisiting certain recommendations from previous studies, including a 2020 recommendation to require local Children's Services Act programs to serve non-mandated youth.

Evaluation of Workforce Incentives: This report, undertaken as part of JLARC's mandate to perform ongoing review and evaluation of economic development incentives, considered the costs and benefits of the Virginia Jobs Investment Program, the Virginia Talent Accelerator Program, the worker training tax credit, and an assortment of targeted sales tax exemptions for certain industries. Staff offered several recommendations to improve the Virginia Jobs Investment Program and the Virginia Talent Accelerator Program and recommended that the Joint Subcommittee to Evaluate Tax Preferences review the sales tax exemptions and consider whether these exemptions achieve policy goals other than economic development.

Auditor of Public Accounts Review of Prior Year Results: Ms. Henshaw updated members on the status of the Comparative Report, pointing out that 22 localities had yet to submit their required information as of the end of May and that an increasing number of localities have been unable to submit their financial reports by the December 15 deadline in recent years. She explained that localities attribute these issues to difficulties in hiring and retaining financial staff and audit firms' limited capacity, and warned that similar problems in state agencies have resulted in late or inaccurate submissions of financial information used in compiling the Commonwealth's annual financial reports. Ms. Henshaw also reported on her office's monitoring of localities for potential financial distress; this process uses a review of certain financial indicators or qualitative factors to detect local financial trouble. Concerns regarding the finances of the Town of Tangier sparked discussion among Commission members about how similar entities could be assisted with financial management, whether by the counties in which they are located or by the state; members also indicated a desire to have further discussion about the ability of very small units of government to provide services.

VACo Contact: Katie Boyle

VACo NEWS

Thank You Henrico County for Hosting the Regions 3 & 5 Meeting



VACo held its third Regional Meeting of the year on May 12 in Henrico County. Counties across VACo regions 3 and 5, as well as elected state and federal officials from around the regions, were invited to participate in the discussion. VACo was pleased to be joined by Delegate David Owen, Delegate Mark Earley and staff from the offices of Senator Mark Warner, Senator Tim Kaine, Representative John McGuire, Senator Ryan McDougle, Senator Luther Cifers, Senator Schuyler VanValkenburg, Delegate Michael Jones, Delegate Debra Gardner, and Delegate Rodney Willett. Delegate Owen stated that he always has a focus on legislation pertaining to development by way of his background. Delegate Earley stated his focus is on education, public safety and transportation. Both Delegates said they were thankful for the forum to hear directly from county leaders and that this helps develop their legislative agendas.

During county talk, the section of the meeting where county leaders outline the top legislative issues affecting their county, a robust discussion was held with many counties sharing common issues. Counties from the region stressed that land use decisions, especially regarding utility scale solar and data centers, should continue to be made at the local level by local governments. Affordable housing and recovery residence oversight were discussed often as counties in the regions have experienced rising home prices in recent years, as well as concerns regarding health and safety regulations for recovery residences. Transportation and infrastructure funding was mentioned often as was the need for education funding. Lastly, many counties reiterated their support for the optional 1% local sales and use tax for school capital bill that VACo has supported over the last few General Assembly sessions. Members also raised concerns about PFAS in drinking water, mental health funding and fire/EMS support.

At the end of the meeting, we were joined by leaders from local PDCs to discuss the topic of regionalism. VACo would like to thank staff at the Commonwealth Regional Council, Thomas Jefferson PDC and PlanRVA for coming and highlighting the great work you all do.

VACo is grateful to the members, legislators and staff, and business partners who participated in the meeting, and extends its appreciation to Henrico County and to staff at the Henrico Sports & Events Center for their hospitality. Information on upcoming regional meetings is available on VACo's website at <u>this link</u>.

