

# 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



**Virginia Association of Counties**

1207 E. Main Street, Suite 300  
Richmond, VA 23219  
Ph. 804.788.6652  
[www.vaco.org](http://www.vaco.org)

1                   **2015 Post Conference Legislative**  
2   **Program**  
3                   **Virginia Association of Counties**

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7                   **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING**

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9                   **Priorities**

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11                   **Land Use/Growth Management Tools**

12                   VACo supports maintaining local authority to plan and regulate land use and opposes any  
13                   legislation that weakens these key local responsibilities. VACo supports legislation that  
14                   grants localities additional tools to adequately meet increasing needs for public services  
15                   driven by new development without burdening current residents with the cost of new  
16                   growth through increased real estate taxes. Such additional tools may include broad  
17                   impact fee authority for all counties, adequate public facilities provisions in subdivision  
18                   ordinances, state funds for the purchase of development rights, and real estate transfer  
19                   charges.  
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21                   **Workforce Development**

22                   Unemployment and underemployment are common challenges facing counties. County  
23                   officials are also concerned about the inability of current and potential employers to find  
24                   workers with the skills needed for current and future job openings. Counties support  
25                   flexibility for workforce programs to meet the specific workforce challenges identified by  
26                   the public and private sector at the local and regional level and continued funding for  
27                   Virginia’s workforce system. VACo supports state efforts to fund, encourage and  
28                   facilitate local and regional efforts to convene and facilitate cooperation between the  
29                   business community and other numerous stakeholders involved in Virginia’s workforce  
30                   investment system. VACo supports applying credit recognition and state incentives for both  
31                   certification, training or qualified credentialing and credit course hours.  
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34                   **Positions**

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36                   **Affordable and Workforce Housing**

37                   VACo supports maintaining federal and state funding and appropriate incentives to assist  
38                   localities in fostering affordable housing, as well as workforce housing for employees  
39                   such as teachers and first responders.  
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**Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund (AFID)**

VACo supports continued state funding for the Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund (AFID).

**Defense Funding**

VACo supports maintaining federal Defense spending. Further cuts to military spending will impact our nation’s security and negatively impact economic growth in counties throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Economic Development**

VACo supports continued federal and state funding and technical assistance for infrastructure investments and economic development programs as effective means for enhancing business development in the Commonwealth. VACo supports economic development policies that bolster local and regional development efforts.

**Impacts of Federal and Military Facilities (Federal)**

VACo supports maintaining federal and state funding and technical assistance to mitigate the impacts on counties affected by federal budget cuts and to sustain current and future federal facilities in Virginia. VACo supports state and local partnerships to work to prevent encroachment and non-compatible land uses next to military installations. VACo also supports workforce training and retraining for programs that support Defense activities in Virginia.

**Maintain Public Sector Role in Onsite Sewer Program**

VACo supports an onsite sewage program at the Virginia Department of Health that protects public health and the environment in all regions of the Commonwealth. The state’s program should allow localities to develop and implement policies that support the state’s program. VACo supports the private sector providing onsite sewage system design, installation and repair services, as long as the services can be provided at affordable rates and in a timely manner, and as long as VDH continues to provide these direct services as well.

**Natural Gas Pipelines**

VACo supports federal and state efforts to ensure that counties are partners in the route selection process.

**Regional Cooperation**

VACo supports maintaining state funding and additional grants of authority to promote regional initiatives. VACo also supports state funding for Virginia’s planning district commissions, which play a key role in addressing regional challenges.

**Siting of Utilities**

VACo supports requiring utilities to seek input from localities and property owners before any actions to construct, modify or enlarge their facilities.

# EDUCATION

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## Priority

### **Education Funding**

VACo urges the General Assembly to provide full state funding for public education including the Standards of Quality (SOQ) as recommended by the Board of Education, targeted incentive programs, capital and maintenance support and teacher salaries. Full state funding should be achieved without reduction to other parts of state public education budgets or to the other core services. The state must recognize that in FY 2013 local school divisions spent \$3.55 billion above required local effort.

VACo supports the current practice whereby all year-end funds appropriated to the school divisions by the locality revert to the locality, retaining discretion with the governing body to evaluate and approve the reallocation of year-end fund balances.

