

VACo County Officials'

SUMMIT

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COUNTY OFFICIALS'
SUMMIT
AUGUST 14, 2025



Featuring Cabinet Secretaries

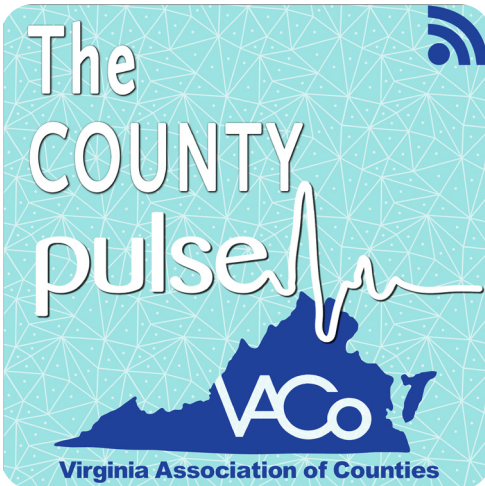
THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

Omni Richmond Hotel Room Reservation

Register for the Summit with Engagifii

REGISTER TODAY!

VACo Contact
Valerie Russell
vrussell@vaco.org



Energy Landscape of Virginia Series with Joe Lerch

Episode 26 | Dark Sky Parks and Reducing Light Pollution



[Listen to the Podcast.](#)

We visit two dark sky certified parks to learn how these places take advantage of a neglected and diminishing natural resource, to provide recreational and educational opportunities to the public. We also explore how communities can reduce light pollution to preserve the night sky and improve the health of natural and human built environments. The first part is an interview with Austin Peightel, Staunton River State Park manager, and Jayme Hanzak, president of the Chapel Hill Astronomical and Observational Society, to hear the story of how Virginia landed its first dark sky park. In the second part we hear from community leaders Becky Burr and Torney Van Acker to learn about Rappahannock County Park, Virginia's third, and only County, dark-sky designated park.

Where to find out more about topics covered in this episode

- [Dark Sky International | Protecting the night skies for present and future generations](#)
- [Virginia Chapter of Dark Sky International](#)
- [Virginia State Parks' International Dark Sky Parks](#)
- [Home - Chapel Hill Astronomical and Observing Society](#)
- [The New World Atlas of Artificial Sky Brightness | CIRES](#)
- [Rappahannock County Park](#)
- [Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection](#)
- [Rappahannock County International Dark Sky Park Silver Tier Application](#)
- [Photo 1](#) | [Photo 2](#)

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

VACo LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



2026 First Edition
May 22, 2026

www.vaco.org

VACo Releases 2026 Legislative Summary (First Edition)

The [Legislative Summary](#) details the actions of the 2026 General Assembly. It also includes information on legislation of interest to counties.

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

[Read VACo's 2026 Legislative Summary](#)

VACo Contact: [Legislative Team](#)

DRPT



***VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL
AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION***

Virginia Transit and Rail Update Webinar RSVP

Wednesday, June 24 | 1pm

VACo will host an upcoming webinar, “Virginia Transit & Rail Update Funding, Policy, and What’s Ahead,” which will focus on transit, rail and other updates within the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT).

We are pleased to announce that Mariia Zimmerman, Director of Rail and Public Transportation, will join us to provide updates and talk through some initiatives and priorities for her and her agency moving forward. She will also be available to answer questions from county leaders. All county staff and elected officials are encouraged to attend.

To register, please click the link below. See you there!

<https://vacounties.webex.com/weblink/register/rdfcfc3277a1518016d8372d87ead58d5>

VA 250

Celebrating Virginia's History: Berkeley Plantation



In 1619, after a stormy voyage across the Atlantic, the Good Ship Margaret landed at Berkeley with thirty-six men aboard. In accordance with the instructions given in the charter by the Virginia Company, these settlers observed the first official English Thanksgiving in America. A Thanksgiving monument, film, and exhibits tell the story of these brave men that settled at Berkeley Hundred over 400 years ago.

