

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

September 2, 2015



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Governor's budget to emphasize K-12 investments



Michael White, Governor's Office

On August 27, Governor Terry McAuliffe provided a preview of his priorities for the upcoming Biennium Budget in a [speech](#) to the Money Committees of the General Assembly. The Governor made it clear that his top priority is investing in public education.

McAuliffe stated that, "State spending on direct education is just now getting back to funding levels from before the recession. Statewide, we have lost more than 5,000 K-12 positions since 2008. This is true even though enrollment has risen, students' needs have gotten more challenging and our standards have become more rigorous."

The Governor stated that he will not backfill previous cuts, but rather seek to provide innovative new investments in K-12 that will demonstrate results. This includes investments in workforce through career and technical training. [Click here](#) to view a list of upcoming education roundtables the Governor is convening to receive feedback on this priority.

Education funding was identified as a top priority by VACo members at the recent County Officials Summit and enhancing K-12 workforce readiness initiatives is also an emerging high priority issue for county officials.

The Governor discussed the Commonwealth's bipartisan work on economic development and transportation funding reforms. He pledged continued emphasis on supporting a retooling of the Virginia economy in light of sequestration and uncertainty at the federal level.

Secretary of Finance Ric Brown gave a comprehensive [presentation](#) that gave an overview of General Fund Revenues and the Virginia Economy for Fiscal Year 2015. The Governor will release the introduced budget on December 17.

VACo Contacts: [Dean Lynch, CAE](#) and [Erik Johnston, CAE](#)

The President's Post

By Penny Gross | VACo President

A version of this column appeared in the Falls Church News Press

The Commonwealth's \$553 million budget surplus announced by Governor Terry McAuliffe in July was good news for localities – to a point. Most of the budget surplus is constitutionally required to be deposited to the Rainy Day Fund and the Water Quality Improvement Fund. But localities will also receive the state part of the surplus for teacher salary increases. My county (Fairfax) will collect about \$4.7 million. Another good news item is that local governments will no longer be required to provide "local aid to the state" to bolster the state general fund.



The not-so-good news is that FY 2016 state funding for K-12 public education lags below the high point of FY 2009. That picture becomes more dismal when student growth numbers and inflation are factored in.

At the recent County Officials Summit, one state expert noted that Virginia's teacher salaries are about \$7,000 less than the national average. Funding those salaries, as well as the prevailing support costs, would require an extra \$750 million in state funding per year, or an extra \$625 per student.

Every county in the Commonwealth exceeded the "required local effort" (RLE) in FY 2013, according to reports. In FY 2014, the average support in excess of RLE was 84.06 percent. RLE requires that sufficient local funds have been budgeted to meet all state required local effort and required local match amounts for the Standards of Quality (SOQ). Forty-five school divisions exceed 100 percent RLE with Fairfax County funding schools at 127.86 percent of the required RLE. Clearly, the Commonwealth and the General Assembly need to ensure that our youngest Virginians benefit from investments in public education. Localities already have stepped up to the plate; their budgets prove it.

Additionally, the Virginia Board of Education has made a number of changes to the Standards of Quality (SOQ), but those recommendations lack state funding. Among their recommendations is one reading (K-12) and one math teacher (K-8) for every 1,000 students, a full-time assistant principal for every 400 students in the school and a full-time principal for each elementary school. These are unfunded changes to the SOQ. Spending cuts still are being felt. Since FY 2009, 71 percent of the school divisions have increased class sizes. Nearly all school divisions who reduced staff because of spending cuts have added duties to the remaining staff. Some of those institutions also reduced compensation and employee benefits in the same time period.

A strong public education system is a must for our community, and budget figures at the county level reflect substantial, and consistent, support for our public schools. It's time for the Commonwealth and the General Assembly to do the same.

VACo Regional Legislative Meeting

Join us - Region 1 - Isle of Wight County

VACo Members

We are excited to bring the next 2015 VACo Regional Legislative Meeting to VACo Region 1. Regional representatives are invited to attend and should have received an informational email. This is an opportunity for county elected officials to share local and regional problems and solutions. We expect a open discussion and your attendance adds to the value of the meeting.

We also invited state legislators in the VACo Region 1 area. The event format allows for lawmakers to hear your concerns and answer some of your questions.

The meeting includes presentations on regional collaboration as well as a session that gives local representatives an opportunity to share their issues. We encourage you to attend and represent your county.

Light snacks will be provided. RSVP vruessel@vaco.org.

[Click here to view informational flier.](#)

VACo Contact: [Erik Johnston, CAE](#)



The Virginia Association of Counties invites you to the 2015 VACo Region 1 Meeting on Wednesday, September 23 - 7 to 9 p.m. in Isle of Wight County.

Expected attendance includes Supervisors, Legislators, Planning District Commission staff, VACo staff and County Administrators and Executive Staff from Accomack, Isle of Wight, Northampton, Prince George, Southampton, Surry and Sussex counties.

Virginia Association of Counties' 2015 Region 1 Legislative Meeting

Isle of Wight County
Young-Laine Courts Building
17000 Joseph Parker Circle
Isle of Wight, Virginia 23397
Wednesday, September 23, 2015 • 7 - 9 p.m.

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

The Honorable **William A. Robertson, Jr.**, Board Chairman, Prince George County and VACo Director, Region 1

&
Dean Lynch, Deputy Executive Director, Virginia Association of Counties

[GO Virginia Initiative - Regional Collaboration \(Invited\)](#)

[Conversations with State Legislators](#)

[Round Table Discussion of Local Issues](#)

Please **RSVP** to Valerie Russell at **804.788.6652** or vruessel@vaco.org

Light Refreshments will be provided.



VACo Annual Conference Update



We often get questions about dining during the conference from both those staying at The Omni Homestead as well as attendees staying offsite. We hope you will find the following information helpful during your stay.

