

## Federal Regulatory Changes Could Impact Prescription Drug Box Program and Impose Significant Unfunded Mandates



Based on federal regulatory changes associated with the Drug Supply Chain Security Act, 21 U.S.C. § 351 et seq. (DSCSA), and the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act, 21 U.S.C. § 823, hospitals have indicated that they will no longer provide and exchange drug kits with Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers as of November 27, 2024, the date the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has indicated that it will begin enforcing additional requirements of the DSCSA impacting hospital pharmacies. This unique program to Virginia, also known colloquially as prescription drug boxes, has, for years, performed an important part of emergency service provision in Virginia, which is also uniquely reliant upon volunteer EMS providers, as it allows EMS vehicles to ensure they are fully stocked to provide needed drugs to patients in transport or at accident sites. While seemingly condoned by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the [Virginia Board of Pharmacy](#) (BOP) has opined that kit exchange process is not fully compliant with DEA requirements as drugs are not exclusively transferred between DEA registrants or provided to an EMS agency working as an extension of a specific hospital DEA registration. This could upend existing local EMS practices and impose significant financial and/or staffing burdens upon local governments.

According to guidance from the Virginia Regional EMS Medication Kit Transition Workgroup [Report](#) of February 2024, the DSCSA regulations, also known as “Track and Trace,” provide a carve out for EMS agencies regarding mandated tracking and reporting. Hospitals can provide medications to an EMS agency if they can transfer ownership and provide transaction information, transaction histories and transaction statements upon request. Compliance is not possible with the current regional drug box exchange system utilized by many EMS councils where a box is not owned by/transferred to any single agency or hospital, the medications in the box have originated from multiple hospitals, and where there is no origin information accompanying any of the medications in the box.

Once made aware of these potential changes, VACo [notified](#) County Administrators in April of 2024 about the need to engage with the BOP as well as working with our representative on the [State EMS Advisory Board](#) to try to mitigate the potential impact of any regulatory changes. The State EMS Advisory Board formed a Virginia Regional EMS Medication Kit Transition Workgroup, the final report of which may be accessed [here](#).

The BOP and EMS stakeholders had previously worked together to align regulations with new federal requirements and provide a solution to ensure EMS providers can provide drugs to patients as needed. To do so, many EMS agencies must obtain controlled substance registrations (“CSR”) and subsequent registration from the DEA to purchase their own drug stock and transfer to associated EMS stations. The unique nature of emergency medical services requires the Board of Pharmacy to implement regulatory changes to ensure the process of obtaining CSRs and complying with drug requirements is not impractical or overly onerous on EMS entities while conforming to federal allowances for obtaining a DEA registration.

Based on feedback provided during the public comment period, in May of 2024, the Board of Pharmacy unanimously passed the proposed regulatory changes as Emergency Regulations, initiating a Notice of Intent for Regulatory Action. The regulations still must undergo an administrative review process, involving the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Planning and Budget, and Governor, which may take approximately 10 weeks to complete. Emergency regulations are temporary and must be replaced with permanent regulations. The BOP also repealed their previous Guidance Document 110-4, Virginia Board of Pharmacy Emergency Medical Services Drug Kits, as some of the guidance is now inconsistent with language adopted by the board prior to the May 2024 meeting. Some of the changes approved include:

- Allowing EMS agencies within a jurisdiction to be served by a single EMS Agency with a CSR/DEA license.
- Allowing EMS agencies within a region to be served by the Regional Council with a single CSR license.
- Allowing for continuation of Hospital 1:1 Exchange of Schedule 6 medications assuming compliance with federal law and regulation.
- Allowing anyone with Virginia EMS certification at any level authorized to administer Medications to have access to medications under a supervising authority for the purposes of medication supply/resupply management.
- Allowing medications and controlled substances to be transported in vehicles owned by EMS agencies, Regional Councils or Jurisdictions and used by EMS agencies and Regional Councils for the purpose of medical supply/resupply management.
- Removing the requirement for alarm systems for the temporary storage of medication kits in an EMS Agency registered or designated location when the vehicle they are stored on must be removed from service for repair or maintenance and when only Schedule 6 drugs are stored in the building.
- Requiring medication kits containing Schedule 2-5 medications to be sealed.
- Conforming BOP regulations to the expected minimum regulations required by FDA and DEA for EMS.
- Other changes reconciling differences in language and clarifying meanings.

These changes adopted by BOP do much to address fundamental challenges EMS providers and local governments face in trying to comply with the federal regulations.

VACo is currently exploring additional options with state and federal partners to further reduce any administrative burdens or unfunded mandates imposed by these federal requirements, including correspondence to the FDA, DEA, and Virginia’s congressional delegation. VACo will continue to provide updates to members on this issue. A useful compilation of additional information and resources provided by the Peninsulas EMS Councils can be found [here](#).

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

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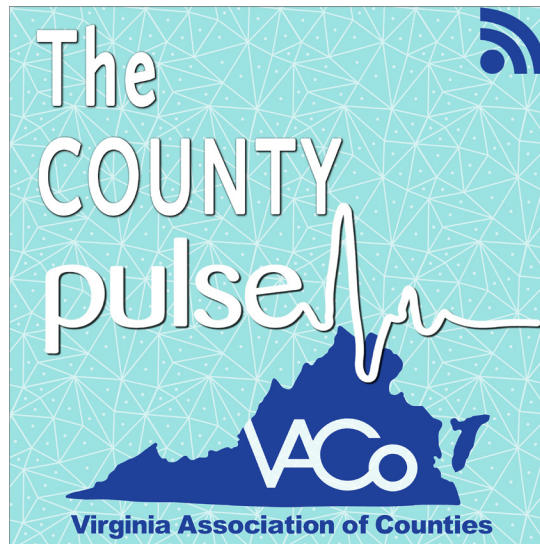


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## Season 4 | 2024

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#### **Additional Resources**

- [Loudoun County Specific Design Standards for Data Centers](#) – see page 55
- [Loudoun County Project Plan for Data Center Standards and Locations](#)

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### Energy Landscape of Virginia | Data Centers | August 13 | Episode 2

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## Visit Northumberland County and the Northumberland County Historic Courthouse

**Location:** 72 Monument Place / Judicial Place

**Built:** 1850 – 1851 / 1900 – 1901

**Style:** Queen Anne and Colonial Revival

**Architect:** John Donohoo / Bartholomew Smith

**Contractor:** John Donohoo / B F Smith Fireproofing Company

**Description:** The building faces east and is a two story white colored brick and concrete structure. The building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of Heathsville. The building has a raised basement. The east front has a wide porch supported by four sets of double columns rising to a balcony on the second story. The first and second story entrances are arched. On the roof is a central dormer with a small window. Plain pilasters define the corners of the building, and the eaves are embellished with a heavy wooden cornice with oversized modillions. The roof is hipped. In the interior, the building is bisected by a central passage leading to offices on the main story. A handsome plaster ceiling medallion probably dating to 1851 remains in the central passage. The second story accommodates the courtroom and a broad lobby. The old courtroom has walls which are lined with old tablets listing the names of many early county leaders. The building was remodeled in 1900 to 1901. The architect was Bartholomew Smith and the contractor was B F Smith Fireproofing Company. The annexes on the north and south sides of the building were built in 1964 and 1974. The building houses the county administration.