In 1691, the Harrisons purchased Berkeley and in 1726 they built the Georgian mansion. The estate is the birthplace of Benjamin Harrison V, signer of the Declaration of Independence and William Henry Harrison, ninth U.S. president. During the Civil War, George McClellan's Union troops occupied the buildings and surrounding fields. General Daniel Butterfield, with the help of his bugler, O.W. Norton, created "Taps" while camped at Harrison's Landing on Berkeley Plantation.

The mansion is beautifully furnished and costumed guides tell stories of the first Thanksgiving, the Harrisons, Civil War, and the present owners of Berkeley. Native American, colonial and Civil War artifacts can be explored in the basement museum. Grounds tours are self-guided and include gardens leading to the James River.

Tours, museums, events and children's activities make visiting Berkeley an educational and fun experience for the entire family.

SOURCE: VA250.org

VACo 2026 REGIONAL MEETINGS

- REGION 2 | May 27 | York County
- REGIONS 6&7 | June 17 | Greene County
- REGION 1 | June 22 | New Kent County
- REGION 5 | June | Nelson County
- REGION 10 | July 9 | Henry County
- REGION 8 | July 15 | Fairfax County
- REGION 4 | July 28 | Greenville County
- REGION 3 | August 18 | Chesterfield County
- REGION 9 | August | Alleghany County
- REGIONS 11&12 | September | Montgomery County
- REGIONS 12&13 | September | Russell County