VACo Contact: James Hutzler

STATE NEWS

EPA Announces Intended Changes to PFAS Drinking Water Rule



On May 14, 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) **announced** the agency will keep the current National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) for PFOA and PFOS. As part of this action, EPA also announced its intent to extend the PFOA and PFOS Maximum Contaminant Level compliance deadline and establish a federal exemption framework. Additionally, EPA announced its intent to rescind the regulations and reconsider the regulatory determinations for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX), and the Hazard Index mixture of these three PFAS plus PFBS to ensure the determinations and any resulting drinking water regulation follow the Safe Drinking Water Act process.

As previously reported, last April the EPA announced the final NPDWR for a variety of per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS is the broad term that refers to a group of thousands of manmade chemicals that have been linked to various health problems. This was the first-ever national, legally enforceable drinking water standard designed to protect communities from exposure to harmful per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as "forever chemicals." This regulation established legally enforceable levels, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for various PFAS in drinking water. A report from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) released in January estimated it would cost local waterworks between \$643 million and \$904 million in capital expenditures to comply with the rule by the deadline of 2029. Furthermore, VDH estimates operational expenditures would be between \$72 million and \$88 million annually and ongoing compliance costs would total \$.7 million. EPA plans to develop new rulemaking to enact changes. The proposed rule should be available this fall, and the agency is hoping to finalize the rule in the spring of 2026. VACo will continue to follow federal regulations regarding PFAS as they become available.

VACo Contact: James Hutzler



33rd ASA ANNUAL MEETING AND 6th STATE AEROSPACE POLICY SUMMIT

JULY 28-31, 2025

The Historic Cavalier Hotel and Beach Club | Virginia Beach, Virginia

Spanning four days, the 33rd Annual Meeting and 6th State Aerospace Policy Summit has morphed into a premier event with must see tours.

This year, the conference will blend the tours with our policy panel discussions by hosting the panels at our tour sites. Our tours this year will include the Mid-Atlantic Regional Space Port and possible tours at NASA Langley and Naval Station Norfolk.

Join Lt. Governors, state legislators, tribal leaders, agency heads, corporate primes, university thought leaders, and small businesses from around the country to discuss aerospace and aviation policy and developments at the federal, state, territory, and tribal levels of government.

REGISTER TODAY

STATE NEWS

<u>Virginia Safe</u> <u>Haven Laws</u>

When a parent makes the brave decision to surrender their infant under the Safe Haven laws, Safe Haven providers must be prepared to offer help in what is often a crisis situation.

Safe Haven providers are personnel who are located at Designated Safe Haven locations. Designated Safe Haven locations are defined by Virginia Code as the following:

- A hospital that provides 24-hour emergency services.
- An attended Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agency that employs emergency medical personnel, such as some fire stations or rescue squads.
- A newborn safety device located at and operated by such hospital or emergency medical services agency.



VA SAFE HAVEN FOR PROVIDERS

1-888-510-2229

24/7 Safe Haven Hotline

VA SAFE HAVEN LAW

In Virginia, the Safe Haven law allows a parent to safely surrender their unharmed infant who is 30 days old or younger, to a staff member at a designated Safe Haven location: a hospital that provides 24-hr emergency services, an attended emergency medical services (EMS) agency that employs emergency medical personnel such as some fire stations and rescue squads, or a newborn safety device located at and operated by such hospital or emergency medical services agency.

Additionally, the Safe Haven law provides hospital and emergency medical services personnel criminal and civil immunity for injury or other damages to the infant unless such injury or other damage to the infant was the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct by such personnel.

BEST PRACTICES FOR SAFE HAVEN PROVIDERS

ATTENDED EMS STAFF

- Accept physical custody of the infant under the Safe Haven law.
- Request the surrendering parent to provide medical information and any other important facts about the infant. Note: If the parent declines this request, a Safe Haven provider <u>cannot</u> compel the parent to provide this information.
- Provide any immediate medical care the infant may require.
- Arrange to have the infant transported to the nearest hospital.
- Notify hospital staff that the infant has been surrendered under the Safe Haven law. Hospital staff will then contact the local Department of Social Services to inform them.
- If the surrendering parent contacts you regarding reclaiming custody of the infant, please direct the parent to contact the local Department of Social Services to initiate this process and discuss options.
- If you have any questions or for information regarding training for your staff, please contact the Safe Haven hotline at 1-888-510-2229.

