

Virginia Association of Counties

2024 Annual Conference Agenda



Saturday, November 9

- 11 a.m.** **VACo Annual Golf Tournament** | Old Golf Course
(Ticketed Event)
Golf Swag and Prizes sponsored by **OneDigital**
Golf Beverage Cart sponsored by **Virginia American Water**
- 5 p.m.** **VACo Budget Committee** | Monroe
- 5 p.m.** **VAcorp Board of Directors Meeting** | Dominion
- 7 p.m.** **PMA Architecture Welcome Reception** | Tower Suite

Sunday, November 10

- 7:30 a.m.** **Nondenominational Worship Service** | Tower Suite
The Honorable **William M. McCarty**, First Vice President,
Virginia Association of Counties, and Supervisor, Isle of Wight
County
- 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** **Exhibitor Setup** | Exhibit Hall
- 9 a.m.** **VACo Board of Directors** | Crystal Empire
- 10 a.m.** **VAcorp Business Meeting** | Dominion
- 10 a.m. - Noon** **Welcome Back to the Homestead Gathering!** Refreshments
and Light Fare | The Jefferson Parlor
Sponsored by **Motorola Solutions**
- 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.** **Annual Conference Registration** | Mount Vernon Foyer
- Conference Tote Bags sponsored by **Moseley Architects**
 - Large Welcome Sign sponsored by **All Points Broadband**
 - Annual Conference App sponsored by **Schneider Electric**
 - Annual Conference WiFi sponsored by **Aetna**
 - Annual Conference Lanyards sponsored by **Aetna**
 - Yoga Branded Mats & Towels sponsored by **FirstNet**
- 1 - 4:15 p.m.** **Sunday Afternoon Refreshment Break** | MV/ST Rotunda
Sponsored by **PMA Architecture**
- 1 - 2:30 p.m.** **Steering Committee Meetings**
- Agriculture and Rural Affairs | Piedmont
 - Community, Economic, and Workforce Development | Appalachian
 - Education | Stratford
 - Health and Human Resources | Mount Vernon

- 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.** **Exhibit Hall Opens** | Exhibit Hall
Sponsored by **Nationwide**
- 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.** **Professional Headshot & Group Photo Booth** | Exhibit Hall
For Conference Attendees (including Exhibitors)
Sponsored by **Virginia Housing**
- 2 - 5 p.m.** **Sunday Afternoon Social and Refreshments** | Exhibit Hall
Sponsored by **Moseley Architects**
- 2:15 - 4:15 p.m.** **Partner/Sponsor Solution Showcase** | Ballroom Foyer
- 2:15-2:30pm | **Aetna** | *“Aetna’s Commitment to Virginia”*
 - 2:45-2:55pm | **Strata Clean Energy** | *“Community Focused Projects”*
 - 3-3:15pm | **VAcorp** | *“Emerging Risks Facing Virginia’s Counties”*
 - 3:20-3:35pm | **OneDigital** | *“Wellness in the Public Sector”*
 - 3:40-3:55pm | **Pierce Insurance** | *“A Look at Customized Benefits”*
 - 4-4:15pm | **Nationwide** | *“Protected Retirement in the Nationwide Deferred Compensation Program”*
- 2:45 - 4:15 p.m.** **Steering Committee Meetings**
- **Environment, Energy, and Land Use** | Appalachian
 - **Finance and Elections** | Mount Vernon
 - **General Government** | Stratford
 - **Transportation** | Piedmont
- 4:15 - 4:45 p.m.** **VACo Drawing** | Ballroom Foyer
Golf Prizes Awarded

4:45 - 5:30 p.m. Regional Caucuses to Nominate Representatives on VACo Board of Directors

- Region 1 | Piedmont
- Region 5 | Appalachian
- Region 6 | Dominion
- Region 7 | Mount Vernon
- Region 8 | Tower Suites
- Region 10 | Stratford
- Region 11 | Blue Ridge
- Region 12 | Wilson

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Sunday Evening Opening Reception | Crystal and Empire
Sponsored by **Dominion Energy**
Sponsored by **Blue Line Solutions**

6:30 p.m. VACo Annual Banquet | Regency Ballroom
(Must present Banquet ticket to attend)

PRESIDING: The Honorable **Ann H. Mallek**, President,
Virginia Association of Counties, and Supervisor,
Albemarle County

WELCOME: Bath County

INVOCATION: The Honorable **William M. McCarty**,
First Vice President, Virginia Association of Counties,
and Supervisor, Isle of Wight County

