

General Assembly Rejects Governor's Amendments on Collective Bargaining Legislation; VACo Urges Governor Spanberger to Veto



On April 22 the Virginia General Assembly rejected Governor Abigail Spanberger's proposed amendments to [HB 1263 \(Tran\)](#) / [SB 378 \(Surovell\)](#), returning this collective bargaining legislation to the posture originally adopted by the General Assembly during the regular session. This development significantly and negatively alters the policy landscape for this legislation. While the Governor had sought to address local government concerns through targeted amendments, the General Assembly's action removes those changes entirely, restoring the bills' original structure and requirements. This is a posture that prompted VACo to call for a [veto](#) of the legislation and approximately 70 percent of all counties to pass public resolutions of opposition to the bills.

As outlined in VACo's joint [press release](#) with the Virginia Municipal League, the Governor's amendments were a meaningful, though limited, response to local concerns. Most notably, the amendments delayed main implementation of the new collective bargaining system for local governments until January 1, 2030, providing additional time for counties to prepare for the administrative, fiscal, and operational impacts of a statewide collective bargaining mandate.

As a result of the General Assembly rejection of all the Governor's amendments to the legislation, the delayed implementation timeline is removed, the bill reverts to its earlier effective dates and structure, and the statewide mandate remains intact without the modifications proposed by the Governor.

- Local decision-making is preempted.
- A state Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) would oversee local labor relations with expansive, codified powers, including arbitration.
- Existing local agreements are not a permanent shield as the legislation does not preserve a long-term locally controlled alternative system once the statewide framework takes effect.
- Substantive implementation work must begin well before the nominal effective date of 2028.
- The scope remains broad as the legislation provides that public employees may organize, choose representatives, and engage in concerted activity for collective bargaining and mutual aid, while also extending the framework to local governments, school boards, many state employees, home care providers, and certain higher education service employees.
- Public employers must provide employee contact information and access, a mandate that requires additional administrative burdens and raises privacy concerns.

The stakes of this decision have drawn national attention. A recent [editorial](#) by The Washington Post Editorial Board argues that the General Assembly's action highlights concerns about the fiscal pressures on local governments, the reduced flexibility in managing workforce policies, and the long-term impact on local taxpayers and local government service delivery.

VACo's position of opposition remains consistent with our legislative position and earlier stances throughout the legislative session. The bill replaces longstanding local decision-making processes with a uniform statewide mandate that introduces new administrative, legal, and fiscal obligations, which are likely to create uncertainty for local budgeting and service delivery.

The legislation now returns to Governor Spanberger who has the option of signing the bill, vetoing it, or allowing it to become law without her signature. **VACo once again respectfully urges the Governor to veto this legislation.** VACo will continue to monitor developments closely and keep members informed. Counties are encouraged to remain engaged as this process moves forward.

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

General Assembly Meets to Wrap Up 2026 Regular Session, Convene Special Session



The legislature convened on April 22 to consider Governor Spanberger’s amendments and vetoes to legislation from the 2026 General Assembly session. The Governor proposed amendments to 176 bills (in addition to four bills already amended prior to the conclusion of the regular session) and vetoed eight bills. All of the Governor’s vetoes were sustained by the legislature, meaning that these bills will not become law. The General Assembly rejected amendments, in whole or in part, to 54 bills, generally through motions to pass the bill by for the day – in other words, to decline to take up the amendments. These bills now return to the Governor, who has 30 days to veto or sign the legislation. If the Governor takes no action on a bill within the 30-day window, it becomes law without her signature.

The legislature convened on April 23 in a special session, which has been called to allow further negotiations on the biennium budget. After conducting certain procedural business required to organize the special session, both chambers recessed; no specific date has been set for legislators to return to Richmond.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

UPDATE: GA Approves Governor's Minor Amendments to Legislation to Allow "By-Right" Development of Faith-Based Owned Property



[SB 388 \(McPike\)](#) and [HB 1279 \(Cole\)](#) override local decision-making by allowing development of housing, with up to 30 percent of certain ground-floor nonresidential uses, on land owned by property tax-exempt religious organizations or certain property tax-exempt nonprofit organizations. The legislation also mandates that zoning ordinances shall allow the by-right development of up to 20 units per acre on property owned by such organizations. The measures specify that the review of such developments be completed pursuant to general law and states that localities shall not require a special exception, special use permit, conditional use permit, rezoning, or any discretionary review or approval process. The legislature approved several amendments that are mostly technical in nature proposed by the Governor (see [See Governor's Recommendation](#)).

VACo opposed the legislation and requested a veto.

The legislation, with the accepted amendments, includes the following key provisions:

- A qualifying religious or nonprofit organization must own the property for five years prior to applying for a housing development application.
- At least 60 percent of the total housing units must be affordable at 80 percent or less AMI (area median income) for rental units, and up to 120 percent AMI for for-sale units.
- Affordability of units must be recorded and preserved for a minimum of 30 years by deed restrictions or other legally binding requirements.
- The property is served by or within an area planned for public water and sewer.
- It does not apply to ... *property zoned for or adjacent to land zoned for industrial use provided there has been an active and operational industrial use as defined by the locality on the property within the previous five years.*
- The provisions of the legislation become effective on January 1, 2027, and expire on January 1, 2031.

VA 250

Celebrating Virginia's History: Amblers House



Amblers is a brick farmhouse in James City County distinguished by its architectural history. The dwelling was built in 1852 in a style known as Picturesque, a design characterized by asymmetry and irregular building proportions. Amblers's original section is the only known surviving example of a Picturesque-style dwelling on Virginia's Lower Peninsula. In the 1950s, Amblers was added onto using materials similar in appearance to those of the original house but in a Colonial Revival design, then popular in Virginia, that undid the original style, resulting in symmetrical and balanced building proportions. The central remnant of a large farm that operated from the late 18th century until it was subdivided in 1917, Amblers is owned by James City County and is located entirely within the Governor's Land Archaeological District, listed in the state and national registers in 1973.