HOSPITAL STAFF

 Facilitate conversation around private adoption and make a referral to a private adoption agency if necessary and/or contact the National Safe Haven Alliance (NSHA) at 1-888-510-BABY (2229) to assist with this step.

In Virginia, the Safe Haven laws provides hospital and emergency medical services personnel criminal and civil immunity for injury or other damages to the infant unless such injury or other damage to the infant was the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct by such personnel.

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), in partnership with the National Safe Haven Alliance (NSHA), created various resources including a brief training, to help Virginia Safe Haven providers become better prepared for an infant surrender. The training is online, takes less than 30 minutes to complete, produces a certificate of completion at the end, and is completely free! During the training, you will learn about the Virginia Safe Haven laws, the process of accepting a surrendered infant, recommended "best and safe practices", and how to leverage the 24/7 Crisis Response Team through NSHA. To access the training, please visit https://storage.googleapis.com/training_modules/va%20 training/content/index.html#/.

For more information and resources, please visit <u>https://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/safe_haven_provider.cgi</u>.

For group training, please visit the NSHA website at <u>www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org</u> or call 1-888-510-2229.

If you are a Designated Safe Haven location, mounting a Safe Haven sign to your building could save the life of a vulnerable infant! VDSS has a limited supply of Safe Haven signs and decals, that are available at no cost! To receive a sign or decal, please contact Brandi Peterson, <u>brandi.peterson9@dss.virginia.gov</u>.

PREMIER PARTNERS



Register Today for the NACo Public Promise Procurement Webinar

https://www.naco.org/event/eyes-surge-harnessing-aware-flood-sensorsnaco-ppp-safeware-hurricane-readiness-rapid

Discover how counties can deploy the AWARE Flood System—rugged, solarpowered IoT sensors available through the competitively bid NACo Public Promise Procurement Safeware contract—to turn rising water into actionable intelligence.

We'll show how each lightweight node tracks depth, temperature and barometric pressure, pushes real-time alerts over cellular or Iridium satellite link, and keeps reporting for seven days even without sunlight.

Learn the simple "piggy-back" procurement steps inside Public Promise Procurement (PPP), funding streams that pair with FEMA categories and see a live dashboard demo that lets EOCs map flood conditions before, during and after landfall.



Uplifting Our Children Through Education Series with Jeremy R. Bennett

Uplifting Our Children Through Education | Episode 1 | May 22, 2025 A Conversation with VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch



Listen to the Podcast.

Uplifting Our Children Through Education Episode 1 | A Conversation with Dean Lynch. In this inaugural episode of the VACo County Pulse Podcast, Uplifting Our Children Through Education, host Jeremy Bennett sits down with VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch to discuss actions taken by the Governor and General Assembly during the 2025 legislative session. This includes a landmark achievement for Virginia's counties: the functional elimination of the cap on K-12 support positions. This long-sought policy change, finalized in the General Assembly's 2025 budget and supported by Governor Youngkin's May 2 actions, restores \$222.9 million in FY 2026 to local governments—funding that will now align with prevailing local staffing practices. The move marks the culmination of over 15 years of advocacy by VACo and its partners, addressing a funding gap that once exceeded \$400 million and bringing state support for education staffing back to pre-Great Recession levels. <u>Virginia Association of Counties</u>

Bennett and Lynch also explore other critical wins in the 2025 budget, including \$53 million in new special education funding and \$360 million in school construction grants. These investments reflect VACo's broader commitment to equitable, well-resourced public education across the Commonwealth. Listeners will gain insight into how these budgetary victories were achieved, the collaborative efforts behind them, and what they mean for the future of Virginia's counties and their schools.

PREMIER PARTNERS



EMPOWERING EMPLOYERS STRENGTHENING EMPLOYEES

Pierce Insurance leads the way with Voluntary Benefits that transform the landscape for local county government employers, employees, and the community.