## Positions

### **Composite Index Appeal process**

VACo supports legislation that would establish an appeals process for local governments to challenge computation of the Local Composite Index.

### **Composite Index, Use Value**

VACo supports legislation to adjust the calculation of the local Composite Index for public school funding by directing the Department of Education to adjust its funding calculations for the local ability to pay by using the use-value assessment of real property, instead of the true value, in localities that have adopted use-value taxation.

### **Funding Support Personnel**

In addition to meeting its obligations to fully fund instructional staff, the Commonwealth should meet its obligation to fully fund the support side of K-12. Since 2009, Virginia has implemented sizable structural budget cuts to K-12, particularly in the area of support, costing localities more than \$1.7 billion per biennium statewide. VACo supports full restoration of these cuts, including: elimination of the funding cap on support positions; restoring the inflation factor for non-personal support costs; and full reinstatement of the Cost of Competing (COCA) for support staff. Adequate state funding for support staff and operations is critically important for the operation of any school system.

### **Library system**

129 VACo supports maintaining the level of funding of financial aid to the library system at  
130 levels budgeted for FY 15 and FY 16.

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## 135 ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

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### 137 Priority

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#### 139 **Water Quality Improvement Funding**

140 VACo supports effective partnerships among and across all levels of government to  
141 improve water quality.

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143 VACo urges state and federal agencies to consider impacts on local governments of any  
144 initiatives intended to reduce loadings of pollutants into state waters from both point and  
145 non-point sources. In order for comprehensive, watershed-wide water quality  
146 improvement strategies to be effective, major and reliable forms of financial and  
147 technical assistance from federal and state governments will be necessary. VACo  
148 supports the goal of improved water quality, but will oppose provisions of any strategy  
149 that penalizes local governments by withdrawing current forms of financial assistance or  
150 imposing monitoring, management or similar requirements on localities without  
151 providing sufficient resources to accomplish those processes. VACo opposes the  
152 imposition of a state fee, tax or surcharge on water, sewer, solid waste or any service  
153 provided by a local government or authority.

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### 156 Positions

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#### 158 **Agriculture Production**

159 VACo supports increased availability of local food for purchase. To accomplish this,  
160 VACo supports the establishment of farmers' markets and the supplemental nutritional  
161 assistance program (SNAP) for purchases at farmers' markets, policies to increase direct  
162 delivery of food from growers to consumers and funding for the design and construction  
163 of regional processing facilities to facilitate delivery of locally-produced food.

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#### 165 **Aquifer protection**

166 VACo supports initiatives by the state to assure adoption of actions to reduce high  
167 chloride concentrations and loss of artesian head pressure in Virginia's aquifers. VACo  
168 also requests that the Commonwealth conduct a review of regulations, and promote  
169 education to promote reclamation of water on a local level for industrial and irrigation  
170 uses to offset future demands on all ground and surface water used for human  
171 consumption in the Commonwealth.

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**Biosolids**

VACo contends that the land application of biosolids, when conducted properly, provides important benefits to the public and Virginia’s agricultural sector. To reduce risks that might occur because of improper land application, VACo supports an effective statewide program and regulations governing land application of biosolids that protect the environment, public health and safety. VACo also supports the ability of local governments to monitor compliance with such regulations. To address concerns of neighboring property owners, VACo supports the ability of local governments to suggest amendments to biosolids permits as they are being considered by the Department of Environmental Quality.

**Dam safety**

VACo supports dam safety regulations that do not impose unreasonable costs on dam owners whose structures meet current safety standards. VACo encourages DCR to institute reasonable calculations of probable maximum precipitation rainfall amounts that accurately identify at-risk structures and facilitate the most efficient targeting of scarce resources to the most needy structure. VACo supports programs that keep downstream owners and developers aware of potential inundation zones.

**Energy Efficiency**

VACo endorses initiatives among all levels of government to reduce dependence upon foreign sources of energy, to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and to improve energy efficiency. VACo also supports production of renewable energy in Virginia through the implementation of Renewable Portfolio Standards while continuing to support energy policies that take advantage of our abundant coal deposits and natural gas reserves while protecting the welfare and safety of agriculture and our water supplies.

**Humane Investigators**

VACo opposes legislation requiring local governments to accept court appointed humane investigators. Humane investigators should only be appointed when specifically requested by a local governing body. Local governments should have the option of terminating a humane investigator program.