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. VACo Dessert Social | Commonwealth Room
Sponsored by **National Association of Counties**
Sponsored by **Gilbane**
Sponsored by **ePlus Inc.** and **Cisco Partner**

8 - 10 p.m. **Zzzz's for a Nightcap Hospitality** | Presidential Lounge
Come join ZMM before some Zzzz's for a Nightcap at the Presidential Lounge. Open to all attendees.
Sponsored by **ZMM**

8:30 p.m. **Premier Partners/Sponsors Hospitality Suites/DJ in DownTime/Trivia Games** | DownTime

Monday, November 11

7 a.m. **Resolutions Committee** | Dominion

7:30 a.m. **Exhibit Hall Opens** | Exhibit Hall

7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Professional Headshot & Group Photo Booth** | Exhibit Hall
For Conference Attendees (including Exhibitors)
Sponsored by **Virginia Housing**

7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. **Annual Conference Registration** | Mount Vernon Foyer

7:50 - 8:30 a.m. **Partner/Sponsor Solution Showcase** | Ballroom Foyer

- 7:50-8:10am | **Blue Line Solutions** *"Revenue or Safety: The Real Debate in Speed Enforcement Technology"*
- 8:15-8:30am | **three+one** | *"Confident County Finances in a Dynamic Rate Environment"*

8 a.m. **Monday Morning Coffee Break** | Exhibit Hall & Ballroom Foyer
Sponsored by **Republic Services**
Sponsored by **Branch Group**

8:30 a.m.

OPENING GENERAL SESSION | Regency

Ballroom

Sponsored by **Virginia Resources Authority**

PRESIDING: The Honorable **Ann H. Mallek**, President, Virginia Association of Counties, and Supervisor, Albemarle County

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS: Police Department Color Guard, Roanoke County

Top 3 Achievement Awards Recognitions

• KEYNOTE SPEAKERS •

The Honorable **Gerald E. Connolly (Invited)** | U.S. House of Representatives | Virginia 11th District

Military Appreciation and Leadership Lessons

It's Veterans Day, and we will recognize and honor our Veterans. We are privileged to have decorated veterans who serve as County Supervisors, and they will share their experiences and how military leadership applies to county service.

The Honorable **Victor S. Angry** | Supervisor, Prince William County

The Honorable **Mike R. Turner** | Supervisor, Loudoun County

The Honorable **Sean M. Davis** | Supervisor, Hanover County

Matt Chase | CEO/Executive Director, National Association of Counties

10 – 11:15 a.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

STATE BUDGET OUTLOOK | Mount Vernon

MODERATOR: The Honorable **Dan Storck**, Supervisor, Fairfax County

SPEAKER: **James J. Regimbal, Jr.**, VACo Economist, and Principal, Fiscal Analytics, Ltd.

Revisions to the state biennium budget will be a top priority for the 2025 General Assembly, and we can expect further conversations about major funding priorities, such as the recommendations of the recent Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission study of K-12, as well as additional discussion of tax reform proposals. Prepare to advocate for your community's budget needs by learning about the major components of state revenues, key state budget pressures, and opportunities to meet county priorities.

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER WITH OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS |

Piedmont

MODERATOR: The Honorable **Pam Carter**, Supervisor, Augusta County

SPEAKERS: **Charlie Lintecum**, Director of Operations, Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority; **The Honorable Daniel J.**

Schmitt, Henrico County; **Larry Barton**, County Administrator, Dickenson County

How can counties make the best use of their opioid settlement dollars? What are the elements of a successful application to the Opioid Abatement Authority? Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority staff and representatives from two counties that are successfully using settlement funds will share advice and lessons learned.

A CONVERSATION ON CONSERVATION AND RURAL AFFAIRS | Stratford

MODERATOR: The Honorable **Sallie Wolfe-Garrison**, Supervisor, Rockingham County

SPEAKERS: The Honorable **Richard H. Stuart**, Senate District 25; **Perry Hickman**, State Director for Virginia, USDA Rural Development

Join us for a dynamic panel discussion on conservation and rural affairs. This engaging event will highlight the critical intersection of conservation efforts and the unique challenges faced by rural communities across Virginia. Panelists, through the lens of the federal and state government, will discuss the various form of land conservation, the benefits seen through the preservation of natural resources, and innovative strategies and programs that seek to support rural localities. This conversation aims to inspire leaders and to share ideas that promote ecological health and the vitality of Virginia's rural landscapes.

CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN VIRGINIA | Blue Ridge

MODERATOR: The Honorable **Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch**, Supervisor, Floyd County

SPEAKERS: The Honorable **C.E. Cliff Hayes**, House District 77; **Dr. Tamara Holmes**, Director, Office of Broadband, VDHCD

Historic state and federal investments in broadband infrastructure have put Virginia on the path to connecting all communities to fast and reliable internet. \$1.4 billion in federal funds through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program have been allocated to Virginia to close this digital divide. In addition to building the infrastructure to connect approximately 100,000 remaining locations with no, or inadequate, internet service, BEAD funds will go towards developing innovative program to invest in non-deployment uses such as broadband adoption and affordability. This session will provide an overview of these programs and how counties can ensure their communities are fully participating in connecting to the internet.

11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. - CONCURRENT SESSIONS

MENTAL HEALTH IN K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION |

Mount Vernon

MODERATOR: Gina Patterson, Executive Director, Virginia School Boards Association

SPEAKERS: The Honorable **Barbara A. Favola**; Senate District 40, and Chair, School Health Services Committee; The Honorable **Sam Rasoul**, House District 38, and Chair, House Education Committee; The Honorable **Sue P. Dibble**, Chair, Hanover County

The panel will discuss the critical role of mental health services in schools, highlighting recent legislative efforts by the General Assembly to enhance support systems for students. Topics will include the development of policies, resource allocation, and collaboration between schools and local governments to address mental health challenges. This forum aims to foster community dialogue and implement solutions driven by both state legislation and local initiatives.

VIRGINIA’S CHALLENGING ENERGY LANDSCAPE |

Piedmont

MODERATOR: The Honorable **Juli Briskman**, Supervisor, Loudoun County

SPEAKERS: The Honorable **David W. Marsden**, Senate District 35; and **John Larson**, Director of Public Policy and Economic Development, Dominion Energy

In 2020 Virginia set targets for electric generation to be “zero” greenhouse gas emitting within the next 25 years. However, recent and projected energy demands, fueled in large part by data center growth, are raising concerns whether intermittent sources of renewable energy, such as utility-scale solar and wind, can meet the 24/7 power needs of this industry. This session will explore the challenges, as well as the opportunities, to meet these energy needs and what role counties play in the siting of not only solar and

wind, but other non-greenhouse gas emitting generation such as nuclear, hydrogen, and geothermal.

PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING: COUNTY

MANAGERS/ADMINISTRATORS | Blue Ridge

MODERATOR: Dean A. Lynch, Executive Director, Virginia Association of Counties

SPEAKERS: Dr. Joseph P. Casey, County Administrator, Chesterfield County; Cathy Schafrik, County Administrator, Greene County

This session provides a forum for discussion about emerging issues facing county administrators, including workforce recruitment and retention. This session is also an opportunity to help shape VACo’s new County Administrator Peer Learning Initiative, which is planned to launch in 2025.

REGIONAL WORKFORCE CHALLENGES | Stratford

MODERATOR: The Honorable James Walkinshaw, Supervisor, Fairfax County

SPEAKERS: The Honorable Terry G. Kilgore, House District 45; The Honorable W. Chad Green, Sr., House District 69;

Virginia is a recognized leader in business and economic development. However, not all areas of the state are poised to grow and compete for new development. One limiting factor is an adequate number of skilled workers to fill jobs for new and expanding businesses. This session will highlight state and regional efforts to address this shortage and what counties can do to build a trained workforce to meet demand.

12:45 p.m.

Deli Lunch | Exhibit Hall
Sponsored by **Strata Clean Energy**

12:45 p.m.

Virginia Local Government Managers Association Luncheon
| Crystal and Empire
(VLGMA members only | Must have ticket to attend)

1 p.m.

Credentials Committee | Monroe

1 – 1:40 p.m. **Partner/Sponsor Solution Showcase** | Ballroom Foyer

- 1-1:20pm | Moseley Architects | *“Money, Money, Money”*
- 1:25-1:40pm | Verizon | *“Partnering Together to Expand Broadband”*

1:15 p.m. **Lunch Refreshment Break** | Exhibit Hall
Sponsored by **Downey & Scott**

1:45 p.m. **Exhibitor Drawing** | Exhibit Hall
Exhibit Hall Lounge sponsored by **Nationwide**

2:45 - 4 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

HOUSING SOLUTIONS IN VIRGINIA | Stratford

MODERATOR:

SPEAKERS: The Honorable **David Bulova** (Invited), House District 11; **Shawn Utt**, County Administrator, Smyth County

Housing supply, both for purchase and rental, has been extremely limited in Virginia in recent years. The impacts have been felt statewide affecting affordability, employment, and economic development in both urban and rural areas. This session will focus on state and local efforts to address the need for more housing, of all types, and will highlight two counties that have developed exemplary programs that have been recognized by the VACo 2024 Achievement Awards.