Employers:

Save time and administration costs Attract a talented workforce Retain valuable employees

Employees:

Enhance financial security Improve overall wellbeing Meet specific needs

Community:

Unite employers, employees, and their communities with programs such as Benefits That Benefit Children.







Pierce Insurance was selected by National Benefit Partners to represent Benefits That Benefit Children's voluntary products and services and our clients have since raised over **\$122,000** for Children's Hospital Foundations.



Benefits That Benefit Children "Children's Champions" employers win because they generate significant donations to children's hospitals in their communities simply by offering select best-in-class voluntary benefits to their employees – no purchase necessary.



Benefits That Benefit Children "Children's Champions" employees win because they are able to elect best-in-class voluntary benefits products and services with preferred underwriting and plan designs from some of the nation's top-rated employee benefit providers.



Donna Pierce, Client Relations Donna@pierceins.com Direct Telephone # 704-576-0934



Children's hospitals all across the country win because the Benefits That Benefit Children cause marketing program raises awareness of their special financial needs and provides significant donations to their foundations.







PREMIER PARTNERS

County Connections | Page 26



Performance Contracting 101 with Schneider Electric

What if upgrading your aging infrastructure didn't mean draining your budget—or your patience? Meet *Performance Contracting (PC)*: the superhero of budget-friendly, energy-efficient solutions.

Here's the scoop: PC allows you to address infrastructure challenges strategically by leveraging future energy savings and significant cost reductions to fund your projects with minimal upfront capital investment.

How Does PC Work?

STEP 1

We start with a deep-dive energy audit.

STEP 2

We identify inefficiencies and craft a plan to fix them with guaranteed savings.

STEP 3

Savings offset costs, enabling upgrades with lower upfront investment.



Stress-Free Upgrades Fix your facilities without tapping into reserves.

What's in It for You?



Energy Savings Modernize your systems and save big.



Boost sustainability while creating healthier communities.



As the **#1 Energy Services Company (ESCO) since 2017** (by Guidehouse Insights), we bring decades of experience and a proven track record partnering with counties nationwide to deliver results.

Curious how PC can work for your county? Let's discuss your project



Abby Weigel 804-248-0523 Abby.Weigel@se.com



Kevin DeLeon 804.517.2819 Kevin.DeLeon@se.com



Learn more about Energy Sense and how this program can help your community save money with simple tips and advice on conserving energy.

Here's a hot tip on saving energy this summer: Did you know that lowering the temperature of your water heater to 120 degrees can cut your power bill up to <u>\$400 a</u> <u>year</u>?

That's the kind of small adjustment that can make a big impact on cost — without sacrificing comfort. It's just one of the many energy-saving tips Virginia Energy Sense shares to help Virginians save on energy bills.

Virginia Energy Sense (VES) operates under the guidance of the State Corporation Commission as Virginia's only statewide energy-efficiency education program. Our mission is simple: Empower Virginians with the knowledge and tools they need to use energy more efficiently, reduce their monthly costs, and make a positive impact on the environment.

We achieve this through free, practical resources designed for individuals, businesses and local governments.

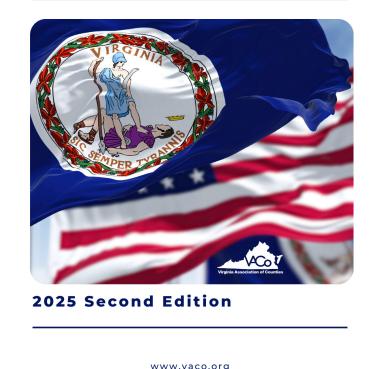
If your county is looking to support your residents or further sustainability goals, VES is here to help. We offer a wide range of easy-to-use, factual, easily accessible resources and information that can be used in newsletters, publications, social media, public outreach campaigns and in offices.

We know local government plays a powerful role in shaping energy-conscious communities. We want to work with you. If your department specializes in sustainability, public outreach, or utility services, we'd love to hear from you and discuss how VES can support your mission.