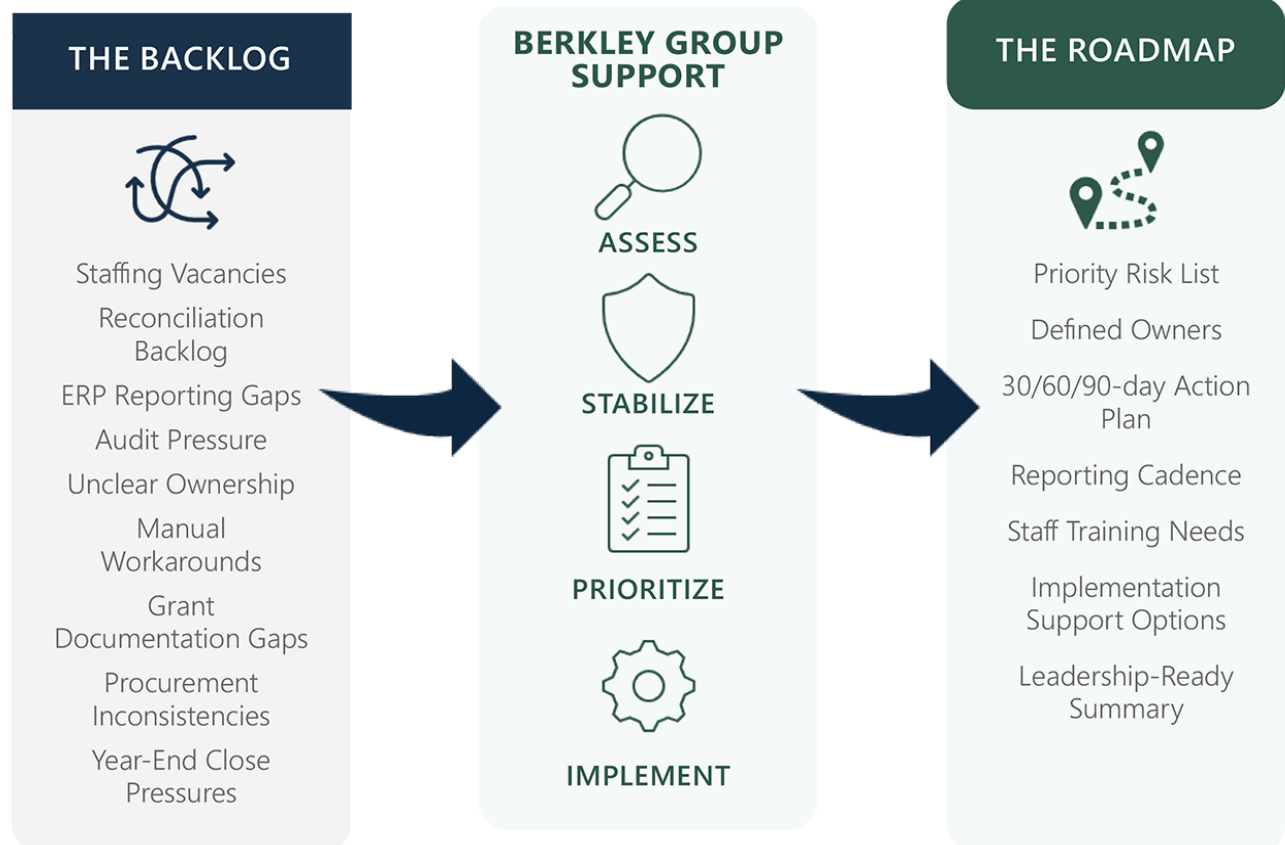


RAPID FINANCE ASSESSMENT

From Backlog to Roadmap

STABILIZE URGENT FINANCE NEEDS.
CLARIFY PRIORITIES. BUILD A PRACTICAL PATH FORWARD.

Finance challenges rarely come one at a time. We help local governments move from disconnected problems to a clear, prioritized plan that strengthens operations and reduces risk.



SCHEDULE A STRATEGY CALL TODAY!



VACo Premier Partner Spotlight - Virginia American Water

VACo is proud to call Virginia American Water a Premier Partner. Watch how Virginia American Water can impact your locality. We asked VACo President Victor Angry to host since he has experienced first-hand how Virginia American Water has helped his community in Prince William County.



Thank you to our three guests...

- **J.R. Fidler** | Principal of Business Development
- **Rachel Lancaster** | Director of Business Development
- **J.W. Walker** | Principal of Business Development

[Watch the Premier Partner Spotlight Video on Virginia American Water](#)

Learn more at www.amwater.com | VACo Contact: [Karie Walker, CAE](#)

VRS Changes Effective for July 1 / Fiscal Year 2027

A new fiscal year brings updates to employer contribution rates, retiree cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) and VRS resources.

FY 2027-2028 Employer Contribution Rates Take Effect

The new contribution rates are effective for fiscal years 2027 and 2028, beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2028.

- **Statewide plans and other post-employment benefits:** Refer to the [Contribution Rates](#) webpage.
- **Political subdivisions:** Contribution rate letters for all political subdivision employers are available for download in [myVRS Navigator](#).

Line of Duty Act Fund Premiums

Participating employers will pay \$1,385 per full-time employee, effective July 1. (This is an increase from \$1,015.)

As required by law, LODA benefits are funded on a pay-as-you-go basis. Premiums cover health care costs for current beneficiaries, as well as projected costs for new claims. Because these benefits are not pre-funded, participating employers should expect annual increases.

COLA Increases Take Effect

New COLAs for eligible retirees are effective July 1, 2026:

- **2.63%** for Plan 1 members.
- **2.32%** for Plan 2 and Hybrid Retirement Plan members.
- Retirees will see the COLA reflected in their August 1 benefit payment.

Virginia Sickness and Disability Program: Members receiving long-term disability benefits for at least one year will receive an increase effective July 1, based on the year's calculated COLA.

- **4.00%** increase in their creditable compensation.
- **2.63%** (Plan 1) or **2.32%** (Plan 2, Hybrid) COLAs to their benefit payments.

Virginia Local Disability Program: Members who have received long-term disability benefits for at least one calendar year and whose long-term disability ends immediately before their retirement will receive a 4.00% increase in creditable compensation.

Updates to Handbooks and Websites

As part of the fiscal year start, VRS will update member handbooks and websites. Printed handbooks and guides may soon be out of date, except for the VRS Member Guide.