**History:** The county was created in 1648 and Heathsville, then called Northumberland Court House until 1798, became the county seat in 1680. The first courthouse was built in 1660 to 1663 in the Hull Neck area. In 1679, the courthouse was moved to Coan along the Coan River near Heathsville. The second courthouse was a plain framed structure with plaster interior designed and built by John Huglett in Heathsville in 1680 to 1681. The third courthouse was a brick structure built by Joseph Humphryes in 1703 to 1706. The fourth and present courthouse was built in 1850 to 1851 and substantially remodeled in 1900 to 1901. The County Courts Building was constructed in 1996 to 1997.

**SOURCE:** [courthouses.co](http://courthouses.co)

# VACo 2024 REGIONAL MEETINGS

## IN-PERSON MEETINGS

REGIONS 1&4 - MAY 1 | PRINCE GEORGE

REGION 2 - MAY 22 | JAMES CITY

REGION 13 - JUNE 11 | SCOTT

REGIONS 10&12 - JULY 10 | FLOYD

REGION 3 - JULY 25 | HANOVER

## VIRTUAL MEETINGS

REGIONS 5&9&11 - AUGUST 19

REGIONS 6&7 - SEPTEMBER 23

REGION 8 - SEPTEMBER 26



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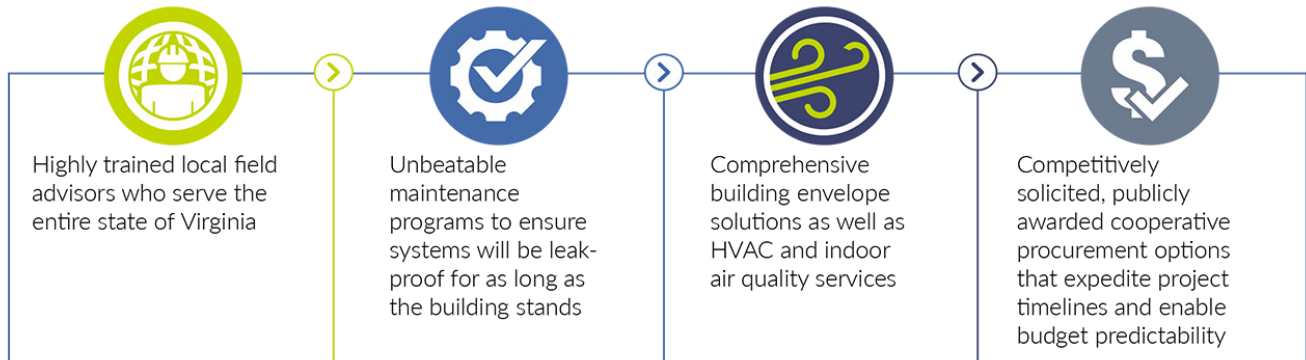
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## Different Perspectives Shared at County Officials' Summit

VACo was proud to host local, state, and federal leaders at this year's County Officials' Summit on August 15. It's always a good day when leaders from all parts of the Commonwealth come together in support of their communities.

VACo President Ann Mallek had the honor of welcoming nearly 200 officials from dozens of localities. President Mallek also introduced City of Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney, who energized the audience with a passionate speech about the impact of local governments on its people. Mayor Stoney touted Richmond's improvements in public education, housing, and public safety.

Following Mayor Stoney was a Q&A session with House Majority Leader Charniele Herring and Delegate Terry Kilgore. Leader Herring is the first woman and African-American elected as Majority Leader. Delegate Kilgore has served honorably in the House since 1993.

The pair traded answers on caucus top priorities, biggest areas of cooperation between the parties, state budget priorities, and other legislative questions. They also shared their perspectives on pre-emption of local authority.

After a healthy dose of legislative Q&A, the Summit pivoted to more specific issues – artificial intelligence and housing.

Senator Lashrecse Aird talked about artificial intelligence and how it could impact state and local governments. She discussed in more detail her bill, SB 487, which directs the Joint Commission on

[More on Next Page](#)

Technology and Science (JCOTS) to conduct an analysis of the use of artificial intelligence by public bodies in the Commonwealth.

Delegate Carrie Coyner shared her viewpoint on housing, and what she's seen recently proposed in the legislature. In the past, Delegate Coyner has sponsored several housing bills, and her legal practice includes a focus on land use law. Housing has been a source of discussion at many VACo regional meetings.

The third block featured Virginia Political Trailblazers, who continue to forge a path for a better Commonwealth.

Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares spoke first and stressed the importance of remaining vigilant in the fight against Fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid like morphine but up to 100 times stronger. Attorney General Miyares also focused on public safety and the need for Virginia to continue its fight against crime.

Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears talked about her desire to prevent imposing more unfunded mandates on localities. She also emphasized the importance of local and state leaders engaging dialogue and working in partnership.



Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger joined the discussion by speaking about her work representing Virginia in Congress, which includes efforts on substance use disorder prevention and treatment, improvements in agriculture and the postal service, and the fight against opioids like Fentanyl.

VACo thanks all speakers and attendees for making the Summit a success. We also thank and appreciate all the support from our sponsors.

Thank you to our amazing Summit sponsors!

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# VACo Invites Leaders to Run for Second Vice President



Virginia Association of Counties (VACo)  
1207 East Main Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

August 19, 2024

Dear County Official,

As the Chairperson of the VACo Nominations Committee, I am reaching out to invite dedicated and passionate individuals to consider running for the position of VACo Second Vice President. This role is crucial in shaping the future direction and success of our association.

If you are interested in serving in this leadership capacity, please submit your resume or biography along with a statement of interest to Dean Lynch, VACo Executive Director. Your submission should reflect your qualifications, experiences, and vision for VACo.

We are grateful for your willingness to contribute your time and expertise to our association. Your participation in this process is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Please send your materials to Dean Lynch at the following address or email:

**Dean Lynch**, Executive Director  
Virginia Association of Counties (VACo)  
1207 East Main Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
**Email:** [dlynch@vaco.org](mailto:dlynch@vaco.org)

Thank you for your commitment to VACo and your interest in serving in a leadership role.

Sincerely,



**Mary W. Biggs**  
Chairperson, VACo Nominations Committee

## Culpeper County Administrator Egertson to retire, longtime employee appointed successor

**REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE CULPEPER TIMES**

Culpeper Times | Aug 6, 2024

The Culpeper County Board of Supervisors announced County Administrator John Egertson will be retiring and leaving his post at the end of January 2025.

