

Agenda Takes Shape as Three Candidates for Statewide Elections Confirmed for County Officials' Summit

We have received confirmation from Attorney General Jason Miyares, Senator Ghazala Hashmi, and Broadcaster John Reid to speak at the County Officials' Summit on Thursday, August 14 at the Omni Richmond Hotel. [Click on the agenda below for more information.](#) We have also extended invitation to the other candidates for statewide office.

Also important that day are steering committee meetings - one of the first steps in building VACo's legislative program. If you are on a committee - we look forward to seeing you.

VACo Members - Please join us on Thursday, August 14 at the Omni Richmond Hotel. [Here's a link to register using Engagifii](#), VACo's new membership platform. If you have any issues - please contact Valerie Russell at vrussell@vaco.org. The initial login takes a few minutes but you will be set up to register for future VACo events.

VACo County Officials Summit		THURSDAY 08.14.2025 OMNI RICHMOND HOTEL
AGENDA		
730AM	GOOD MORNING JAMES RIVER FOYER Registration and Breakfast Sponsored by American Farmland Trust, Republic Services, and VAcorp	
830AM	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS SALON C The Honorable Ruth Larson VACo President James City County	
845AM-915AM	LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ELECTION SALON C The Honorable Ghazala F. Hashmi 15 th Senate District Commonwealth of Virginia	
915AM-925AM	BREAK JAMES RIVER FOYER Sponsored by GovDeals	
925AM-955AM	2025 VIRGINIA STATEWIDE ELECTIONS SALON C Virginia Governor or Lieutenant Governor Candidate (Invited)	

 www.vaco.org

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VACo Receives a Record 155 Submissions for the Achievement Awards Program

Thank you to all the counties that entered the 2025 Achievement Awards Program. VACo received a record 155 entries, which broke last year's record of 145 submissions.

The judges for this year's event are 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 Penny Gross, former longtime Fairfax County Supervisor.

Winners will be announced in early August. Good luck to all who entered.



Congratulations to Karie Walker, CAE for earning her Certified Association Executive designation!



Congratulations to the following members who recently earned the Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation:

- **Leslie Frazier** | Virginia REALTORS
- **Jennifer Haire** | National Center for State Courts
- **John Newby** | Virginia Biotechnology Association
- **Erin Schrad** | Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police & Foundation
- **[Karie Walker](#)** | Virginia Association of Counties

Their success reflects the value of VSAE's peer-driven study group model, which blends weekly sessions, shared resources, and strong support from domain leaders to build confidence and readiness.

A new study group begins September 16 for the December 2025 exam.

Revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Released for Public Comment

In December 2024, the [Chesapeake Executive Council](#) directed the [Principals' Staff Committee](#) to revise the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and propose a simplified and streamlined structure and process for the Chesapeake Bay Program.

While the structure and process revisions are ongoing, the multi-jurisdictional partnership has evaluated the 2014 Watershed Agreement's current goals and outcomes based on the latest policy, community needs, best available science, emerging threats and new opportunities. Working with the Principals' Staff Committee, Management Board and subject matter experts, the **10 goals and 31 outcomes** of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement were consolidated, reduced, updated, removed, replaced or revised to create the proposed **4 goals and 21 outcomes** presented in the draft [Revised 2025 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#).

Local governments are crucial partners in the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and now is a critical time to help shape the future of this work. From July 1 through September 1, the Partnership is accepting public feedback on proposed changes to the *Watershed Agreement*. Input from local governments ensure that the updated goals and strategies reflect real-world needs and on-the-ground priorities.

Want to learn more?

The Chesapeake Bay Program will be hosting a webinar series that will focus on each of the four proposed goals in the revised Agreement. Two have been completed with a recording of the meeting available and three are upcoming:

- (July 2, 2025) Beyond 2025: Reimagining the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* ([Recording](#))
- (July 8, 2025) Thriving Habitats and Wildlife: A Deep Dive into the Revised Goal of the Watershed Agreement ([Recording](#))
- (July 15, 2025) Clean Water for a Healthy Bay: Exploring the next revised Goal of the Watershed Agreement ([Register](#))
- (July 24, 2025) Understanding another revised Goal of the Watershed Agreement: Healthy Landscapes ([Register](#))
- (July 30, 2025) Engaged Communities: A Closer Look at Final Proposed Goal of the Watershed Agreement ([Register](#))

Lastly, the Local Government Advisory Committee and Local Leadership Workgroup will be jointly hosting an [informational webinar on Wednesday, August 13th at 12 - 1 pm](#).

When you are ready and if you would like to submit public comments, please email comments@chesapeakebay.net or jhutzler@vaco.org.