For attendees staying at The Omni Homestead, the hotel front desk will give you an I.D. card at check in. This card should be presented to your server each time you dine at the hotel. It indicates that you are on the Modified American Meal Plan, which includes breakfast and dinner and begins on the day of arrival with dinner. Dinner includes a three course meal. You will be charged for anything ordered in addition to the three courses. Dinner is provided in the Main Dining Room, Jefferson's, Sam Snead's Tavern, and the Casino Restaurant. Reservations are strongly recommended. The plan ends the day of departure with the breakfast buffet in the Main Dining Room. If you get a meal through room service, that will count as your breakfast or dinner meal. Items purchased at Martha's Market are not included in the plan.

The only meal included in the registration fee is the Monday afternoon bagged lunch sponsored by SunTrust. If you are staying at The Omni Homestead, the Sunday Evening Banquet meal is included in the room fee for those staying at the hotel. For those staying off site, tickets may be purchased for \$75 on your conference registration form.

We are working to make our banquet run as smoothly as possible. This year, banquet tickets will be collected by VACo staff at the door. Please remember to have your ticket with you; this will allow everyone to quickly get seated. If you do not have a ticket, you will be asked to purchase one. If you forgot your ticket, you will be asked to retrieve it from your room. If you receive a ticket, but dine at one of the restaurants, you will be charged \$75 for your banquet meal. Please make sure a VACo team member collects your ticket.

Monday's VLGMA Luncheon is a separate, ticketed event for VLGMA members of their management teams. You can sign up for this \$40 event on your Conference Registration form.

The different restaurants, as well as different areas of the hotel have varying dress codes. Make sure to check the restaurant dress codes by clicking this [link](#).

As always, if you have any questions before the conference, please do not hesitate contact our office. If you have questions during the conference, ask a VACo Team member who will be wearing a blue "STAFF" ribbon. Remember, "Don't have a clue? Look for the blue!"

VACo Contact: [Amy Elizabeth Vealey](#)



Advisory Group continues study of stormwater program

On August 24 a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) convened by DEQ held its seventh meeting of the year to consider comprehensive changes to provisions in the Code of Virginia relating to stormwater management. Principally, the three statutes being reviewed for revision and possible consolidation are Virginia's Stormwater Management Act, Virginia's Erosion and Sediment Control Law and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

Other objectives of the SAG are to recommend actions that will improve DEQ's ability to manage local stormwater programs on behalf of approximately 55 local governments in Virginia that have decided to "opt-out" of managing their own programs. In 2014 the General Assembly passed legislation (HB 1173, Hodges/SB 423 Hanger) allowing local governments not designated as "MS4" to decide whether to (by "opting in") manage their own stormwater programs or "opt out," by allowing DEQ to manage local stormwater programs. "Opt out" localities are still required to manage local Erosion and Sediment Control programs.

As part of their efforts to consolidate the statutes named above, the SAG has been considering three revised alternatives for non MS4 local governments to choose in the management of stormwater management programs. These are summarized below:

Opt-out: A non-MS4 locality may opt out of implementing a stormwater program, in which case DEQ administers the program. Since Virginia's Erosion and Sediment Control Law would be incorporated within the newly amended Stormwater Management Law, DEQ would assume full responsibility for managing stormwater, erosion and sediment control and (for the affected localities general east of I-95) stormwater related components associated with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

Opt-in: A non-MS4 locality would fully administer all components of a newly consolidated stormwater management program. Like today, such localities may seek assistance in plan review and program administration from planning districts or soil and water conservation districts.

Opt-in lite: A non-MS4 locality shares responsibility of managing a consolidated stormwater program with DEQ. DEQ would conduct water quality and quantity stormwater plan review for stormwater and requirements currently associated with the erosion and sediment control law. Site plan approval or disapproval decisions would still be made by the locality, just as they are today. However, localities in this category will have the additional benefit of retaining control over site plan approvals and the entire development process without the need to add staff responsible for conducting water quality and quantity calculations. Such technical calculations would be performed by DEQ staff, thus saving high professional engineering service costs. Like today, such localities may seek assistance in plan review and program administration from planning districts or soil and water conservation districts.

During the August 24 meeting, a large part of SAG discussions centered on the so-called "opt-in lite" alternative. Under "opt-in lite," non-MS4 localities would still be responsible for managing local erosion and sediment control programs, as they had been since 1972. DEQ would undertake most functions associated with stormwater management, including issuance the general permit for construction activities and enforcement.)

A major concern associated with the "opt-in lite" approach is that localities would be responsible in the "post construction" phase for long-term enforcement and inspection of stormwater BMPs. This requirement would impose additional costs on localities. Among local government representatives of the SAG, many questions arose about liability associated with failing stormwater BMPs when the owner of them (for example, a developer) may have either abandoned them, gone out of business, or transferred liability to (for another example) a homeowner association. There were also questions raised about additional staff current "opt-out" localities may need to hire to conduct inspections and other enforcement activities.

Another concern associated with the "opt-in lite" approach is that the locality, not DEQ, would return to the status of being the "VSMP" authority. Under current law, DEQ serves as the "VSMP" authority on behalf of the 55 local governments that chose to "opt out" of the program.

The proposal for complete "opt out" from both Stormwater and Erosion and Sediment Control is still on the table. However, any proposal allowing localities to opt-out of managing erosion and sediment control programs is vehemently opposed by stakeholders representing developers.

To address local government concerns, DEQ staff may present revised proposals to the SAG during the next scheduled SAG meeting on September 11 at DEQ's Piedmont Regional Office in the West End of Richmond. That meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m.

Another very important issue being considered by SAG is the stormwater program fee structure. There are major disagreements among SAG members relating to this issue. The general position of local government representatives is to allow local governments maximum flexibility in developing permit fee schedules (similar to current provisions in Virginia's Erosion and Sediment Control Law). Stakeholders representing developers support a fee structure that (similar to the Stormwater Management Act) is based upon state regulations uniformly applied throughout the state. Under the Stormwater Management Act, local deviations from the state's fee structure are subject to approval by the State Water Control Board.