Visit <u>www.virginiaenergysense.org</u> to view our full library of resources. Contact us directly via email at <u>EnergySense@scc.virginia.gov</u>. Or call 804-371-9141 to learn more about collaboration opportunities. Together, we can help Virginians save energy and money — one energy-saving tip at a time.

VACo Releases 2025 Legislative Summary





The **Legislative Summary** details the actions of the 2025 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 2025 Legislative Summary

VACo Contact: Legislative Team

PREMIER PARTNERS

County Connections | Page 29



Thank you Nationwide for being a long-time VACo Premier Partner!



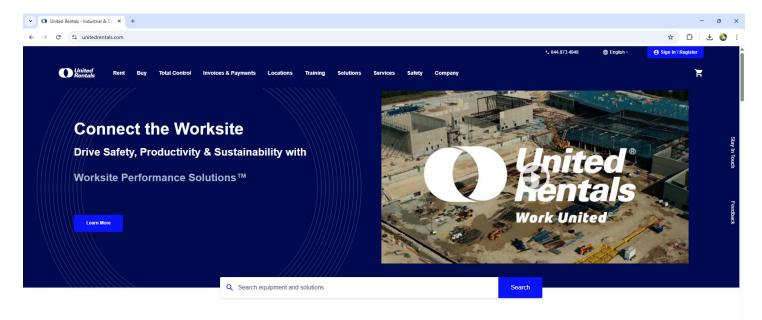
is on your side

VACo long-standing partner Nationwide Retirement Solutions, provides these valuable services:

- 457 and 401(a) Plans
- Roth 457 Account
- Protected Retirement Solutions
- Nationwide Retirement Institute
- Social Security

VACo Executive Director, Dean Lynch, recently sat down with Debbie Turner, Charlie Brennan, Lynn Robinette, and David Bazzell to discuss their expertise in assisting counties with comprehensive savings and retirement programs and what sets Nationwide apart.

PREMIER PARTNERS



Quality equipment, ready to go

Popular Equipment Earthmoving Equipment Aerial Work Platforms Forklifts Material Handling

United Rentals Can Help with Your Construction Projects

5 Essentials Nearly Every Jobsite Needs -United Rentals

Whether you need temporary fencing, portable restrooms, light towers, temporary power or something else, United Rentals is your single-source provider for jobsite equipment and solutions. <u>www.unitedrentals.com</u>

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).



PREMIER PARTNERS





Equipment Lease-Purchase Financing

Equipment Lease-Purchase Financing is a great tool to make your locality's and school division's budget go further!

Contact us for details.

VML/VACo Equipment Lease-Purchase Financing offers:

- Competitive rates and low closing costs.
- Predictable and level payments.
- Lease terms up to the expected life of the equipment.
- Streamlined process we handle the details for you.

Budget less in the current year by spreading payments out over the useful life of the equipment – perfect for school buses, fire engines, and police cars.

CONTACT US TODAY

Questions?

Contact Steve Mulroy 804-648-0635 smulroy@valocalfinance.org





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

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

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



OUR SOLUTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS

MANAGE

Talent Planning Recruiting Development & Training

SUPPORT

Benefits & Compensation Total Wellbeing Productivity Retirement Readiness

ENGAGE

Culture Education & Fiduciary Literacy Communications

PROTECT

Compliance Workplace Safety Operational Continuity Cyber Security



Ritter Jonas Senior Business Development Executive 804.393.2122 | rjonas@onedigital.com



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.

COUNTY NEWS

Enter the 2025 VACo Achievement Awards Deadline is July 1, 2025



Dear VACo Members -

It's time for the 2025 Achievement Awards Program. Any county department is eligible to compete so ENTER NOW!

2025 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. **Electronic submissions through the link above must be received by July 1, 2025.**

Last year, <u>we processed 145 entries</u> and selected 45 winners from over 30 Counties. VACo presented awards at Board of Supervisors Meetings, recognized winners at the 90th Annual Conference, and issued a news release to statewide media.