The Chesapeake Bay is vitally important to the Commonwealth of Virginia and plays a vital role in the economies and character of many of its counties. VACo is a longstanding and proud supporter of efforts that continue to restore and protect the Bay.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)



Visit Spotsylvania County and the Spotsylvania County Historic Courthouse

In 1722, the court system of Spotsylvania was first established at Germanna, a community that was built with the help of Alexander Spotswood, the namesake of Spotsylvania County. In 1732, the court system was moved to Fredericksburg (which was a part of Spotsylvania County at the time); to the “old Courthouse” in 1778; and to its present site in 1839 when Lewis Rawlings, the owner of the Tavern, gave the County ten acres for the courthouse green. The team of Malcolm Crawford, a carpenter, and William Phillips, a brick mason, who helped Thomas Jefferson build the University of Virginia, won the contract and completed the courthouse in 1840.

The battering sustained by the courthouse during the Civil War necessitated major repairs in 1870. By 1900, the building was declared unsafe; subsequently, a new, enlarged building of similar design was constructed on the site, using cream brick instead of red. The original Doric columns were salvaged and put in place. In 1964, the wing on the southwest corner was added to house government offices. Official County records were buried during the Civil War, and with the exception of three books, which were damaged by water, the records are complete, dating from the founding of the County in 1720-1721.

The Courthouse is one of many buildings within the Historic Spotsylvania Courthouse District. To learn more about this and all the other buildings in the area please visit our website and download the walking tour app or stop by the Spotsylvania Visitor Center for more information.

SOURCE: [Virginia Is For Lovers](#)



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



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Meet Dr. Ian M. Coyle

President, Pracademic Partners

I've dedicated over 20 years to local government leadership—serving as County Administrator, Deputy County Administrator and Village Manager. That includes nearly two decades of teaching and coaching future public sector leaders nationwide.

As an ICMA Credentialed Manager, Executive Coach and past active board and committee member with ICMA, NACA, and NACo, I'm passionate about helping counties build strong, mission-driven leadership teams.

I'm excited to join the Virginia Association of Counties community and look forward to supporting Virginia's local leaders as they take on new challenges and opportunities.

LET'S GET STARTED.





PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE

755 Roanoke Street, Suite 2G
Christiansburg, VA 24073

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Meredith Jones Selected as Montgomery County Engineer

July 9, 2025 – Effective June 24, Meredith Jones joined Montgomery County as County Engineer.

“The County is very fortunate to have Meredith join our team,” said Scott Woodrum, Montgomery County Assistant County Administrator. “Meredith’s depth of knowledge and valued skillset will greatly enhance the County’s strategic plans and goals.”

In her role, she will oversee the facilitation of county capital projects, as well as manage the County’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program.

“As I serve the citizens of Montgomery County, I look forward to bringing a unique understanding and perspective to my role as County Engineer given my experiences in both the private and public sectors.” said Jones.



Prior to joining Montgomery County, Jones was the Assistant Director of Engineering at the Town of Christiansburg. Before that, she served as Transportation Program Manager for the United States Forest Service. In addition, she has held the role of Vice President for Eden & Associates prior to an acquisition by WK Dickson & Company where she then served as a Senior Consultant. Previous roles Jones held include Adjunct Faculty for Virginia Tech’s Civil Engineering Department and Real Estate Program, Project Manager of Tom’s Creek Investors L.C., and Chief of Engineering with the Town of Blacksburg. From 2007 through 2014, Jones owned and operated MJ Services, Inc.

Since 2007, Jones has been an active member of the Virginia Tech YMCA Board of Directors, where she was elected Vice Chair from 2017 through 2024; Chair in 2014; and Board Vice Chair in 2011. She has also served as a Board Member of the Virginia Tech Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Alumni Board since 2012.

Jones is a graduate of Virginia Tech with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering with a minor in geology and a master of science degree in civil engineering and hydrosystems. She is also certified as a Professional Engineer through the State of Virginia and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Locally Administered Projects (LAP) Administrator.

To learn more about Montgomery County, visit montva.com.

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OFFICE 540.381.6887

VACo Tours Juvenile Detention Centers in Northern Virginia as Part of Further Discussions of Efficiency in the Juvenile Justice System

VACo was recently invited to participate in workgroup discussions regarding the state's system of juvenile detention centers, an effort convened by Senator Dave Marsden that kicked off on June 30 with tours of the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center and the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center, which serves Arlington County, the City of Alexandria, and the City of Falls Church. Jason Houtz, Superintendent of the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center, and Johnitha McNair, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center, led the tours of their respective facilities, showcasing the unique programming in each center, as well as common themes and challenges. Several legislators and staff members from legislative offices participated in the tours and discussion.

Both facility leaders spoke about the importance of providing a safe, caring environment with structure and predictability for the youth in their care, and the challenges involved in serving youth who are pre-disposition (awaiting court action), who typically have short stays in the facility, at the same time as youth who have been ordered to juvenile detention by a judge (post-disposition), whose stays are longer. Both tours highlighted the educational offerings in each facility. Youth in juvenile detention centers are required to receive educational services within 24 hours of admittance, and state Code mandates that these services be comparable to what is offered in the public school system. Juvenile detention center operations are largely funded by local dollars, with support from the state's block grant, but education within juvenile detention centers is funded by the state.