SOURCE: VA250.org



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- **REGIONS 1&4** | June | Greenville County
- **REGION 5** | June | Nelson County
- **REGIONS 6&7** | June | Greene County
- **REGION 8** | July | Fairfax County
- **REGION 10** | July | Campbell County
- **REGION 3** | August 18 | Chesterfield County
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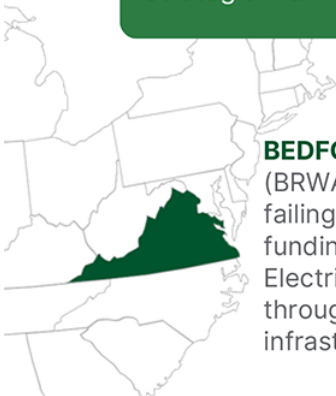
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"The Investor" Newsletter - April 2026

"Geopolitical Uncertainty Reigns"



"The conflict in the Middle East has now dragged on for more than six weeks with no immediate signs of a resolution... Rate cut expectations have been dialed back significantly since the start of the conflict, with fed funds futures contracts now implying zero cuts through the remainder of 2026... The headline CPI reading for March illustrates the impact of the war on energy prices and inflation, with headline CPI gaining 0.9% month-over-month and nearly three-fourths of that increase driven by higher gas prices alone... the Federal Open Market Committee is likely to keep the federal funds rate steady at 3.50%-3.75% in the near term until the economic picture is clearer."

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Questions? Contact us!

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Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program Begins in 2028



The Governor's limited amendments to [HB1207 \(Sewell\)](#) and [SB2 \(Boysko\)](#) were approved at the General Assembly's reconvened session, making Virginia workers eligible for up to 12 weeks of Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) under a new insurance program passed by the 2026 General Assembly.

The Virginia program expands on the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The FMLA was passed in 1993 to guarantee that an employee would not lose their job if they took time off for certain qualifying health events of themselves or a family member. The amount of allowed time under the federal law is 12 weeks in a 12-month period, and employees are eligible if they have worked for at least 12 months for an employer that has at least 50 employees at the worksite. Leave can be taken continuously or intermittently. Most notably, FMLA does not require that the leave be paid.

The Virginia program extends beyond the FMLA by providing paid leave and expanding coverage in several key areas:

- The definition of "family" is expanded to include domestic partners, children of any age, siblings, and grandparents and grandchildren
- Leave for "safety services" is added. "Safety services" leave would arise from domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, or stalking, and leave is capped at 4 weeks.
- All employers must participate, regardless of number of employees
- Employees are covered if they meet the requirements to be eligible for unemployment benefits
- Job protections apply after only 120 days of employment

The program will grant benefits equal to 80% of the employee's average weekly net earnings, not to exceed 100% of the statewide average weekly net earnings (using the same information for determinations of unemployment compensation). Alternatively, employers can obtain private insurance or self-insure, provided the VEC approves the plan as being consistent with or better than the statewide program. Private plans will be reviewed every two years for compliance.

The PFML insurance program will be administered by Virginia Employment Commission and will be funded through payroll deductions and contributions from employers. Employers with 10 or more employees may deduct up to 50% of the premium from employees; employers with 10 or fewer employees are required to deduct 50% of the premium from the employee but are not required to remit an employer share. Deductions cannot result in the employee's wage falling below the minimum wage. The premium amount will be established by VEC annually.

The legislation sets April 1, 2028 as the date when VEC will begin collecting premiums, with benefits available for payment beginning December 1, 2028.

VACo Contact: [Julie Whitlock, Esq.](#)

UPDATE: GA Accepts Governor's Minor Amendments to Legislation that Makes Utility-Scale Batteries a By-Right Use



[HB 891 \(Shin\)](#) and [SB 443 \(McPike\)](#) make utility-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) a by-right use on any parcel that has previously been approved for utility-scale solar and that is subject to an approved special use permit, ... *or any other similar approval issued for a solar facility*. In addition to taking away local decision-making, the legislation also exempts such installations from the requirement that applicants give the locality written notice of their intent to locate in such locality and request a meeting to negotiate a host siting agreement pursuant to [Virginia law on the Siting of Solar Projects and Energy Storage Projects](#).

The legislature accepted a substitute version from the Governor (see [Governor's amendment in the nature of a substitute](#)) that makes several technical changes and that (1) specifies that the by-right battery facility may not exceed ... *100 percent of the of the nameplate generating capacity of the associated solar facility*; and (2) reinstates the requirement for an applicant to notify the locality of their intent to locate a battery facility on the parcel of a previously approved solar installation. However, the new law, which will become effective July 1, 2026, states that ...

The addition of the battery energy storage project pursuant to this section shall not alter, reduce, or otherwise affect any (i) payment obligations, financial commitments, or other terms contained in the existing special exception associated with the siting agreement for the approved solar project or (ii) state and local tax exemption from which the approved solar project benefits. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to affect or alter the state and local tax provisions under § 58.1-3660.

VACo opposed the legislation and requested a veto.

It is important to note the host siting agreement law was amended in 2021 to include battery storage projects as a way to offset the loss in revenue due to state mandated exemptions from local machinery and tools tax on the equipment - 80% exemption for the first 5 years of operation; 70% exemption for years 6-10; and 60% exemption for years 11 and beyond (see [Legislature passes complex changes to laws regarding the siting and taxing of solar and energy storage projects - Virginia Association of Counties](#)).

Without the ability to alter ... *payment obligations, financial commitments, or other terms contained in the existing special exception associated with the siting agreement for the approved solar project ...*, and because of loss in revenue due to state-mandated exemption from local taxes, counties cannot adequately address limited resources of their fire departments and public safety operations who must be familiar with the layouts and protocols for each site and have adequate resources to respond to fire and emergency calls.

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

UPDATE: GA Accepts Governor's Minor Technical Amendments to Legislation Mandating Statewide Standards for Solar Facilities



[HB 711 \(Herring\)](#) and [SB 347 \(VanValkenburg\)](#) direct that, unless otherwise permitted “by right,” a locality shall require and review any “special exception” (aka special use permit) for any application of a solar project one megawatt or more in generating capacity in all zoning districts classified as agricultural, commercial, industrial, and institutional. The legislation then mandates specific criteria to be applied to such applications, and be adopted in local zoning ordinances. The legislature accepted several minor technical amendments proposed by the Governor (see [See Governor’s Recommendation](#)).

VACo opposed the legislation and requested a veto.