The board announced Tuesday it has appointed longtime county employee Samuel McLearen as county administrator upon Egertson's retirement, effective Feb. 1, 2025, according to a news release.

Egertson was hired initially in 1986 as a planning technician but rose through multiple promotions in his tenure with the county, most notably serving as its planning director for 25 years.

As county administrator, Egertson helped lead the county through the COVID pandemic, oversaw the efforts which led to the construction of the Culpeper Technical Education Center and the Culpeper Fieldhouse, and he was instrumental in many other important projects and initiatives. Under his leadership, the county has maintained excellent fiscal status and boasts some of the lowest tax rates in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the release noted.

Egertson informed the board of his plans in January, a full year in advance, in order to ensure a smooth plan for the transition to his successor in the position.

Incoming county administrator McLearen has been a Culpeper County employee for 24 years, having followed the identical path of Egertson. He was initially hired by Egertson as a planning technician, followed by promotions to zoning administrator and then to his current position of planning director.

McLearen has a bachelor's degree in geography from Mary Washington College and is a certified zoning administrator, certified floodplain manager and certified transportation manager. He has a wife and five children.

"John Egertson will be greatly missed, as he has done a great deal to serve this community, but the Board is fortunate to have such a qualified and prepared individual in McLearen who comes from in-house to take on this critical role with the county," Board Chairman Paul Bates said in the release.

West Fairfax District Supervisor Gary Deal, who served as chairman for four years prior to Bates, which was the majority of Egertson's tenure in the position, said, "It was a pleasure to work closely with John during my time as chair. John is simply the best government liaison I have worked with in my career. Together we were able to accomplish some very important projects during some tumultuous times. Sam has also been a big part of many county initiatives and he is well-suited and well-prepared to serve as our county administrator."



**John Egertson and Sam McLearen**  
Courtesy photos



**COUNTY OF FAUQUIER  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 12, 2024

**Fauquier County Announces New Director of Human Resources**

**Warrenton, Virginia** – Fauquier County Administrator, Janelle Downes, is pleased to announce that Ms. Kimberlee Brown has been hired to take the lead as the Director of Human Resources for Fauquier County Government and Fauquier County Public Schools, effective August 5, 2024. As Director, Ms. Brown will lead the consolidated Department of Human Resources. The Department provides recruitment, retention, payroll, and employee benefit services for the County Government and Public Schools.

Ms. Brown comes to Fauquier County from Roanoke City Public Schools where she was the Executive Director of Human Resources. Ms. Brown has over eight years of progressive HR leadership experience in state government, school, and municipal sectors, bringing experience in leadership, organizational development, and effective management of human capital.

Ms. Brown holds a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) certification and has a Master's degree in Public Administration and Policy from American University. Ms. Brown noted, “I am honored to join Fauquier County as the Director of Human Resources. I look forward to collaborating with both the County Government and Public Schools to support our dedicated employees and ensure that we continue to attract and retain top talent. Together, we will foster a positive and productive work environment that empowers our workforce to achieve their best, all in service of our community.”

Ms. Downes states, “the human resources function is an essential role for both the County Government and School Division. We are excited that Ms. Brown is joining our team and looks forward to working closely with her on the largest County and School Division’s assets – our people.”

(ENDS)

Southampton County Courthouse  
Photos Credit: Charles Buffington

Other Southampton  
County Courthouse  
Photos | [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#)



## 3 Principles to Revitalize Historic County Buildings

### By Andrew Moore

Each of Virginia's 95 counties boasts at least one property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Although this fact isn't too surprising, given the Commonwealth's extensive history, it's still notable. Many of the structures on the National Register and Virginia's Landmarks Register are owned and operated by county governments.

Managing historic municipal facilities is a challenge every county in Virginia has faced. Some of these historic structures may seem far too outdated for our modern society, but in fact the buildings offer incredible opportunities for counties to honor their rich history while modernizing them to serve citizens today.

As counties across Virginia consider how to manage, renovate, and reimagine historic municipal buildings, they would be wise to follow three key principles.

#### ***Prioritize the Feasibility Study***

When renovating a historic municipal structure, a feasibility study is paramount. The study can't just be something that sits on a shelf; it should be detailed and actionable. Effective feasibility studies should include five components: (1) A clear set of goals and access to the right stakeholders so they are free to share their goals. (2) A plan for public engagement. (3) Detailed research of the structure and its defining characteristics. Additionally, it's often helpful to produce a Historic Structure Report (HSR), which identifies the significance of the extant historical fabric, along with a narrative of the changes over time. This report can be a useful tool to engage with stakeholders as part of comprehensive due diligence. (4) High quality design principles that can be applied to the project. (5) Realistic costs and timelines, including the need for contingencies.

[More on Next Page](#)

Prioritizing this study early is critical because it can help to better frame a project or reveal the need to pivot from an initial approach. In Charlotte County, an exhaustive feasibility study was conducted to research the potential to repurpose, adapt, modify, and expand the existing courthouse and adjacent General District Clerk's office. The result of the study was to pivot from the initial plan and build a new courthouse that was connected to the existing Circuit Court Clerk's office. This approach met the county's goals while enhancing the historic context of its civic center.

### ***Engage Key Constituencies***

Generating buy-in for historic renovation or rehabilitation should start early in the planning process. First, consider who uses the building and their needs. Second, have clear and frank conversations with key decision makers. As outlined in a feasibility plan, have a strategy to meet citizens where they are and cultivate their support. For example, consider working sessions with stakeholders to explore design options in a workshop setting. Engagement shouldn't end once shovels hit the ground; rather, consistent communication with your constituencies must continue until a project is fully complete.

### ***Plan for the Unexpected***

Historic structures require additional care and working with experts who have experience renovating, expanding, and rehabilitating buildings that are more than a century old. Their perspective is invaluable because surprises are inevitable. The adaptive reuse, historic renovation, and expansion of the courthouse complex in Southampton County offers a good example. During the excavation for the basement level of the new addition, the contractor encountered the original foundation of the 19<sup>th</sup> century courthouse, which revealed the curved apse style of the original design. Although this was interesting from a historical and archeological perspective, the ancient brickwork was not stable and required some unexpected retroactive foundation design to support the existing building. Another common discovery for historic structures, which was the case in Southampton, is that the existing building's components are not true, square, or level, despite assumptions to the contrary. This results in on-the-fly redesign or creative accommodations. Working with historic structures requires flexibility and a willingness to adapt.

### ***Benefits of Historic Renovations***

Investing in the renovation and rehabilitation of historic structures has many benefits. Most historic government buildings are located in a county's civic center and provide tangible cultural and social relevance. The design of these structures evokes confidence, inspiration, and pride. These buildings are physical embodiments of a county's legacy and should be respected. Furthermore, renovating historic structures could be more cost effective when compared to designing and building a new facility, especially if that proposed facility is located on a greenfield site that lacks critical infrastructure such as water, sewer, and power. Finally, renovating historic structures has less of an environmental impact than building new.