Between tours, Senator Marsden shared background on the history of juvenile detention facilities in Virginia, pointing out that the number of youth detained and committed has declined significantly since the late 1990s, enabling the state to close all but one juvenile correctional center. While he lauded the quality of services delivered in the juvenile detention system, he strongly encouraged the pursuit of efficiencies, arguing that the facilities operate below capacity and suggesting that savings achieved through consolidating facilities could be reinvested in enhanced services for youth. Several members of the workgroup encouraged a narrower focus on potential efficiencies in the educational services offered within detention centers, contending that the state's role is more clearly delineated in this aspect of juvenile detention. These discussions follow a review by the Commission on Youth and a subsequent workgroup convened by the Department of Juvenile Justice at the direction of language in the state budget; throughout these earlier studies, VACo has maintained that decisions about consolidating facilities should be made by the affected local governments who are the owners of the facilities, so that the benefits and drawbacks can be fully considered.

The workgroup is expected to meet again later this year in central Virginia and in Hampton Roads.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Commonwealth Transportation Fund (CTF) Fiscal Years 2026-2031 Six Year Financial Plan Overview



At the June 24 meeting of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) the board was given an update of the Commonwealth Transportation Fund (CTF) Six-Year Financial Plan (SYFP). At the same meeting, the CTB was presented with the FY 2025 budgets for the CTF and various transportation agencies. On June 24, 2025, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) unanimously approved the FY 2026 budgets for the CTF, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

CTF Six Year Financial Plan Update FY 2026 – 2031:

The CTF serves as the fund to which all transportation revenues are deposited and then distributed to programs and funds. The SYFP identifies the planned funding for allocation to Highways, Rail, Transit, Ports, Aviation, DMV, and Space Flight. The Fiscal Years 2026 – 2031 SYFP allocates **\$58.3 billion total**.

- This includes the use of \$1.5 billion of Route 58 Corridor Bonds, I-81 Financing, GARVEE Bonds and the new authorization for Special Structures Debt
- Transfers \$6.4 billion to the three regions for transportation improvements
- Transfers \$1.0 billion in dedicated revenue for WMATA Capital Fund

[More CTF on Next Page](#)

- Includes \$554 million of dedicated fuel tax revenue for the I-81 Corridor Improvements
- Dedicates \$18.1 billion for Maintenance and Operations
- Provides \$16.8 billion for Construction
 - Approximately \$2.8 billion of Construction Funding represents Local and Regional Funding for Projects

After the conclusion of the 2025 General Assembly Session, the SYFP was updated to reflect legislative and other changes. Revenue updates include:

- \$175 million General Fund dollars dedicated to Interstate 81 Corridor Program
- \$7.8 million adjusted General Fund dollars dedicated to WMATA
- Coleman Bridge Toll Facility : -\$2.9 million in FY 2026; -\$31.0 million FYs 2027-2031
 - 2025 Appropriation Act required that all rates, fees, tolls and other charges cease to be collected for the use of the George P. Coleman Bridge no later than January 1, 2026
 - Any remaining amount due to Toll Facility Revolving Account will not be reimbursed (estimated at \$25 – 28 million will be written off)

CTF 2026 Budget:

The approved CTF 2026 budget revenues total \$9.6 billion, which represents a decrease of 4.3% from the 2025 CTF budget.

VDOT 2026 Budget:

The approved VDOT budget totals \$8.3 billion. The Highway Maintenance and Operating Fund (HMOF) has an expected deficit of \$816.9 million which will be filled with \$284.2 million of federal funds and the crossover of \$532.6 million of state funds from the Construction Fund.

DRPT Six-Year Improvement Program and FY 2026 Budget:

DRPT presented its Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP) and its 2026 budget. Both were approved by the CTB.

The total DRPT SYIP 2026-2031 shows an investment of \$7.1 billion in the Commonwealth's transit and rail programs over the coming years. \$5.317 billion of which is dedicated to transit, and \$1.783 billion to rail.

In FY 2026, DRPT plans on investing \$1.249 billion in state, federal, and local resources towards improving public transportation and rail capacity across the Commonwealth.

- The transit budget for FY26 is \$1 billion.
 - This is \$11.1M less than draft FY26 budget.
 - Decrease due to fewer planned capital expenditures in the updated projection and \$7.8M less in General Fund distribution for WMATA.

To view the CTF and VDOT presentation, [click here](#). To view the DRPT presentation, [click here](#).