While there is no mandate to approve such applications, the legislation does require localities to review all such applications, regardless of whether the location of the proposed facility is contrary to local comprehensive plans and land use ordinances, and ... *furnish the State Corporation Commission a record of special exception decisions reached pursuant to this section not more than 60 days after such decision is made. The record shall include (i) the reason for any adverse decision, (ii) any finding of nonconformity with the local comprehensive plan, and (iii) the date of the last revision to the comprehensive plan.*

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

Updates on General Assembly Action on Governor's Amendments to Bills of Interest to Local Governments



Local Governing Bodies

HB 505 (McAuliff)/SB 648 (Perry), as passed by the General Assembly, provide that any member of a local governing body who has been employed by a governmental agency that is a component part of and which is subject to the ultimate control of the governing body is considered to have a continuing personal interest in the agency for two years after terminating employment. The bills also include several provisions applying only to the Town of Purcellville that (i) require that in the event of a criminal proceeding against any officer of the town, the court of appropriate jurisdiction is to suspend the officer pending the resolution of the proceeding and may appoint someone to act in the officer's place; (ii) require the town to conduct a study of its debt and other liability risks; (iii) stipulate that the town council may only vote on matters that have been properly advertised or otherwise properly approved as an addition to a meeting agenda; and (iv) require the town manager to be a resident of the Commonwealth. The Governor adds an emergency clause to the bill and removes language dealing with the compensation of an officer in the town who has been suspended due to a criminal proceeding.

General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments. These bills will become law with the Governor's revisions incorporated.

Elections

HB 41 (Simon) sets out a process for removal of an electoral board member or general registrar. Under the bill, the State Board of Elections may remove a member of an electoral board member or general registrar for certain enumerated reasons, including neglect of a clear, ministerial duty or misuse of office; a two-thirds majority vote would be required for removal. Similarly, a local electoral board would be authorized to remove a general registrar by a unanimous vote; in this case, the registrar would be entitled to appeal to the State Board of Elections, which could reverse the electoral board's decision by a two-thirds vote. The Governor's amendment would provide that the State Board's removal decision would be subject to judicial review in accordance with the Administrative Process Act.

General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendment. This bill will become law as amended.

[HB 630 \(Callsen\)](#) and [SB 176 \(VanValkenburg\)](#) set out certain administrative provisions for implementing ranked-choice voting. The bills expand the option to conduct an election by ranked-choice voting to town councils (currently this option is limited to elections of boards of supervisors and city councils), but allow counties to bill towns for costs associated with conducting an election via ranked-choice voting if those costs would not have been incurred otherwise. The Governor's amendments add several provisions requiring final tabulation of votes at the electoral board's meeting on the day after the election; requiring the Department of Elections to make public the total number and percentage of votes received by each candidate in each round of the official tabulation, consistent with voter privacy; and clarifying how a risk-limiting audit of an election conducted by ranked-choice voting would be implemented.

General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments. These bills will become law with the Governor's revisions incorporated.

[HB 639 \(Krizek\)](#) modifies the current prohibition on acceptance of funding from private individuals or nongovernmental entities for election-related expenses to allow acceptance of such funds under certain circumstances. As passed by the General Assembly, the bill bars acceptance of such funding in excess of \$1000 unless approved by a two-thirds majority of the State Board of Elections or the local governing body. The Governor's amendments provide that the \$1000 cap would apply annually and limit approval authority to the State Board of Elections (removing the authority of a local governing body to accept the funding). The Governor's amendments also require recipients to report any funding to the Department of Elections and direct the Department to publish guidance for local electoral boards and general registrars on acceptance and use of such resources.

General Assembly action: The legislature did not take up these amendments, so the bill returns to the Governor as it passed the General Assembly. The Governor has 30 days to take final action on the bill.

[SB 126 \(Pekarsky\)](#) provides that if an incumbent does not submit the declaration of candidacy, petitions, and filing fees by the seventy-fifth day before a primary election (or the documents are filed but subsequently withdrawn), any person other than the incumbent would have five more days to file these documents. The Governor's amendments would require certain notification to the party chair and adjust the deadline for the party chairs to submit the names of candidates to the State Board of Elections.

General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendment. This bill will become law as amended.

Health and Human Services

[HB 455 \(Willett\)](#)/[SB 599 \(Srinivasan\)](#), as passed by the General Assembly, revise the statute governing the Virginia Opioid Use Reduction and Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Transition Fund by requiring that grants be awarded for up to three years and that applicants submit

a plan for financial viability within the award period. The Governor's amendments remove the specification for the three-year timetable for grant awards.

General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments. These bills will become law with the Governor's revisions incorporated.

[**HB 483 \(Delaney\)/SB 271 \(Deeds\)**](#), as passed by the General Assembly, would cap payments to prescription drug manufacturers and wholesale distributors for certain prescription drugs at the maximum fair price established by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. Pharmacies would be required to be reimbursed for these drugs at amounts at least equivalent to the maximum fair price, plus a dispensing fee. The bill would also set up a Prescription Drug Affordability Advisory Panel, which would review prescription drug pricing and utilization trends and report annually on specified topics, including patients' out-of-pocket costs, strategies to reduce local governments' spending on prescription drugs, enhancements to data collection and reporting, and suggested statutory or regulatory changes to improve affordability and transparency. One of the members of this Advisory Panel would be a representative of a local government. The Governor's amendments include the addition of a reenactment clause to the provisions of the bill setting maximum fair prices for certain drugs; the Governor also removes the requirement for a local government representative on the Advisory Panel. VACo has historically supported this legislation, contingent on local government representation on the Advisory Panel.

General Assembly action: The legislature did not take up these amendments, so the bills return to the Governor in the form in which they passed the General Assembly. The Governor has 30 days to take final action.

[**HB 931 \(Simon\)/SB 270 \(VanValkenburg\)**](#) require the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to promulgate regulations for minimum certification standards for recovery residences and set out elements of these standards. The bills also direct the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Virginia Housing Commission to make recommendations for establishing regulations for licensed providers of clinical substance use treatment services that offer housing as a benefit for individuals participating in treatment services, but are not licensed or certified as recovery residences; as passed by the General Assembly, a report would be due by November 1, 2027. The Governor proposes to advance this deadline to November 1, 2026. The legislation as passed by the General Assembly also extends the workgroup on the issue of regulation of recovery residences that met last summer (an effort in which VACo participated) and requires it to meet at least twice per year; the Governor's amendments sunset the workgroup on July 1, 2031.

General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments. These bills will become law with the Governor's revisions incorporated.

[**HB 1222 \(Delaney\)**](#), as passed by the General Assembly, requires any interview of a child conducted as part of a child welfare interview (an interview conducted by a child protective services agency to collect information regarding abuse, neglect, or exposure to violence) or a family assessment to be recorded. The Governor's amendments would convert this directive into permissive authority to make such recordings and expand this authorization to interviews of alleged child victims in human trafficking assessments.

General Assembly action: The legislature did not take up these amendments, so the bill returns to the Governor as it passed the General Assembly. The Governor has 30 days to take final action on the bill.