Refer to the [Publications](#) section of the VRS website for the most current editions.

You may [order printed copies](#) of the VRS Member Guide for new hires.

All other handbooks and guides are available online for employees to view or download.

More information can be found [here](#).

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

DMV Convenes Workgroup to Address E-Bike and Scooter Safety



Electric bikes, motorized scooters, hoverboards, and other micromobility devices have become a familiar presence on Virginia's roads, bike lanes, and sidewalks in recent years. Their rapid proliferation has outpaced the regulatory frameworks governing them, leaving local governments, law enforcement, and community associations grappling with safety concerns that current law does not fully address. [HB 1120](#), patroned by Delegates Singh during the 2026 General Assembly session and signed by the Governor, represents a meaningful first step toward closing that gap.

HB 1120 directs the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to convene a work group tasked with examining the safety landscape for electric power-assisted bicycles (e-bikes), motorized skateboards and scooters, electric personal assistive mobility devices (such as Segways), and other micromobility devices like mopeds. The work group is charged with developing recommendations on whether new regulations or legislation are warranted to improve safety for both operators and the public.

[More on Next Page](#)

The work group is composed of relevant stakeholders including VACo and shall report its findings to the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Transportation no later than November 1, 2026.

Why This Matters for Counties

For county leaders, the safety challenges posed by micromobility devices are becoming increasingly common in communities across the Commonwealth. Local roads, sidewalks and shared-use paths are where these devices most commonly operate alongside pedestrians, cyclists, and motor vehicles. Incidents involving e-bikes and scooters have generated constituent complaints and demands for local action in jurisdictions across the Commonwealth.

Some of the key questions the group will need to address include whether Virginia should establish a licensing or registration requirement for certain classes of devices; how speed limits for devices, helmet requirements, and age restrictions should apply; how to handle enforcement; and what product safety standards, if any, the Commonwealth should impose on manufacturers and retailers.

The recommendations that emerge from this process will likely shape Virginia's approach to micromobility device regulation for years to come. VACo encourages county leaders to share their experiences, priorities, and concerns related to micromobility device safety. Your input will directly inform how VACo engages in this process and advocates on behalf of Virginia's counties.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)





Toolkit for Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services When Called to a Long-Term Care Facility

Across the country, local law enforcement and emergency services are often called to nursing homes for help. Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire Fighters (FF), and Law Enforcement (LE) are often confronted with situations in nursing homes for which they have not been prepared. Other times, they may see conditions in a long-term care facility they find concerning. The result can lead to a tenuous response, sometimes with uncertainty as to what they should do.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has contracted with the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (Consumer Voice) to develop short, engaging educational videos and materials informing and educating first responders about considerations when called to a long-term care facility; the role of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP); addressing and reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation; resident capacity and decision making; effective communication; and the importance of documentation.

This training toolkit is intended to be a quick self-study overview and includes 8 module videos, each with an accompanying fact sheet.

You can access the toolkit at this link: <https://theconsumervoice.org/training/toolkit-law-enforcement-ems/>.

On the main page, if you scroll down, you can just watch the videos and access the fact sheets. If you click “View the Toolkit” on the main page, it will take you to the toolkit videos and materials as presented via an online course design model.



Virginia Housing

[HUD Announces \\$3 Million in Funding to Deploy Automated Permitting Systems to Increase Housing Construction Speed](#)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), through its Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R), has announced a new funding opportunity offering up to \$3 million for jurisdictions that will deploy automated building code permitting systems and partner with HUD to evaluate their applicability and effectiveness within real-world operating conditions.

Applications are due July 13, 2026, at 11:59PM. Please visit the [funding opportunities](#) page on HUD User to access important links, FAQs, and upcoming webinars.