**Hydraulic fracturing**

Advances in technology for the extraction of natural gas known as “hydraulic fracturing” has the potential to tap vast reserves in what are known as the Marcellus shale and Taylorsville Basin deposits. Concerns about how the process of hydraulic fracturing could impact both public and private groundwater supplies have been raised both regionally and nationally. VACo supports a state regulatory program that addresses these concerns while protecting the authority of local governments to regulate this type of mining activity through their land use ordinances. Specifically, VACo supports a regulatory program with the following components:

- 215 • A requirement for permit applicants to provide certification to the Department of  
216 Mines, Minerals and Energy that the activity and associated activities are  
217 consistent with applicable local ordinances;
- 218 • Authority for local governments to require documentation that all state  
219 requirements are met as a condition for local approval;
- 220 • Requirements for operators of hydraulic fracturing operations to demonstrate  
221 adequate financial assurance to ensure the availability of adequate resources to  
222 correct any damages that could result from drilling operations;
- 223 • Through a portion of permit fee revenues, establish a state fund to defray local  
224 costs that would be associated with the training of first responders as preparation  
225 for emergencies stemming from fracturing activities; and
- 226 • To assure continuity in protection of health and natural resources, that provisions  
227 in the Memorandum of Agreement between DMME And DEQ of August 12,  
228 2014 be strengthened and perpetually institutionalized by statute or regulation.  
229

### 230 **Industrial Hemp**

231 VACo supports legislation allowing for the cultivation of hemp as an industrial and  
232 agricultural commodity that will open markets for farmers, manufacturers, businesses  
233 and entrepreneurs in the emerging and growing hemp industry.  
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### 235 **Invasive Species**

236 VACo supports adequate funding to implement the Virginia Invasive Species  
237 Management Plan. The Plan identifies strategies to prevent and control damage caused by  
238 invasive species.  
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### 240 **Land Conservation**

241 VACo supports targeted initiatives to facilitate the protection of land for conservation  
242 purposes. VACo also supports a Purchase of Development Rights program that includes  
243 state funding for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, and that provides  
244 incentives for landowners at all income levels to participate in the program. Such  
245 programs preserve prime soils for food production and protect important forestal land and  
246 environmentally sensitive areas in the Commonwealth.  
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### 248 **Local Regulation of Timbering**

249 VACo supports legislation to clarify that, once a subdivision plan is submitted for local  
250 approval at the request of the property owner for a development project, any timbering on  
251 the property is subject to such local requirements as erosion and sediment control  
252 ordinances, stormwater management controls and other regulations pertaining to  
253 development.  
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### 255 **Non-point Source Pollution**

256 VACo supports a well-financed state program to address the problem of non-point source  
257 runoff from agricultural operations. The program should effectively encourage  
258 implementation of priority best management practices such as nutrient management

259 planning, use of cover crops, continuous no-till farming and development of forested  
260 riparian buffers and livestock stream exclusion.

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262 **Onsite Wastewater Systems**

263 VACo supports legislation ensuring that potential buyers of real property are told about  
264 the type, size and maintenance requirements and associated costs of the wastewater  
265 systems on the property prior to the signing of the initial sales contract and the  
266 recordation of engineered systems plat and deed at the time of sale.

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268 **Recycling**

269 VACo supports the development of more aggressive strategies by the state to develop  
270 markets for recycled materials.

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272 **Southern Rivers Watershed**

273 VACo supports continued funding for the Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement  
274 Program to improve water quality in non-Chesapeake Bay watersheds.

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276 **Stormwater programs**

277 VACo supports adequate funding to enable local governments to meet ongoing costs  
278 associated with local stormwater management programs that became effective on July 1,  
279 2014. VACo believes it will be critical to evaluate the effectiveness of the fee structure in  
280 the Virginia Stormwater Management Permit regulations as the chief source of revenue  
281 for funding local stormwater management programs.

282

283 VACo also supports legislation to:

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285 • Amend Section 62.1-44.15:48 of the Code of Virginia to remove the requirement  
286 that proceeds from penalties must be used only for purposes only for the purposes  
287 mandated under that section of the Code.

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289 • Remove the requirement from the Construction General Permit that permittees  
290 must comply with Virginia’s post construction standards for water quality.