Wage garnishments

HB 1100 (Hernandez)/SB 597 (Aird) limit wage garnishments imposed by Treasurers for unpaid taxes or other charges to 25 percent of disposable earnings, with certain exceptions. Under the bills as passed by the General Assembly, the cap does not apply if the Treasurer determines that the delinquent taxpayer is no longer in the jurisdiction, is attempting to flee the jurisdiction or is improperly disposing of assets with the intent to frustrate the collection of the delinquent taxes. The Governor's amendments would vest the determination about whether such risks exist with a court of appropriate jurisdiction, rather than the Treasurer.

General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments. These bills will become law with the Governor's revisions incorporated.

Retail cannabis market

HB 642 (Krizek)/SB 542 (Aird) establish a regulatory and tax structure for a retail market for the sale of cannabis. The Governor proposed extensive changes to the bills, including the following revisions:

- The Governor would cap the number of retail stores at 200 until January 1, 2029; as passed by the General Assembly, this cap would be set at 350 until January 1, 2028.
- Under the General Assembly's version of the bills, net profits collected by the Cannabis Control Authority would be appropriated as follows: 40 percent to early childhood care and education, 30 percent to the Cannabis Equity Reinvestment fund, 25 percent to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services for substance use disorder prevention and treatment programs at Community Services Boards, and 5 percent to public health programs, including public awareness campaigns to discourage drugged driving. The Governor proposes more general language that would direct funds to purposes such as early childhood education, behavioral health, public health awareness, prevention, treatment, and recovery services, workforce development, reentry, indigent criminal defense, and targeted reinvestment in historically disadvantaged communities, but without prescribing a set distribution of funds for each purpose.
- As passed by the General Assembly, the sale of marijuana or marijuana products would be subject to a 6 percent tax, in addition to the retail sales and use tax. Each locality would be required to impose an additional local tax of at least 1 percent but not greater than 3.5 percent. The Governor's amendments would increase the state tax to 8 percent after July 1, 2029, and retain the applicability of the retail sales and use tax; the local tax requirement is unchanged.
- As passed by the General Assembly, general retail sales would be allowed beginning January 1, 2027. Governor Spanberger proposes to delay the start date of retail sales until July 1, 2027.

- As passed by the General Assembly, the bills include language stipulating that localities retain authority to adopt and enforce local ordinances regulating businesses, including local zoning and land use requirements, and authorizing localities to adopt ordinances setting hours during which marijuana may be sold. The Governor’s proposal retains these provisions and adds language allowing local governing bodies to adopt ordinances decreasing minimum distance requirements between retail stores and between retail stores and other land uses, such as hospitals or schools.
- The Governor’s amendments reduce the amount of marijuana that may be legally possessed on the person or in a public place by an individual who is at least 21 from 2.5 ounces (as proposed by the General Assembly) to two ounces; the Governor also proposes to make public consumption a Class 4 misdemeanor (under current law, public consumption is punished by a \$25 civil penalty for a first offense, and is a Class 4 misdemeanor beginning with a third offense).
- The bills as passed by the General Assembly contain detailed requirements for the licensing process, including criteria for denial of a license that would include failure to conform to certain local ordinances and a requirement for notification to a locality when an applicant has been granted preliminary license approval. The Governor proposes instead to vest the Board of Directors of the Cannabis Control Authority with broad power to promulgate regulations for the administration of licenses; the Governor’s amendments do not include the specific notice requirements and other criteria in the General Assembly’s version of the legislation.

General Assembly action: The legislature did not take up the Governor’s amendments to this legislation, so the bills return to the Governor in the form in which they passed the General Assembly. The Governor has 30 days to take final action.

Labor

HB 238 (Lopez) expands enforcement mechanisms and penalties for violations of certain labor laws. The Governor’s substitute narrows the scope of covered violations and clarifies enforcement triggers, helping limit exposure to technical or ambiguous claims.

General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor’s amendments. These bills will become law with the Governor’s revisions incorporated.

HB 636 (Maldonado) / SB 215 (Boysko) restrict employer inquiries into wage and salary history during the hiring process. The Governor’s amendments clarify permissible employer communications and limit application in certain contexts, helping reduce ambiguity in implementation.

General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor’s amendments. These bills will become law with the Governor’s revisions incorporated.

HB 670 (Maldonado) modifies the definition of “employer” under applicable labor statutes. The Governor’s amendment adds a reenactment clause, signaling that the policy may be revisited pending further review. VACo had previously engaged on this bill to remove **language** provisions that would repeal sovereign immunity.

General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments. These bills will become law with the Governor's revisions incorporated.

Procurement

[HB 569 \(Feggans\)](#) / [SB 518 \(Rouse\)](#) raised concerns about expanding prevailing wage requirements to additional local government projects. As amended through the legislative [process](#) and with the Governor's actions, the measures appear to preserve key exemptions and avoid sweeping new mandates on local procurement.

General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments. These bills will become law with the Governor's revisions incorporated.

[HB 1046 \(Carr\)](#) / [SB 324 \(McPike\)](#) make targeted changes to public procurement processes. The Governor's amendments include a carveout for certain transportation-related projects, which is a helpful clarification for local governments engaged in infrastructure delivery. The revisions provide greater certainty and flexibility, particularly for projects involving state and regional transportation partners.

General Assembly action: Accepted the Governor's amendments. These bills will become law with the Governor's revisions incorporated.

Law Enforcement

[HB 1482 \(Schmidt\)](#) / [SB 352 \(Salim\)](#) prohibit state and local law enforcement officers from wearing facial coverings while performing official duties, with limited exceptions for health, safety, and tactical situations. The Governor's amendments clarify allowable exceptions and place greater emphasis on compliance through agency policy, reducing ambiguity and potential liability. The bills as originally [introduced](#) had provisions repealing sovereign immunity, which VACo thanks the patrons for removing during the legislative process.

General Assembly action: The legislature did not take up the Governor's amendments to this legislation, so the bills return to the Governor in the form in which they passed the General Assembly. The Governor has 30 days to take final action.

[HB 650 \(Callsen\)](#) / [SB 351 \(Salim\)](#) prohibit certain civil arrests in courthouses, including arrests under civil administrative warrants, with exceptions for judicial warrants and specific enforcement actions. The Governor's amendments clarify definitions and narrow applicability to ensure core court functions and lawful enforcement activities are not disrupted, reducing ambiguity for local officials.

General Assembly action: The legislature did not take up the Governor's amendments to this legislation, so the bills return to the Governor in the form in which they passed the General Assembly. The Governor has 30 days to take final action.