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

Inaugural Virginia Locally Administered Projects (LAP) Awards Competition



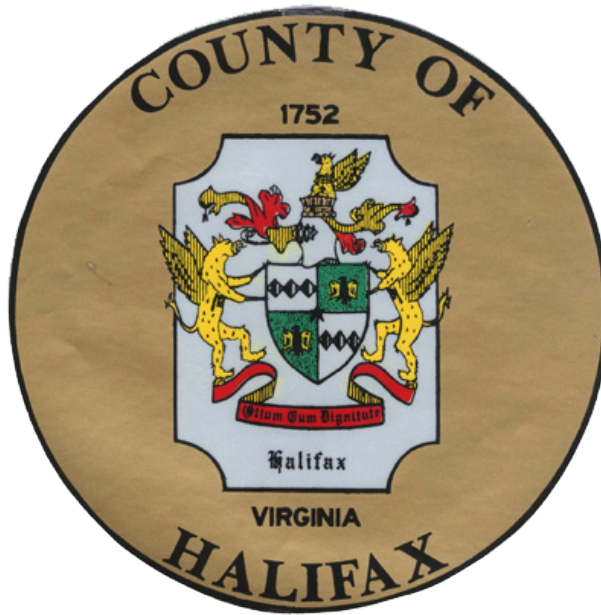
The Virginia Department of Transportation's Local Assistance Division recently unveiled its first Virginia Locally Administered Projects (LAP) Awards [Competition](#). The program seeks to celebrate the outstanding achievements and innovative projects undertaken by local governments across Virginia. This your chance to showcase your hard work and be recognized for your dedication to improving transportation in your communities. Local governments of all sizes are encouraged to compete for coveted LAP Awards across seven categories such as:

- **Excellence in Regional Transportation**
- **Community Impact**
- **Safe and Accessible Streets**
- **Active Transportation | Bicycle and Pedestrian**
- **Environmental Excellence | Stewardship**
- **Operations and Maintenance Excellence**
- **Project Management Excellence**

The entries will be judged based on the scope and results of the project in relation to the community's size, thereby putting all localities on a level playing field. Entries are due by August 1, 2025. Winners will be announced at the VDOT Local Programs Workshop during the Opening Plenary session on September 16, 2025.

To learn more about how to apply and other information, please [click here](#) or visit the [Local Programs Workshop website](#).

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

HALIFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

DATE OF THIS REQUEST: July 7, 2025

DESCRIPTION: Forensic Auditing Services

RFP DEADLINE: Friday, August 1, 2025, 2:00 P.M.

For information relating to this RFP, please contact:

Scott R. Simpson, County Administrator

Tomeka C. Morgan, Interim Finance Director

Halifax County | 1050 Mary Bethune Street | P.O. Box 699 | Halifax, VA 24558
(434) 476-3300

The Halifax County Board of Supervisors is currently seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide Forensic Auditing Services to Halifax County.

Proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Forensic Accounting Services RFP" on the outside and delivered to the above address no later than 2 P.M. on Friday, August 1, 2025.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE RFP](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 26, 2025

Media Contact: Brookie Crawford, brookie.crawford@vdh.virginia.gov

Virginia Sees Increase in Drownings in Children Under 5 in Swimming Pools

Health Officials Urge Parents and Caregivers to Take Precautions

RICHMOND, Va. – With great sorrow, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has confirmed that six children under the age of five have tragically lost their lives to swimming pool drownings in Virginia since Memorial Day. Swimming season has just started, and these six drowning fatalities exceed Virginia's total for the number of fatalities for young children for each of the last three years. The Virginia Department of Health urges parents and caregivers to take precautions with children in or near swimming pools or other bodies of water.

"We join with the families and communities grieving the loss of these young lives," said **State Health Commissioner Karen Shelton, MD**. "These numbers are heartbreaking. Swimming and playing in pools can be fun, particularly on blistering hot days, but pools can also be dangerous. Families should take caution in and around pools. Children in pools should be supervised at all times, and pools should be gated and secured to prevent access when supervision is not available. Please consider enrolling children in swimming lessons. We want to do everything we can to prevent any more lives lost."

In the last three years, Virginia had a total of nine pool drownings in children under five years old – three in 2024, two in 2023, and four in 2022. Drowning is the [leading cause of death in children](#) between the ages of one and four. But drownings aren't limited to small children. Between 2020 and 2024, nearly 500 people accidentally drowned in Virginia. Nearly a fifth of them were under the age of 19.


Drownings happen [quickly and quietly](#). Parents and caregivers can take the following precautions to help keep children safe in and around pools:

- **Active Supervision:** Never leave a child alone near a pool/spa, bathtub, toilet, or standing body of water. When supervising children who are near the water, adults should be free from distractions.
- **Swim Lessons:** Teach children basic swimming and water safety skills. Swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning. Children, even those who've had [swimming lessons](#), still need close and constant supervision in or around water.
- **Learn CPR:** [Bystander-initiated CPR](#) can make the difference in someone's life while waiting for paramedics to arrive.
- **Approved Safety Devices:** Floaties, water wings, pool noodles and inner tubes are toys. These air-filled or foam toys are not designed to keep swimmers safe. Only use S. Coast Guard-approved [life jackets](#).
- **Barriers and Alarms:** Install [barriers and alarms](#) to prevent children from gaining access to a pool or open water unsupervised.
- **Avoid Swimming After Dark:** Swimming after dark makes it hard to see if someone is drowning.
- **Listen to the Lifeguard:** Make sure to listen to any directions from the lifeguard and follow all advisories. But remember a lifeguard does not replace the need for active supervision of any children in and around the water.