291

292 • Amend Section 62.1-44.15:28 of the Code of Virginia to give localities the ability  
293 to waive the state’s portion of the VSMP fees if a locality waiver policy has been  
294 implemented by a locality and approved by the Board. VACo also requests a new  
295 locality/state workload analysis to justify the state’s portion from the stormwater  
296 permit fee. The new analysis should address long-term responsibilities placed on  
297 localities that previous studies ignored.

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299 • Amend Virginia’s Stormwater Management Law that would distribute a  
300 maximum of 10 percent of statewide stormwater fees revenue to the Virginia  
301 Stormwater Management Fund with the remaining 90 percent remaining with  
302 local governments.

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305           • Amend Section 62.1-44.15:33 of the Code of Virginia to mandate that the State  
306 Water Control Board consider long-term maintenance costs of a Best  
307 Management practice when approving a local stormwater program.

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309           **Uranium Mining**  
310 VACo supports continuation of a moratorium on uranium mining and milling within the  
311 Commonwealth of Virginia.

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313           **Virginia Cooperative Extension**  
314 VACo supports sufficient funding for the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service.

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316           **Virginia Outdoors Foundation**  
317 VACo supports legislation that would increase funding for the Virginia Outdoors  
318 Foundation through transfer fees and other dedicated sources of revenue.

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320           **Waste Management**  
321 VACo supports broad authority for local governments to adopt flow control ordinances.  
322 VACo supports funding for infrastructure to increase energy harvest from the waste  
323 system.

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325           **Water Supply Planning**  
326 VACo supports adequate funding by the state for the ongoing development and  
327 implementation of state-mandated water supply plans.

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## FINANCE

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### **Priority**

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#### **Local Finances**

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### **Positions**

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#### **County Authority Including Equal Taxation**

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VACo supports granting counties equal taxing authority enjoyed by cities and towns to enact local excise taxes without referendum.

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**Fiscal Impact Statements**

In furtherance of the objectives to evaluate the local fiscal impact of proposed legislation, VACo recommends the reinstatement of the first day introduction requirement for bills with local fiscal impact.

**Funding for State Mandated Positions and Jails**

VACo urges the Commonwealth to meet its full funding obligations for constitutional officers and our state mandated positions. VACo further requests that the state budget be amended to increase jail per diems in the FY 2015 budget that will fully fund local and regional jails. Additionally, VACo requests the state to reimburse local and regional jails for the actual costs of state responsible inmates as determined by the Annual Jail Cost Report, published by the Compensation Board.

**Line of Duty**

VACo calls on the General Assembly to fully fund the Line of Duty Act (LODA) obligations and return LODA to a state program. LODA benefit eligibility determinations should be the responsibility of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission and not the State Comptroller's Office.

**Local Ordinance Violations**

VACo requests the repeal of budget language enacted by the 2012 General Assembly that required the deposit of local ordinance violation collections from General District Courts, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts, Combined District Courts and the Magistrate System to the State Treasury. This legislative action removed a source of local revenue for many localities.

**Short-Term Disability**

VACo urges the state to remove the short-term disability mandate from the new Hybrid Retirement Plan. Localities have already addressed short term disability issues through their leave and benefit policies.

**Unfunded Teacher Pension Liability**

Local governments and the state share responsibility for paying the cost of teacher pensions, but under GASB 68, Virginia local governments will have to begin accounting for both the state and local unfunded liabilities for teacher retirement plans on their FY 2015 financial statements. VACo urges the state to account for its proportional share of the liability by paying its current share of teacher pension contributions directly to VRS.

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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## **Priority**

### **Broadband**

VACo urges the Commonwealth and the Federal Government to assist communities in their efforts to deploy universal affordable access to broadband for all areas, particularly in underserved and rural areas while preserving local land use, permitting, fees and other local authority. Widespread deployment of broadband should be a top priority for the Commonwealth to ensure competitive economic advantages, improve public safety, provide quality educational opportunities and facilitate telemedicine and other modern health care initiatives. Assistance should include economic incentives as well as budgetary and statutory policies that facilitate broadband deployment and adoption. VACo also urges state support of local and regional authorities created under the Virginia Wireless Service Authorities Act, the preservation of the powers granted under the Act, support for Virginia Resources Authority and other favorable financing mechanisms for broadband projects and improvement of the quality and accuracy of the state’s broadband availability map.