VACo Contacts: [Katie Boyle](#) and [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)

UPDATE: VACo Thanks Governor for Amendments to Public Transit Labor Mandates Legislation



Update: During the Reconvened Session, the General Assembly voted to accept the Governor's amendments on [SB 731 \(Salim\)](#) and [HB 547 \(Helmer\)](#), which VACo supported. VACo thanks the Governor for proposing these amendments and the General Assembly for allowing the workgroup to move forward to assess how implementation of the provisions outlined in the bill would affect transit systems and localities across the Commonwealth. VACo will provide updates when the workgroup finalizes its report later this year.

SB 731 and HB 547, as passed the General Assembly, would require that the governing body of any city or county that contracts with a private company to provide a system of public transportation must adhere to the following:

- Require such company to provide any employee of such company providing services compensation and benefits that are, at a minimum, equivalent to the compensation and benefits provided to a public employee.
- Ensure that all employees of such public transportation system employed by a predecessor private company be offered employment with any successor company without loss of compensation or benefits.

The bills also state that if a city or county that contracts with a private company to provide a system of public transportation subsequently elects to provide its own system of public transportation, such county or city shall:

- Adopt an ordinance or resolution providing collective bargaining (if such county or city has not already done so).
- Ensure that all employees of the private company are offered employment with such subsequent system of public transportation without loss of compensation or benefits.

The bills included exemptions for various systems and types of service, and directed the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to convene a workgroup on implementation of the legislation.

VACo opposed SB 731 and HB 547 because they would mandate collective bargaining for localities, interfere with the ability for a county to make employment and services delivery decisions, and may have costly unintended consequences.

The Governor has sent favorable amendments to the General Assembly. The amendments would put a reenactment clause on the bills and grandfather existing collective bargaining amendments effective before July 1, 2027. Importantly, the bills still direct the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to convene a workgroup on implementation, with recommendations due by December 2026.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

UPDATE: GA Accepts Governor's Amendments to Bill Overriding Local Authority to Regulate Off-Street Parking



HB 888 (Shin) mandates specific statewide standards for off-street parking be adopted in local zoning ordinances for “designated areas” defined as ... *any parcel that is (i) located within one mile of the entrance to a mass transit or public transportation station or facility; (ii) located within an approved small area plan and designated therein as a revitalization area or other designated district established for the purpose of facilitating residential or mixed-use development; (iii) located within a zoning district classification that permits residential, multifamily, or mixed-use development and authorizes a floor area ratio of 1.0 or greater, or an equivalent density based on units per acre, either by-right or by special exception, special use permit, conditional use permit, or other discretionary approval; or (iv) that is the subject of an application for rezoning, special exception, special use permit, conditional use permit, site plan, or subdivision plat, that if approved, will include affordable dwelling units in accordance with an ordinance adopted pursuant to § 15.2-2304, 15.2-2305, or 15.2-2305.1.* Within such areas localities are prohibited from requiring off-street parking spaces in amounts exceeding (1) one-half of one parking space per dwelling unit for multifamily or mixed-use residential development; and (2) one parking space per dwelling unit for one-family and two-family dwellings and townhouses.

The legislation also requires localities with a population greater than 20,000 to provide for administrative reduction of minimum off-street parking requirements of not less than 20 percent for residential, multifamily, or mixed-use development proposed on parcels outside of the designated areas defined in the legislation.

VACo opposed the legislation.

The legislature accepted the following substantive amendments from the Governor that lessen its impact on local authority to regulate off street parking within these areas (see [Governor's Amendments](#)):

- Narrow the definition of “designated areas” so that it only applies to ... *any parcel that is located within one mile of the entrance to a mass transit or public transportation station or facility.*
- Narrows the definition of “mass transit or public transit” so that it only applies to “fixed routes” or the other high-capacity transit service as identified by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. This means it would not apply to bus routes and stops that vary over time to meet changes in use and demand.
- Deletes language that would have rescinded existing authority of localities to regulate off-street parking for residential uses.

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

Web Accessibility Compliance Required by State Code Despite Delay at Federal Level



The effective date of federal web accessibility requirements to implement Title II of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) has been [pushed back](#) a year by the Department of Justice. The federal announcement comes too late to update the Commonwealth's Information Technology Access Act ([ITAA](#), Va. Code 2.2-3500 et seq.), which was amended in 2025 to require compliance with the ADA's accessibility regulations by 2026 and 2027. Until the federal regulations are in effect, localities will be subject to the ITAA's requirements, but it will be unclear what standard must be met.

The ADA was enacted in 1990, guaranteeing equal access to places of public accommodation, without specific reference to the internet. The ADA was later amended to generally address equal access to the increasing use of information technology and the internet. In 2024, standards were proposed to be added to federal regulations to clarify accessibility requirements for websites and mobile applications, and localities and other government entities were given until April 2026 or 2027 to comply (localities with populations less than 50,000 have the later compliance date). After much public comment, this week the Department of Justice announced a one-year delay in implementing the standards.

Virginia's ITAA has been in place since 1999 and focused on non-visual access to technology. In 2025, the ITAA was rewritten to ensure access to all persons with disabilities, reflecting the broader language of the ADA. This followed workgroup [recommendations](#) made by the Public Body Procurement Workgroup. A key provision of the 2025 legislation ([HB 2541 \(Tran\)](#)) was to require compliance with the ADA regulations which are now in limbo.

VACo Contacts: [Julie Whitlock, Esq.](#) and [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)

Subject: Is Your County Ready? AI Leadership Academy Enrollment is Open



Lead Your County into the AI Future

The question isn't whether AI is coming to your county—it's how effectively you will lead the transition.

Join the next **NACo AI Leadership Academy** cohort starting **May 11th**. This program moves past the hype, giving you the practical tools to navigate risks and implement technology successfully.

Master the Pillars of Modern Leadership:

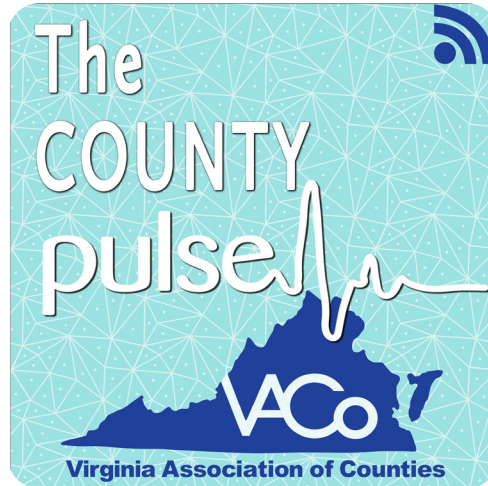
- **Innovation:** Empower your staff to explore new technological frontiers.
- **Collaboration:** Build cross-functional teams for seamless implementation.
- **Strategy:** Align tech investments with your organization's specific needs.
- **Equity:** Ensure new initiatives benefit all employees and residents.