Another "fee" related issue is the distribution of stormwater program fee revenues between DEQ and so-called "opt in" localities. Currently 28 percent of the fee revenues are allocated to DEQ, with the remainder allocated to the localities. VACo has a position in its legislative program supporting a split of 90 percent localities and 10 percent state.

Because of the current impasse, DEQ proposed that the issue of "fees" be studied (through the formation of another Stakeholder Group), with recommendations to be considered by the 2017 General Assembly.

Many other issues were discussed. And because of all the complexities associated with them, DEQ has moved the deadline for completing the SAG's work back from mid-September to mid-October.

VACo Contact: [Larry Land, CAE](#)

VACo remembers Flip Hicks

Flip Hicks, former VACo General Counsel and Senior Lobbyist, passed away on August 13 in Gloucester County. Hicks was 86.

Hicks joined VACo in 1962 as General Counsel. As a lobbyist, he worked on landmark legislative decisions such as integration, annexation, school funding and public kindergarten. In 1966, Hicks was instrumental in the implementation of the first statewide sales tax, which generated revenue for public schools. The sales tax was one of the first collaborative efforts of VACo and the Virginia Municipal League.

Hick's work with local government earned him several distinguished honors. He received the Edward J. Finnegan Award for Distinguished Service from the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia and the Jefferson Cup Award from VACo in 2002. The Jefferson Cup is VACo's highest honor that recognizes outstanding contributions to local government.

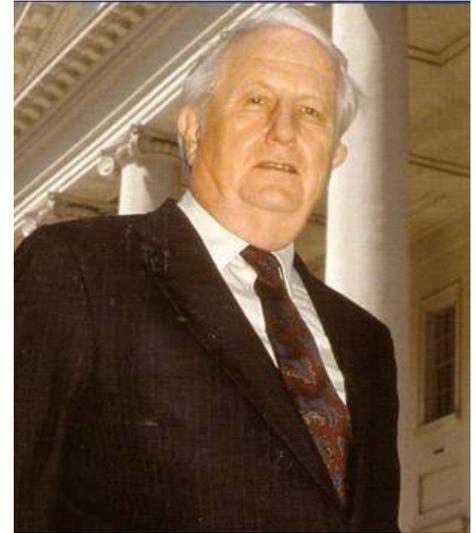
"VACo will forever be grateful for the steadfast dedication and commitment that Flip gave to the counties of Virginia," said Jim Campbell, VACo Executive Director. "Flip's knowledge of the workings of government at all levels was a huge asset as he lobbied on behalf of Virginia's counties."

Hicks was born on February 24, 1929 and grew up in Port Royal. He walked on dirt roads to his one-room elementary school and later graduated from Caroline County High School in 1946. He earned an undergraduate degree (1949) and a law degree (1952) from the University of Virginia.

While still in law school in 1951, Flip met Patricia (Patsy) DeHardit, his future wife, on a double blind date. She was studying at James Madison University, and it was love at first sight. The couple married on December 27, 1952 and settled in Richmond where Hicks began public service as an Assistant Attorney General with the Commonwealth. In 1958, the Hicks family moved to Gloucester where he joined the DeHardit law firm.

Hicks would serve as a lawyer for more than 50 years and his career had great impact on his home state.

His wife Patsy was the love of his life. They traveled the world together and took great pride in their children and grandchildren. Hicks always instilled the importance of education, love of life and service to others. Hicks was a diehard Wahoo fan and hosted great tailgate parties. He loved attending UVA football and basketball games. But perhaps his favorite past time was resting on the porch of his home "Pinewold" where he lived for 57 years.



Mandates Task Force Finalizes Recommendations to Governor

On August 27, the Task Force on Local Government Mandate Review met to discuss and approve its final recommendations to the Governor.

The Task Force is charged with reviewing state mandates imposed on localities, and makes recommendations to the Governor with respect to regulations that are overly burdensome or unnecessary. The five members are local elected officials or administrators who serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

At the meeting, the Task Force discussed the need to protect local governments' ability to raise revenue noting that the Commonwealth should not eliminate any local taxing authority without providing a replacement taxing authority of equal or greater value.

The Task Force also recommended to eliminate the State's capture of local fines and forfeitures, fully fund and improve the administration of the Line of Duty Act, fully fund the cost of rebenchmarking the Standards of Quality, provide for the first day of introduction of legislation with a local fiscal impact and to enhance coordination between the workforce system and K-12 education.

The Task Force discussed the impacts of the stormwater, erosion and sediment control program on local governments and recommended that the upcoming state budget include adequate funding for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to oversee the program and provide training to localities.

Other recommendations included state assistance for local police departments (HB 599), support local ability to adopt policies regarding body worn cameras and to not place mandates on local government utility operations.

VACo worked closely with the Task Force to spotlight these mandates of concern and appreciates the counties who participated in the Task Force meetings. [Click here to view a detailed list](#) of priority recommendations put forward to the task force by VACo and VML.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

VACo Contact: [Beau Blevins](#)

Governor's Mansion Holiday Tree Ornament Ideas



Consider having a contest in your county and keep submissions to decorate your county holiday tree or office space. [Click here for more information.](#)

Spotlight on Richmond County



Cat Point Creek, Credit: Leslie Rennolds, Menokin Foundation

Richmond County was founded in 1692 on the banks of the Rappahannock River. Warsaw, named in sympathy for the Polish people after the uprising of 1830-31 against Russia, is the County Seat, and host to Rappahannock Community College's Warsaw Campus. Warsaw has dining, shopping, and an outdoor playground in addition to an all-day, craft, vendor and food event, Warsaw-Fest, which takes place October 10th on the grounds of Rappahannock Community College. Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge consists of 24 tracts in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. Home to a variety of migratory waterfowl, eagles, and wildlife, the Refuge has events and programming, including fishing at a pond on the Refuge. Near Cat Point Creek (photo left) is the partially collapsed home of Declaration of Independence signer Francis Lightfoot Lee. Established in 1769, Menokin is situated on land once inhabited by the Rappahannock Tribe, who gave the site its name. Across the creek is a winery, Belle Mount Vineyards, which has a tasting room, events center and cabins on its property along Cat Point Creek.