Visit swimhealthyva.com for more information. Remember: swim safe, stay safe!

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energy costs every year
by switching to LED Lights.

LEDs also last up to 25 times longer. Well, *watt* do you know! Switching out a lightbulb is a quick and simple way to make a big impact on cost without dimming comfort.

Simple, effective tips like that are among the ways Virginia Energy Sense helps Virginians take charge of their energy bills.

If your county is looking to further your sustainability goals and lighten your residents' energy bills, Virginia Energy Sense is here to help.

Virginia Energy Sense operates under the guidance of the State Corporation Commission as Virginia's only statewide energy-efficiency education program. Our mission is to empower Virginians with the knowledge and tools they need to:



Pull the plug on high energy bills.



Spark a positive environmental change.

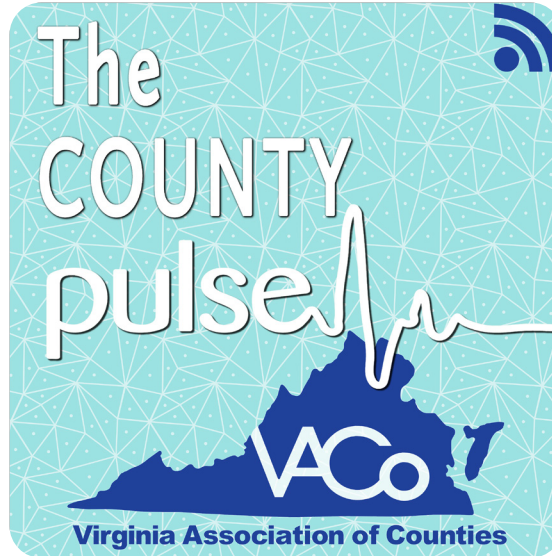


Cut wasteful energy usage.

We know local government plays a powerful role in charging energy-conscious communities. If your department is involved in sustainability, public outreach or utility services, we'd love to discuss how VES can energize your mission.

Visit www.virginiaenergysense.org to view our full library of resources. Connect with us directly via email at EnergySense@scc.virginia.gov. Or call 804-371-9141 to learn more about collaboration opportunities.

Together, we can help Virginians save energy and money. Let's connect.



Energy Landscape of Virginia Series with Joe Lerch

Episode 18 | State and Local Housing Policy – Comparison of Maryland and Virginia with [MACo Conduit Street Podcast](#)



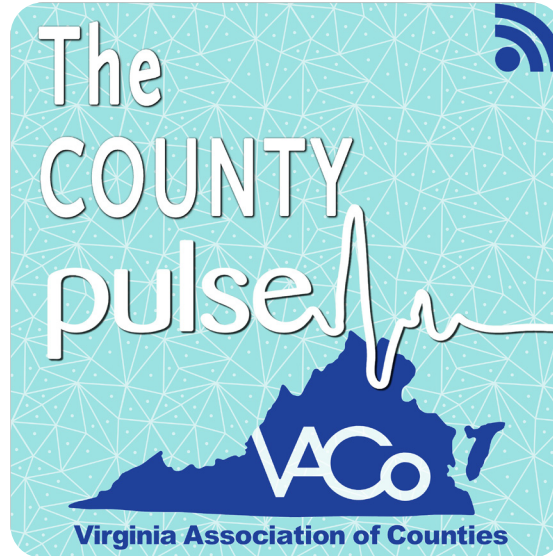
[Listen to the Podcast.](#)

VACo County Pulse | Bonus Housing Episode with [MACo Conduit Street Podcast](#). Joe Lerch talks with Dominic Butchko, Director of Intergovernmental Relations with the [Maryland Association of Counties \(MACo\)](#) to discuss housing policy and legislation with our neighbors to the North. Listeners to episode 17 of our Energy Landscape of Virginia series will recognize this as part 2 of our foray into comparing how the Virginia and Maryland legislatures tackle prominent issues involving county land use, and the role that local governments play in addressing energy and housing needs.

Where to find out more about topics covered in this episode.

- [Maryland Housing Expansion and Affordability Act of 2024](#)
- [Underdevelopment Despite Upzoning](#) (Presentation to Virginia Housing Commission July 15, 2024 – [1:02:47 – Video Archive](#))
- [Underdevelopment Despite Upzoning](#) – Richard Schragger, Sarah New – [Virginia Environmental Law Journal](#), 1 (2024)
- [Maryland HB 1466 \(awaiting action by the Governor\) - Land Use and Real Property - Accessory Dwelling Units - Requirements and Prohibitions](#)
- [Click here for more link to resources](#)

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



Energy Landscape of Virginia Series with Joe Lerch

Episode 19 | Balancing Demand and Supply in the Regional Electric Grid – Discussion with PJM Interconnection



[Listen to the Podcast.](#)

Energy Landscape of Virginia Episode 19 | Balancing Demand and Supply in the Regional Electric Grid— discussion with PJM Interconnection. Joe Lerch talks with Jason Stanek, Executive Director of State Government Policy with PJM Interconnection the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) for 13 states and the District Columbia in which Virginia's electric utilities are members. They discuss the role PJM plays in generation and transmission of electricity and how policies and decisions at the state and local level have impacts on reliability and pricing in the bulk energy market.