The three principles outlined above will provide a clear path for counties in Virginia to effectively address historic municipal structures and ensure those buildings can continue to serve citizens for years to come.

**Andrew Moore** AIA, LEED AP BD+C, CDT is a Senior Principal at Glavé & Holmes Architecture in Richmond, VA. As founder and Director of the firm's Urban Architecture Studio, he seeks to create buildings and places that enhance community life in the public realm. Andrew has worked with counties to reimagine and revitalize historic municipal facilities and complexes. He can be contacted at [amoore@glaveandholmes.com](mailto:amoore@glaveandholmes.com).

## VACo Region 3 Takes Off with Robust Discussion



On July 25, VACo staff had the pleasure of traveling to the Hanover County Airport for the fifth regional meeting of the year. All counties in VACo Region 3 were in attendance with Hanover County hosting the event.

The meeting began with a welcome from the Chair of the Hanover County Board of Supervisors, Susan Dibble, which then led into a discussion surrounding housing. Housing is a top issue among counties in the commonwealth and at the Region 3 meeting; county leaders from Chesterfield, Henrico and Hanover County discussed what they're doing locally to help with the housing crisis and increase housing affordability. Highlights of the discussion were counties touching on the many regional partnerships between local governments and other organizations as well as highlighting other ways to support the workforce like childcare programs.

We were delighted to be joined by so many legislators that represent Region 3 counties at the meeting. Legislators were asked to outline their priorities for the 2025 Session as well as other things they're interested in or working on. Delegate Mark Earley discussed the many strengths of counties in the Richmond region and acknowledged the strong leadership and problem-solving acumen of county leaders in the area. Delegate Michael Jones touched on his time as a local government official and how local governments really can make a difference toward alleviating the housing crisis, such as building more housing. Delegate David Owen discussed his experience as a home builder and mentioned barriers to building housing like land costs, neighborhood opposition and the time it takes to break ground (how to streamline the approval process). Staff from the office of U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner attended and spoke to county leaders during the meeting. Both Cole Kawugule, Outreach Representative for Senator Warner, and Taylor Thornhill, Regional Director for Senator Kaine,

[More on Next Page](#)





emphasized the importance of reaching out to the Senators for letters of support for projects and grants and that counties should always be aware of congressionally directed spending available through either Senator's office. Keith Fisher, Senior Legislative Assistant to State Senator McDougle, was in attendance as well.

County Talk, the part of the regional meeting where counties outline their top legislative priorities for the 2025 Session, was last on the agenda. The host, Hanover County, would begin by mentioning mental health services, especially in schools, being a top concern. Hanover County highlighted how a mental health pilot program in some schools has now been expanded into all schools and believes it to be a model for other counties to build off of. As with most VACo meetings, Hanover County stated that local control is always a pressing issue, especially surrounding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), land use and development within the county. Chesterfield County highlighted their support for the authority to impose an optional 1% sales tax that would go toward school capital within the locality. Other legislative priorities from Chesterfield County include public safety, infrastructure, mental health, housing, economic development and workforce training. Henrico County discussed the unregulated nature of recovery homes and how this is harming citizens within the county and reiterated support for items mentioned by Hanover and Chesterfield Counties.

VACo would like to thank all of those who took the time out of their day to come to the Region 3 meeting. VACo would like to give a special thanks to Delegate Earley, Delegate Jones, Delegate Owen and legislative staff for attending the meeting, as well as VACo's partners for their support. Lastly, thank you to Hanover County and staff at the Hanover County Airport for hosting the meeting.

**VACo Contact:** [James Hutzler](#)

**AMERICA'S TOP STATES FOR BUSINESS 2024**

OVERALL ↓	STATE ↑	INFRA- STRUCTURE ↓	WORKFORCE ↓	ECONOMY ↓	QUALITY OF LIFE ↓	COST OF DOING BUSINESS ↓	TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION ↓	BUSINESS FRIENDLINESS ↓
1	<a href="#">Virginia</a>	3	9	11	19	24	15	5
2	<a href="#">North Carolina</a>	20	3	4	32	18	11	2
3	<a href="#">Texas</a>	26	1	2	50	6	1	17
4	<a href="#">Georgia</a>	1	4	7	40	23	18	19
5	<a href="#">Florida</a>	35	2	1	38	25	16	28
6	<a href="#">Minnesota</a>	5	19	24	4	35	12	22
7	<a href="#">Ohio</a>	13	38	26	21	2	12	24
8	<a href="#">Tennessee</a>	7	8	3	45	7	28	19
9	<a href="#">Michigan</a>	24	18	38	24	12	9	8
10	<a href="#">Washington</a>	18	5	18	5	39	4	42
11	<a href="#">Indiana</a>	9	14	19	49	5	20	4
12	<a href="#">Arizona</a>	2	6	5	41	31	21	26
13	<a href="#">Utah</a>	4	16	6	30	26	32	12
14	<a href="#">Iowa</a>	22	27	33	14	17	30	10
15	<a href="#">Illinois</a>	6	37	42	22	32	6	33
16	<a href="#">Colorado</a>	12	11	16	23	39	14	32

## Governor Youngkin Addresses Money Committees and Joint Subcommittee on Tax Policy Gets to Work

Governor Youngkin addressed a joint meeting of the “money committees” on August 14, reporting continued strength in state revenues and highlighting investments in education, behavioral health, business site development, and natural resources. He signaled continued interest in tax relief, lauding Virginia’s recent selection as CNBC’s top state for business, but noting that “we have work to do” to reduce costs of doing business in Virginia and the cost of living. He encouraged legislators to embrace additional tax relief, paired with further investments in shared priorities.

Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings presented details on the state’s FY 2024 revenue performance and overall finances; as summarized in the title of one of his slides, “The Commonwealth has never been in a stronger position.” Total state General Fund (GF) revenues were \$1.5 billion higher in FY 2024 than in FY 2023, representing 5.5 percent growth over the previous year and outperforming the forecast assumed in the FY 2024 (“caboose”) budget passed in May by \$1.17 billion. This forecast, which [built](#) on the fall 2023 forecasting process, had assumed a mild recession during FY 2024, which did not materialize. Although job growth at the national level has been slowing, the national economy is still

[More on Next Page](#)

adding jobs, rather than experiencing a decline in employment in the fourth quarter of FY 2024, as the Administration had predicted. Virginia job growth also outperformed expectations, with 1.8 percent growth in nonagricultural employment rather than the predicted 0.1 percent increase.