Enrollment & Exclusive Discounts

Maximize your budget by enrolling your entire team.

- **Individual Price:** \$1,000
- **Team Discount:** **\$750 per person** (for groups of two or more)

[Click Here to Secure Your Spot for May 11th](#)



Energy Landscape of Virginia Series with Joe Lerch

Episode 25 | Purchasing electricity for local governments from Dominion Energy: overview of the Virginia Energy Purchasing Governmental Association (VEPGA)



[Listen to the Podcast.](#)

In a conversation with Stephen Burr, Energy Manager for Arlington County, and John Lord, Energy Management Coordinator for Fairfax County Public Schools, we learn about the special contractual relationship localities have with Dominion Energy to purchase electricity through the Virginia Energy Purchasing Governmental Association (VEPGA). In addition to understanding the benefits accrued to counties by being members of VEPGA, we discuss an expected increase in electricity rates beginning July 1, 2026, that counties will need to prepare for.

Where to find out more about topics covered in this episode

- [Virginia Energy Purchasing Governmental Association \(VEPGA\)](#) - homepage
- [List of VEPGA Members as of May, 2025](#)

For more information (including password for certain website access for VEPGA members and to attend the April 15th membership meeting), contact VEPGA Secretary and Treasurer Sandra Harrington at sharrington@vml.org and 804.523.8524.

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

Finding Funding for the Future
Super Regional Workshop
Wednesday, May 13, 2026

[Hotel 24 South, Staunton, VA](#)



Don't miss out on
Early Bird registration!
\$75 from April 7 - April 30, 2026
\$90 from May 1 - May 6, 2026

Looking for a room for the night?

[Room block available for Tuesday, May 12, 2026](#)

May Event Topics to Include:

Cleared for Takeoff: Innovative Funding and Real-World Aviation Case Studies
Unlocking the Capital Stack: Who Funds Affordable Housing—and What Works

Securing the right resources at the right time is essential for communities striving to be their best.

Finding Funding for the Future is a multi-session workshop series designed to equip local governments, PDC staff, state agency partners, economic developers, and EDA/IDA board members with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate today's complex funding landscape and secure resources to help build stronger communities.

Through practical guidance, real-world examples, and insights from program experts, participants will explore emerging funding opportunities and learn strategies for building competitive proposals and aligning collaborative projects with priorities such as infrastructure, community development, and economic resilience.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

- Workshop #2 - June 17, 2026 in Wytheville, VA
- Workshop #3 - July 15, 2026 in Fredericksburg, VA
- Workshop #4 - August 12, 2026 in Farmville, VA

Annual Line of Duty Act Information for Participating Employers

The Virginia Retirement System administers the Virginia Line of Duty Act (LODA) program. We appreciate your continued partnership in support of first responders and their families – an essential component of public safety across the Commonwealth.

This annual message serves as a general reminder of employer responsibilities under LODA and highlights resources available to support you and your LODA-eligible employees and volunteers. Additional administrative emails related to personnel rosters and premium billing will follow in May and July.

Required Training

State law requires all participating employers to provide LODA training to eligible employees and volunteers:

- Initial training must be completed within 30 days of hire.
- Refresher training is required every two years thereafter.

The [LODA Overview for Participants](#), found on the LODA website (www.valoda.org), satisfies this training requirement. You may present the training in a group setting or direct individual employees (full and part-time) and/or volunteers to complete the recorded course on their own. Be sure to document training completions for record-keeping purposes.

Review Personnel Records

In May, VRS will request updated rosters of LODA-eligible employees and volunteers. Please begin reviewing your current personnel records now to ensure that information is accurate and current. Additional instructions will be included in the May email.

Program Resources

Encourage eligible employees and volunteers to explore the [LODA website](#), which includes:

- Information on eligibility and benefits.
- [How to Apply for LODA Benefits online tutorial](#), with step-by-step instructions on filing a claim.
- [LODA Participant Guide](#).

The website also includes important [employer-specific information](#).

Thank you for your continued partnership and for the important work you do on behalf of your employees, volunteers and communities. If you have any questions or need assistance, please email loda@varetire.org.



Virginia Retirement System
LODA Fund Administration
1200 East Main Street | P.O. Box 2500
Richmond, VA 23218-2500

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION HONORS MEMBER



Megan E. Kelly (left) received the 2026 A. Robert Cherin Award resolution from colleague **Michelle R. Robl** (right), Prince William County Attorney, during the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia, Inc.'s 2026 Spring Conference in Portsmouth.

The Local Government Attorneys of Virginia, Inc. (LGA) held their spring conference in Portsmouth, Virginia. During the program, LGA awarded the A. Robert Cherin Award for Outstanding Deputy or Assistant Local Government Attorney to Megan E. Kelly, Senior Deputy County Attorney for Prince William.

2026 A. ROBERT CHERIN AWARD

The Cherin Award recognizes a deputy or assistant local government attorney for exemplary public service and unwavering commitment to the highest ethical and professional principles.

After graduating from the College of William & Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law, Megan earned her Master of Public Administration degree from George Mason University where her lifelong loyalty lies and where she served as a consultant to address challenges faced by state and local governments. She also served as an adjunct professor teaching graduate level Ethics and was a guest MPA program lecturer. Megan began her legal career with the Prince William County Office in 1994, starting as a law clerk, then as an Assistant County Attorney, and rose through the ranks to Senior Deputy County Attorney. Megan has also been involved in and eventually served as chair of the Prince William County Beat the Odds program. Megan also assisted the Prince William Fire and Rescue System in the development of County-wide personnel and operational policies and procedures. Currently, Megan is helping the County Board and staff adopt and implement collective bargaining. Throughout her career, she has shared her expertise in over a dozen published works, presentations, and trainings, many covering ethics. Megan has been recognized with multiple local, regional, and professional awards, including LGA's Walter C. Erwin III Special Project award for their 2007 Bono Committee Special Project.