Where to find out more about topics covered in this episode.

- [PJM Website – Homepage](#)
- [Effective Load Carrying Capability \(ELCC\) Class Ratings by generation type – 2026/2027 Base Residual Auction](#)
- [Asim Haque \(PJM\) Presentation to the Commission on Electric Utility Commission \(CEUR\) – May 22, 2025 \(presentation starts at 1:25:31\)](#)
- [Asim Haque Slide Presentation](#)
- [Click here for more links to resources](#)

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

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/>



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Todd Wright, CPFA

Business Development and Retirement Plan Consultant

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[Click Here to Watch the Video](#)



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CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS EMPLOYEES

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STEP 2

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STEP 3

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What's in It for You?



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Fix your facilities without tapping into reserves.



Energy Savings

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Green Goals, Met

Boost sustainability while creating healthier communities.



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



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804.517.2819
Kevin.DeLeon@se.com



**Thank you
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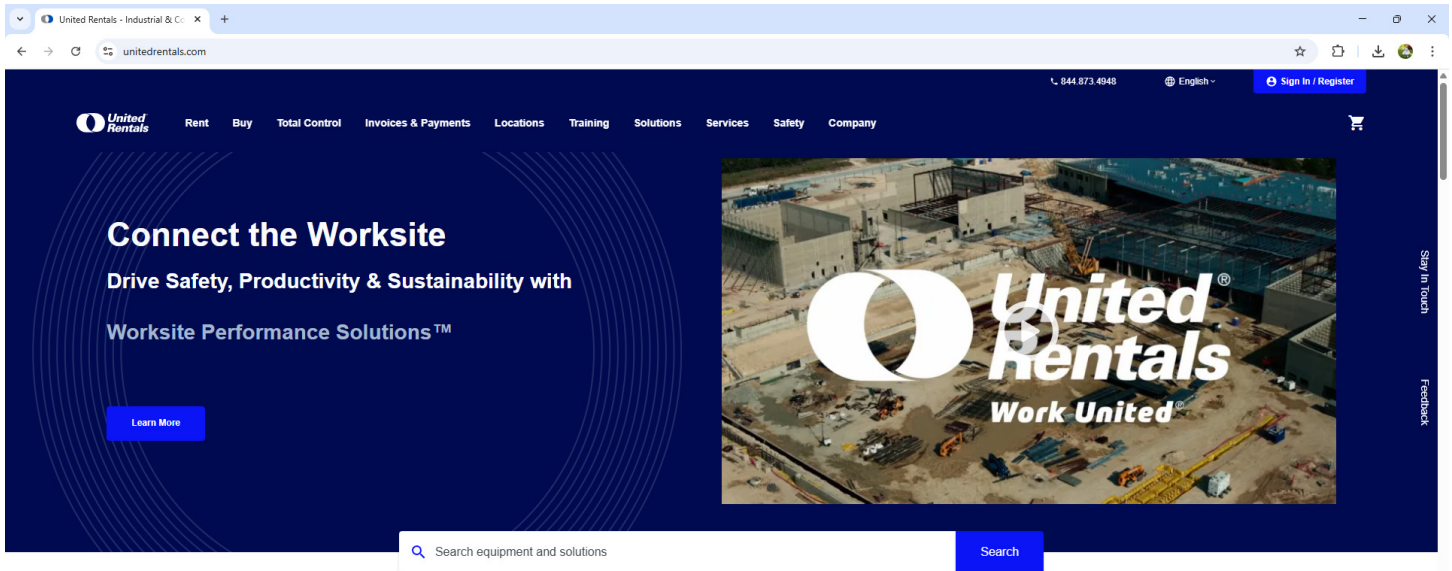


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VACo long-standing partner Nationwide Retirement Solutions, provides these valuable services:

- 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.



EQUIPMENT

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You are VAcorp

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

Know Who You Are

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

Our History

The Birth of Risk Pools

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

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

VAcorp's Origin

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

VAcorp's Growth

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

VAcorp Exists to Serve You

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

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

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

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

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





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.