For more information on Menokin, visit menokinrubblewithacause.com

From the Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge, outside of Warsaw



Richmond County's Palladian-style Court House, built in 1831



Richmond County is part of the Northern Neck Heritage Area, covering a five-county historic peninsula between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers, fronting on the Chesapeake Bay. For more information on or to visit the Northern Neck, call 804.333.1919 or visit www.northernneck.org



Mark Your Calendars



**2015 Conference
Registration Now Open**

Rural Planning Caucus of Virginia's 37th Annual Conference

We invite you to attend the 2015 Annual Conference organized by the Executive Committee of the Rural Planning Caucus of Virginia, which will be held from October 14-16 at the historic Berry Hill Resort and Conference Center in Halifax County. The theme for 2015 is "Rural Resiliency."

Virginia RPC is an organization that is dedicated to identifying, publicizing and satisfying the unique planning needs of small towns and rural areas. Every year the RPC Executive Committee works hard to organize a conference where rural planning professionals from around Virginia and surrounding states can discuss important rural planning topics and network to better promote and sustain resilient rural communities.

Visit www.rpcva.org for more information. [Click here](#) for the 2015 Draft Conference Schedule.

**85th Virginia
Certified Planning
Commissioner
Program**

Land Use Education Program
education that brings Virginia's future into the present



2015 Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference
September 30-October 1 | Roanoke

Opening Session: September 28-29

Meeting Location: Newport News City Center Marriott

Closing Session: December 10-11

Cost: \$500 per person

Registration Deadline: September 14

Registration information/form available care of www.planvirginia.com or [here](#).

Contact: Michael Chandler, Director of Education, Land Use Education Program, Virginia Tech, 804.794.6236 or rmchan@vt.edu.

The annual event is Virginia's leading conference for organizations and individuals making a difference in their communities. This year's conference will feature more than 30 workshops and discussions, networking events and the 2015 Virginia AmeriCorps Launch Event.

Registration for this conference is open to anyone who works with volunteers, including: Volunteer Service Leaders, Nonprofit Directors, Organizational and Faith-Based Leaders, Local Government and Public Organization Volunteer Coordinators, Representatives from K-12 Schools and Higher Education Volunteer Programs. The conference will offer five service products in the Roanoke area!

Date: September 30-October 1, 2015

Website: vavolunteerconference.com

Location: [Sheraton Roanoke Hotel](#), 2801 Hershberger Rd NW, Roanoke, Virginia 24017

Registration: Early Bird | June 15-August 14 (\$95)

Regular Registration | August 15-September 21 (\$115)

Registration closes September 21. Onsite registration will be available.

introducing a new associate member



The Changing Nature of Local Government

Local governments have operated in this country in the same basic manner since counties began forming from the Jamestown colony's first eight shires. In this century, the Great Recession underscored the importance of leveraging resources. The Berkley Group has observed successes and failures in government that hinge on basic, but vital, areas. Our Change in Local Government series (bgllc.net) is a seven part video that highlights areas that are critical for efficient and effective government.

- Staffing
- Budgeting
- Economic development
- Transportation
- Environment
- Good governance
- Public perception and information

Each segment examines how that area can be improved to elevate a community's performance. The Berkley Group is an agent in improving a locality's performance, but we are also highlighting the paradigm shift that we see occurring throughout government. Operating "business as usual" will result in decreased service levels, increased costs, and less effective government.

The Berkley Group is committed to providing assistance to localities where needed whether it's to stabilize a critical position, manage a special project, evaluate overall performance, or create a product or service. We work for counties, towns, cities, planning districts, and government agencies. Our orientation and commitment is to the public sector, but we serve private clients as well when their interest is to the community's benefit. Our model is partnership and collaboration to achieve your success.

The Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a prime example of a Berkley Group project. This regional economic plan serves the counties of Brunswick, Halifax, and Mecklenburg along with numerous towns, but focuses on a much larger region – southern Virginia. Traditionally the plans are acronym heavy and loaded with statistical data. In partnership with the SPDC, and stakeholders throughout the region, we created SOVAeconomy.com to serve as the region's CEDS, but to also promote and strengthen the Southern Virginia economy. The plan is implementation focused and emphasizes the importance of the public school systems as the foundation of the workforce. The plan compliments the efforts of Virginia's Growth Alliance (11 localities) and the Southern Virginia Regional Alliance (six localities). The Southside CEDS promotes Southern Virginia and acts as a primary tool for Brunswick, Halifax, and Mecklenburg to recruit companies to their communities.



The Berkley Group's dedication to, and experience with, public service brings a fresh and unique perspective for our clients. Helping localities achieve their goals is our passion.

What challenges are facing your community?

www.bgllc.net | darren@bgllc.net | 434.981.2026

Request for Proposals from Mecklenburg County



The Mecklenburg County Board of Supervisors is requesting consulting services to enable the Board to determine the wishes of the citizens of Mecklenburg County regarding the two existing High Schools and the two existing middle schools and whether the County should construct new facilities, remodel existing facilities, or a combination of both scenarios. Firms interested in receiving a copy of the RFP shall contact Wayne Carter, Mecklenburg County Administrator, at P.O. Box 307, Boydton Va, 23917, call 434.738.6191 ext 4202; or by email at wayne.carter@mecklenburgva.com. The deadline for submittal of proposals is September 15, 2015, by 3 pm in the office of the County Administrator. Mecklenburg County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

VACo Region 4 Legislative Meeting draws largest attendance

More than 40 local government leaders convened on August 25 in Brunswick County for the [VACo Region 4 Legislative Meeting](#). Charlotte County Supervisor and Region 4 Director Nancy Carwile moderated the event.