CONNECTING THE COMMONWEALTH:

TRANSPORTATION IN VIRGINIA | Mount Vernon

MODERATOR AND SPEAKER: The Honorable **Andrea O. Bailey**, Supervisor, Prince William County

SPEAKERS: The Honorable **William M. McCarty, Sr.**, Supervisor, Isle of Wight County; The Honorable **Phil C. North**, Chairman, Roanoke County

There are incredible things happening within our multimodal transportation network. No matter where

you're headed, you are bound to pass construction, maintenance or other transportation projects on our various roads and railways. We are pleased to be joined by a roundtable of transportation leaders who will discuss the challenges and opportunities facing our commonwealth's transportation infrastructure. With a focus on collaborative solutions, this panel aims to inspire actionable dialogue and promote a more efficient, reliable, and sustainable transportation system in Virginia.

GET IN THE GAME: SPORTS TOURISM IN VIRGINIA | Piedmont

MODERATOR: Gage Harter, Director of Communications, Virginia Association of Counties

SPEAKERS: Jonathan D. Sweet, County Administrator, Pulaski County; **Dennis Bickmeier**, Executive Director, Henrico County Sports and Entertainment Authority; **J.C. Poma**, Executive Director of Sports, Visitation and Entertainment, Chesterfield County

Sports ETA, the trade association for the sports events and tourism industry, named Virginia in its Top 10 list of U.S. states in terms of the economic impact generated by sports tourism in 2023. The association's annual "State of the Industry Report" also revealed that sports tourism contributed nationally to a direct spending impact of \$52.2 billion, which generated a total economic impact of \$128 billion. This contribution supported 757,600 full-time and part-time jobs and contributed \$20.1 billion in taxes to various sectors of the economy. [According to a study by Virginia Tourism Corporation and Tourism Economics released in 2023](#), sports tourism in Virginia generated \$2.7 billion in direct spending in 2022 and accounted for nearly 8% of Virginia's overall visitor economy, directly contributing \$2.4 billion in visitor spending. Sports-related travelers spent \$7.3 million every day in Virginia in 2022. Additionally in 2022, sports tourism directly employed 28,138 Virginians and drove \$344 million in state & local tax revenues.

INNOVATIONS IN PUBLIC SAFETY | Blue Ridge

MODERATOR: The Honorable **Victor Angry**, VACo Second Vice President, and Supervisor, Prince William County

SPEAKERS: The Honorable **Mark D. Sickles**, House District 17; The Honorable **Joel C. Acree**, Chairman, Isle of Wight County; Representative, Blue Line Solutions

Ensuring the safety and security of communities is one of the primary responsibilities of local government. Panelists will discuss insights into potential strategies to recruit and retain top-tier first responders, changes in state and federal guidance impacting medication kits, looking for regional partnerships and force multipliers, and other pertinent issues such as budget constraints and the evolving demands placed on first responders.

- 4 p.m.** **Nominating Committee** | Dominion
Chaired by the Honorable **Mary Biggs**, Chair, Montgomery County
- 5:45 – 6:45 p.m.** **President’s Reception** | Crystal and Empire
Sponsored by **Robinson, Farmer, Cox**
- 8 p.m.** **Premier Partners/Sponsors Hospitality Suites/DJ in
DownTime/Trivia Games** | DownTime

Tuesday, November 12

- 8:30 a.m.** **Tuesday Morning Coffee Break** | Regency Ballroom Foyer
- 9 a.m.** **CLOSING GENERAL SESSION** | Regency
Ballroom

PRESIDING: The Honorable **Ann H. Mallek**, President, Virginia Association of Counties, and Supervisor, Albemarle County

**VIRGINIA CERTIFIED COUNTY SUPERVISORS’
GRADUATION**

• **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS** •

The Honorable **Chris Saxman** | Executive Director,
Virginia FREE | Former Delegate

The Honorable **David Toscano** | Attorney and Author
| Former Delegate

Former Delegates Saxman and Toscano will offer commentary on the state and national political landscape, including the 2024 elections and the outlook for Virginia elections in 2025. This session is a must-see for anyone with an interest in politics!

10:15 a.m.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING | Regency Ballroom

PRESIDING: The Honorable **Ann H. Mallek**, President,
Virginia Association of Counties, and Supervisor,
Albemarle County

NOON

ADJOURNMENT/CHECK OUT