The judges for the 2025 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 **Smyth County** for its "**Smyth Grow**" program.

VACo encourages all Counties, big and small, to enter the 2025 Achievement Awards Program. Please contact **gharter@vaco.org** with questions or for more information.

<u>Achievement Awards Submission Form</u> | <u>Achievement Awards Website</u> 2024 Achievement Awards Press Release | <u>Past Achievement Award Winners</u>



Introducing Schneider Electric as a New VACo Premier Partner



At Schneider Electric, we're enabling our clients to create best-in-class facilities that deliver a healthy, safe and sustainable future for all. We deliver impact through:



Our projects can address your deferred maintenance, critical infrastructure, and capital improvement needs with one comprehensive master plan.



Our projects prepare your facilities for a carbon-neutral future with modern, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure.



Our projects help solve your most difficult financial problems by unlocking unique funding streams like energy and operational savings, grants, generated revenue and economic impact.



#1 Energy Services Company (ESCO) by Guidehouse Insights.

Let's discuss your project



Abby Weigel 804-248-0523 Abby.Weigel@se.com



Kevin DeLeon 804.517.2819 Kevin.DeLeon@se.com

County Connections | Page 37



STRATEGIC SUPPORT. PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE. DELIVERED WITH CARE.

KEY SERVICES

BOARD & COUNCIL RETREATS EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT FINANCE SUPPORT GRANT APPLICATION & ADMINISTRATION HUMAN RESOURCES INTERIM ASSISTANCE LAND USE PLANNING & ZONING ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT PUBLIC EDUCATION PUBLIC OUTREACH & FACILITATION PUBLIC OUTREACH & FACILITATION PUBLIC SAFETY PUBLIC WORKS STRATEGIC PLANNING VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON CONTRACT STAFF

Berkley Group is the go-to consultant for local governments and other public agencies. 100% of our services are dedicated to serving public agencies. We understand local government because we have worked in local government and continue to serve them proudly.

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

PREMIER PARTNERS



Thank you Wythe County Chief Deputy <u>Anthony Cline</u> for sharing your experience with Blue Line Solutions!



Thank you Sussex County Sheriff <u>Ernest Giles</u> 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.



INTRODUCING A NEW VACo PREMIER PARTNER

Anthony Chapman

National Program Director NACo Public Promise Procurement Direct: 804.399.1821 Email: <u>achapman@naco.org</u> Website: <u>www.publicpromiseprocurement.org</u>

The PPP resource hub is up and available at... https://publicpromiseprocurement.org/resourcehub

STATE NEWS



The VA250 Mobile Museum: A Classroom on Wheels

Get ready to bring Virginia's history to life! The VA250 Mobile Museum Experience, a hands-on, interactive, and immersive museum on wheels, is coming early 2025. This unique experience will transport students back in time, exploring key stories from every region of the state.

Perfect for:

- Schools: Enhance your curriculum with a memorable field trip.
- Community organizations: Host a unique event for all ages.
- Local festivals: Attract visitors with a fascinating historical exhibit.

Book the museum for your school or community event today! Visit <u>the VA250</u> <u>website</u> for more information and to schedule a visit.

STATE NEWS



Get your VA250 license plates - now available

Are you ready to show your pride in America's 250th anniversary? The VA250 commemorative license plate is now available for purchase! As a symbol of our nation's rich history and bright future, this limited-edition license plate offers a unique opportunity to drive with a piece of history.

By purchasing a VA250 license plate, you're not only adding a stylish touch to your vehicle, but you're also supporting a worthy cause. A portion of the proceeds from each plate sold will be donated directly to VA250, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating educational programs, events, and exhibits to commemorate America's 250th anniversary.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to own a piece of history and support a great cause. <u>Visit</u> the Virginia DMV website to purchase your VA250 license plate today.