### **Ethics Reform**

The Virginia Association of Counties supports common sense efforts to strengthen Virginia’s public ethics and conflicts of interest laws. VACo also supports efforts to make sure current and future changes to these laws are applicable and practical at the local level.

## **Positions**

### **Aid to Localities**

VACo requests that the Commonwealth use the most current population statistics available for the purposes of determining state aid to those localities that have experienced population growth in the 10-year period between the decennial enumerations. During that period, population statistics from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, the American Community Survey and from other established entities should be used by the Commonwealth. The General Assembly should consider the many fixed costs of services in determining aid to those localities that have remained stable or lost population.

### **Annexation Moratorium**

VACo supports full funding of the Commonwealth’s HB 599 commitments. VACo also supports the continuation of the current moratorium on city annexations regardless of whether those commitments have been met. The moratorium has promoted more intergovernmental cooperation between cities and counties, allowed counties to plan for

434 future growth and economic development within their borders and has allowed counties  
435 to be able to protect their tax base in order to provide needed services to citizens.

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437 **Collective Bargaining for Public Employees**

438 VACo opposes any effort to mandate collective bargaining for public employees.

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440 **Dillon Rule/Local Authority**

441 VACo supports relaxation of the Dillon Rule by granting and maintaining local authority  
442 and autonomy including land use matters, revenue measures, procurement and other  
443 issues of local concern. The General Assembly should extend powers currently granted to  
444 some local governments to all other local governments.

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446 **Election Costs and Districts**

447 VACo supports legislation that would decrease the costs of elections to localities. These  
448 costs include primaries, voting equipment, personnel and voting places. Cost reduction  
449 solutions include requiring parties to pay for primary elections, having one date for  
450 primary elections, using paper ballots, establishing countywide voting places and other  
451 similar measures. The state should provide adequate funding to localities for optical scan  
452 and other voting equipment and registrar costs. VACo also supports legislation to  
453 minimize or eliminate Split Voting Precincts.

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455 **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**

456 VACo opposes changes to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act that would impose  
457 additional burdens on localities.

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459 **Grievance Hearings**

460 VACo supports legislation authorizing localities to utilize an administrative hearing  
461 officer instead of a three-member panel. VACo also supports providing immunity to local  
462 government employees, officers, volunteers, administrative hearing officers and panel  
463 members for claims arising out of participation in personnel grievance procedures.

464

465 **Immigration Reform**

466 VACo maintains a strong commitment to ensuring the security and safety of our  
467 communities. Legislative reforms must recognize the contributions of immigrants to a  
468 complex economy, as well as the costs associated with welcoming immigrants into our  
469 communities. The U.S. Congress must enact comprehensive immigration reform that  
470 provides a funding stream sufficient to address the fiscal impact on state and local  
471 governments for any guest worker program and earned legalization program. The state  
472 and local governments require a national immigration system that is fully funded at the  
473 federal level, recognizes the realities of the marketplace, eases the fiscal stress on states  
474 and localities and properly secures our borders. It is important that the federal  
475 government establish a clear and understandable path to citizenship for those who are  
476 eligible.

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**Interoperability**

VACo supports the state’s goal that by 2015 agencies and their representatives at the local, regional, state and federal levels will be able to communicate using compatible systems to respond more effectively during day-to-day operations and major emergencies. Local governments require dedicated federal and state funding sources to achieve this goal.

**Pay Day Lending**

VACo supports legislation to set a total cap of 25 percent for all interest, fees and other charges for payday lending and other similar businesses such as car title loans.

**Public Notice, Public Hearing and Public Procurement**

VACo supports legislation to reduce required advertising for public notices, public hearings and public procurement including legislation to give localities the option to use electronic or other forms of notification as an alternative to newspaper advertising.

**Sovereign Immunity**

VACo opposes any substantive change in local governments’ present defense of sovereign immunity. VACo opposes bringing counties under the Virginia Tort Claims Act.

**State Assistance for Police Departments**

VACo supports increasing state assistance for police departments through “599” Aid to Localities. This funding is designed to equalize state funding between counties in which the sheriff department provides law enforcement and those cities, counties and towns with a police department.