Secretary Cummings highlighted several aspects of the state's robust economic health, pointing to strong revenue growth since FY 2019 and improvements in Virginia's labor force participation rate. He noted that Virginia's job growth now stacks up well against competitor states such as Georgia and South Carolina. The state's combined reserve funds now stand at \$4.7 billion, in excess of the statutory cap of 15 percent of average annual income and sales tax revenues for the preceding three years (budget language temporarily allows the reserve funds to exceed the cap), and Virginia is ranked third among states with AAA bond ratings for the size of its reserve funds as a percentage of GF expenditures. As explained in Secretary Cummings's presentation, the excess FY 2024 revenues are largely dedicated to specific purposes, based on statutory requirements or contingent spending directives included in the budgets adopted in May, such as obligations for I-81 improvements and the Water Quality Improvement Fund, a required set-aside for a deposit to the Revenue Reserve Fund, and funding to address growth in the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program. A key task facing the Administration in developing the Governor's December budget will be determining how much of the revenue growth is likely to be ongoing, which will be part of the forecasting process conducted in consultation with the Joint Advisory Board of Economists (which will meet in October) and the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates (GACRE, which met earlier this summer and will meet again in November). Secretary Cummings explained that although GACRE members generally expected continued economic growth, albeit at a slower pace, when the Council met in July, there are several key points of uncertainty, notably the fate of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which was a signature initiative of former President Trump; provisions of this legislation are scheduled to expire after December 31, 2025, if no action is taken by Congress to extend them. Several of these provisions have direct or indirect effects on Virginia's tax structure.

Governor Youngkin will present his proposed amendments to the biennium budget on December 18. Secretary Cummings's slides are available at [this link](#).

### **Joint Subcommittee on Tax Policy**

Following the joint meeting of the money committees, the Joint Subcommittee on Tax Policy held its first meeting of the year. A subset of money committee members serve on this joint subcommittee, which was originally established in 2021 with a broad mandate to evaluate changes to Virginia's individual income tax system as well as considering other aspects of changes to the state's tax policies, such as fairness and economic efficiency. The May 2024 budget included a new directive to the joint subcommittee to explore efforts to modernize the state's income and sales and use tax structure. The August 14 meeting featured a [presentation by staff to the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee](#) on the state's major revenue sources and a planned schedule for the joint subcommittee's work; [an overview by the Department of Taxation of major state taxes](#), and a [presentation by staff to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission \(JLARC\)](#) on a 2021-2022 JLARC study on options to make Virginia's individual income tax more progressive. Although the joint subcommittee is charged with examining state taxes, staff was requested to provide further information to members regarding local collections of real estate taxes, and one member encouraged the joint subcommittee to look at tax reform more broadly, to include local taxes as well as state taxes.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

# Stormwater Local Assistance Fund - FY 2025 Solicitation



The Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Annual [Solicitation of Applications](#) for financial assistance through the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) opened on August 1, 2024, and will close on October 1, 2024.

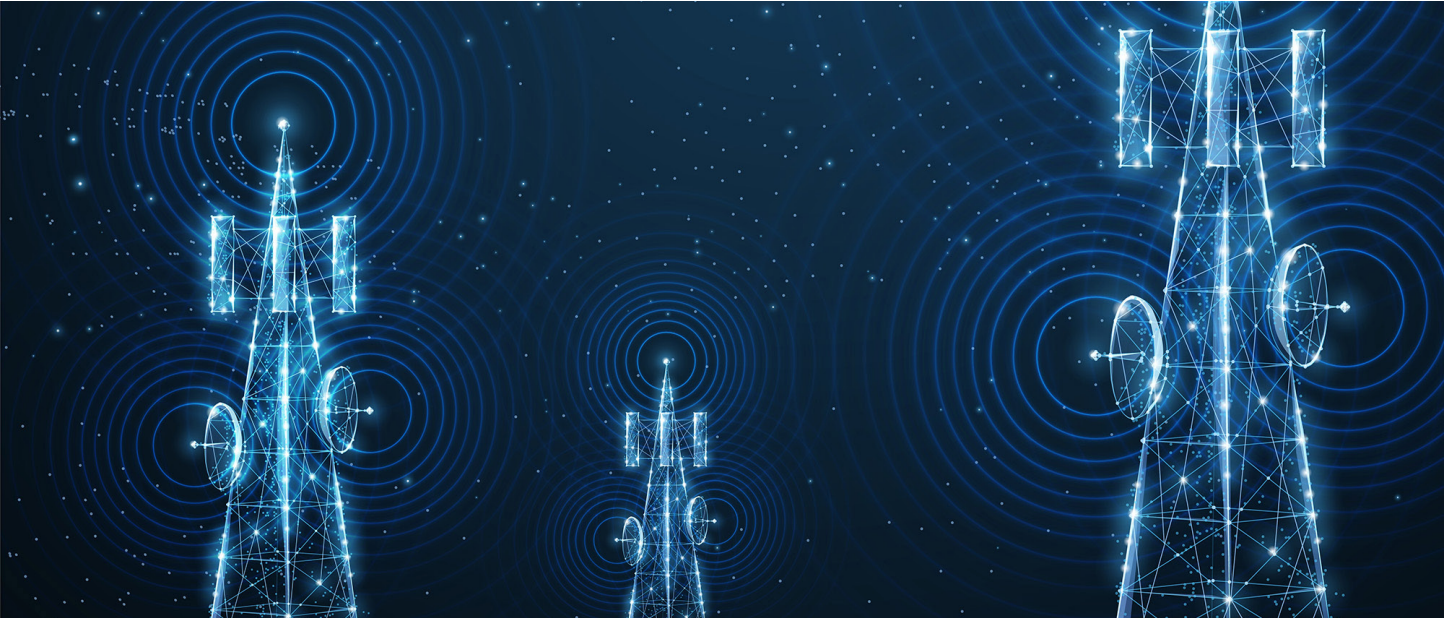
**Completed SLAF applications must be submitted via the [MyDEQ Portal](#). Applications are due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2024.** In addition to the online application submittal, applicants must submit hard copies of certain documents associated with each project type. Hard copy submissions must be postmarked by Tuesday, October 1, 2024 and mailed to DEQ, 1111 East Main Street, Suite 1400, Richmond, VA 23219 or PO Box 1105, Richmond, VA 23218 – Attn: CWFAP Deputy Director.

The Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) provides matching grants to local governments for the planning, design, and implementation of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) that address cost efficiency and commitments related to reducing water quality pollutant loads. Eligible capital projects types can include:

- New stormwater BMPs
- Retrofits of stormwater BMPs
- Stream restoration
- Low impact development projects
- Buffer restoration
- Pond retrofits
- Wetlands restoration

**VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)**

# Notice of Upcoming JLARC Broadband Survey of Counties



The staff of the [Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission \(JLARC\)](#) have been directed by state legislators to review efforts to expand access to affordable and reliable broadband throughout the Commonwealth.

A critical component of JLARC's study is hearing directly from stakeholders, **including counties**, about their experience with broadband deployment projects in Virginia and their perspectives on the state's administration of broadband programs. JLARC staff have developed a survey to provide stakeholders throughout the state with an opportunity to share their perspectives and experiences. The survey asks stakeholders about several topics including the state's universal connectivity goals, challenges to broadband deployment, the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI), and their experience working with DHCD's Office of Broadband.