Senator Frank Ruff and Delegate Tommy Wright attended and took time to answer questions from county representatives on workforce development and education challenges. Both legislators emphasized the importance of working together as a region on important issues.



Jeff Reed, Executive Director of Virginia's Growth Alliance, discussed his organization's regional economic development marketing efforts. Reed expressed that the major challenges the region faces are access to natural gas, cellular coverage, access to capital funds and local businesses' lack of web presence. But Reed also shared new opportunities that the region is experiencing such as the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, the new shell building in Mecklenburg County and the revolving loan fund created through the Southside PDC and the state's Department of Housing and Community Development.

On the local front, a Nottoway County official expressed concern regarding the release of violent sexual offenders from the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation into the community. In addition, when these offenders commit crimes in the state facility, they are then transferred to the regional jail where the costs to incarcerate become Nottoway County's burden.

Several counties shared concerns over the heavy reliance on SOL testing that is driving some parents to home schooling. Other counties in the region expressed appreciation for VACo efforts to eliminate local aide to the Commonwealth. Another major area of agreement was rising jail costs and the burden of unfunded mandates.

VACo Contact: [Larry Land, CAE](#)

Financial Facts



The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued new accounting guidance that reduces from four to two the categories of authoritative Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) in the GAAP hierarchy for state and local governments. Under GASB Statement No. 76, *The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for State and Local Governments*, the first category of GAAP consists for GASB statements of governmental accounting standards.

The second category of GAAP comprises GASB technical bulletins and implementation guides, as well as guidance for the American Institute of CPA's (AICPA) that is cleared by GASB.

On another subject, GASB proposed accounting and financial reporting guidance related to external investment pools. And in a separate exposure draft, the board proposed guidance for how certain component units should be presented in a state or local government's financial statements.

One proposal, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain External Investment Pools*, would permit qualifying external investment pools to measure pool investments at amortized cost for financial reporting purposes. The other proposal, *Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units*, is intended to enhance existing guidance regarding the presentation of the financial reporting entity in the financial statements.

The proposal would establish an additional blending criterion for financial statement presentation of component units of state and local governments.

VACo Contact: [Vicky Steinruck](#)

DEQ seeking input on Clean Power Plan

On August 3, 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its final Clean Power Plan to cut carbon emissions (greenhouse gases) from existing power plants that generate electricity from fossil fuels.

These new EPA rules are expected to have a major impact upon Virginia. Therefore, prior to taking any formal action, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is gathering general input from the public on the best way for Virginia to implement EPA’s emission guidelines for existing power plants.(see EPA’s website at <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards>).

In addition to receiving general input from the public, the Commonwealth is also interested in identifying and collecting input from vulnerable and overburdened communities. These communities include low-income communities, communities with minority populations, communities most vulnerable to the effects of sea-level rise and communities where economies may be affected by changes in the utility power and related sectors.

There are several ways for local officials to be informed, by visiting:

- Visiting DEQ’s Greenhouse Gas Web Page at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Air/GreenhouseGasPlan.aspx>. This page is updated as new information and opportunities for public comment become available.
- Sign up for a Greenhouse Gas RSS feed at <http://deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/NewsFeeds.aspx>. You will receive an email when there is an opportunity for public comments.
- Sign up for Town Hall notification at <http://townhall.virginia.gov/>. You will receive an email when there is an opportunity for public participation.

More information is available by contacting ghg@deq.virginia.gov. **Source:** DEQ memorandum dated August 26, 2015.

VACo Contact: [Larry Land, CAE](#)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:	FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Aug. 27, 2015	Simone Alley 434-971-1064 Simone.Alley@centurylink.com

CenturyLink to bring broadband to 49,000 rural households in Virginia
Company to accept Connect America Fund money

VIRGINIA – [CenturyLink, Inc.](#) (NYSE: CTL) announced today that it will bring high-speed Internet services to more than 49,000 rural households and businesses in Virginia by accepting the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)’s Connect America Fund (CAF) statewide offer in Virginia.

CenturyLink is accepting 33 CAF phase II statewide offers from the FCC to bring Internet service with speeds of at least 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload to approximately 1.2 million locations in FCC-designated, high-cost census blocks. The company is accepting a total of approximately \$500 million a year for six years.

High-speed Internet access brings many benefits to rural communities, including economic development and better access to education and healthcare services such as distance learning and telemedicine.

“We’re pleased to help bridge the urban-rural digital divide by bringing high-speed broadband to more than 49,000 households and businesses in high-cost markets in Virginia,” said Kevin McCarter, CenturyLink east region president. “While CAF II funding does not address all markets in our footprint, our company investment for CAF II is significant, and we look forward to working closely with Virginia policymakers to find funding and deployment solutions for additional markets.”

Once CenturyLink’s initial CAF II six-year build-out plan is finalized over the coming months, construction is expected to begin in early 2016.

The FCC created the CAF program in 2011 to facilitate high-speed Internet access in high-cost locations by transitioning Universal Service Fund money that was supporting rural landline service to the build-out of broadband infrastructure in rural communities.

CenturyLink previously accepted approximately \$75 million in CAF phase I interim, one-time support to bring broadband with 4 Mbps download speed to nearly 114,000 unserved rural locations.

About CenturyLink

[CenturyLink, Inc.](#) (NYSE: CTL) is a global communications, hosting, cloud and IT services company enabling millions of customers to transform their businesses and their lives through innovative technology solutions. CenturyLink offers network and data systems management, big



2015 VGFOA Innovations Award

Have you or someone from your jurisdiction recently implemented a project or program to better the world of government finance? If so, apply for the 2015 VGFOA Innovations Award!