Funding Opportunity Details

Automated Permitting Systems Demonstration NOFO (PDR-2600-DC-0290)

Through this demonstration, HUD seeks to accelerate digital adoption in willing jurisdictions, gather operational data on performance and implementation challenges, and develop practical guidance for other permitting offices considering similar investments. The resulting findings are intended to inform future state and local policy, technical assistance, and permitting modernization efforts nationwide. Additionally, jurisdictions will track core metrics for their administrative permitting process, including permit timelines, revision cycles, and review outcomes, before and after implementation of an automated permitting system. The demonstration will quantify changes in permit processing time, staff workload, applicant experience, and costs (in dollars and percentages) resulting from the use of automated permitting, and identify the data, governance, and operational conditions required for effective use of these technologies.

How to Apply

Applications are due by **July 13, 2026**. Eligible applicants are limited to state, county, city, and tribal governments. Full details are available at [Grants.gov](#).

For additional information, visit the funding opportunities pages on [HUD.gov](#) and [HUD User](#).

[READ MORE >](#)

FEMA Advisory – May 18, 2026

DHS Makes \$648 Million Available to Help Firefighters and First Responders Nationwide

FEMA today announced \$648 million in three funding opportunities to help firefighters and other first responders stay safe while protecting lives and communities nationwide. Through these three funding opportunities, FEMA is empowering fire stations and other first responder organizations to get the equipment, staff, and support they need.

“When a disaster strikes, firefighters and other first responders are often the first ones on the scene, making them a critical component of every community’s emergency response capabilities,” said Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA Administrator Robert Fenton. “These heroes put their lives on the line every day for all of us, and FEMA is proud to support them. The funding announced today will help fire departments across the country hire more trained staff, buy better equipment, and keep their workforce healthier.”

The funding opportunities published today span three separate grant programs:

- FEMA will award **\$291.6 million** through **Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)** to fire departments and other emergency medical services agencies. Recipients can use the money to acquire personal protective equipment and emergency response vehicles. They can also use it to fund health, wellness and resiliency initiatives to prepare responders for incidents.
- FEMA will award **\$324 million** in **Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)** funding to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations. Recipients can use this money to pay salaries for firefighters, enabling them to stay well-staffed. They can also use the money to recruit more people into the fire service and retain them.
- FEMA will award **\$32.4 million** through the **Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S)** grant program to fire departments and non-profit organizations, academic and other research-oriented institutions. Recipients can use this money to fund research and clinical studies focused on community fire prevention and firefighter safety, health and well-being.

The application period for all three grant programs opens on May 19, 2026, and will close on June 22, 2026.

Eligible applicants can review the full funding opportunities for all three programs on Grants.gov. Before applying, FEMA encourages applicants to review the various resources published on [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov), which will help them develop



FEMA

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Acquisitions

strong applications. Applicants may also attend a live webinar during May to ask questions about the application process. Visit [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov) for more information.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs:

- Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov
- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov
- Tribal Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov
- Private Sector Engagement at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-private-sector@fema.dhs.gov

FEMA Mission

Helping people before, during, and after disasters.

June
2026

Future Forward

Nationwide® Retirement Solutions

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



Navigating Market Volatility

Thursday, June 4th, 12PM MST

[Register](#)

Living in Retirement

Tuesday, June 9th, 10AM MST

[Register](#)

Investing Risks and Rewards

Monday, June 15th, 12PM MST

[Register](#)

Personal Finance 101

Tuesday, June 16th, 11AM MST

[Register](#)

Social Security: The Choice of a Lifetime

Thursday, June 18th, 1PM MST

[Register](#)

June
2026



Future Forward

Nationwide® Retirement Solutions



Approaching Retirement: Ready, Set, Retire!

Tuesday, June 23rd, 10AM MST

[Register](#)



Retirement 101

Wednesday, June 24th, 3PM MST

[Register](#)



Personal Finance 201

Monday, June 29th, 2PM MST

[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

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Congratulations!

We love presenting Achievement Awards
at Board of Supervisors Meetings



We will share photos of our Achievement Awards presentations at Board of Supervisors Meetings in the next several newsletters. Congratulations to all the winners!