**JLARC staff will be sending to counties a link to the survey this week.** For most counties, that will be the county administrator. For some, that may be a different employee that has been designated as the broadband lead for the county by the Virginia Office of Broadband.

If you have questions or do not receive a link to the survey by the end of this week, please contact JLARC staff at [broadbandsurvey@jlarc.virginia.gov](mailto:broadbandsurvey@jlarc.virginia.gov).

County responses to the survey are very important and will help inform JLARC's findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

VACo Contacts: [Joe Lerch, AICP](#) and [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)



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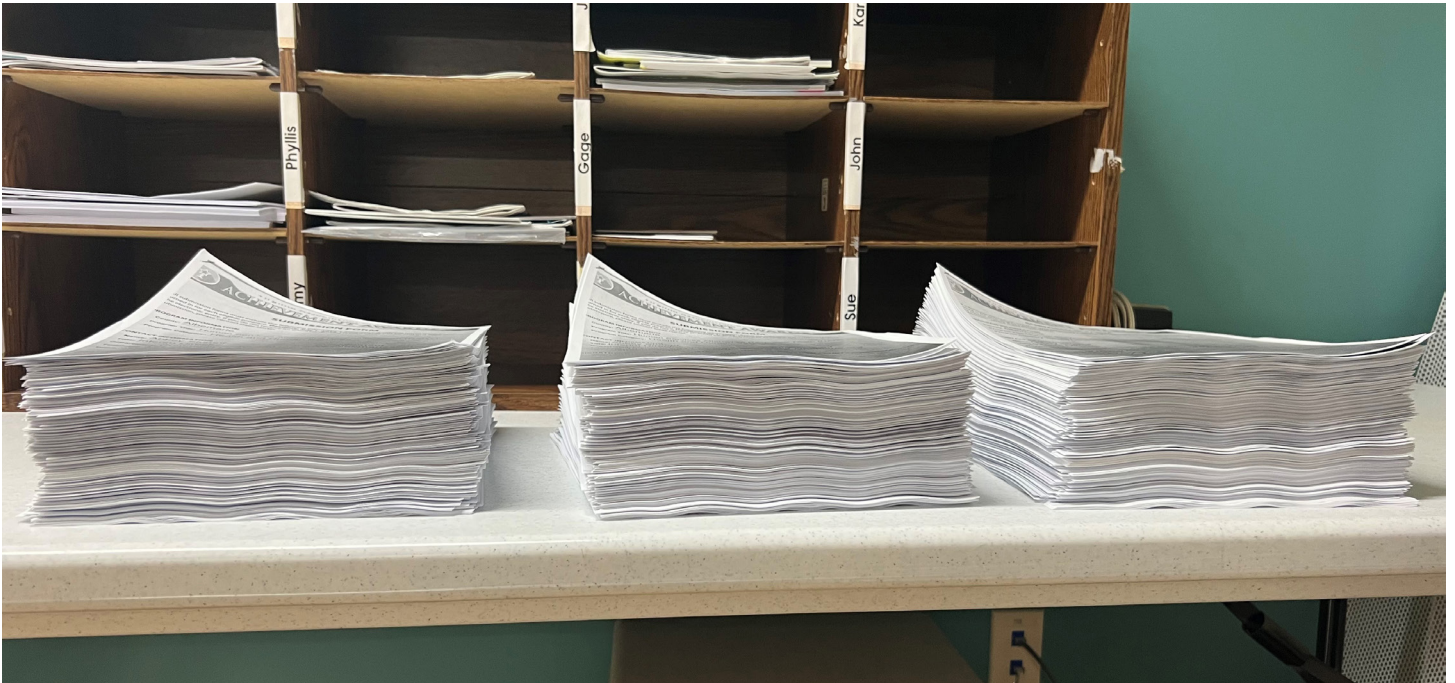
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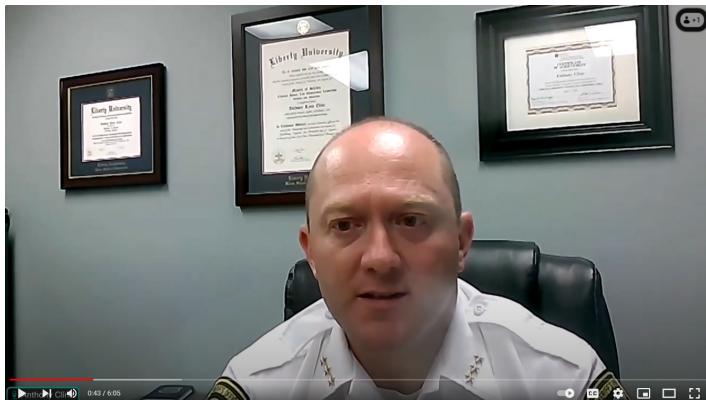
## VACo Receives 145 Submissions for the Achievement Awards Program

# Winners will be announced in late August!

The judges for this year are **Charles Hartgrove**, ICMA-CM, Director of the Virginia Institute of Government; **Dr. Sheryl Bailey**, Visiting Professor of Practice at Virginia Tech, and former Chesterfield County Deputy County Administrator; and **W. Canova Peterson**, former Hanover County Supervisor.

Winners will be announced around the last week of August. Thank you and good luck to all who entered.





Thank you Wythe County Chief Deputy [Anthony Cline](#) for sharing your experience with Blue Line Solutions!



Thank you Sussex County Sheriff [Ernest Giles](#) for sharing your experience with Blue Line Solutions!

## Premier Partner Spotlight

# Blue Line Solutions Testimonials

**Blue Line Solutions** is making a positive impact on communities all over Virginia. In Smyth County - **Blue Line Solutions** recorded during a five-day period that there were 3,530 vehicles traveling through school speed zones at 10mph or higher above the speed limit. That's over 12,000 speeding vehicles a month during school days.

**Blue Line Solutions** uses information and communications rather than focus on enforcement to reduce speeds in school zones.

During **Blue Line Solutions** Public Information Phase of its program in Smyth County - the number dropped to 213 over a five-day period. That's without writing one ticket. The community heard the problem and reacted to it. During the warning phase - the number dropped to 175. Then during the enforcement phase - it dropped to 72. That's a 98 percent reduction of speeders compared to before the **Blue Line Solutions** program.

"That's absolutely fantastic that we can make a difference in a community," Blue Line Solutions CEO/Founder Mark Hutchinson said.

# VACo 90th Annual Conference

November 10 – 12, 2024

The Omni Homestead | Bath County



This year's Annual Conference theme - **“Energizing County Governments”** - was selected because of VACo's collective energy and momentum that has jolted counties to many successes. We are proud of our accomplishments and service to our communities.

Join county and state leaders from all over the Commonwealth on November 10-12 at the Omni Homestead for [VACo's 90th Annual Conference](#).