**Unfunded Mandates**

VACo opposes unfunded mandates and shifting of fiscal responsibility from the state to localities for existing programs by the Commonwealth. When funding for a mandated program is altered, the mandate should be suspended until full funding is restored. When legislation with a cost to localities is passed by the General Assembly, the cost should be borne by the Commonwealth, and the legislation should contain a sunset clause providing that the mandate is not binding on localities until funding by the Commonwealth is provided.

**Workers’ Compensation Medical Costs**

VACo supports the adoption of Medicare-based fee schedules for setting medical provider fees in worker’s compensation cases in Virginia, instead of the prevailing community rate standard now used.

# HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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## Priority

### **Health and Human Resources Funding**

VACo supports transparent state policies and funding to ensure the Commonwealth’s at-risk families have access to high quality and appropriate services. The Commonwealth should fully fund localities for state mandated human services and provide the necessary program flexibility to enable localities to provide comprehensive and case-tailored services.

## Positions

### **Aging/Long-Term Care**

VACo supports efforts that allow the elderly to remain at home in a safe and secure environment. VACo urges the General Assembly to provide sufficient funding for companion services, in-home services and home delivered meals.

### **Behavioral Health Care**

VACo supports continued funding by the Commonwealth sufficient to allow community services boards to meet adequately the charge of providing services through a community-based system of care.

### **Comprehensive Services Act**

VACo supports a requirement that the State Executive Council and Comprehensive Services Act follow the Administrative Process Act in promulgating, amending, or repealing regulations. Furthermore, VACo supports state CSA policies that prevent the shift of costs of services for at-risk children fully to local government CPMT-approved services.

VACo supports reasonable efforts by the state to give localities an opportunity to improve practice following audit findings, and that denial of funds be implemented in a rational, progressive fashion similar to that proposed by IV-E funding and other state and federal funding sources.

### **Early Intervention**

VACo supports sustainable funding for Part C Early Intervention, which is an entitlement program that provides services for Virginia’s infants and toddlers. VACo also requests the General Assembly address funding concerns by increasing state general funding. Underfunding this entitlement program puts pressure on local revenues to fill funding gaps for this mandated service.

569 **Group Homes**  
570 VACo supports the ability of a locality to hold a public meeting when a group home is  
571 established in the locality’s jurisdiction. Further, VACo encourages the state to enforce  
572 appropriate regulation of group homes.

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574 **Healthcare**  
575 VACo supports continued state funding for offered dental care, school nurses and  
576 preventive services and maternal and child health programs through local health  
577 departments and local school systems. VACo encourages the state to prepare for  
578 emergency health services access to care and develop and fund incentives that would  
579 alleviate the nursing shortages felt in many communities.

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581 **Local EMS Involvement**  
582 VACo supports increased local involvement in state EMS planning to ensure statewide  
583 needs are met.

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585 **Prevention Services**  
586 VACo supports increased state general funding for startup costs associated with  
587 community-based service programs. VACo recognizes that programs, such as Healthy  
588 Families, Comprehensive Health Investment Project (CHIP) of Virginia, Smart  
589 Beginnings, and the Resource Mother, as important models and requests the General  
590 Assembly provide additional funding for these home-based activities. Reductions in  
591 prevention programs will put numerous youth at risk of high-end CSA placements.

592  
593 **Telehealth**  
594 VACo supports the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to  
595 support long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related  
596 education, public health and health administration.

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## TRANSPORTATION

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602  
603 **Priorities**

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605 **Devolution of Secondary Roads**  
606 VACo opposes legislative or administrative initiatives that would transfer to counties the  
607 responsibility for the construction, maintenance or operation of new and existing roads.

608  
609 **Local-State Transportation Funding and Cooperation**  
610 VACo remains concerned about the lack of secondary and urban construction funding.  
611 Due to legislative changes in 2012, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) has

612 the authority to allocate up to \$500 million to priority projects before funds are provided  
613 to the construction fund. It is imperative that each region receive its share of this  
614 funding. Secondary and urban road programs are not expected to receive new funds until  
615 FY 2017. This delay is concerning, as localities have not received funds for this program  
616 since FY 2010.

617  
618 Additionally, VACo is concerned that the 2012 transportation bill provides VDOT and  
619 the CTB the ability to decide whether a local transportation plan is consistent with the  
620 Commonwealth's priorities. While efforts to better coordinate local and state  
621 transportation planning are appreciated, we want to ensure that land use planning remains  
622 a local responsibility.