Congratulations!

We love presenting Achievement Awards
at Board of Supervisors Meetings



Congratulations Surry County!

Surry County has won three Achievement Awards with all three coming since 2022!

Virginia Counties Recognized for Model Programs



RICHMOND (May 15, 2026)—The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is pleased to announce the 40 recipients of the 2026 Achievement Awards, which recognize excellence in local government programs. VACo received 103 submissions.

Winning entries focused on addressing issues of public safety, community development, and health, as well as finding solutions to challenges that counties encounter daily.

[Winning Achievement Award Submissions](#)

[All 2026 Achievement Awards Entries](#)

“Virginia’s counties continue to demonstrate that local government is where innovation meets action,” VACo Executive Director **Dean Lynch** said. “This year’s submissions reflect the creativity, leadership, and commitment county officials bring every day to solving real challenges and improving the quality of life for residents across the Commonwealth. Congratulations to all winners and thank you to all who participated.”

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

[More on Next Page](#)

Henrico County and its *Combating Ageism Amongst Emergency Service Providers* won this year's **Best Achievement Award**.

“Henrico County’s program stood out for tackling an issue that often goes unrecognized but has a direct impact on workforce culture, service delivery, and public trust,” Hartgrove said. “By addressing ageism within emergency services, Henrico has created a model that strengthens both its employees and the communities they serve.”

The judges also selected winners for **Best Small County Achievement Award** (population 70,000 or less) and **Best Large County Achievement Award**. **Greene County’s** *Employee Cross-Training Program* earned top honors among small counties, while **Prince William County’s** *Crisis Receiving Center Complex* received the large county award.

“Programs like Greene County’s Employee Cross-Training initiative show that innovation is not defined by population size or budget—it’s driven by leadership, adaptability, and a commitment to investing in people,” Bailey said. “Counties like Greene routinely develop solutions that strengthen organizations from the inside out.”

Gross praised Prince William County for its innovative program. “Prince William County’s Crisis Receiving Center Complex represents the kind of bold, collaborative leadership communities need today,” Gross said. “It addresses critical public needs while bringing together partners, resources, and long-term vision in a way that will make a lasting difference for residents.”

Chesterfield County tops the all-time Achievement Awards list with 63. Chesterfield County has won an award in each year of the 24-year history of the program. **Henrico County** is second on the list with 53 Achievement Awards while **Loudoun County** is third with 37.

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

[Winning Achievement Award Submissions](#) | [Achievement Awards Website 2026](#)
[Achievement Awards Entries](#) | [Past Winners](#) | [Past Judges](#)

Bolton



WE HELP COUNTIES MAKE CONFIDENT WORKFORCE DECISIONS.

When it feels impossible to control costs without cutting what people depend on, you shouldn't have to solve it alone.

HOW WE HELP

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Give employees access to the care they need. Advanced primary care supports healthier employees, smoother navigation, and better use of your health dollars.

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Own the fiduciary responsibility your plan demands. Bolton brings the structure, transparency, and accountability that plan sponsors need.

Paid Leave

Support your workforce through life's moments with paid leave programs that are clear, sustainable, and easier to manage for your county and your teams.

Bolton is an independent benefits and HR consulting firm. What makes Bolton different: honest counsel, rigorous analysis, and the actuarial and HR expertise to back it up.

HEALTH | COMMUNICATIONS | RETIREMENT | INVESTMENT | REWARDS | TALENT



Let's talk about the challenge your county is facing.



Your Project, Your Procurement Path: A Guide to Selecting the Best Delivery Model

This guide walks **Virginia leaders** through the key considerations that influence procurement decisions. Start with the first question at the top and follow the yes/no path. Your responses will lead you to the delivery method that best aligns with your project goals—Performance Contracting, Design-Build, or Low-Bid Procurement.

Do I have the funding for my project?