One award per population group, for a maximum of four, may be presented. Award categories include, but are not limited, to:

- Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting;
- Budgeting and Financial Planning;
- Policies and Procedures;
- e-Government and Technology

The application deadline for the 2015 VGFOA Innovations Award is Wednesday, **September 30, 2015**.

It's easy to apply. [Click here](#) for details, including application and submission information. Winners will be awarded at the VGFOA 2015 Fall Conference.

The James O. McReynolds Scholarship

This new scholarship, the James O. McReynolds Scholarship, will be awarded annually to two full-time state or local government finance employees who are pursuing a college degree. This scholarship provides us with the opportunity to help enhance the careers of the recipients, while honoring the memory and legacy of a man who was so deeply invested in contributing to the professional growth of others.

Winners will be awarded at the **VGFOA 2015 Fall Conference** during the Thursday Luncheon. Applications are due by **September 30, 2015**. [Click Here](#) for submission details.

SAVE THE DATE

Please join Governor McAuliffe, administration officials and members of the Virginia General Assembly for the Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity, hosted by the Virginia Rural Center. The summit will bring together local, state and private sector representatives from across Virginia to discuss innovative initiatives and opportunities for job creation, entrepreneurship, workforce development and other topics of interest to rural communities.

Distinguished Guests

- The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe
Governor of Virginia
- The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Chairman of the Center for Rural Virginia
- The Honorable Frank M. Ruff, Jr.
Chairman of the General Assembly's Rural Caucus
- The Honorable Maurice A. Jones
Secretary of Commerce and Trade
- The Honorable Todd Haymore
Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
- The Honorable Karen R. Jackson
Secretary of Technology

Who Should Attend

Economic development officials, elected officials, business and community leaders, local government officials, trade organizations and associations and policymakers.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



THE GOVERNOR'S SUMMIT ON RURAL PROSPERITY

October 5-6, 2015

Omni Homestead
1766 Homestead Drive
Hot Springs, VA

More Information:
Christy T. Morton
Executive Director
Virginia Rural Center
Christy.Morton@CFRV.org

HOSTED BY:



Rural Center
Partnership of the Center for Rural Virginia and the Council for Rural Virginia
www.CFRV.org

[#VARuralProsperity](#)

Employment Opportunities

Employment ads are edited due to space considerations. Visit www.vaco.org to view the full versions. Click on the County Employment link on the menu bar.

REAL ESTATE APPRAISER I | Gloucester County

\$35,072-\$56,115. CLOSING DATE: September 16. Performs responsible entry-level technical work in appraising residential and commercial property within the County to determine market value for tax purposes. Work involves measuring, sketching and inspecting properties, and entering data using a Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system. As experience is gained, appraisal assignments will become progressively more complex. Work is assigned and performed under the continuing direction, guidance and supervision of the Assessor. This position offers career opportunities for the candidate with the willingness to learn and grow! For a complete description and to apply online, visit our website at www.gloucesterva.jobs.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE | City of Richmond

Virginia's capital city is seeking a highly qualified and dynamic Director to lead the department and build a strong team of committed professionals. The Department of Finance is responsible for all financial transactions in conjunction with the City's FY2016 General Fund budget of \$689 million and the Department, under the jurisdiction of the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, operates with an annual budget of \$22.1 million and a staff of 105 full time employees. The salary range for the position is negotiable up to \$153,875, based on qualifications and experience. The application deadline is September 28, 2015. To be considered, please submit a cover letter, résumé with salary history and five (5) professional references online by visiting Waters & Company Executive Recruitment (WCER) website at <https://waters-company.recruitmenthome.com>. For more information, please contact John Anzivino at richmond@waters-company.com. For a complete profile of the position please visit: <https://waters-company.recruitmenthome.com/postings/586>.

CONSTRUCTION INSPECTOR-STORMWATER | Roanoke County

Roanoke County is seeking a Construction Inspector - Stormwater to perform

responsible technical work involving the construction inspection of public and private facilities, stormwater systems, stormwater facilities (ponds), roads, and/or erosion and sediment control measures to assure compliance with County and State codes, ordinances, regulations, and approved construction plans. Online Roanoke County application required. Submit resume and online application at www.roanokecountyva.gov. Closing Date: September 27, 2015. HIRING RANGE: \$31,870 - \$41,208.

COMBINATION CODE COMPLIANCE INSPECTOR-STORMWATER | Roanoke County

The employee in this position: measures, tests and checks construction materials, methods, and installations to ensure contractor and owner conformance with plans, specifications and the terms of the contract; inspects assigned areas for noncompliance and enforcement of all code and department regulations; inspects storm drainage system construction and maintains as-built records; inspects construction of stormwater systems, best management practices (BMPs), maintains as-built records, and enforces Roanoke County's Stormwater Management Ordinance; inspects erosion and sediment control measures and enforces Roanoke County Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance. Online Roanoke County application required. Submit resume and online application at www.roanokecountyva.gov. Closing Date: September 27. \$35,136 - \$45,432.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MANAGER | City of Danville

The purpose of this position is to develop, manage, and implement economic development projects designed to attract industry, create better paying jobs, and increase the investment tax base. This is accomplished by participating in marketing the City of Danville; identifying prospective opportunities; reviewing, analyzing and responding to prospect inquiries in a prompt and effective manner; assisting and/or overseeing the development of industrial properties and redevelopment of historical properties in the River District; and coordinating and participating in prospect visits. Other duties include serving on a variety of boards; and planning, coordinating and attending special events. This is a brief description. To view the essential functions and necessary

qualifications read the [entire job description here](#).