## PREMIER PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Talking Solar with **Michael Zehner**  
Director of Planning & Community Development  
The Berkley Group

**Part 1**  
*Helping Counties Navigate the Land Use  
Challenges and Opportunities*

**WITH THE BERKLEY GROUP**



## PREMIER PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Talking Solar with **Michael Zehner**  
Director of Planning & Community Development  
The Berkley Group

**Part 2**  
*The Legislative and Regulatory Framework  
for Approving Applications in Virginia*

**WITH THE BERKLEY GROUP**



## PREMIER PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Talking Solar with **Michael Zehner**  
Director of Planning & Community Development  
The Berkley Group

**Part 3**  
*The Future Energy Landscape of Virginia*

**WITH THE BERKLEY GROUP**



Talking Energy with the Berkley Group's Director of Planning & Community Development **Michael Zehner.**

Join us for this 3-part series. Click on each panel to view videos.

## Applauding Your Commitment to Growth: Leadership Development with the National Association of Counties

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the April NACo Leadership Academy graduates from Virginia. They join over 10,000 graduates and current participants from across the country benefitting from the 12-week online program enabling existing and emerging county leaders to achieve their highest potential.

**Alex Strickler**, Human Services Director, Montgomery County

**Andrew Bell**, Real Estate Appraiser, York County

**Caitlin Aubut**, Planner II, York County

**Charles Harrison, III**, Engineer I, York County

**Christine Zalameda**, Revenue Tax Specialist, York County

**Corian Carney**, Inspector IV, York County

**Dave Diaz**, Senior Business Development Officer, Loudoun County

**Elizabeth Holt**, Director, Department of Social Services, Charles City County

**Glenda DaCosta**, Technology Services Division Supervisor, Prince William County

**Jenelle Richards**, HR Analyst II, York County

**Joy Harris**, Administrative Services Manager, Charles City County

**Juan Martin Romualdez**, Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator/ HSS II, Fairfax County

**Karen Hogge**, HR/PR Administrator, York County

**Kris Jessie**, Administrative Coordinator, Prince William County

**Kristen Durbin**, Forensic Services Program Team Lead, Therapist IV, Prince William County

**Landon Prever**, Grounds Maintenance Operations Superintendent, York County

**Laxmi Sharma**, PHN II, Fairfax County

**Leyda Vazquez**, Family Services Coordinator, York County

**Margaret Mack-Yaroch**, Director of Social Services, York County

**Mark Johnson**, Senior Firefighter, York County

**Mitchell Outten**, Lieutenant, York County

**Prennis Page**, Program Manager III, York County

**Susan Stroup**, Senior Administrative Coordinator, York County

# Aetna® Statewide Wellness Campaign Brings Comprehensive Master Planning and Wellness Programming to Your County

VACo Premier Partner Aetna believes healthier happens together. That's why Aetna has teamed up with [National Fitness Campaign](#) to address health disparities by increasing access to health and wellness solutions for Virginia Counties.

**In Part 1 of this video series**, you'll hear from **Dean Lynch**, VACo Executive Director, **Trent Matthias**, National Fitness Campaign Director, **Bill Deal**, Head of Sales, Public Sector and Labor, Keystone and Capital Markets of Aetna on the exciting new statewide sponsorship and what it can deliver for your county.

**In Part 2**, learn more about the feasibility study process available for your county and hear from leaders in Virginia like [Pulaski County](#) and the [Town of Dumfries](#) who have successfully launched and integrated the comprehensive wellness campaign in their communities.

## Additional Resources

- [Virginia Campaign](#) – Funding Outdoor Fitness Courts across the state
- [Campaign Video](#) – How the fitness court campaign got started, how it works, and how it involves and impacts communities.
- [Outdoor Fitness Court in Pulaski County](#)
- [Outdoor Fitness Court in the Town of Dumfries](#)
- Please click [here](#) to learn more about getting started!

## Aetna Contact

Marcus Duckworth, VP, Client Management | [DuckworthM@aetna.com](mailto:DuckworthM@aetna.com)



## Part 1

[Discover how Aetna's exciting new statewide wellness program can help your county](#)



## Part 2

[Hear from Pulaski County and the Town of Dumfries, which have successfully launched and integrated Aetna's comprehensive wellness campaign](#)



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### **Questions?**

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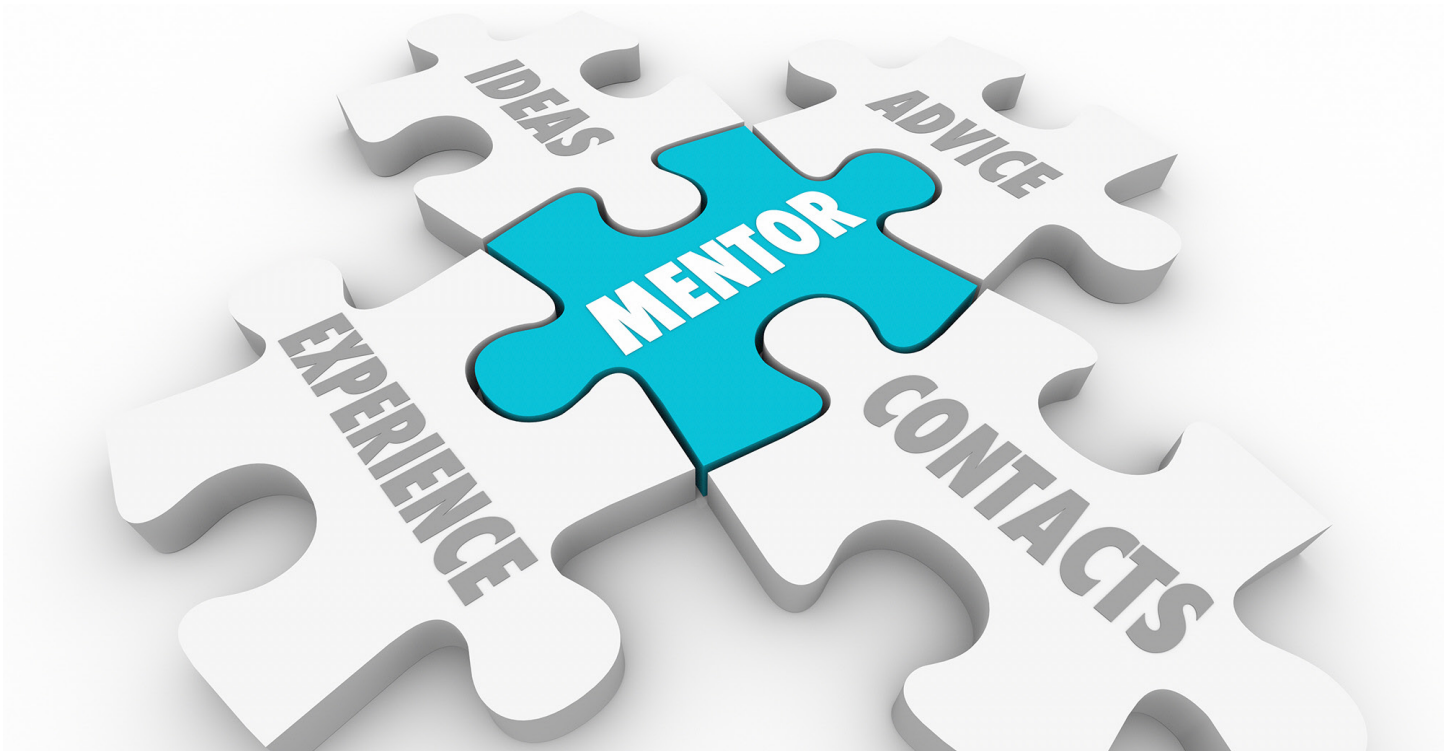
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# VACo Seeks to Create Mentorship Program for Supervisors



Dear Members/County Administrators...