NO



Evaluate Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contracting

- Has my district done a performance contract in the last 15 years?
- Has an ESCO told me I am not a good candidate for performance contracting in the past 3 years?



If **YES TO EITHER** of these, ask Schneider Electric about **Grant Programs for Your Project**



If **NO TO BOTH**, explore increasing capital funding through **Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contracting**



YES



Consider these “I” statements:

- Want a fixed price with no change orders
- Don't have the staff bandwidth to manage a designer, general contractor and subcontractors
- Have brand or equipment preferences
- Want the project completed faster than traditional low-bid construction
- Have had poor experiences with low-bid construction
- Want a single point of accountability
- Want to focus on lowest lifecycle cost, not the cheapest upfront cost
- Want help navigating DPI reviews and federal paperwork



If you answer **YES TO ANY** of these statements, utilize **Design-Build Delivery Method**



If you answer **NO TO ALL** of these, utilize **Low-Bid Procurement**

Let's discuss your options

Abby Weigel
Program Manager
E: abby.weigel@se.com
P: (804) 248-0523



Kevin DeLeon
Program Manager
E: kevin.deleon@se.com
P: (804) 517-2819





VAPDC FINDING FUNDING for the FUTURE

SUPER REGIONAL WORKSHOPS!

- Wytheville, June 17, 9am-3pm | [REGISTER HERE for the JUNE Workshop](#)
- Fredericksburg, July 15, 9am-3pm | [REGISTER HERE for the JULY Workshop](#)
- Farmville, August 12, 9am-3pm | [REGISTER HERE for the AUGUST Workshop](#)

Stay Tuned for More Details

Registration is closed for the May Workshop!
Hotel 24 South, Staunton, VA



AGENDA

subject to change

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| • 9:00 – 10:00 AM | Registration, Coffee & Networking |
| • 10:00 – 11:45 AM | Session 1 — Aviation Panel |
| • 11:45 AM | Networking Break |
| • 12:00 – 1:00 PM | Lunch Plenary — Virginia Resources Authority |
| • 1:00 PM | Networking Break |
| • 1:30 – 3:00 PM | Session 2 — Housing Panel |

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



Scan QR Code

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BUILT FOR **COUNTIES**

SAVE ON
EMPLOYEE
BENEFIT
SOLUTIONS
TODAY

NACo PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT COALITION

More than 30% of county employee health plan expenses are related to pharmacy benefits. NACo's PBM Coalition is the **only plan specifically built for counties & county pools** that manage self-insured health plans.

Combat Skyrocketing Rx Costs

Average savings of
20% Discount
on Rx drug plan costs

Projected savings of
\$65+ Million
for over 126,000 participants

- Full autonomy over your county's Rx drug plan design & benefit programs
- Streamlined contracting & strong multi-year pricing guarantees to ensure budget stability

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Help Public Employees Eliminate Loans

Our partnership with **Savi** puts money back in employees' pockets with more than 150 different potential options available.

Public servants can save

\$156/mo or \$28,308
in lifetime savings on average



- Calculate savings online for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) & other programs

VOLUNTARY BENEFITS

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Demonstrate value and enrichment to employees' lives with professionally managed and flexible voluntary benefits.

80% of Workforce
would choose better benefits
over a pay raise *SHRM

72% of Employees
report greater happiness from
better benefit packages *SHRM

- Competitive benefit pricing for America's 3.6 million county employees

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www.publicpromiseinsurance.org

Alex Herrera
Managing Director
aherrera@naco.org
(713) 396-6001

Chris Blanchette
Program Director
cblanchette@naco.org
(203) 910-6395

**LEVERAGING THE POWER
OF 3.6 MILLION PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**



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We are Pierce Insurance, a VACo Premier Partner and VACo’s supplemental benefits provider. We were founded in 1955 by Lonnie and Wanda Pierce who were pioneers in employee supplemental benefit plans. After winning our first Virginia account, Henrico County Government and Schools, we realized there was a need for an improved, best-in-class product selection with local concierge account management, alongside a time-saving NO-COST benefit administration system.