FT ELIGIBILITY WORKER | James City County

\$28,255 or higher, DOQ + benefits; 2 full-time positions available; James City County Social Services is seeking individuals to perform responsible paraprofessional work conducting telephone and in-person interviews to determine eligibility for State, Federal, or Local Financial Assistance Programs. Position ensures accurate and timely benefits are processed according to State compliance and policies, explains benefit programs and makes appropriate referrals, monitors cases, and resolves any discrepancies. Accepting applications until position is filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov.

FT CHILDREN SERVICES PREVENTION SPECIALIST | James City County

\$35,126/year or higher, DOQ + benefits; James City County Social Services is seeking a responsible professional to provide preventative services to families of children at risk of abuse/neglect and/or at risk of entering foster care due to a myriad of reasons, as well as working with families to prevent crisis and secure the well-being of children. Primary duties include making timely and appropriate referrals to service providers in the community; serving as a liaison between clients and other service providers. Accepting applications until position is filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov.

FT FAMILY SERVICES ASSISTANT | James City County

\$28,255/year or higher, DOQ; James City County Social Services is seeking an individual to assist the Family Services Specialists in providing client services as well as support for families. Primary duties: Assisting clients in identifying available benefits and social services; assisting Family Services Specialists with developing, organizing, and conducting programs to prevent and resolve problems. Accepting applications until the position is filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov.

FT WATA COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST | James City County

\$37,769 or higher, DOQ + Benefits; The Williamsburg Area Transit Authority is seeking a Communications Specialist to implement, maintain, plan, and coordinate their internal and external communication for marketing, public relations, advertising, and informational activities. This position maintains content on WATA's website, implements the marketing plan, works with community partners to disseminate information about WATA's services, responds to requests for information from the media and prepares press releases, and develops and monitors marketing measures for evaluation of outreach activities. Accepting applications until position is filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov.

REVENUE TECHNICIAN | Gloucester County

\$23,325 - \$37,320 Annually. CLOSING DATE: September 13. Under close supervision performs a variety of clerical and customer service duties for the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office. Duties involve assisting taxpayers with questions concerning their accounts, data entry, file maintenance, and processing corrected assessments, routine abatements and refunds. Duties are performed within specific guidelines and require strict adherence to established policies and procedures. A cover letter and resume must be submitted with the online application. All Gloucester County employees are subject to being assigned to specific positions and tasks during a "Declared Emergency" as support personnel, by the County Administrator, the Emergency Management Director, or the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). For a complete job description (Revenue Technician) and to apply on-line, visit our website at: www.gloucesterva.jobs.

CONTROLLER | Town of Leesburg

\$75,454 - \$126,644 DOQ. Closing Date: Open until Filled. Required: Bachelor's degree in accounting or equivalent combination of education and experience. Ten years of increasingly responsible technical experience in accounting, financial statement preparation and auditing and/or related functions, preferably local government. CPA required. Preferred: Master's degree in accounting or MBA; local government experience in accounting preferably as a Controller or similar role and experience, especially with Munis

ERP, Crystal Reports and fund accounting. Bilingual in English/Spanish. To apply for this position please go to www.leesburgva.gov/jobs.

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | Franklin County

Franklin County in Rocky Mount, VA is a fast growing community known for its scenic beauty, nestled between Philpott and Smith Mountain Lakes along the Blue Ridge Mountains, located approximately 10 miles south of Roanoke, VA., is currently accepting applications for the position of Director of Planning & Community Development. Responsibilities include: directing and managing the daily operations of Sub Division Planning, Community Planning, Zoning Administration, Erosion & Sediment Control and Stormwater Management. Salary DOQ/E (+) excellent benefits. Obtain an application & job description at the Franklin County Government Center, HR,1255 Franklin Street, Rocky Mount, Virginia 24151 or view the job description & apply online at www.franklincountyva.gov. OUF. 1st Application review: September 16. AA/EOE

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION OPERATIONS MANAGER | New Kent County

Salary commensurate with Experience. Duration: Open Until Filled. www.co.new-kent.va.us. This is a management and administrative position responsible for public safety administration which develops and directs all aspects of the New Kent County Enhanced 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center and is the administrator of the 800 MHz trunked radio systems. Manages the ongoing administrative functions related to the installation and maintenance of the 911 and 800 MHz public safety communication system; develops, implements and maintains standard operating policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the requirements of the federal and state regulatory agencies. To be considered for this position, review the job description and submit an application at www.co.new-kent.va.us.

SENIOR ENGINEER (PW) | City of Manassas

Salary: \$74,276.80 – 122,532.80. Oversees and performs professional level engineering planning, design and construction for a variety of difficult and complex design and construction projects. Review complex site development plans/subdivision plans

prepared by Civil Engineers (for private development) to ensure compliance with all federal, state, and local ordinances, policies and regulations. Hiring Range for this position is: \$74,276.80 – 98,404.80. Oversee the daily operations of the department to include: providing assistance on complex technical issues, establishing time schedules, establishing priorities, etc. Serve as team leader during the preparation of the various design projects assigned to the staff or designed by outside consultants. Apply online at: <http://www.manassascity.org/hr/jobs>. Applications accepted until position is filled.

ACCOUNTANT TEMPORARY | New Kent County

Retirees Take Note! Reporting to the Director of Financial Services, the individual in this position will perform fiscal control and accounting work for New Kent County for approx. 20 hours per week, Monday through Friday. This temporary assignment will begin September 7 and extend approximately 4 months. Responsibilities include: Purchase orders, change orders, closing out purchase orders, insurance claims, managing accounting for new vehicles, maintaining insurance spreadsheets. Please submit your application online at www.co.new-kent.va.us. Human Resources. P.O. Box 150. New Kent, VA 23124.