623  
624

## 625 **Positions**

626

### 627 **Billboards**

628 VACo supports a requirement that proposed billboards in the Virginia Department of  
629 Transportation's (VDOT) right of way conform to local zoning and other applicable  
630 ordinances and local approval processes.

631

632

### 633 **Corridors of Statewide Significance**

634 VACo opposes the reduction of local control that is associated with the Commonwealth  
635 Transportation Board's process of designating Corridors of Statewide Significance.

636

### 637 **Highway Tolls**

638 VACo opposes the installation of toll facilities on Virginia's interstate highways until the  
639 Commonwealth Transportation Board has thoroughly reviewed and assessed the  
640 components of a long-term capital improvement program, has identified and compared all  
641 available funding alternatives and has adopted a proposal that matches capital  
642 improvements with realistically available funding sources. Further, VACo supports  
643 legislation to require that prior approval of the General Assembly shall be obtained prior  
644 to the imposition and collection of tolls on any interstate highway in Virginia.

645

### 646 **Inter-Directional Signage Program**

647 VACo supports a requirement that any signs installed under VDOT's Inter-directional  
648 Sign Program, including the Tourist Oriented Directional Signs Program, conform to  
649 local ordinances, including any local approval processes.

650

### 651 **Local Public Hearings**

652 VACo supports the local ability and option to request a second public hearing when new  
653 federal funds are allocated to the Virginia Department of Transportation for projects in a  
654 locality's jurisdiction.

655

656



657 **Maintenance Priorities**  
658 VACo supports a requirement imposed upon VDOT to implement a notification plan  
659 with the local governing body to establish maintenance priorities.

660  
661 **Parking**  
662 VACo supports general authority for counties to adopt ordinances regulating, including  
663 prohibiting, the parking of boats, RVs, utility trailers, campers, etc. on subdivision  
664 streets.

665  
666 **Rail Enhancement Fund**  
667 VACo supports authority for counties to approve Rail Enhancement Fund projects funded  
668 by the state and constructed within their jurisdictions.

669  
670 **Rest Stops**  
671 VACo supports federal legislation to allow commercialization of rest stops on the  
672 interstate highway system in Virginia.

673  
674 **Road Construction and Maintenance**  
675 VACo supports legislation that would prohibit VDOT from requiring localities to  
676 administer any transportation project without the consent of the local governing body. In  
677 addition, VACo supports amendments to legislation that would require VDOT to  
678 administer all projects financed by VDOT, unless otherwise agreed to by the county. If  
679 VDOT cannot administer the projects due to limited resources, then VDOT's consultant  
680 services shall be utilized or the locality shall have the option to use VDOT's consultant  
681 services on locally administered projects financed by VDOT.

682  
683 **Securities for Subdivision Streets**  
684 VACo supports authority for a local governing body to determine requirements for  
685 developer securities for the construction of subdivision streets.

686  
687 **Separation of Federal Funds**  
688 VACo supports granting authority to counties, working with VDOT, to determine the  
689 percentage of federal funds applied to all secondary road projects within their  
690 jurisdiction. In addition, for any locally administered road projects, the county should be  
691 allowed to use all state funds, as long as they can obligate their federal funds on other  
692 projects.

693  
694 **Service Contracts**  
695 VACo supports administrative changes allowing all localities to use professional service  
696 contracts similar to other agencies of the Commonwealth (i.e., Virginia Department of  
697 General Services).

698  
699 **Transportation Network Companies**  
700 VACo supports state regulation of transportation network companies as needed to ensure  
701 proper safety, liability, cleanliness, insurance coverage, local revenue, consideration of

702 access for disabled riders, and equitable service in communities. VACo also supports the  
703 option of continued regulation of taxi companies at the local level.

704 **Truck Size and Weight (Federal)**

705 VACo strongly opposes any legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight beyond  
706 the current federal standards, thereby stressing the capacity of the Commonwealth's road  
707 systems and putting highways, roads and bridges at risk of increased damage or  
708 deterioration.

709

710 **Use of Transportation Tax Revenue**

711 VACo opposes taking any HB2313 transportation tax revenues for the use of non-  
712 transportation purposes.

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