Community IMPACT starts here

Life Is On

Schneider
Electric

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:



Infrastructure

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



Sustainability

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



Funding

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



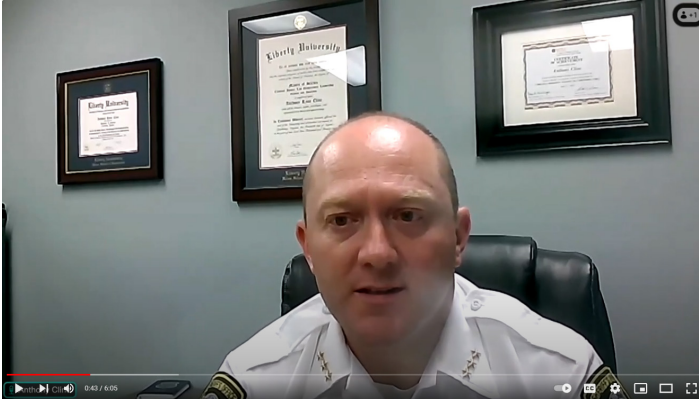
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KEY SERVICES

**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 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.



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.



INTRODUCING A NEW VACo PREMIER PARTNER

Anthony Chapman

National Program Director

NACo Public Promise Procurement

Direct: 804.399.1821

Email: achapman@naco.org

Website: www.publicpromiseprocurement.org

The PPP resource hub is up and available at...

<https://publicpromiseprocurement.org/resourcehub>



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 [the VA250 website](#) for more information and to schedule a visit.



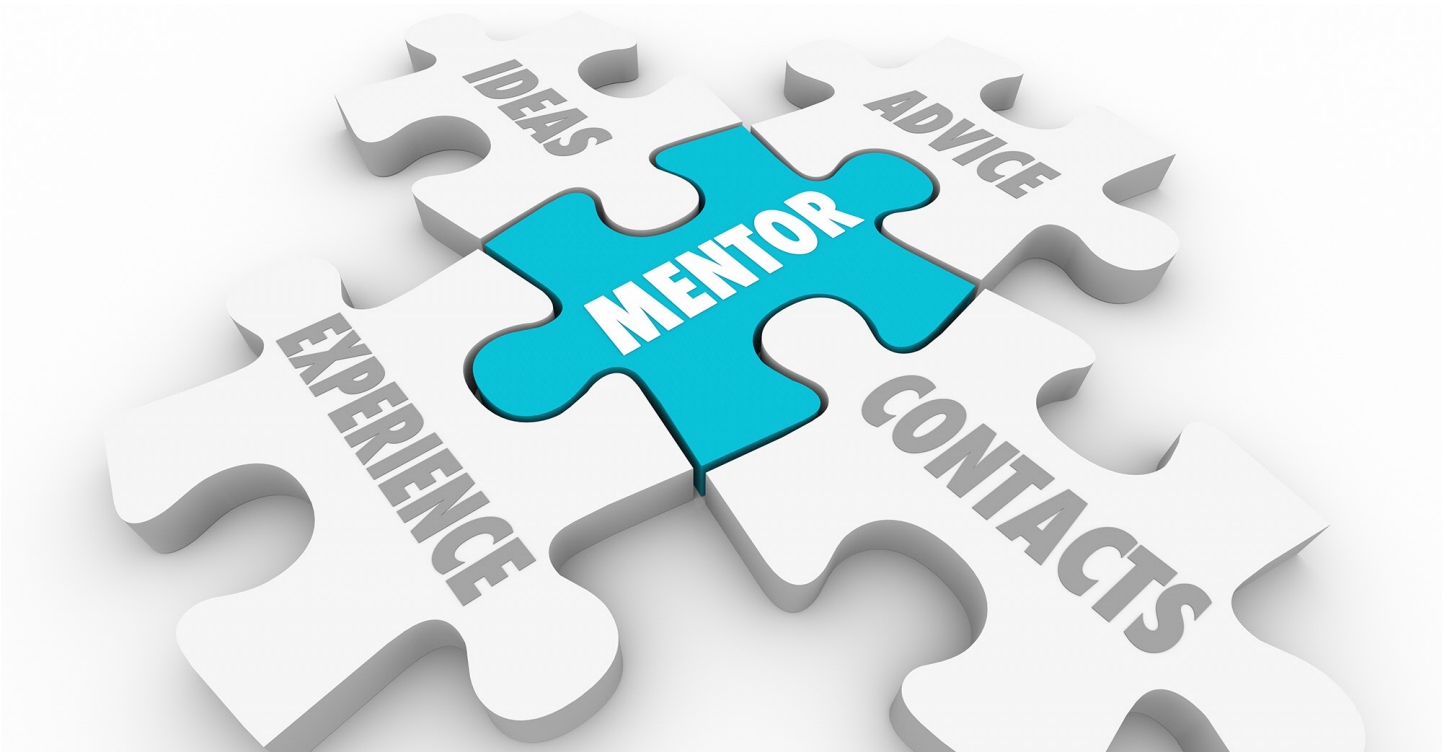
Get your VA250 license plates - now available

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. [Visit the Virginia DMV website](#) to purchase your VA250 license plate today.

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



AVAILABLE
NOW

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

ORDER YOUR ALL-NEW VOLUME NOW

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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



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](#).