FT UNDERGROUND UTILITY ASSISTANT | James City County

\$26,277/year or higher, DOQ; The James City Service Authority is seeking applicants to hire as a utility assistant to work with water and wastewater infrastructure. This position includes benefits such as health and life insurance, retirement, and paid holidays and paid leave. The applicant will assist in the installation, repair, and maintenance of pipelines, manholes, fire hydrants and valves. Duties are performed outdoors in all weather conditions, and sometimes under disagreeable or hazardous conditions. Applicant must be able to function in an environment requiring use of respiratory protection devices. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov.

WASTE MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATOR | City of Chesapeake

Salary: \$68,819 - \$113,552. Duration: Open Until Filled. www.jobs.cityofchesapeake.net. The selected candidate will plan and delegate waste management activities for

refuse collection and disposal including establishing short and long range goals; participate in regional discussions and collaboration regarding waste disposal issues; supervise subordinate personnel, including training, scheduling, assigning and evaluating work; prepare and administer budget for division and monitors expenditures. Instructions to Applicant: To be considered for this position, please complete a City of Chesapeake application at www.jobs.cityofchesapeake.net.

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | Pittsylvania County

Must be a team leader with a professional attitude and sound work ethic. Under the general supervision of the County Administrator; the candidate will perform difficult professional and administrative work in developing economic initiatives to create jobs, investments and promote economic growth by recruiting new businesses, and expanding industries and growing small businesses. Salary: Minimum salary is \$75,159 with County benefits. Salary beyond minimum is dependent on qualifications. Submission requirements: Pittsylvania County application, cover letter and resume. To Apply: Go online to: <http://www.pittsylvaniacountyva.gov> (Job Openings) or Download Application and mail to: Pittsylvania County, Attn: Human Resources, PO Box 426, Chatham, VA 24531 DEADLINE: Open until filled. First review of applications will begin September 11.

COUNTY MANAGER | Arlington County

A full profile describing the County, the Manager's position and the County's programs may be found at <https://www.arlingtonva.us> or <http://www.springsted.com/open-executive-searches>. The salary for the position is negotiable dependent upon the candidate's qualifications and experience. The County offers a comprehensive package of benefits and the Board will negotiate employment agreement and relocation assistance with the selected candidate. Residency within the County is required within a negotiated timeframe. The application deadline is October 4, 2015. To be considered, please submit a cover letter, résumé with salary history and five (5) professional references online by visiting Waters & Company Executive Recruitment (WCER) website <https://waters-company.recruitmenthome.com>. Following the filing date, résumés will be screened by Waters & Company based on the criteria established by Arlington County. The County will review recommended candidates who most closely meet the established criteria and finalists

should be interviewed in Arlington during the month of December 2015. For more information, please contact John Anzivino at richmond@waters-company.com.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER | Albemarle County

The Public Information Officer is responsible for all internal and external communication for the police department. The PIO serves as the liaison between the department, the media and public requests. The PIO manages social media websites and is responsible for social media campaigns. The PIO is the guardian of all records released in compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. All public information released from the police department should be from or in coordination with the PIO. The PIO acts as an official spokesperson and primary point of contact for the police department. To learn more about geo-policing in Albemarle County watch our geo-policing video here. Learn more about the Albemarle County Police Department at www.albemarle.org/acpd. HIRING SALARY RANGE: \$47,829 - \$57,395/Yearly, depending on qualifications, experience, and internal equity. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: Friday, September 4. You may find more information at the Albemarle County Human Resources page at <http://www.albemarle.org/hr>.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Augusta County

The County of Augusta is accepting applications for the position of County Administrator. The County of Augusta is centrally located in the historic and scenic Shenandoah Valley at the juncture of I-81 and I-64. The County has a population of 74,642. The County Administrator serves as the chief administrative officer of Augusta County. The Administrator directs and supervises the day-to-day operations of all County departments and agencies which are under the direct control of the Board of Supervisors. The County Administrator serves as the primary point of contact for citizens seeking information regarding County activities and develops recommendations for the Board of Supervisors relative to the operations of the County. This is an appointive position that serves at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors. The hiring range is from \$140,000 to \$160,000; salary is negotiable depending upon qualifications. Benefits are excellent. The County Administrator Recruitment

Profile can be viewed on the Augusta County website at www.co.augusta.va.us under the Human Resources Department. Submit a letter of interest, detailed resume outlining career accomplishments including salary history and a minimum of five (5) professional references to the Augusta County Human Resources Department, Attention: Faith Souder, Human Resources Director, County of Augusta, P. O. Box 590, Verona, VA 24482-0590, Tel: 540.245.5617; Fax: 540.245.5175, no later than Friday, September 11.

PLANNER | Botetourt County

Starting Salary: \$39,446 – \$47,500, DOQ. Botetourt County is recruiting for the position of Planner to join our Department of Community Development. This is a full-time position with an excellent benefits package, including state retirement. The selected candidate will have responsibility for performing varied professional assignments in the field of planning. Go to www.botetourtva.gov for application, complete job description and benefits summary. Preference will be given to applications received by close of business, Friday, August 21, 2015. Application, cover letter, and resume can be submitted to: Botetourt County Human Resources, 5 West Main St, Suite 200, Fincastle, VA 24090, or e-mail to jobs@botetourtva.gov, (Reference Planner in the subject line). A completed application form to be considered for the position. Position will remain open until filled.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER | City of Salem

SALARY RANGE: \$68,473.60 - \$117,873.60, DOQ. The qualified applicant will be responsible for managing the daily administration and operations Technology Systems Department. Establishes and monitors strategic long-term goals and policies and procedures for the use of technology in City operations; Provides consultation to decision makers in other departments to identify, recommend, develop, implement and support cost-effective technology solutions for all aspects of the organization. Must have thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of public administration; thorough knowledge of modern business practices and their integration with current information technology. This position is open until filled. Interested applicants may apply online at: <http://www.salemva.gov/departments/hr/JobOpenings.aspx>, or in person at 114 N. Broad Street, Salem, VA 24153.



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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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