VACo is blessed to have many smart and experienced Supervisors. This year we welcomed a slew of newly elected Supervisors, some of whom have expressed interest in being mentored. VACo thrives when Supervisors connect and share experiences and challenges. Therefore, we would like to establish an informal, voluntary mentoring program to offer opportunities for personalized connections among Supervisors.

If you are interested in being a mentor or being connected with a mentor, please contact Karie Walker, [kwalker@vaco.org](mailto:kwalker@vaco.org) or 804-343-2504.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

**Karie Walker**  
Director of Programs and Development  
Virginia Association of Counties





## You are VAcorp

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

### Know Who You Are

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

## Our History

### The Birth of Risk Pools

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

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

### VAcorp’s Origin

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

### VAcorp’s Growth

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

## VAcorp Exists to Serve You

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

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

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

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

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





## OneDigital is thrilled to be one of VACo's newest Premier Partners.

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

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



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**Sarah Anne Struckmann**  
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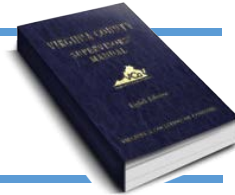


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The Virginia Association of Counties accepts employment ads in a PDF file or a link to a job site. Please include information for applying, and a link to other important information. Please do not fax your employment ad. VACo members are not charged for placing an employment ad. **The cost is \$100 per ad for non-VACo members.** VACo publishes the ad on its website and mobile app as well as the upcoming County Connections issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [Valerie Russell](mailto:Valerie.Russell@vacounty.org).

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[LEGAL ASSISTANT \(COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY OFFICE\)](#) | Montgomery County  
| Posted August 7

[COMMUNICATION NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR](#) | Shenandoah County | Posted August 6

[EMT-PARAMEDIC \(FULL-TIME\)](#) | Madison County | Posted August 6

[UTILITIES ENGINEER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted August 6

**LEGISLATIVE**

**LIAISON (TRANSPORTATION PLANNER IV)** | Fairfax County  
| Posted August 6

**DESKTOP TECHNICIAN I** | Botetourt County  
| Posted August 6

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COORDINATOR II OR PROGRAM MANAGER** | [Application](#) | George Washington Regional Commission  
| Posted August 6

**BUDGET ANALYST/SENIOR BUDGET ANALYST** | City of Fredericksburg  
| Posted August 6

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICIAN & PROGRAM COORDINATOR** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted August 6

**RESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR (FULL-TIME) HOME PROGRAM** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted August 6

**RESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR (PART-TIME)** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted August 6

**MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted August 6

**CUSTODIAN (FULL-TIME)** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted August 6

**CAPITAL PROJECTS MANAGER** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted August 6

**ENGINEERING MANAGER** | Augusta Water  
| Posted August 6

**PROJECT ENGINEER** | Augusta Water  
| Posted August 6

**CONSOLIDATED SITE SUPERVISOR** | Montgomery County  
| Posted August 6

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** | City of Staunton  
| Posted August 6

**END USER DEVICES SUPERVISOR** | Roanoke County  
| Posted August 5

**BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST III** | Roanoke County  
| Posted August 5

**SYSTEM ENGINEER – NETWORKS** | Roanoke County  
| Posted August 5

**TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM ANALYST II** | Roanoke County  
| Posted August 5

**DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR** | Roanoke County  
| Posted August 5

**CITY MANAGER** | City of Roanoke  
| Posted August 5

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES** | Spotsylvania County  
| Posted August 5

**PLANNER** | Westmoreland County  
| Posted August 5

**CITY ATTORNEY** | Winston-Salem, NC  
| Posted August 2

**LIBRARY ASSISTNT BRANCH MANAGER II** | Montgomery County  
| Posted August 2

**RESIDENTIAL TRASH COLLECTIONS SUPERVISOR (SENIOR MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR)** | Fairfax County  
| Posted July 31

**MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS SECTION CHIEF (MANAGEMENT ANALYST IV)** | Fairfax County  
| Posted July 31

**COOK/HOUSEKEEPER – GALLOWAY PLACE** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 31

**PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION SERVICES – MHSS SERVICES MANAGER** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 31

**CASE MANAGER (INTAKE COORDINATOR)** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 31

**ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 31

**RESIDENTIAL AIDE (DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL HARROWGATE GROUP HOME)** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 31

**REGISTERED NURSE (PART-TIME)** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 31

**SEASONAL MAINTENANCE WORKER (ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING)** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 31

**RESIDENTIAL AIDE (DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL – GALLOWAY – ICF)** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 31

**LIBRARY ASSISTANT (FULL TIME)** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 31

**LIBRARIAN (FULL TIME)** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 31

**TAX COMPLIANCE AUDITOR** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 31

**AIRPORT OPERATIONS MANAGER** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 31

**SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTER** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 31

**SENIOR AUTOMATION ANALYST** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 31

**SMALL BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR** | Patrick County  
| Posted July 31

**TOWN MANAGER** | Town of Appomattox  
| Posted July 30

**PRINCIPAL ENGINEER** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 30

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES** | Spotsylvania County  
| Posted July 29

**RESIDENTIAL AIDE (PART TIME)** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 29

**RESIDENTIAL AIDE (IN-HOME SUPPORT) PART TIME** | Chesterfield County  
| Posted July 29

**PLANNER – COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING** | Hanover County  
| Posted July 29

**UTILITY OPERATOR** | Montgomery County  
| Posted July 29

**SYSTEM ENGINEER** | Montgomery County  
| Posted July 29

## VALUE OF VACo



### ADVOCACY

VACo's lobbying efforts have helped stem the tide of unfunded mandates and have saved Counties millions of dollars every year.



### EDUCATION

Our educational programs offer County leaders and staff opportunities to become more effective in their communities.



### MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Some of VACo's best moments are when members convene and work to improve communities all over the Commonwealth.



### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Our business development opportunities offer savings and innovative approaches to delivering services at the County level.

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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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