LGA promotes common interests and an exchange of information among its members on legal issues that are particularly relevant to Virginia's counties, cities, and towns. The LGA's member services include conferences, a legal handbook, a monthly newsletter, and other services.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW OFFICERS



The Local Government Attorneys of Virginia, Inc. (LGA) elected new officers and members of the Board of Directors at its annual meeting in Portsmouth, Virginia. LGA has over 300 organizational members represented by nearly 900 attorneys from Virginia localities, private law firms, and other entities that specialize in local government matters and by members of the judiciary.

The following officers and directors will lead LGA for the 2026-2027 year, beginning September 1, 2026.

For a one-year term as officer:

- President – **Courtney R. Sydnor**, City of Hampton
- Vice President – **Ryan C. Samuel**, County of Arlington
- Treasurer – **Tyler C. Southall**, County of Dinwiddie
- Secretary – **Brandi A. Law**, City of Hampton

For a second two-year term as director:

- **Sarah “Sally” E. Kegley**, County of Scott

For an initial two-year term as director:

- **Brian J. Lubkeman**, City of Manassas Park, City of Fairfax, Briglia Hundley, P.C.
- **Catherine B. Lea**, Town of Orange
- **Matthew C. “Matt” Freedman**, City of Lynchburg

Sitting directors with terms that do not end until August 31, 2027 are:

- **Martin R. Crim**, Towns of Berryville, Culpeper, Hillsboro, Middleburg, Occoquan, Washington, Sands Anderson, PC
- **Patrick C. Murphrey**, City of Newport News
- **Laura M. Carini**, City of Roanoke
- **Rysheda M. McClendon**, County of Stafford

Serving as the immediate past president:

- **Kelly J. Lackey**, City of Fredericksburg

LGA supports common interests and an exchange of information among members on legal issues that are particularly relevant to Virginia’s counties, cities, and towns. LGA’s member services include two conferences and a regional seminar each year, which present in-depth analysis of legal issues related to local government. Mandatory Continuing Legal Education credit can be earned by attorneys attending LGA’s programs.

For more information on LGA and its programs, visit lgava.org.

Helping Counties Navigate Leadership Transitions and Organizational Challenges

Berkley Group partners with counties through leadership transitions, operational challenges, and long-term planning, providing continuous, hands-on support without the need for multiple firms.

We don't just deliver a project, we continue working alongside you as your County moves forward.

Stabilize

Step in quickly during leadership gaps or urgent challenges.

Assess

Identify what's working, and what needs to change.

Plan

Define a clear path forward.

Implement

Stay engaged to ensure lasting results.

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Human Resources • Information Technology • Public Works • Public Safety

Why Berkley Group

Practitioners, Not Just Advisors

Real local government experience.

Built for Long-Term Partnership

Structured to stay engaged as needs evolve.

Flexible & Responsive

The right level of support based on your needs.

One Partner, Not Multiple Firms

No gaps, handoffs, or inefficiencies.

Let's Talk

Whether you need immediate assistance or a long-term partner, Berkley Group provides experienced, hands-on support to help your organization move forward with confidence.

Leadership Transitions • Staffing Gaps • Operational Challenges • Strategic Planning Needs

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three+one wins 2026 GREAT Award for Outstanding Tech Team

three+one has been named a recipient of the **2026 GREAT Award for Outstanding Tech Team** by TechRochester.

The GREAT Awards recognize organizations that use technology to transform industries, strengthen communities, and advance the Greater Rochester technology ecosystem. three+one was honored for the work of its Product & Technology team in advancing data science, artificial intelligence, and predictive analytics in the public-finance sector.



Advancing Data-Driven Impact

Over the past year, three+one modernized its data architecture and launched a proprietary algorithm built to scale across a rapidly expanding national footprint. The company's predictive models now analyze more than **2.4 trillion data points**, identifying patterns and signals that support stronger financial decision-making for public entities.

These advancements directly support three+one's mission to help communities unlock non-tax revenue and improve long-term financial performance.

To date, three+one's platform and advisory models have helped generate more than **\$5 billion in new non-tax revenue** for communities nationwide.

A Collaborative Achievement

While this award specifically recognizes our Technology team, company leadership emphasized the cross-functional collaboration required to deliver sustained innovation.



Client-facing teams translate operational challenges into actionable product insights. Their solutions ensure precision, compliance, and data integrity. Leadership provides strategic direction and long-term vision. Together, this alignment enables measurable and repeatable impact at scale.

Rooted in Rochester

As a Rochester-based company, this recognition holds particular significance. The region has a longstanding legacy of technical excellence and entrepreneurial leadership, and three+one remains committed to contributing to and growing within that ecosystem.

Looking Ahead

The team at three+one will continue investing in advanced analytics, AI capabilities, and scalable infrastructure to expand its impact across the public-finance landscape.

As the company grows, it remains focused on building a world-class team of technologists, data scientists, and operators who are driven by purpose and measurable impact.

Professionals who want to apply their expertise to real-world financial challenges and help communities unlock meaningful revenue are encouraged to explore opportunities to work with us at three+one.

To learn more, visit threeplusone.us/careers

April
2026



Future Forward

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Your financial future is in your hands. Join us at our next event to get the insights, guidance and educational materials you need to make the most of your retirement savings plan.

Retirement Planning & Financial Wellness Webinar Series



Approaching Retirement: Ready, Set, Retire!

Wednesday, April 8th, 2PM EST

[Register](#)



Retirement 101

Thursday, April 9th, 5PM EST

[Register](#)



Living in Retirement

Tuesday, April 14th, 3PM EST

[Register](#)



Personal Finance 101

Thursday, April 16th, 1PM EST

[Register](#)



Personal Finance 201

Monday, April 20th, 4PM EST

[Register](#)

April
2026



Future Forward

Nationwide® Retirement Solutions



Planning for Long Term Care Costs

Thursday, April 23rd, 3PM EST

[Register](#)



Navigating Market Volatility

Monday, April 27th, 3PM EST

[Register](#)



Investing Risks and Rewards

Thursday, April 30th, 11AM EST

[Register](#)

This material is not a recommendation to buy or sell a financial product or to adopt an investment strategy. Investors should discuss their specific situation with their financial professional

Nationwide Investment Services Corporation, member FINRA, Columbus, Ohio.

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We want to continue to see people hold Cape Charles as this

Hear how the Town of Cape Charles made the decision to transition ownership of its water and wastewater system and how Virginia American Water proved to be the right partner by providing support to their community with experienced professionals, operational expertise, and the capital needed to make critical infrastructure investments.





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



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To enter and for full details, scan or click the QR code.