VACo PROGRAMS

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

Virginia County Supervisors' Manual 8th Edition





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

ORDER YOUR ALL-NEW VOLUME NOW

NAME:	_ TITLE:
COUNTY (OR ORGANIZATION):	
SHIPPING ADDRESS:	
CITY / STATE / ZIP:	
PHONE: EMAIL:	

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Manuals are \$75 for VACo Members. Manuals are \$150 for Non Members.

Number of Copies _____.

Check enclosed for \$_____ Make payable to VACo Services, Inc.

If you are paying by credit card, an invoice will be sent you.

Mail completed form to:

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



Or FAX form to 804.788.0083 Questions? Call

804.343.2507

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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 <u>Valerie Russell</u>.

LEGISLATIVE & POLICY ANALYST | **Arlington County** | Posted June 6

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Pamunkey Regional Jail/Hanover County | Posted June 5

RECREATION AIDE | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

PARK AIDE | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

GYMNASTICS ASSISTANT I | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

LIBRARY CLERK | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

DEPUTY II-CIRCUIT COURT (RECORDER) | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

SPECIALITY INSTRUCTOR | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCATE | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

INSPECTOR I, II OR COMBINATIO INSPECTOR | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

TOURISM AMBASSADOR | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

LIBRARY SPECIALIST-OUTREACH SERVICES | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

LIBRARY COORDINATOR-ADULT PROGRAMS | Gloucester County | Posted June 5 UTILITY MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

UTILITY MAINTENANCE WORKER | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

SENIOR UTILITY MECHANIC | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

SENIOR MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

PARK MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

DEPUTY II – CIRCUIT COURT | **Gloucester County** | Posted June 5

DEPUTY BUILDING OFFICIAL | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-OPERATIONS | Gloucester County | Posted June 5

STRATEGIC HOUSING OFFICER | Virginia Housing | Posted June 5

PERMIT TECHNICIAN | New Kent County | Posted June 4

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SPECIALIST II – COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY | Prince George County | Posted June 4

ASSISTANT COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY | Prince George County | Posted June 4

BENEFITS PROGRAM SPECIALIST III | **Prince George County** | Posted June 4

DIRECTOR-GENERAL SERVICES | Prince George County | Posted June 4

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF OF FIRE & EMS | Prince George County | Posted June 4

FARMERS MARKET MANAGER | Prince George County | Posted June 4

FIRE & EMS TRAINING CAPTAIN | Prince George County | Posted June 4

County Connections | Page 44

FIRE MEDIC RECRUIT | Prince George County | Posted June 4

FIREFIGHTER/EMT PRE-CERTIFIED | Prince George County | Posted June 4

FLEET SUPERVISOR | Prince George County | Posted June 4

KENNEL ATTENDANT – PTT | Prince George County | Posted June 4

MANAGER IV, UTILITY CONTRUCTION & INSPECTIONS | Prince George County | Posted June 4

POLICE OFFICER (CERTIFIED) | Prince George County | Posted June 4

PRETRIAL OFFICER | Prince George County | Posted June 4

PROCUREMENT OFFICER | Prince George County | Posted June 4

SENIOR PLANNER | Prince George County | Posted June 4

UTILITY WORKER | Prince George County | Posted June 4

CHIEF TREATMETN PLANT OPERATOR | Wythe County | Posted June 3

WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT | Wythe County | Posted June 3

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR | Wythe County | Posted June 3

CHIEF OF SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION (TRANSPORTATION DIVISION CHIEF) | Fairfax County | Posted June 3

AUTOMATION COORDINATOR | Chesterfield County | Posted June 3

PRINCIPAL LABOR CREW CHIEF | Chesterfield County | Posted June 3

REAL PROPERTY AGENT | Chesterfield County | Posted June 3

PLANNER – APPLICATION LISISON | Hanover County | Posted June 3

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Northern Virginia Regional Commission | Posted June 2

DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OF HUMAN SERVICES | Powhatan County | Posted June 2

DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | Powhatan County | Posted June 2

TAX TECHNICIAN I | Montgomery County | Posted June

MHSS EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT (PART TIME) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 2