[**CHIEF OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**](#) | Northumberland County | Posted July 11

[**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**](#) | Northumberland County | Posted July 11

[**BENEFITS COORDINATOR**](#) | Montgomery County | Posted July 10

[**HUMAN RESOURCES GENERALIST**](#) | Montgomery County | Posted July 10

[**ZONING INSPECTOR \(FULL TIME\)**](#) | Fauquier County | Posted July 9

[**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS/CITY ENGINEER**](#) | City of Colonial Heights | Posted July 9

[**IT TECHNICIAN**](#) | Dinwiddie County | Posted July 8

[**CLINICIAN \(DUAL TREATMENT TRACK\)**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 7

[**SENIOR CLINICIAN \(OBAT\)**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 7

[**EMERGENCY VEHICLE TECHNICIAN**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 7

[**SCHOOL BUS TECHNICIAN**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 7

[**MHSS EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT \(PART-TIME\)**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 7

[**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**](#) | Hanover County – Pamunkey Regional Jail | Posted July 7

[**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**](#) | King George County | Posted July 7

[**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted July 7

[**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GENERALIST**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**EMT BASIC LIFE SUPPORT \(BLS\) FULL & PART TIME**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**EMT ADVANCE LIFE SUPPORT \(ALS\) FULL & PART TIME**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**ASSISTANT EQUIPMENT & FLEET MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**EQUIPMENT & FLEET MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**PART-TIME DEPUTY SHERIFF**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**DEPUTY SHERIFF**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**PART-TIME FACILITIES ASSISTANT/SENIOR CENTER REC AIDE**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**HVAC ASSISTANT**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**DEPUTY REGISTRAR**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**HUMAN RESOURCES GENERALIST**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT TECHNICIAN**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAMS SPECIALIST – PUBLIC WORKS**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAM SPECIALIST – PLANNING**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**FISCAL ASSISTANT III – DSS**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**BENEFIT PROGRAMS SUPERVISOR – DSS**](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 3

[**SOLID WASTE COLLECTION DIRECTOR**](#) | Winston-Salem, NC | Posted July 3

[**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**](#) | Isle of Wight County | Posted July 2

[**MHSS EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT \(PT\)**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 30

[**VAN DRIVER /CHESTER HOUSE**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 30

[**RESIDENTIAL AIDE**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 30

[**RESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR \(IN HOME PROGRAM\)**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 30

[**LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE/ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT \(PT\)**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 30

[**LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE \(GALLOWAY\)**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 30

[**PLUMBING/MECHANICAL INSPECTOR**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 30

[**RESIDENTIAL AIDE \(DAVELAYNE GROUP HOME\)**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 30

[**PRINCIPAL ENGINEER \(FT\) – ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 30

[MENTAL HEALTH CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES SUPERVISOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 30

[TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANT – CHESTER HOUSE](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 30

[RADIO ELECTRONICS REPAIR SPECIALIST](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 30

[RADIO INSTALLATION TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 30

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted June 30

[FINANCE DIVISION DIRECTOR](#) | Hanover County | Posted June 27

[PAYROLL SPECIALIST](#) | Orange County | Posted June 27

[EMPLOYMENT SERVICES WORKER – CHILDCARE](#) | Montgomery County | Posted June 26

[BUILDING INSPECTOR](#) | Montgomery County | Posted June 25

[ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER](#) | Fauquier County | Posted June 24

[CHIEF OF PLANNING](#) | Fauquier County | Posted June 24

[MHSS EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT \(PT\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 30

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[ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER](#) | Fauquier County | Posted June 24

[CHIEF OF PLANNING](#) | Fauquier County | Posted June 24

[IT PROJECT MANAGER](#) | Fauquier County | Posted June 23

[IT SUPPORT SPECIALIST SR.](#) | Fauquier County | Posted June 23

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted June 23

[HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR](#) | City of Newport News | Posted June 20

[DIRECTOR OF GENERAL PROPERTIES & INSPECTIONS BUILDING OFFICIAL](#) | Halifax County | Posted June 20

[DIRECTOR OF FINANCE](#) | Halifax County | Posted June 20

[DEPUTY CLERK II](#) | Campbell County | Posted June 20

[SENIOR TRAINING ANALYST/CPR-FIRST AID & CPI \(PART TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 20

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | King George County | Posted June 20

[DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS](#) | Botetourt County | Posted June 20

[BUILDING CODES COMBINATION INSPECTOR](#) | City of Harrisonburg | Posted June 20

[DEPUTY CHIEF – FIRE & EMS](#) | Botetourt County | Posted June 18

[DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION, & EVENTS](#) | City of Fredericksburg | Posted June 18

[SENIOR STORMWATER ENGINEER](#) | Loudoun County | Posted June 18

[ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE-ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY](#) | Loudoun County | Posted June 17

[CASE MANAGER \(SUBSTANCE ABUSE\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 17

[MHSS SERVICES SUPERVISOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 17

[SENIOR ENGINEER \(PT\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 17

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



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VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

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