Located in Farmville, NC, Lonnie and Wanda’s children, Lonnie and Patricia, retain the positive reputation that their parents built. Pierce Insurance continues to provide benefit plans and administration services to public sector employers. Seventy years later, Pierce Insurance now services over 800,000 in-force policies. Our employer group range is from 75 to 340,000 employees/retirees.

Simplifying the entire employee benefits lifecycle with innovative benefit solutions

We focus on a collaborative partnership with our clients. We have the experience, knowledge, and long history of carrier and product selection, implementation, communication & benefits education, enrollment services, and a dedicated account management team. In addition, our back-office support includes simplified consolidated billing and reconciliation.

Our access to insurance plans and carriers is vast

Maintaining strong relationships with all the top carriers, Pierce Insurance offers an extensive array of employee benefit plans, such as...

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Flexible Spending | Accident | Long Term Care |
| Dental | Cancer | Identity Theft Protection |
| Vision | Critical Illness | Legal Plans |
| Short Term Disability | Life Insurance | Wellness |
| Long Term Disability | Hospital Indemnity | Pet Insurance |


By choosing Pierce Insurance, you will receive unbiased benefit recommendations as we are an independent broker/consultant with no contractual relationships with any insurance carriers/vendors.

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- ✓ **Best in Class benefits** with Guarantee Issue for all
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- ✓ **Tailored Micro-site** housing all educational benefits videos, forms, enrollment, and more...
- ✓ Professional, high-quality **communication materials**
- ✓ **Consolidation** of carriers and billing **including reconciliation** service
- ✓ **Dedicated Account Manager**- Liaison to insurance carriers, support HR/Finance staff & all employees

VIRGINIA ENERGY SENSE

VALUE YOUR POWER






Turn your ceiling fan blades counterclockwise during warmer months to push air downward and create a cool breeze.

Learning simple energy-saving habits can help reduce power use and lower utility bills. One easy step as temperatures rise is setting your ceiling fan to rotate counterclockwise, which improves airflow and creates a cooling effect.

Both renters and homeowners can usually locate a switch on the fan to adjust the blade direction, helping maximize the circulation of cool air.

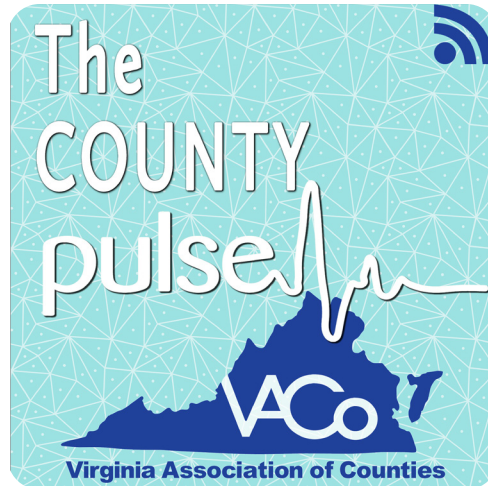
Virginia Energy Sense (VES) is the Commonwealth's statewide energy education initiative, managed by the State Corporation Commission. The program provides practical guidance and accessible resources to help Virginians understand energy use, conserve resources, and reduce everyday utility costs. Key services and resources include:

-  Easy-to-use online tools for tracking and reducing energy consumption, such as a [DIY Home Energy Audit](#)
-  Educational materials that explain energy efficiency and cost savings
-  In-person outreach and community education programs

VES equips individuals, families, schools, businesses, non-profits, local organizations and governments, and communities across the Commonwealth with reliable information to make informed energy decisions that support comfort, health, and financial stability while promoting long-term sustainability across the state. Through these efforts, VES helps Virginians save money, lower energy use, and support responsible environmental stewardship.

Visit www.virginiaenergysense.org to view our full library of resources. Connect with us directly via email at EnergySense@scs.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 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.

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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.

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

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