RESIDENTIAL AIDE/OVERNIGHT SHIFT (DAVELAYNE GROUP HOME) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 2

RESIDENTIAL AIDE | Chesterfield County | Posted June 2

VAN DRIVER/CHESTER HOUSE | Chesterfield County | Posted June 2

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES | Spotsylvania County | Posted June 2

COUNTY ASSESSOR | York County | Posted May 30

BUILDING INSPECTOR II | New Kent County | Posted May 30

DEPUTY CITY MANAGER | City of Alexandria | Posted May 30

<u>COUNTY ATTORNEY</u> | Frederick County | Posted May 30

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR | Patrick County | Posted May 28

VAN DRIVER | Chesterfield County | Posted May 28

RADIO INSTALLATION TECHNICIAN | Chesterfield County | Posted May 28

SEASONAL MAINTENANCE WORKER (ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 28 RESIDENTIAL AIDE (PART TIME) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 28

MHSS SERVICES MANAGER (DAY SUPPORT PROGRAM) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 28

SENIOR TRAINING ANALYST/CPR-FIRST AID & CPI (PART TIME) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 28

SENIOR ENGINEER (PART TIME) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 28

MHSS EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT JOB COACH/CHESTERFIELD EMPLOYMENT SERVICES | Chesterfield County | Posted May 28

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES | Spotsylvania County | Posted May 27

PUBLIC FINANCE SPECIALIST | Berkley Group | Posted May 23

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER | Chesterfield County | Posted May 23

CLERK OF COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER | City of Lexington | Posted May 23

COUNTY ATTORNEY | New Kent County | Posted May 23

<u>CITY ATTORNEY</u> | City of Colonial Heights | Posted May 23

PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR | Henry County | Posted May 20

MENTAL HEALTH CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICE SUPERVISOR | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

EMPLOYEE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER (ENVIORNMENTAL ENGINEERING) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN APPRENTICE | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

County Connections | Page 45

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY II | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

MHSS EMPLOYMENT ADSISTANT (JOB COACH/DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

MHSS EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST (JOB COACH) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

RECOVERY ACADEMY CLINICIAN | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

AUTOMATION TECHNICIAN (PT/ BENEFITS ELIGIBLE) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

DEPUTY DIRECTOR | Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission | Posted May 19

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES | Spotsylvania County | Posted May 19

SYSTEM ENGINEER | Montgomery County | Posted May 15

LIBRARY OUTREACH SEVICES COORDINATOR | Shenandoah County | Posted May 15

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES | Fluvanna County | Posted May 15

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS CONSULTANT | Mecklenburg County | Posted May 14

DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION | Bedford County | Posted May 13

STAFF AUDITOR – 100% TELEWORK ELIGIBLE (Richmond Region) | **Chesterfield County** | Posted May 13

CUSTOMER SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE (Access Services) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 13

BACK PAGE

County Connections | Page 46

VALUE OF VACo



ADVOCACY

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



EDUCATION

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



MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

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



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

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

VACo LEADERSHIP



President Ruth Larson James City County



First Vice President Phil C. North Roanoke County



Secretary-Treasurer Donald L. Hart, Jr. Accomack County



President-Elect Victor S. Angry Prince William County



Second Vice President Jerry Boothe Floyd County



Immediate Past President Ann H. Mallek Albemarle County

VACo STAFF

Executive Director | Dean A. Lynch, CAE Deputy Director | Katie Boyle Director of Intergovernmental Affairs | Jeremy R. Bennett General Counsel | Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE Director of Communications | Anh G. Harter Government Relations Associate | James Hutzler Director of Technical Services | John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA Director of Finance | Sue Klaczynski Director of Local Government Policy | Joe Lerch, AICP Administrative Coordinator | Valerie M. Russell 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.

> 1207 East Main Street | Suite 300 Richmond, VA 23219-3627 Phone: 804.788.6652 | <u>www.vaco.org</u>



County Connections is a semimonthly publication.