Submission period: March 2 – April 30, 2026



For more information, contact:



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NRM-19406AO-NX.3 (02/26)

2026 Virginia Recovery Conference

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to share an important opportunity for professionals working in Virginia's state and local government agencies – including county government officials, Community Services Boards, behavioral health authorities, regional jails, law enforcement, social services, public health organizations, and other public bodies supporting our communities.

The **2026 Virginia Recovery Conference**, hosted by the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority's non-profit foundation, will take place June 15-17, 2026, at the historic Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center in Roanoke, Virginia. This inaugural statewide gathering will highlight best practices in substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery. Featuring four general sessions and 20 breakout sessions, this event showcases real-world examples of how Virginia communities are putting opioid settlement funds to work to save lives and strengthen families.



Because interest in this conference is exceptionally high, attendance is capped at 400 participants, and it is expected to sell out quickly. We strongly encourage you to register as early as possible to secure your spot.

Special Benefits for 2026 Attendees:

- Opportunities for statewide networking and collaboration with leaders in prevention, treatment, recovery, and community partnerships as well as vendors and suppliers from across the Commonwealth.
- Access to practical tools and innovations communities are using to address the opioid epidemic.
- A complimentary professional portrait/headshot, taken onsite and provided at no additional cost.

Use of Opioid Settlement Funds:

Conference registration fees, hotel lodging, meals, and related travel expenses qualify as an allowable use of opioid settlement funds, as the event directly supports capacity-building, training, and knowledge-sharing related to substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery initiatives statewide.

Event & Registration Details:

- Dates: June 15-17, 2026
- Location: Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center, Roanoke, VA
- Capacity: 400 attendees (expected to sell out)
- Conference Details & Registration: <https://virginiarecovers.com/2026-virginia-recovery-conference/>

Sincerely,

[Tony McDowell](#) | Executive Director

Is Your County Ready to Explore AI? UVA Can Help



UVA

SCHOOL *of* DATA SCIENCE

The University of Virginia's School of Data Science is offering no-cost AI Innovation Sprints to Virginia local governments. These structured, two-hour workshops help county teams identify practical, low-risk AI applications tailored to their operations – no technical background required.

County staff face rising constituent expectations, tighter budgets, and rapid technology changes. AI has real potential to help, but most local government teams don't have a clear starting point. The AI Innovation Sprint provides one.

Through a facilitated process developed by UVA researchers, your team will work through a real challenge area – whether that's permitting, transportation, constituent services, or something else – and walk away with a prioritized list of AI use-case ideas evaluated for feasibility, value, and risk. Your team also receives a reusable innovation toolkit to apply to future challenges independently.

The commitment is light: one 30-minute planning call and two 2-hour workshop sessions with 8–12 participants from your county. Any role or level of technical expertise is welcome.

Interested? Contact Siri Russell, Associate Dean for Community and Government Partnerships, at the UVA School of Data Science: sds_caal@virginia.edu.

SAVE THE DATE: Virginia CHGC Spring Conference - April 30, 2026

Dear local government officials,

With the conclusion of the General Assembly Session, our attention now focuses on the upcoming Virginia Coalition of High Growth Communities Spring Conference.

Given the tone and number of issues faced during the 2026 Session, we have moved our annual summer conference up earlier in the spring. In addition, we have paired with the following organization to expand the size and scope of our meeting. Those include:

- Virginia Association of Counties
- Virginia Municipal League
- Virginia First Cities Coalition
- American Planning Association, Virginia Chapter

Thursday, April 30, 2026

9AM - 3PM

**Legacy Hall
4301 New Town Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23188**



RSVP [Here](#)

Please include the full name(s) of attendees at checkout.

\$50 per person

We are expecting 150 local officials. Recommendations for hotels, if needed, will be sent this week. We are also planning an excellent program focused on the image and issues facing local government. The proposed agenda includes the following:

- Introductory remarks from the Governor's Local Government Liaison
- Image of local government
- View from Senate Local Government Committee and House Committee on Counties, Cities, and Towns
- Experience of former local elected officials now in the General Assembly
- Outlook for the 2027 General Assembly session

Help Virginia CHGC and our allies assist you as we craft our message for 2027.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to seeing you on April 30.

James S. Turpin

VCHGC

(434) 964-6124

jamesturpin728@gmail.com

www.highgrowthcommunities.org

Chris S. Bailey

VCHGC

(804) 432-3270

csb.davidbaileyassociates@gmail.com

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David L. Bailey

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Megan Perry-Balonier
Director of Purchasing
Franklin County, OH



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(804) 399-1821

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PPP values transparency and the trust of its participating cooperative members. Contracts between the Lead Public Agency (LPA) and suppliers are single-award, competitively-bid, and scrutinized by an advisory council of procurement professionals and public sector peers.

Purchasing agents and procurement officials gain access to a cooperative uniquely designed to their needs and circumstances. Navigating the complexities of purchasing requirements and due-diligence is streamlined by registering with NACo's program.



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Public Safety & Community Resilience Products, Services & Solutions



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Rental, Lease & Purchase of Equipment & Associated Services & Support



Lead Public Agency: Maricopa County, Arizona



Government Recruitment Services, Talent Evaluation & Acquisition



Lead Public Agency: County of San Diego, California



Document Retention & Destruction, Media Preservation, Digitization & Data Management Solutions



Lead Public Agency: Maricopa County, Arizona



Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment for Community, Public Agency Fleet & Workplace EV Infrastructure



Lead Public Agency: Broome County, New York

The NACo EDGE Public Sector Procurement Advisory Council

Meet our team of local government advocates and public procurement experts.



Maria Agrusa
COUNTY OF ORANGE,
CALIFORNIA



Sean Behan
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO,
CALIFORNIA



Stephanie Brice
COBB COUNTY,
GEORGIA



Eric Carlson
DOUGLAS COUNTY,
NEBRASKA



Patrick Flanary
WAKE COUNTY,
NORTH CAROLINA



James Foley
MARICOPA COUNTY,
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Felicia Strong-Whitaker
FULTON COUNTY,
GEORGIA



Namita Uppal
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA

Learn more about our contracts & suppliers at publicpromiseprocurement.org



You are VAcorp

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

Know Who You Are

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

Our History

The Birth of Risk Pools

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

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

VAcorp’s Origin

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

VAcorp’s Growth

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

VAcorp Exists to Serve You

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

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

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

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

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





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

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



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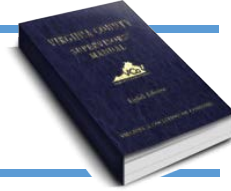


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 Senior Business Development Executive
 804.393.2122 | rjonas@onedigital.com



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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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